



One last look...

Ecole Irvine Elementary

Mr. D. Shannon, Principal

Telephone: 604-941-3408

Website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/irvine>

**Our Mission Statement at Irvine Elementary is,
"Working together to create a safe and nurturing
environment that challenges and motivates our students
and promotes a lifelong joy of learning."**

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

September	26	Terry Fox Run - classes will run outside. Donations are encouraged to be done online - please see QR code (below)
	26-29	Welcoming Conversations - classroom teachers (grs. 1-5) will be scheduling meetings with their students' parents
	27	Artstarts presentation - 9:00am-10:00am - Kung Jaadee - Kung will share Haida Stories with our school
	30	Truth and Reconciliation Day
October	10	Thanksgiving
	12	PAC Meeting in school library 7:00pm-8:30pm
	18	Photo Retakes (Individual)

Principal's Message

So a few years ago, I started calling my newsletters, "A View from the Office." Then, once construction began, I entitled my newsletters, "A View from the Roof." Now I have to come up with something new again, and I've decided to go with, "A View with a New Perspective."

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first month of the 2022/23 school year. With everything that has happened since the beginning of the year, it has been a blur! I will try to get newsletter out on a weekly basis (typically not on shorter weeks unless there is some pressing information).

I'd like to say that the transition to having Coast Salish Elementary join our school has gone very smoothly. It has been a pleasure to welcome them to our school and to join our community until they get partial occupancy of their new school. By all accounts, they have also felt warmly accepted into our school and community - something that is very important to us.

I was extremely happy that we were able to have two members of the District Indigenous Department (District Principal, Stephanie Maki and District Resource Teacher, Rob Cowie) to provide us with a presentation about the Circle of Courage through Indigenous Eyes at our first staff meeting. For those that are new to us and for those who aren't but would like a refresher, the Circle of Courage is a philosophy that we started implementing in the Spring of 2019, but with the pandemic happening, and with virtual meetings and limited opportunities to meet, some of this work had to be put on hold. We are now reviewing this philosophy in an effort to begin implementing its teachings. The Circle of Courage was originally designed to build resilience in youth at risk, but we have learned that its teachings can be applied to all of us. This philosophy takes many of the teachings of the First People's Principles of Learning and it is believed that resiliency can be created and positively shaped in others through the experiences that are provided to and for them. These experiences fall into four elements: Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. Through these experiences, we want to teach children that they are significant (they matter), that they are competent (capable), that they are powerful (on the inside), and that they are genuinely good (virtue). These are in fact the four basic needs that the experiences attempt to build. Here is a nine-minute video of Dr. Martin Brokenleg (one of the creators of the Circle of Courage) speaking about what it means and what it entails: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPgrfCVct_A. I will provide updates in newsletters about how we are using the Circle of Courage to better our students and ourselves.

School Goals

This year we have three school goals and while they overlap, they are considered in three categories. Here are the categories and the school goal for each:

Intellectual Development - our goal is to have all of our students (K - Gr. 5) reading at grade level.

Human and Social Development - our goal is to apply the teachings of the Circle of Courage to build resiliency in our students

Indigenous Learners and Indigenous Ways of Learning - our goal is and focus is that learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (with a focus on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place). We will look for opportunities to use this as a guide in our teaching of all students.

Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30th)

In the days this week leading up to Truth and Reconciliation Day (and in upcoming weeks), we have a presentation on Tuesday morning by Kung Jaadee, who is a Haida storyteller. We will also be meeting at our next staff meeting (Oct. 3rd) with Andrea Hotomanie, a District Indigenous Cultural Facilitator, who will be teaching all staff (both schools) a craft (a beaded feather key chain) and will then come to each of our classrooms to teach our students the same craft and to answer any questions they have. We are thankful for her time and look forward to learning with and from her!

Open House



Last Wednesday, we had our Opening Ceremony for our new school. We had many families join us for this ceremony and we thank you for taking some time out of your evening to take part in

the ceremony and to have an opportunity to walk around our beautiful school and see it for yourselves!! We all feel extremely grateful to be in this building!! 😊

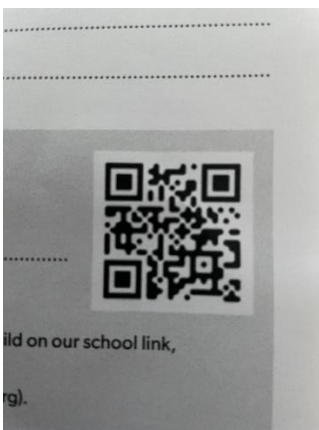
A big thank you to all the staff for their work in getting the school and gym prepared for our Open House. Extra thanks to Ms. Hwang for leading our O' Canada singers, for M. Escueta and Mrs. Goessaert for leading our students in our school song, "Working it Out," to all the staff members who were able to attend the Opening Ceremony, and especially to Ms. Trumpour for all the work she did to get things ready and for the work that was done behind the scenes to ensure the Ceremony was a success!

Welcoming Conversations

Classroom teachers for Grs. 1-5 will be having their Welcoming Conversations with parents this upcoming week. Any questions relating to this should be directed to them. Thank you.

Terry Fox Run

We will be having our Terry Fox Run tomorrow. Classes will be grouped into three groups (Intermediate - grs. 4 and 5; primary - grs. 1-3; and kindergarten). Rather than sending in money, please see the QR code below. Once you hold your camera to this and open it, simply type in, "Irvine" and view our school (when I checked this, we were the second school listed). Please feel free to donate directly to the Terry Fox Foundation. While it lists a goal of \$10,000 for us, please note that this goal was not created by us - any donations are greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance.



School Calendar

Please see the attachment included with this newsletter regarding our calendar for the 2022/23 school year.

Forms for parents

You should have received parent verification forms last week. Thank you to everyone who has returned these back to the school. It is important that you review this form and write any

changes directly on the form so that we can update our records. Please write neatly (especially if you have a new email). If the forms are correct as is, please simply return them back to the school. Our office staff are keeping track of any and all changes and are filing this form once they receive it.

Traffic Update

Thank you to everyone who is doing their best at drop off and pick up times. When the weather is nice, we are mostly seeing families doing what we have asked. Soon the weather will turn nastier and it is important that we all do the following:

- When dropping off, please move all the way to the top of the lane, near the exit, to let out your child/ren. We have asked that students are only to be let out when they are at or in front of the first cone. If everyone stops at the first cone to let their child out, only one child can be let out at a time. If you move to the top, we could probably have 4 or five cars that can let their child/ren out at the same time
- Please have your child ready to go when you drop them off. If you need to exit your vehicle to assist them, it slows everything. It would be a better idea to try using Renton Avenue if you wish to do this. Similarly, please say your goodbyes before you drop your child off so that we can maintain a steady flow through the drop off area
- Especially on bad weather days, if it is possible to access the drop off lane, traveling north, it would be greatly appreciated because it means turning right into the parking lot. If you are travelling south on Wellington St., you'll have to turn left and this will cause traffic to back up.
- For any driver with a specialized designated parking pass, you may use the drop off or you may park in one of the available spaces in the staff parking lot. This is the only exception to parking in the parking lot as the parking lot is designated for staff.

If you are not sure about what we have in place, there will be a staff member near the entrance, and at least one other staff member near the exit space that will be waving you forward.

We will do our best to take care of you 😊

After School Programs

It has been a while, but we have been able to get after school programs up and running at our school. These programs filled up very quickly and begin this week. Here is the information on each:

Learning Chess Steps - **Tuesdays** - Sept. 27th to Nov. 29th in the learning commons /library - 2:55-3:55 - students to be picked up at the main doors of the school.

MPower your Inner Warrior (Jiu jitsu and SEL) - **Wednesdays** - Sept. 28th - Nov. 16th in the gym - 2:50pm - 3:50pm - students to be picked up at the gym doors (at the back of the school).

Discover the Wonders of Ever day Science - **Thursdays** - Sept. 29th - Nov. 17th in the learning commons / library - 2:55pm-3:55pm - students to be picked up at the main doors of the school.

We will be running more programs next term as well. I will get the information out to parents as it becomes available.

West Coast Recess and Lunch

At École Irvine, we have a west coast recess and lunch. This means that we will be outside virtually every day. The only time that we will not go outside is if there is anything that compromises safety (such as high winds). Please make sure that your child is prepared each day to go outside.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA's)

For the parents of grade four students, the Foundation Skills Assessment will soon be upon us. This assessment looks at our grade four students' skills in reading, writing, and numeracy, and there are both online components as well as written components to this assessment. This assessment is to be completed between October 3rd and November 10th. I will be sending out more information to the parents of grade four students in the next week.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Information

Our next PAC meeting will take place in person Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00pm. We will meet in the Learning Commons / Library.

A big thank you to our parents who have taken new position on our PAC executive and to those who continue to make time to serve on the other committees. There is always room for more people to join so please feel free to let us know how you'd like to help out. Our current PAC members for the 2022/23 school year are as follows:

Chair	Melissa Rahal
Vice/Co-Chair	Kathryn Berry-Einarson
Treasurer	Shawna Vincenzi
Secretaries	Maggie Harder (prime), Marie-Eve Kirkpatrick (secondary), Meaghan Burton (backup)
DPAC reps	Marc Fernandez, Mikaela Ross
Hot Lunch	Eleanor Tso, Dawn Yua, Kathy Simmonds (to assist when/if needed)

The PAC is essential for the success of a school. It is a way that parents can receive valuable information about what is happening at the school and the programs that are offered. We

would greatly appreciate having more parents join us for our meetings and for parents to become more actively involved in our PAC. We would welcome any ideas you have about what we could do to have more parents take part in what we do. Please consider joining us as we move forward together into a new building and help be a part of the new experiences that we can provide together for our students (your children).

If you'd like to learn more about upcoming events and fundraising opportunities, please email our PAC at:

Irvine.PAC43@gmail.com or you can join our Facebook group at:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/163012600461352/?ref=share>.