



Irvine Elementary

Mr. D. Shannon, Principal

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Newsletter 1 September 16, 2019

PAC MEETING
THIS
WEDNESDAY
IN THE
LIBRARY AT
6:30PM.

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	18	PAC Meeting in the library 6:30-8:00pm
	19	PAC Fruit and Vegetable Program Day
	20	District Professional Development Day
	23, 30	Beyond the Bell – Let's Dance 2:45-3:45 in the gym (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	24	Beyond the Bell – Indoor Soccer 2:45-3:45 in the gym (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	26	Assembly – Orange Shirt Day 1:00pm in the gym
	26	Beyond the Bell – Science Nuts 2:45-3:45 in the Conference Room – across from the office (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	27	Activity Day 8:45-12:05
	27	Terry Fox Run and Assembly 1:00-2:00pm
	30	Orange Shirt Day
October	1,8,15,22,29	Beyond the Bell – Indoor Soccer 2:45-3:45 in the gym (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	3,10,17,24,31	Beyond the Bell – Science Nuts 2:45-3:45 in the Conference Room – across from the office (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	7,28	Beyond the Bell – Let's Dance 2:45-3:45 in the gym (see Beyond the Bell attachment)
	11	Running Terry's Money Home – District Terry Fox Run
	14	Thanksgiving
	16	PAC Meeting 6:30-8:00pm in the library
	18	Student Individual Photos

Principal's Message

Welcome (back) to Irvine Elementary everyone!! This first part of the year is an important time for our students. They have moved into their classrooms and will begin the process of settling into the routines and expectations of their class(es), bonding with old, and hopefully soon to be new, classmates. It is our

hope that as they settle into the routines of a new year, they will practice, and also realize the importance of, Belonging.

As I have mentioned in previous emails, Belonging is one of the four components of the Circle of Courage (along with Independence, Mastery, and Generosity) that will help guide what we do at Irvine. It is believed that giving our students, your children, experiences in these four domains will help them build resiliency. Resiliency is the ability to overcome or recover from difficulties. It involves a belief in yourself, and the confidence to know that you can handle different situations or experiences that happen in your life. It is the ultimate goal that we can teach children - to not need us anymore.

In the beginning of each school year, I often hear from parents about how they'd like for their child to be in a different classroom (for a variety of reasons). Sometimes, the reasons are valid and reasonable. These situations are looked at on a case-by-case basis. Let's pause for a moment and look at this, and reference it through the Circle of Courage.

Often, children are no different than adults in their reactions to situations. If something is not what it seems or is different from what they envisioned or thought it would be, they can react in an emotional way. This can show itself, in the beginning of the school year, with them indicating an unhappiness with their classroom placement. Parents may then also have this same reaction. In the vast majority of situations, once a few days has gone by, things settle down and the students realize that this is something they can handle.

In general, when we step in in an attempt to solve what we perceive to be a problem, we send our children a couple of messages. First, we tell them, through our actions, that we believe they cannot handle the situation. This builds dependency on us to solve problems for them - the exact opposite of resilience. If we take the position that this is a new opportunity to make new friends (and that they will be able to play with their friends outside), and that this will be the start to a great year, it actually empowers our children and lets them know that they can handle the situation. Second, if our child is feeling either anxious or worried, and we tell them that we will try to change things for them, we have just given in to the anxious and / or worried feelings and have reinforced them (which will then likely mean that these feelings will be even greater in the future). Staff at the school put in several hours to build classes that take many things into account (which go beyond the individual child). While the system we use may not always be perfect for everyone, we ask that you trust us and that you encourage you children each and every day. Doing so will send a positive message to them and they will consistently learn that they are capable and can handle things that may not be what they wanted.

Here is a ten-minute YouTube clip that talks about the Circle of Courage. Please watch and listen to it. I have watched it several times and am amazed at the information contained in it. Each time I watch this, I gain insight into a different idea contained within this video. I'd be curious and interested in what you think about it. Please let me know. Enjoy!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPgrfCVct_A

D. Shannon

School Organization

Originally, we were expected to organize our school into 18 divisions. This was a decrease of two divisions (one in the English program and one in the French program). Because of the growth in our population between last spring and this fall, we gained an additional English classroom, bringing the total number of school divisions to 19. This is why we needed an extra day to organize our classrooms.

We still have two positions to officially "fill" so I will hold off introducing all staff until this process has been finalized.

Parking around the School

I have met with Shawn Lam (our PAC rep for traffic safety) and Anne Pynenburg (rep from the city of Port Coquitlam) to look at the situation on Renton. The "tentative" plan is that "curbs" will be installed along the side of the road, next to the sidewalk. These will hopefully prevent cars from driving up on to the sidewalk. We have also asked for a parking space to be created, closer to the bottom of Renton, that will allow for the small bus from Birchland Treehouse daycare to park. Finally, if this is approved, the space along the street may be changed from "No Stopping," to "No Parking." Until this is finalized, everything remains the same as it has previously. This is just an update about what has been proposed and what might happen. Stay tuned as I will provide more information if anything changes.

Activity Day / Terry Fox Run / District Terry Fox Run

On September 27th, we will be having our Activity Day (rain or shine) in the morning and our school Terry Fox Run in the afternoon.

Another event that we will be participating in (on October 11th) will be a district Terry Fox Run, entitled, "Running Terry's Money Home." A small number of grade five students will be able to take part in this (we'd love to have several students take part, but there will be hundreds of students from all over the district playing a role in this). Students that are selected will be running from our school to the Terry Fox Foundation Office on Shaughnessy Street (tentatively). Depending on the number of schools and students taking part, we may need to look at another location. More information will follow about the specifics of the district run (we will require some parent volunteers to assist us). We'd like to encourage families to donate for this cause as all the money that is collected, will be pooled together (among all schools) and will be presented to the Terry Fox Foundation in the form of a cheque. Last year, there were 15 schools that took part and we raised close to \$40,000! I'm told that 25 schools will be taking part this year, so we are looking for even bigger and better numbers. Donations can be turned in to classroom teachers, or at the office. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

Parents at the school

While we like and appreciate having volunteers at our school to assist and help us in classrooms, on field trips, etc., we would ask that you please not come to the school at recess and lunch when the students are outside. If you have something to drop off for your child, please check in at the office and leave any items there for your child. We will ensure that it gets to him/her/ them. We do not want parents outside, searching for their child/ren. While you may have a good reason for doing so, to the almost 400 other students that are outside, you are a stranger. Having a child report to their parent(s) that a stranger was on the school grounds can be a cause for concern. If you are outside, you can expect a staff member to approach you and ask if you have checked in at the office or why you are here at this time. Please note that this is not personal - staff members have been asked to do this as part of our regular procedures. We thank you in advance for abiding by this.

Welcoming meetings with teachers

In the next week (or so) teachers in grade 1-5 classrooms will be reaching out to set up welcoming meetings with parents. This will be an opportunity for you to help us learn about your child. Stay tuned for more information coming out to you in the next little while.

Value of the Week

Each week the school will be highlighting a value for the week. I will send out this information via twitter (keep reading for more information). The value is intended to be a reminder to us all about being good citizens and provides a focus for all of us to be more prosocial. Stay tuned...

School Supplies

Thank you everyone for your patience as we work through our first year of ordering bulk school supplies for the school. As I've mentioned in earlier emails, the expectation is that we want all our students to use the supplies we have purchased. We have done this for a number of reasons:

1. While it is the first year we are going through this process, the intention is that the cost will be reduced. As we move through this process and we are able to fine tune the items we need, we expect the cost savings to be even greater next year (also because some of the items that we purchased this year, e.g. class sets of rules, scissors will be one time buys, and will not need to be repurchased in subsequent years)
2. By having the same supplies for everyone, organization will be easier for both the teacher (colour coding duo-tangs, having items such as pens and pencils available for use) as well as for the student (they will not have to spend time searching for various items; these will be provided)
3. We are moving towards working together / building teams / belonging, and having supplies to share helps promote this because everyone shares the items together
4. There is less (or no) worry about having "different" looking supplies. More than one parent has told me that while this may be minor, their experience is that some kids have pointed out the "less cool" supplies that others have. This will be eliminated.

We know that this is the first year that we have tried this and we know that there may be some hiccups. As we implement this and continue to learn, we hope that the procedure will become more straightforward and natural. Thank you for your patience. We will be sending out information (soon) about the cost for the supplies for each classroom.

Change to Student Accident Insurance

For some time now, School District 43 has been offering our families the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance thru the Kids Plus Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.

We were recently notified by the provider that they will be discontinuing the Kids Plus Accident Insurance program and will be replacing it with the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan. The new product is called Accifamily and offers comprehensive insurance coverage for the whole family.

The cost of this policy depends on whether you select Basic Coverage or Enhanced Coverage, as well as the number of family members to be covered.

For more information on this new accident insurance, please visit the Accifamily website at:

<https://ia.ca/individuals/insurance/accifamily> or call their toll-free number to speak to a customer support representative. That number is: 1-888-266-2224

Childhood Experiences Questionnaire (CHEQ)

Each year, the University of British Columbia works with school districts from around the province to gather data about the early experiences of those students entering kindergarten. They have developed a questionnaire for parents to complete that talks about their child's experience prior to starting kindergarten. I will be sending home information with all our kindergarten students that will provide the information needed so that you can access this questionnaire. We would appreciate it if you took some time to complete the questionnaire. More information can be found at: www.earlylearning.ubc.ca/cheq/ and here is a link to a short video that talks about the CHEQ:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkrm5c2403k&feature=youtu.be>

Twitter

Irvine now has a twitter account! Please feel free to follow us. We are: @ElemIrvine. I will start sending information out on this account in the near future.

Weather

This past weekend served as an important reminder that you never know what the weather might be like in Vancouver. Please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the elements as we will be going outside every day. For our younger students, a change of clothes is always a good idea!

PAC News

PAC meetings are held in the school library and begin at 6:30pm (usually on the third Wednesday of the month). Our PAC Meeting Schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2019 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, Apr. 15, 2020 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, May 20, 2020 6:30-8:00pm (library)
- Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:00-10:00pm PAC Social - location TBD

After school programs

Please see the attachments included with this newsletter about the after school programs at Irvine (for the fall), including Beyond the Bell (Indoor Soccer, Let's Dance, Science Nuts) and Music Adventure - Piano.

District / Community News

Welcome Back Letters

Minister of Education Rob Fleming wishes all students and their families all the best for the year ahead. Read more [here](#).

SD43 Superintendent of Schools Patricia Gartland welcomes all students back to school. Read more [here](#).

Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation

Government has approved the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation requiring parents or guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children. This regulation comes into force on July 1 and public health units will begin implementation of the regulation in September of 2019. Read more [here](#).

Vaping Products Information for Families

Superintendent Patricia Gartland's letter to parents about vaping products and cannabis may be found [here](#). The use of vaping products by youth is becoming increasingly common. There are some misconceptions about the aerosol (vapour or cloud) produced, and currently the long-term health effects are unknown. As caregivers, you can connect and discuss issues around vaping products with your child. Read more [here](#).

Please feel free to check out the Publications and Community Listings and links on our district webpage at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/publications.aspx>