



# Irvine Elementary

*Mr. D. Shannon, Principal*

Telephone: 604-941-3408

Website:

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

Newsletter 7 November 12, 2019



19 divisions - 19 wreaths - all different and all beautiful!

**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

<b>November</b>	12,19,26	Beyond the Bell – Indoor Soccer 2:45-3:45 in the gym
	13	<b><u>Student Photo Retakes</u></b>
	15,22,29	Music Adventure – Piano (2:55-3:55) in room #113
	18,25	Beyond the Bell – Let's Dance 2:45-3:45 in the gym
	20	PAC Meeting 6:30-8:00pm in the library
	22	PAC Movie Night – doors open at 6:00pm; movie from 6:30-8:30ish
	27	Early Dismissal Day; students dismissed at 1:48
	28	Fruit and Vegetable Day
	29	Hot Lunch – Little Caesar's Pizza

## Principal's Message

### VALUE OF THE WEEK (Nov. 12th-15th) - PEACEFULNESS

Soon we will be at the end of the first term of the school year (it has gone by fast, don't you think?). Naturally, at the end of each term, students receive their report card. The template that will be used this year will have the same components as last year (except for one exception to intermediate reports - more on this later) but will be completed using an online template. This template is contained in myedbc, the same system we use at the school for such things as school records and attendance. As such, the reports will look a little different but will contain all the same sections as last year. We also needed to decide whether we will be using letter grades (for intermediate aged students, grades 4 and 5) for report cards or whether we would go gradeless. Like many elementary schools in the district, we have opted to go gradeless moving forward. As such, the reporting of student progress will fall in one of four places on a learning continuum which from lower to higher will be: emerging, developing, proficient, and extending (the same as last year). While we know that for some parents' letter grades make sense and are understandable (because they have been around for a long time and we all grew up with them and they make sense to us), for many students, they can have a serious impact on their success.

The research is pretty clear - if you use letter grades and anecdotal comments, the comments are often not even read. The letter grades are front and center, and yet it is the comments that are often more important. If you are a student for whom A's come easy, you may be satisfied with simply receiving them. A number of students who fall into this category do not necessarily develop good work habits and instead learn to rely on the abilities they have allowed them to get those letter grades. As learning becomes more challenging, their abilities will only take them so far. I have personally seen straight A students fail out of college and university because those skills that got them there no longer worked on their own and they had not developed the work/study habits to learn effectively. Meanwhile, there are also students who work as hard as they can, and maybe cannot reach an A. After working hard and not (in their mind) succeeding, many begin to give up because why should they put in a huge effort and still not do as well as others? To a student in grade 4 (when letter grades start) going through this can be daunting to say the least. Furthermore, how many times will they get the grades they get before completely giving up? And these are kids who might already have good work habits. I have told my own daughter (and she can tell you if you ask) that I have always been more interested in her work habits than her letter grades. The letter grades last while you are in school, but the work habits stay with you for life. In some cases, so much emphasis is placed on letter grades, that the work habits become secondary. This, in my opinion, is a mistake.

This is why the anecdotal comments are so important. They can provide the feedback that help the students who are struggling know what they can do to succeed and help guide them to success without worry or fear of a letter grade. They can also help those for whom learning comes easier by challenging them even further and indicating what they can do or try to further improve their learning and skills rather than simply receiving a letter grade as the be all and end all. Letter grades are an end. On their own, they do not lead to better quality or improvement. Anecdotal comments benefit all and can help push all students to better meet their potential without fear or worry about a letter grade that they (or their friend) received.

**Self-reflection:** think about something that you tried to learn but that you struggled with. Did letter grades build you up or deflate you? Think about something that you were able to do that came easy to you. If you received an "A," can you honestly say that you tried your very best, or could you have done even better but didn't feel you had to? Could you have done even better if someone would have provided information to you to do even better? Were you satisfied with good grades? Were you someone who worked hard and did not always get good grades? If so, how did that feel?

I did not get top grades in elementary and high school. I also really never pushed myself to do my best. I know I could have received very good grades if I had applied myself. I was able to develop my work habits just enough to carry me through grade 12 and it was only when I was in college that I realized when I made an honest effort, I was more successful. While this took an enormous amount of work on my part (because I had not practiced it), it is my hope that by working together we can help develop the work habits of our students now, while they are younger, so that they have a better chance of success in the future.

## **Photo retakes**

Retakes will be happening tomorrow, Wednesday November 13th.

## Remembrance Day Assembly

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our Remembrance Day Assembly last week. Our students displayed exemplary behavior while entering the gym and throughout the assembly - well done!!

## Book Fair

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

Set the example. Let children see you read.

Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.

Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair dates:

\*Saturday, Dec 7 - 8:30-10:30 during Breakfast with Santa

\*Tuesday, Dec 10 - 2:45-3:30 after the Christmas Concert

\*Wednesday, Dec 11 - 2:45-3:30 after the Christmas Concert

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

## Parking changes on Renton Avenue

As many of you have probably noticed, curb stops have been installed on the sidewalk on the south side of Renton Avenue. Along with this change there has also been some signage changes along the street as well. I have met with the City to look at the signage on both sides of the street. Currently, there is no parking on the south side of the street from 8:00am-9:00am and from 2:00pm-4:00pm. This means that drop offs are permitted during these times. It also means that parking can occur along the south side of the street during times other than those listed above. We are looking to adjust these times.

On the north side of the street there is no parking or stopping on school days between 8:00am and 5:00pm. We are also wanting to have this time changed too (I will let you know when I know if or when this will happen).

The reason for the changes on the north side of the street is so that traffic will be able to move safely down and up the hill. With vehicles on both sides of the street, it only allows for one lane of traffic to pass through. This could be more challenging when vehicles are moving in both directions.

When coming down the hill to drop off your child, please move as far forward as you can. This will allow for the maximum space behind you (for other vehicles). If people stop at or near the top of the hill, the traffic could back up on Wellington. I know that change is never perfect. Our intention for the curb

stops and drop off zone is to improve safety in and around the school for all of our students and families.

## Address / phone number changes

Please be sure to contact the office (604 941-3408) if you move or your phone number changes. It is critical that we have this updated information in case we need to reach you. Thank you.

## School Calendar

The SD#43 School Board has approved the next three upcoming school year calendars. There were some minor changes from the proposed calendars as result of the feedback that the district received during the consultation process. The most notable of the changes from the proposed calendars was the moving back of Spring Break by one week for the 2020-21 school year.

They can be viewed at: <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/AMyCalendar/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

## School Supplies

Thank you to those families that have purchased the school supplies that the school bought in bulk. If you have not yet paid for these, we ask that you please do so asap. If you require any special considerations, please let me know at [dshannon@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:dshannon@sd43.bc.ca) or call 604 941-3408 to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

## Holiday Concert

I have heard from some parents about allowing their child/ren to be photographed / videoed at our Holiday Concert in December. As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Shawn Lam has graciously offered to video the performance of each class. Being able to view your child in this performance is a keepsake that you will enjoy for years. In order to do so, we will require permission for Shawn to do this. For those who have completed the necessary forms and have indicated that you are ok with your child being filmed or having his/her picture taken, this will suffice. For those who have not filled out the forms or who have indicated that they wish for their child to not have his/her picture taken, I will be following up to see if an exception can be made for the concert. Thank you to Shawn Lam for offering to do this for our school. As I mentioned earlier, this will be a keepsake that you will enjoy for years!

The dates for the concert this year are as follows:

December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dress Rehearsal: 1:00pm (whole school)
December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Concert: 9:00 am and 1:00pm
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Concert: 1:00pm

## 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, 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

## **District / Community News**

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>