



O.M. Irwin School



“Achieving Excellence”

The Staff of O.M. Irwin School would like to wish all of our students and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you and your family have a holiday season filled with peace, joy, friendship and love. We hope you all get some much deserved rest and relaxation over the upcoming Christmas break.

Save the Date:

December 4th – Grades 1- 2 ActivePlay from 3:15 – 5:15
 December 4th – Band Concert (Grade 6-8) @ 7pm
 December 5th – Grades 3 – 6 ActivePlay from 3:15 – 5:15
 December 5th – Staff Meeting
 December 11th – Grades 1- 2 ActivePlay from 3:15 – 5:15
 December 12th – Grades 3 – 6 ActivePlay from 3:15 – 5:15
 December 18th – K – 4 Assembly @ 9:20am
 December 20th – K – 5 Christmas Concert
 Dress Rehearsal @ 12:45pm
 Program @ 6:30pm
 December 21st – Last Day of Classes
 December 21st – Pizza Meal Day
 December 22nd – January 6th – Christmas Break
 January 7th – Classes Resume
 January 18th – Grade 8 Immunizations
 January 23rd – Shelter-In-Place Drill
 January 25th – Meal Day
 January 29th – Turn-around Day (No school for students)
 January 30th – Report Cards Emailed
 January 31st – K – 4 Assembly @ 12:30pm
 January 31st – SCC Writing and Recreation Evening with Author Kevin Millar



Irwin ICE Awards of Excellence for November

WAY TO GO ICE!!

KM: Daniella Bullena, Ayden Jones
 1B: Jacob Juuti, Lilah Regier
 1SCH: Brynn Tait, Kya Yates
 2R: Ty Francis, Margo Juuti
 2RO: Lux Busse, Miel Reyes
 3H: Alayna Ljunggren, Zues Pope
 3N: Maddison Erasmus, Kaedyn Jones
 4G: Connor Jesney, Jasper Toye
 4S: Piper Allan, Arabella Larracas



SCC NEWS

November has been a very busy month for the SCC! This phase of planning for the middle year's outdoor area was finalized, so spring 2019 will bring some much needed improvements to the north side of Irwin School. The SCC will also be helping provide food items for several Christmas hampers that will be gifted to a few of our Irwin families.

Our SCC recently took part in a forum which included reps from all SCCs in the Chinook School Division, as well as several speakers from the Division Office. Keleah Ostrander spoke on behalf of our SCC on the process we use to plan the projects we will be part of in that school year. It was an amazing evening that allowed us to learn new ways to best support our students and teachers. We had the opportunity to listen as other SCCs share some of the awesome activities they do in their schools. This resulted in some great ideas that we can expand on as we plan future school events at Irwin.

Every year our SCC members, along with an amazing group of parents, supervise the students during one lunch period so the staff can sit down and enjoy a Christmas meal together. This year the staff Christmas lunch will take place on December 19th, from 11:35-12:20. If you would like to help out with noon hour supervision, please RSVP Keleah (as soon as possible) at keleaho@greatplainscollege.ca. The OM Irwin Staff truly appreciates all parents who are able to volunteer their time, making this Christmas lunch is possible.

Your OM Irwin School Community Council would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

HOO HAA IRWIN ROCKS!!



IRWIN WRITES



Thank you to our Irwin Ice poets who entered their work into the Poetry Institute of Canada's Young Writers poetry contest that wrapped up in November. All of our poets should all be commended for their efforts and for taking the risk to submit their work. We look forward to seeing if any of our students get published or receive a prize.

The following students submitted poems:

Stella Thomson, Farah Lopeter, Lauren Hanson, Riley Inder, Brooklyn Hir, Hannah Talaga, Danica Smeby, Porter Giesbrecht, Sydney Grainger, Khloei Larson, Jorja Wilson, Jaxon Salter, Reese Bodnaryk, Lexi Willshaw, Zues Pope, Chloe Samonte, Ciaran Deacon, Lynneya Watson, Wyatt Frey, Dana Montalbo, Kira Gatzke, Aubrey Woelk, Veer Patel, Alayna Ljunggren, Taryn Potter, Alex McMillan

Winners of the draw for a book were: **Khloei Larson, Hannah Talaga, and Riley Inder**

Think about what you might submit for the creative writing contest in March. See Mr. Biem for details.

Babysitter Training and Home Alone Course

Cypress Advanced First Aid Services – Babysitter Training Course for boys and girls ages 10 and older, will be held on Saturday, December 1st from 9:00 to 4:00 pm at Bright Beginnings, 885 6th Ave NE. Cost \$55. Registration forms available at the school or call Jan Loeppky-Mackay at 306-774-4885 or e-mail: cypressafas@gmail.com



Remembrance Day Service

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the Remembrance Day service, and to all the families who sent photographs and stories, your contributions made our service engaging, meaningful and moving.



Irwin Ice Clothing for Sale

We have the following items for sale:

- 2 Youth Large Grey Sweatpants - \$15
- 1 Youth Large Black Hoodie - \$20
- 2 Adult Large Black Windbreaker Jacket - \$50
- 1 Adult X-Large Black Windbreaker Jacket - \$50
- 1 Adult Large Polyester T-Shirt - \$25
- 1 Adult Men's Large Golf Shirt - \$45
- Socks - \$20/pair
- Waterbottles - \$15/each

If you are interested in any of the items, please see the office.

December Spirit Days

Tuesday, December 11th – Christmas Spirit Day

Friday, December 14th – Ugly Sweater Day

Friday, December 21st – Pajama Day

SCC Monthly Meeting

The next SCC meeting will be in 2019. Watch the January newsletter for the date and time.



Kids in the Kitchen

Our fall session of Kids in the Kitchen will wrap up on December 4th. The winter session begins January 15th. The groups are listed outside the Foods Room if your child needs to confirm which session they're in.



The Holiday Spirit – Christmas Food Drive

Christmas is a time of sharing and showing gratitude towards each other. As the holiday season gets closer, our school has created a plan to support families in need. This year our school will be creating Christmas food hampers for families in our community. O.M. Irwin School students are asked to support our school efforts by sending non-perishable food items or toiletries to school from December 6th – 13th. Also, if anyone wants to donate money, we will use that money to purchase things like hams, potatoes, etc. Our Grade 5 K-Kidz club and our Grade 6 – 8 Leadership Team along with our SCC will be helping in our Christmas Hamper Project.



NEWS FROM THE K-KIDZ

On Thursday, December 20th, at the Christmas concert, the K-Kidz will be taking a silver collection for the Salvation Army.



Irwin School Legacy Project

Dear Irwin School Community,

Irwin School would like to send out a huge **thank you** to all of the current and former Irwin families who have donated to the Irwin Legacy Project! We are very close to reaching our goal, and plans are being made to order the chairs as soon as we can. If you are still interested in donating to the project you can stop by the office to donate.





Chinook Board of Education - Trustee Profile: **ALLAN BRIDAL**

Al Bridal is a Trustee for Subdivision 8 which includes all Swift Current schools: Fairview, Central, Irwin, École Centennial, CAMPS, Maverick and SCCHS. Al has been a Trustee with Chinook for two years. He also spent 6 years on the Swift Current School Board #94 in the early 1990s.

1. **Why did you become a trustee?** I want to make a positive difference in our education system.
2. **What do you feel you bring to the Board table?** 35 years in business without deficit financing, 20 years plus on different governing boards, and just being a down to earth person for 60 plus years.
3. **What kinds of things does a board of education do?**
 1. Read vast amounts of reports.
 2. Try to keep students, parents and staff happy.
 3. Discuss problems and come up with solutions we can afford.
4. **What is your most memorable school event or activity you have been a part of?** Meeting once yearly with the Hutterian Brethren and discovering that education is very important to them.
5. **What do you feel is one of the most important issues facing the Education sector today?** Technology and the modern idea that "it", not people, will solve problems.
6. **What is your most heart-warming and/or funniest moment in your time as a trustee?** Sitting on the floor with a kindergarten student, having a book read to me and seeing the young "wonder of life" through a five year old's eyes.
7. **What do you want people to know about being a trustee?** You do not do it for the big glory... you do it for the small miracles you see every day as students learn.
8. **What are you looking forward to in regards to the future of the Education sector?** A senior level of government that shows education is important by their actions, not just giving "lip service" to how important they think the public wants them to say it is.



The Irwin S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) club will begin meeting starting **Tuesday, December 11th**. It will be every day 1 at lunch for any student in grades 4 and up. Meetings will be from 11:50 to 12:20 and we will meet in the Art Room. Our first focus will be Science Fair. If you have any questions see Mr. Biem.

OUR SCHOOL SURVEY

During the weeks of December 3rd to 14th Grade 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 students will participate in the Our SCHOOL Survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather student feedback around the successes, challenges, and supports they have had. We consistently strive for school improvement by getting student – specific data to assist us in meeting the needs of our students. Grade 4, 5 and 6 students will complete the Elementary Survey while Grade 7 and 8 students will complete the Secondary Survey which includes questions on “Risky Behavior” that focus on alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Kohlman or Mr. Biem if you have any questions.



O.M. Irwin School Lost and Found

If students are missing items, please remember to check the Lost and Found. We have three lost and found bins located throughout the school. Items that are not claimed by the end of each month get packed up and donated to the local MCC / Salvation Army.

Winter time can bring on extra clothing which can add to lockers bursting at the seams. This can cause items to get misplaced or put in the wrong locker. We would like to remind parents and guardians, if your child comes home with an item that may not belong to them, please send it back to school.



Note: Colours shown may not accurately reflect actual colours.

BLUEIMP
Play Strong.

O.M. Irwin School
layout # A05610-C1
J05036



Middle Years Playground Update

Since the start of the year, we have been working on plans to complete the middle years playground. We are excited to report the following developments:

- Research on and acceptance of a climbing apparatus structure is complete. We have chosen the climbing apparatus below from Blu Imp Equipment from Medicine Hat. The total cost for the climbing apparatus with rubber border timbers, and the pea gravel foundation is approx. \$20,705.00 (including taxes and shipping for the climbing apparatus and rubber border timbers).
- We have ordered a Funnel Ball/Basketball Hoops apparatus that will be installed in the center of the outdoor basketball courts. The cost for the funnel ball/basketball hoop set is approx. \$1200.00.
- This fall we installed two tether balls, new basketball nets, and painted two four square game areas on the outdoor basketball court.
- The plans for phase two of the project are to install a base of crusher dust for the playground area and install a shelter.

The balance in the playground equipment account is \$17,529.00 and this money will be used pay for the climbing apparatus pictured above, rubber border timbers, and the pea gravel foundation. Thank you to the SCC for agreeing to donate up to \$5000.00 to cover the remaining balance on the purchase of the climbing apparatus and the funnel ball/basketball hoops apparatus. We will submit a proposal regarding the completion of the middle years playground to the Chinook SD Facilities and Maintenance Dept. for approval. Our intention is to order the climbing apparatus and rubber border timbers this winter to ensure we can have this equipment installed for the students in the spring

IRWIN ICE
Christmas Concerts

K – 5 Christmas Concert:

Crazy Carols

Please come join us on Thursday, December 20th. Family and guests are welcome to join us during either times below:

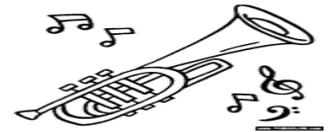
- 12:45pm – Dress Rehearsal
- 6:30 pm – Program

Students are to be ready in their homerooms by 6:15pm for the evening performance. Homeroom teachers will be sending notes home in the near future with specifics you may need to be aware of.

At the door, our ICE K-Kidz will be taking a silver collection for the Salvation Army.



BAND NEWS



Swift Current Band Parent's Auxiliary regularly sends out emails updating families about fundraising opportunities. Please email scbands.communication@gmail.com to be added to the list. Please include your child's name, school and grade. You can also follow us on Facebook and check out our website www.scbands.ca.

E-Cigarettes and Vaping

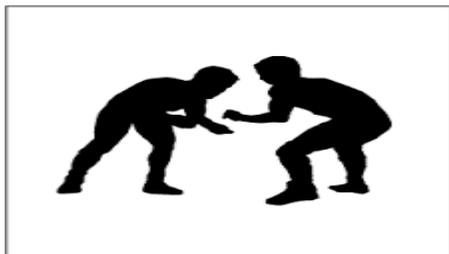
A growing concern among educators and parents is the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping products by youth. We want to remind everyone that the use of tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping in any form by students, employees or other people is not allowed on our school grounds or in our buildings. Students caught smoking, using or in possession of the prohibited products in or near the school will be disciplined according to policy.

E-cigarettes and vaping can be harmful to the user and to people exposed to the second hand e-cigarette smoke. Like regular cigarettes, e-cigarettes with nicotine are linked to a many harmful effects on children and youth—from addiction to disruptive effects on the developing brain. Please read the Canadian Paediatric Society's recommendations on protecting children and youth from the dangers of e-cigarettes:

<https://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/e-cigarettes-a-danger-to-children-and-youth>.

WRESTLING

The Irwin Ice Wrestling team will begin practices starting Wednesday, December 5th. It will be every day 3, and 5 at lunch for any student in grades 4 and up. Practices will be from 11:50 to 12:20. If you have any questions see Mr. Biem.



K – 4 Assembly

Our next K – 4 Assembly will take place on Tuesday, December 18th at 9:20am. All parents, grandparents and guardians are welcome to attend!

The NEXT K-8 Pizza Day is on Friday, December 21st!
Watch for pizza order forms going in January!

REMINDER TO PARENTS

Students are not supposed to be dropped off or picked up in the staff parking lot area. To ensure of your child's safety, we are asking that you please use **George Street** for all drop-offs and pick-ups.

Thank You!

Student Contact Information

If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, have a new job, please update the school with new contact information. It is crucial the school has current and up-to-date numbers in case of an emergency or student illness.

Please update the school at 306-778-9270 or email your child's homeroom teacher to be forwarded to the school office.



CUTLERY

Please remember to **PACK** a spoon/fork in your lunch kit.

Christmas Carol Sing-Along

K – 4 Students - Tuesday, December 11th @ noon

Grade 5 – 8 Students – Wednesday, December 12th @ noon.



PARENTING STUDY GROUP

Laure Gaunt 306-626-3317 (not long distance)
Dorene Bymoen 306-773-0301

- For the month of December 2017
 - Parenting Study Groups – promoting healthy parent/child relationships with respectful communication, co-operation, responsibility and encouragement.
 - Based on the teachings of Alfred Adler and Rudolph Dreikurs.
 - Tuesday, December 4 – Parent Study Group
 - Tuesday, December 11 – ADD/ADHD Information & Support
- Time: 7:00 – 9:00
- Place: O.M. Irwin School (Library)
- Phone: 306-626-3317 (not long distance)

IN MOTION COMMOTION

by Val Choo-Foo, City of Swift Current

Promoting healthy lifestyles in our community!

Remember to take this Christmas season to give yourself the gift of health!!! Try to focus on these five things: exercise, nutrition, relaxation, water and sleep. For Christmas gift ideas, visit www.saskatchewaninmotion.ca/tools-resources/active-toy-guide. Saskatchewan in motion's Active Toy Guide has lots of great gift ideas to help kids of all ages burn off steam, chart an active outdoor adventure, and experience the joy of movement. Also, watch for the 7th annual Wellness Challenge information coming out in early January. This year's challenge will run from Jan. 21 to Feb. 17.

Promoting healthy lifestyles in our community!

