

O.M. Irwin School June Newsletter

Administrator's Message:

Hello Irwin Families!

As we head into the month of June, we hope everyone is staying happy and healthy! Thank you for all of your hard work at home as we wrap up an unusual school year! Thank you to our parents and grandparents who may be helping with at home learning.

Icy was working so hard that he had to stop for a food break! **Do you know where he is?** Enter on Facebook to win a **\$10 Sputtergotch** gift card!

How to Enter: go to our [Irwin School Facebook page](#), have your parent/guardian comment with your answer on the post, and you are entered to win! The winner will be announced on Facebook. Every second week you will have until Thursday to enter the draw! Have fun tracking Icy on his expeditions!

Warmest Regards,
O.M. Irwin School Administration Team
Arron Kohlman – Principal
Kelsey Tsougrianis – Vice Principal



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2020 – 2021 School Year

At the end of June, you will receive your child's homeroom placement/supply list for the 2020/2021 school year. Determining where students are placed is something we regard as highly important. A school team including administration, teachers and SST teachers has spent considerable time deciding where to place each student so that each child's learning experience will be most beneficial. Significant consideration and discussion is given to determining the best placement for each child based on several criteria.

We believe we have made decisions based on what is best for all students. Moving one student may have a domino effect on class lists so changes are extremely difficult once students are grouped. If you have concerns, we are willing to discuss them with you and we will monitor the progress of your child throughout the fall as he or she transitions into their new classroom. Thank you for your cooperation and we trust that your child will have a happy and productive year. As always, our placements are tentative, if we have a significant increase in one grade level in the fall we may have to adjust our classroom enrolments.

As we prepare for the 2020/2021 school year, our homeroom teachers for next year will be as follows:

Kindergarten: Ms. McWillie and Mrs. Dyck

Grade One: Ms. Burnett and Mrs. Schommer

Grade Two: Mrs. Regier and Mrs. Robinson

Grade Three: Ms. Haack and Ms. Nisbet

Grade 4: Mr. Siemens and Miss Bertram

Grade 5: Mrs. Anderson/Mrs. Fritzke and Mr. Darby

Grade 6: Mrs. Wong and Mr. Froese

Grade 7: Mr. Grainger and Miss Poh

Grade 8: Mr. Eltom and Mrs. Tinant/Miss Gillanders

Other teachers on staff will include Mr. Dyck, Miss Jersak and Mrs. Thompson. Mr. Arron Kohlman will be the Principal and Mrs. Kelsey Tsougrianis will be the school's Vice-Principal

Bussing Information

We will be sending out information regarding bussing for the 2020/2021 school year around mid-June. This information will be sent to families via email, so please watch for this coming soon.



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From the Library

If your child has any library books signed out from this year, you will be getting an e-mail from Mrs. Bleackley telling you what the titles of the books are. You are welcome to return them to the school by putting them in the box labelled Library Book Returns on the black cart outside of the front doors during school hours. The cart will be there until June 24th so if you want the books out of your way please just drop them off. If you would prefer to hold onto the books until the Fall, that is fine too. We wanted to let families know which books are signed out to their children so hopefully we can get them back and let other Irwin students enjoy them.

In the meantime, take care of you and your families and stay safe.

Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Bleackley



FROM MICHELE'S DESK:

What to say about spring 2020: it's been weird. Lonely. Overwhelming. However, I am so glad that with everyone's sacrifices Saskatchewan has been able to keep COVID-19 numbers low. Families have found ways to stay connected to others. I've heard of neighbours passing jokes back and forth between mailboxes; I've seen encouraging chalk messages on sidewalks and signs in windows all over the city; painted rocks are hidden in parks to be found and re-hidden for another to find. People have been so creative with brightening the day for themselves and others.

We've been cooped up at home for a long time, and that can be hard to cope with – working from home, learning from home, activities and events cancelled, businesses closed. Have you ever spent so much time with your family before? Or away from your extended family and friends? Think about how you are coping. Are you taking care of yourself (sleeping, eating well, talking to a friend, outdoor activities, laughing...)? There are resources listed on the Chinook School Division website if you find that you are not coping well. Students can also contact the school Counsellor (mgurski@chinooksd.ca) if they want to talk.

While online, I came across an invitation to say an uplifting message in 3 words. Can you think of one? Or more?

Sweatpants and Netflix. Chocolate ice cream. Sunshine and sprinklers. Be kind always. Love your family. You are awesome. School needs you. Come back soon. Irwin Ice Rocks!

Take care and have a great (although very different) summer.

Michele Gurski

Student Services Counsellor

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JOYFUL JUNE (EVEN IN DIFFICULT TIMES) 2020



MONDAY

1 Decide to look for what's good, even on the difficult days

TUESDAY

2 Re-frame a worry and try to find a positive way to respond

WEDNESDAY

3 Think of 3 things you're grateful for and write them down

THURSDAY

4 Show your appreciation to those who are helping others

FRIDAY

5 Smile and be friendly, even while you're social distancing

SATURDAY

6 Notice the upsides during the lockdown, however small

SUNDAY

7 Find a joyful way of being physically active (indoors or out)

8 Write a letter to thank someone for what they did

9 Find the joy in music today: sing, play, dance or listen

10 Take a photo of something that brings you joy and share it

11 Say positive things in your conversations with others today

12 Make a plan with friends to do something fun together

13 Appreciate the joy of nature and the beauty in the world around

14 Do three things to bring joy to other people today

15 Rediscover a fun childhood activity that you can enjoy today

16 Ask a loved one what they feel grateful for at the moment

17 Be kind to you. Treat yourself the way you would treat a friend

18 Send a positive note to a friend who needs encouragement

19 Create a list of favourite memories you feel grateful for

20 Make time to do something playful today, just for the fun of it

21 Enjoy trying a new recipe or cooking your favourite food

22 Share a happy memory with someone who means a lot to you

23 Look for something to be thankful for where you least expect it

24 Thank a friend for the joy they bring into your life

25 Eat food that makes you feel good and really savour it

26 See the upside in a difficult situation you learnt from

27 Watch something funny and enjoy how it feels to laugh

28 Create a playlist of your favourite songs and enjoy them

29 Take time to do something that makes you happy today

30 Make a list of the joys in your life (and keep adding to them)



"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day" ~ Alice Morse Earle



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS



www.actionforhappiness.org

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

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Summer Writing

This past year, we saw our school community embrace the goal of becoming better and more engaged writers. In the 2020/2021 school year, O.M. Irwin School will continue to pursue improved writing skills for all of our students. Over the summer, there will be many ways to use our writing skills to connect our summer with writing. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Create a Summer Writing Journal
2. Journal your thoughts about a book you are reading.
3. Write a "Thank-You" note to someone who helped make your summer great.
4. Grab some sidewalk chalk and decorate your driveway!
5. Go to a movie – review it after you have watched it!

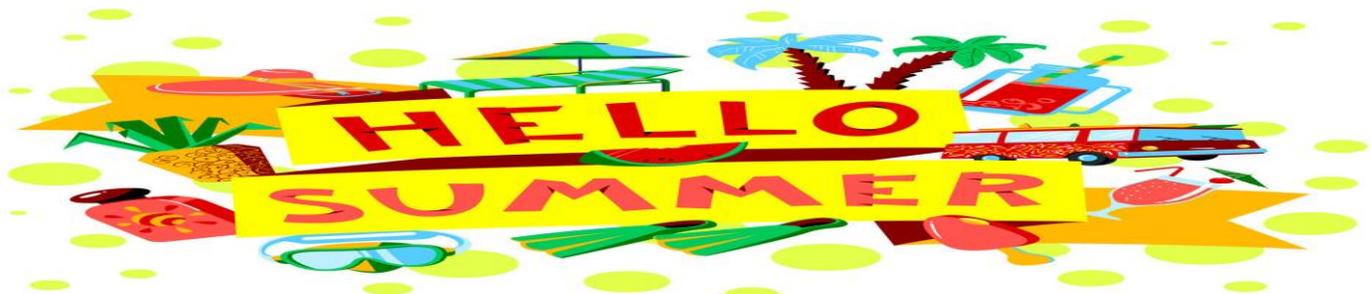


Reading Over the Summer!

Children need to engage with books each day over the summer so they can maintain and even strengthen their literacy skills. Just like consistent exercise programs keep our bodies healthy, consistent reading supports our reading muscles. Research has shown that if kids read six books over the summer, they will maintain their literacy skills. Here are some tips to support summer reading from Julie Wood, who is a Literacy Expert:

1. Take books wherever you go (appointments, road trips, etc.)
2. Let your child choose the books they want to read (age appropriate, just right level of difficulty)
3. Talk with your child about their books to help them interpret and understand their reading.
4. Read aloud to your child.
5. Go to the community library!
6. Try different online reading experiences

Flex these reading muscles over July and August!



SCC News

The June newsletter finds many of us in disbelief that we are, once again, only a month away from summer holidays! Living through a pandemic the past few weeks has presented unique challenges for all of us - especially our kids. It's impressive to see how students, families, Irwin staff, and Chinook School Division Administration are successfully working together to finish up the 2019/2020 school year!

With the COVID-19 related school closures, we were not able to hold our spring fundraiser, but did help out with many activities that supported our kids and teachers. Events like our annual "Read & Relax" morning and Irwin's first "Multicultural Evening" were both huge successes, and enjoyed by many! Our last show of support this year will be for our Irwin School staff. On behalf of our students, Irwin families, and the SCC, we will be gifting each staff member a \$10 gift card from Urban Ground. This is a small token of appreciation for going above and beyond in guiding all of us through the final 3 months of school in a professional, understanding, and thoughtful manner. Well done!!

The Irwin School Community Council (SCC) plans to hold our Annual General Meeting this fall, but at this time aren't able to pinpoint an exact date. We ask anyone considering becoming part of the Irwin SCC to contact our Chairperson, Keleah Ostrander, at keleaho@greatplainscollege.ca. We will send out more detailed information in the fall, and welcome volunteers who are willing to devote their ideas and a bit of time to support our fabulous kids and teachers at Irwin School!

The Irwin SCC would like to congratulate our students, staff, and families on completing this school year from home, and our Grade 8's on their Graduation! We hope you are all able to enjoy a well-deserved safe and healthy summer holiday, and that it isn't too long before we see each other back at school!



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Kindergarten Registration for 2020-2021

Kindergarten registration for the upcoming school year is ongoing. If you know anyone with a kindergarten age child, please have them call the school at 306-778-9270 for information. To register, please email the completed forms to irwin_school@chinooksd.ca. *Children must be 5 years of age by Dec 31st, 2020 to be eligible.

[2020-2021 Registration Form](#)

[Transportation Request Form](#)



HOO HAA ICE ROCKS!

Let us know...

Have you moved? Do you have a new phone number? Do you have a new email address?

For the fall, do you have any information you can update now? If you need to fill in a busing form you can click on this link ([Busing Form](#)) and send it in. If you know you will be transferring schools, please let your teacher know as well as the office at

irwin_school@chinooksd.ca

Farewell to Staff Members Leaving O.M. Irwin School for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mr. Scott Wong – transferring to SCCHS

Ms. Ashley Wagner – transferring to Ecole Centennial

Miss Fadzai Masvosva

All the best in your future endeavors. You have all made a huge impact on the staff and students here at Irwin School and you will be truly missed.

Welcome Back to Returning Staff Members to O.M. Irwin School for the 2020-2021 School Year

Mrs. Heidi Wong – Grade 6

Miss Alexis Poh – Grade 7

Mr. Brett Eltom – Grade 8

Please join us in welcoming these individuals back to O.M. Irwin School. We are very lucky to have them be a part of our Irwin Ice family.

