



## MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION



Dear O.M. Irwin Parents and Guardians,

**Wow! It is hard to believe that the first half of the school year is finished already. Time does fly! We've had a great month of January at O.M. Irwin. In January, the City League Basketball schedule began and the boys and girls intermediate, and senior teams have had a great start to their seasons. Congratulations to the boys and girls senior teams for capturing the Speedy Creek Hoops classic this last weekend. January was also a busy month for our classrooms that continued to collect food for the community fridge initiative. Thank you to the families for donating food for this important cause in our community. It was great to wrap up the month with the Muffin and Read Activity on Family Literacy Day on January 27th. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, family members, and guardians who attended the muffin and read. Special thanks to the SCC for providing the muffins and treats for the event! Have a great February everyone!**

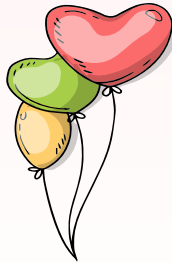
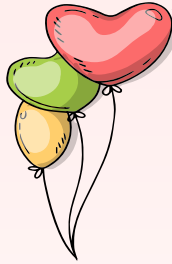
**O.M. Irwin School Admin Team  
Arron Kohlman & Geoff Horn**

# Dates to Remember

- February 4 - Toast Tuesday
- February 5 - Grade 2 Bronco I-Read Program
- February 6 - SCCHS Grade 8 Presentation
- February 7 - Grade 8 Ski Trip to Hidden Valley
- February 9-15 - Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- February 10 - Shelter in Place Drill
- February 12 - Early Dismissal @ 2:15
- February 14 - Valentine's Day

Wear Valentine's Day theme clothing/colours

- February 17-21 - February Break (No School)
- February 24 - Classes Resume
- February 24-27 - Grade 4 Swimming Lessons
- February 28 - Pizza Meal Day
- February 28 - Assembly @ 2:00 p.m.



- March 3-6 - Grade 4 Swimming Lessons
- March 4 - Toast Tuesday
- March 13 - Duck/Cover/Hold Drill
- March 10-13 - Grade 2 Swimming Lessons
- March 17-20 - Grade 2 Swimming Lessons
- March 18 - SCC Meeting
- March 24 - Teacher Admin Day (No School)
- March 26 - Assembly @ 12:30 p.m.
- March 28 - Burger King Meal Day

- April 1 - Toast Tuesday
- April 15 - SCC Meeting
- April 16 - Pizza Meal Day
- April 18 - Good Friday (No School)
- April 21-25 - Easter Break (No School)
- April 28 - Classes Resume
- April 30 - Assembly @ 12:30 p.m.
- April 30 - Early Dismissal @ 2:15



# O.M. Irwin Senior Basketball



A huge congratulations to the Senior Girls Basketball team who played some of the best basketball of the season to defend their Speedy Creek Classic Champs title. They defeated Moose Jaw Palliser, Fairview Knights, and then faced a strong Moose Jaw Sunningdale team in the final. The girls came away with a hard fought 52-42 victory! Way to go girls.

Congratulations to our Senior Boys Basketball team for capturing Gold at the Speedy Creek Hoops Tournament. The boys played hard all weekend and improved their skill level with each game, leading them to their well deserved victory against All Saints in the final.

Go Ice!!



# Grade 8 Ski Trip



**Where:** Hidden Valley Ski Resort

**When:** Friday, February 7th

**Time:** leaving at 6:45 a.m. and will return to Irwin at 7:00 p.m.

**Transportation:** Charter Bus

**Transportation Cost:** \$50





# GRADE 9 REGISTRATION MEETINGS

BE PART OF THE TRANSITION PROCESS

Addressing Grade 9 programming and course selection for the 2025/2026 school year followed by school tours.

## The Events Will Be Held On:

### MONDAY



February 3

École Centennial (both FI & Eng) & Central Schools

### TUESDAY



February 4

All Saints Catholic and all Rural schools  
(Stewart Valley, Success, Waldeck & Wymark)

### WEDNESDAY



February 5

O.M. Irwin and Fairview Schools



**Mrs. Melanie Arntsen**

Grade 9 Vice Principal

### EVENT START TIME



6:30 pm - CAFETERIA

Parents who can not make the assigned day are welcome to attend on another evening.

**SCCHS**

[marntsen@chinooksd.ca](mailto:marntsen@chinooksd.ca)

1-306-773-2801

# School Reminders...

We are asking parents and guests - if you are able - to please remove their boots/outside footwear prior to entering the gym for any events.

Irwin School is on Facebook! Please visit our school's Facebook page for all the exciting things happening in and around our school, and to check for upcoming events.

\*\*\*Please be sure to send a *water bottle* and *cutlery*, if needed, to school with your child.

The Irwin Ice Hut is available to kids in Grades 5-8 during the a.m. break!  
Grades 5&6 on Days 1,3 & 5 / Grades 7&8 on Days 2, 4 & 6

Students are NOT to be dropped off or picked up in the staff parking lot!  
To ensure your child's safety, please use George Street for pick-ups and drop-offs.

We appreciate you calling the school at 306-778-9270 when your child/children are going to be late or absent. Please leave a voice message if you are calling before or after school hours.

Thank you!



# Grade 4 Swimming Lessons



**Mrs Johnston and Mr Boyer's Grade 4 classes  
will be taking swimming lessons at the  
Aquatic Center this month.**



**February 24-27**

**1:00 pm -1:45 pm: Mrs. Johnston**

**1:45 pm - 2:30 pm: Mr. Boyer**

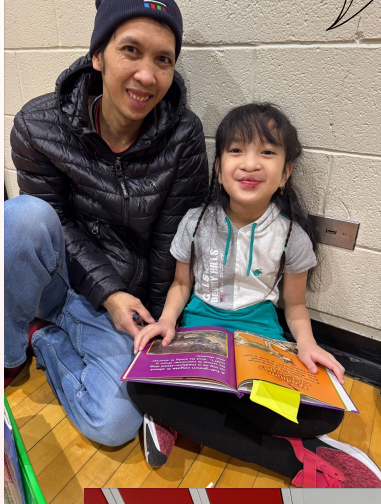
**March 3-6**

**1:00 pm-1:45 pm: Mr. Boyer**

**1:45 pm-2:30 pm: Mrs. Johnston**



# Family Literacy Day

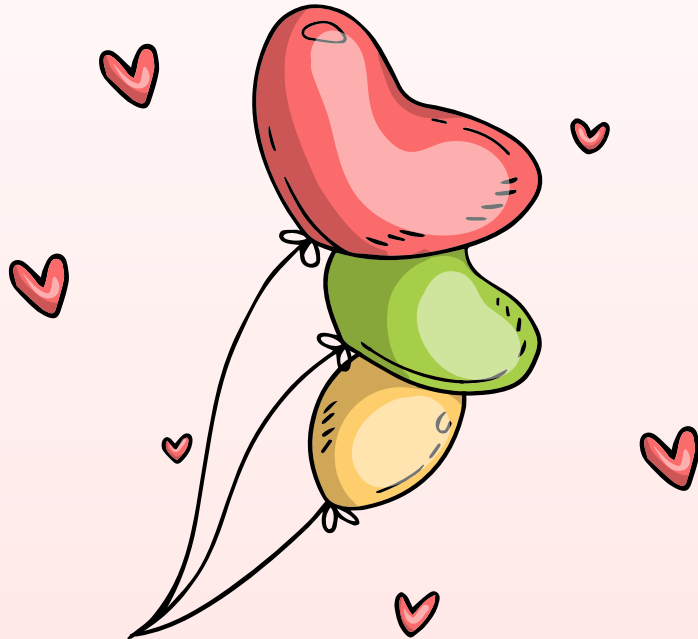


On January 27th, in celebration of Family Literacy Day, we held our annual “Muffin & Read Morning.” As always, it was a huge success and great to see so many families coming to school to read with their kids!

*A special thank you to our SCC for providing muffins, juice and coffee, and helping with this special event.*



# Message from Michele



# SCALE THE PROBLEM:

COUNSELOR Kent

## Small Problem



Will this even matter in an hour?  
Can I move on with my day?  
Can I ignore it?

## Medium Problem



Do I need to talk to someone about this?  
Will I be unable to move on if this isn't resolved?

## Big Problem



Is someone in danger?  
Have I tried multiple times to resolve this?  
Do I need to get an adult involved?

How big is this problem? Can I handle this on my own? Do I need to resolve it with someone? Do I need help from an adult?

# Community Fridge Donation Drop-off

Thank you to our Irwin students for gathering donations for our Swift Current Community Fridge. We loved lending a helping hand to support families in need in our community.



# Arts Education

Mrs. Potter's Grade 2 class has been having fun exploring different tones and rhythms in music through drums, rattles, cowbells, and other special instruments from around the world.





# **TRY LACROSSE**

 **Date:** February 9, 2025


 **Location:** Kinetic Park Stockade

## **Schedule:**

- **U7 – U11:** 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- **U13 – U17:** 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm



**Join us for a FREE Try Lacrosse event!**  
**It's the perfect chance to try**  
***THE FASTEST GAME ON TWO FEET,***  
**commitment free.**

 **Special Guest Coaches:** The Swift Current Wolverines,  
Swift Current's very own Junior B Lacrosse Team!

## **What to Bring:**

- Hockey helmet (with cage), gloves, clean runners & water bottle (*Sticks will be available*)

**Questions ?** message us on Facebook or Email us at  
[swiftcurrentlacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:swiftcurrentlacrosse@gmail.com)

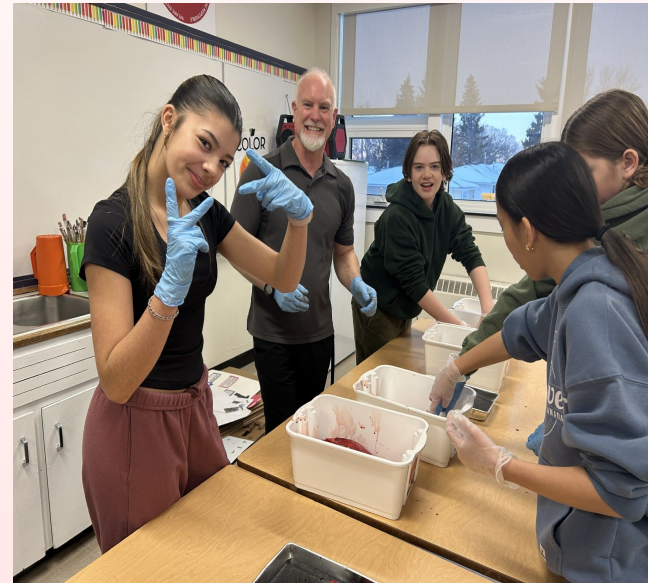
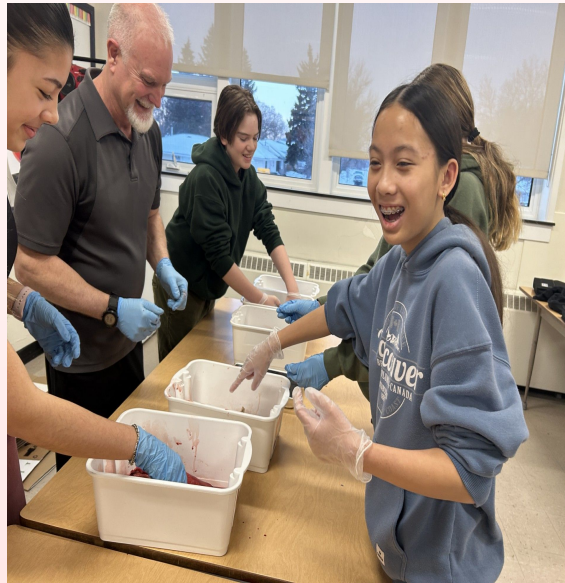
**Save the Date:** Our next session will be on **March 23!**  
Follow us on Facebook for all the details!



# Grade 8 Science

The Grade 8's are studying Human body systems in science, and did a dissection of deer and antelope hearts, lungs, liver, and kidneys, that were supplied by local and student hunters.

Shout out to Mr. Eltom for always sharing his knowledge of science in such fun and interesting ways, and for making science so exciting for his students to learn!



MENTAL

HEALTH

MATTERS

5 MINUTE  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CHECK

HOW MUCH  
WATER DID  
YOU DRINK  
TODAY?

HOW ARE YOU  
FEELING RIGHT  
NOW?

HAVE YOU  
STRETCHED?

HAVE YOU  
BEEN KIND  
TO YOURSELF  
TODAY?

DID YOU  
SMILE  
TODAY?

DID YOU  
EAT ENOUGH?

DID YOU  
SLEEP WELL?



O. M. Irwin

# Middle Years Dance

**Date:** Thursday, February 13th

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Music Provided by:** DJ Darby

**Refreshments:** Ice Hut will be open!

**Admission:** \$5.00

Hope to see you there!



# Parents and Guardians

We appreciate you calling the school at 306-778-9270 when your child/children are going to be late or absent.

Please leave a voice message if you are calling before or after school hours.

Thank you!

Please remind your children to leave their Pokemon Cards, Matchbox/HotWheels Cars, and toys at home to prevent them from getting damaged or lost

\*\* There are 3 lost and found locations in our school: one in the *upper hall*, one in the *lower hall* and one *under the sound system in the gym*.

Please check these locations for your misplaced items.

\*\* Photos of the lost and found items will be posted on Facebook.

\*\*If there are unclaimed items after 2 months, they will be kept for emergency clothing or donated.



# Early Dismissal Calendar

## O.M. Irwin School Early Dismissal Days



To help families plan ahead and make arrangements, students will be dismissed **ONE HOUR EARLY** on the following five Wednesdays:

O.M. IRWIN  
SCHOOL



OUR REGULAR  
DISMISSAL TIME IS  
**3:15** SO OUR  
EARLY DISMISSAL  
TIME IS **2:15**

October 16, 2024

November 27, 2024

February 12, 2025

April 30, 2025

June 4, 2025




Each early dismissal allows teachers to participate in **2** hours of professional development to support student learning and assessment.



Buses will also depart the school one hour earlier than the regular time.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

 Happy February, Irwin Families.

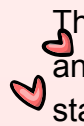

One of the priority action-items for Chinook Schools this year is improving and celebrating positive student attendance. As such, at O.M. Irwin School, we are currently doing a 3 month attendance initiative for all of our students. For the months of January, February and March we have developed the following goals and positive rewards:

**January** - 88% School-wide attendance and students will earn an icy treat.

**February** - 90% School-wide attendance and students will earn a candy bag and class movie.

**March** - 92% School-wide attendance and students will earn a DJ Darby Atten-Dance-Party.

Our goal is to both celebrate the positive attendance trends we see at O.M Irwin School, and to make an impact in increasing school attendance. If your family has barriers, or is struggling to get your child to school regularly, please reach out to any of the following staff members so we can support you: your child's homeroom teacher, our school counsellor, Michele Gurski, or either of our school administrators, Mr. Kohlman or Mr. Horn. We are here to help and support all of our families and students attend school on a regular basis.

 Thank you for already encouraging your child to attend school and the partnerships we have developed between home and school. We love seeing each and every one of our students' smiling faces; they are one of the biggest reasons our staff loves coming to work! 

# SCHOOL BUS REMINDERS



If your child takes the school bus, please remind them of the following procedures should they miss their bus after school, or if their bus arrives to school late in the morning:

1. Tell one of the bus supervisors (Mr Kohlman, Ms. Burnett, Mrs. Robinson, Ms. McWillie, or Ms. Robson). They are at the bus layover until at least 3:25 each day.
2. If a supervisor is not available, then students must go to the main entrance of the school and go to the office to see Mrs. Painchaud. Mrs Painchaud will call their parents.
3. If a student's bus arrives late in the morning and the East doors are locked, they must enter through the main entrance. The east doors are locked by 8:45. The main entrance is unlocked all day.

# Important Safety Memo:

Please **DO NOT** walk through the bus parking lot when buses are running!



Due to safety concerns, students are not to walk through the bus layover (the area highlighted in red) before or after school.

The area highlighted in red on the bus layover is not a designated walkway. The bus layover is extremely busy with buses arriving and departing daily.

Thank you!

# New provincial assessment program for Saskatchewan students

## Principals and Teachers:

As part of the Provincial Education Plan, the Ministry of Education is working with teachers and educational organizations to develop a Saskatchewan Student Assessment (SSA) program.

Students, parents, teachers and the public have told us they want Saskatchewan students to:

- be **prepared** for success with the skills and knowledge they need;
- be **supported** in their learning; and,
- have an education that is **globally recognized and valued**.

Saskatchewan Student Assessment will help us work together toward these goals. The assessments will be based entirely on Saskatchewan curriculum and will be developed with Saskatchewan teachers.

Assessments will be implemented in stages, beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Before each assessment is implemented, a "field test" will provide information about the quality of the questions and help teacher developers refine the assessment.

- 2025-26 school year – field test in Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grade 7 English language arts (ELA).
- 2026-27 school year – implementation of Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grade 7 ELA assessments; field test of Grades 4 and 10 ELA.

- 2027-28 school year – all assessments will be fully implemented, including Grades 5 and 9 mathematics and Grades 4, 7 and 10 ELA.

### Sask Student Assessment will:

- Be based on curriculum
- Help with understanding of grade-level expectations
- Be developed and validated by teachers

### Sask Student Assessment will NOT:

- Require additional teaching
- Replace classroom assessment
- Be used to rank schools or teachers

Results from the assessments will be made available to the student, parent/caregiver, classroom teacher, the school and the school division.

The results of the assessments will provide information needed at the classroom, system and provincial levels to better respond to the learning needs of Saskatchewan students. They **will not** be used to rank teachers, schools or school systems.

As the partners in Saskatchewan education who work closest with students, we look forward to working with you to develop and implement an assessment program that will benefit you and your students. For more information, please see our website <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/assessment>.



## Saskatchewan Student Assessment

### What is it?

Saskatchewan Student Assessment is a provincial assessment program that will provide a snapshot of results in core subject areas.

### Why is this being implemented?

Consistent, fair and objective measures of student achievement benefit everyone in the education system. The data will be used to identify strengths and areas of opportunity, from the level of the student to the entirety of the provincial education system.

Saskatchewan is currently the only province in Canada that does not have a provincial assessment program.

### Who will write the Saskatchewan Student Assessment?

All students following the regular curriculum in publicly funded schools in Grades 5 and 9 will participate in a mathematics assessment and students in Grades 4, 7 and 10 will participate in an English language arts assessment.

Students will receive the same accommodations and support on the assessment as they are accustomed to in the classroom.

### When will this be implemented?

Assessments will be implemented in a staged approach, beginning in the 2025-26 school year.

### Will I receive the results from this assessment?

Once Saskatchewan Student Assessments are fully implemented, you will receive information on your students' achievements. The assessment results will also help you identify students' areas of strength and where they might need extra support.

### How can I get involved?

Teacher participation is essential to the success of this program. There are many opportunities for teachers to be engaged, including developing, validating and scoring assessment questions and setting provincial standards of achievement. Your educational organization will share information with you about how you can become involved.

### Where can I get more information?

Please visit our website: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/assessment>.

We look forward to sharing additional information with you throughout the development and implementation of this program.

# Thank You !!

Thank you to the  
Knights of Columbus for  
your thoughtful donation  
to our school's Breakfast  
Club.

Your generosity is much  
appreciated!



# *In Motion Commotion*



Staying active during the winter months can be more challenging, but there are many fun activities to do in the winter such as snowshoeing, tobogganing, skating, building a snowman, or going for a walk. What about trying Crokicurl at Riverdene Park? Also, here are some events going on in Swift Current during the month of February that can help you stay active and have fun!

Family Fun Week – February 17-23 will have many family friendly activities to participate in during the February break such as skating, swimming, curling, reading, and cross-country skiing. Learn more at [www.swiftcurrent.ca/familyfunweek](http://www.swiftcurrent.ca/familyfunweek) Free Swimming during Public and Family swim times at the Aquatic Centre for ages 14 and under, in the month of February. Sponsored by the SC Kiwanis Club.

Have fun, stay safe, and be active!



*Have an  
awesome  
February!*

