

# O.M. Irwin School

## September 2025 Newsletter



## Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year at O.M. Irwin.

O.M. Irwin School's values are: *We provide learning for all. We support and develop each holistic learner. We build character and community. We promote connection. We are a safe and caring school. We embrace diversity.* Students, throughout their years at Irwin School, will be provided with many opportunities to learn, grow and fulfil these values in their classrooms, playground interactions, and extracurricular activities. We look forward to watching them grow and mature.

We look forward to working alongside you, the families, to help support the well-rounded development of your child(ren). Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child(ren) teachers for clarifications, questions, or to update us on your child.

Hoo Haa Ice Rocks!

O.M. Irwin School Administration Team:

Principal - Deb Steinley  
Vice Principal - G. Horn

# O.M. Irwin School 2025-2026 Staff List

## Office Staff

*Principal* – Mrs. Deb Steinley  
*Vice-Principal* – Mr. Geoff Horn  
*Office Manager* – Mrs. Heather Painchaud  
*Secretary* – Mrs. Maureen Hanson

## Support Staff

*Librarian* – Mrs. Debbi Bleackley

*Recess Supervisor* – Mr. John Saguisin

*Education Assistants:* Mrs. Heba Anouz  
Mrs. Tracy Chapman  
Mrs. Jennifer Engen  
Ms. Megan Englebrecht  
Miss Clarissa Faulkner  
Mrs. Colleen Gardner  
Mrs. Felicia Coker  
Ms. Taylor Couch  
Mrs. Leanne Johnson  
Mrs. Christine Johnston  
Mrs. Natasha Kirby  
Ms. Boston Palmer  
Mrs. Amy Popick  
Mrs. Liz Ramage  
Mrs. Brenda Saufert  
Mrs. Kaitlyn Stone  
Mrs. Carla Weinbender  
Ms. Alexis Wessner  
Mrs. Melissa Williams  
Mrs. Carlyn Zanidean

*Facility Operators:* Ms. Stacie Sprague  
Mr. Lawrence Forde  
Ms. Chris Campbell  
Mr. Roderick Ugalino

## Instructional Staff

*Kindergarten* – Ms. Kristen McWillie (Odd Days)  
Mrs. Brooke Robson (Even Days)

*Grade 1* – Mrs. Anissa Crosbie  
Mrs. Christie Robinson

*Grade 2* – Ms. Carys Nisbet  
Mrs. Alexis Potter

*Grade 3* – Ms. Megan McCleary  
– Miss Nikki Weisbeck

*Grade 4* – Mrs. Carley Johnston  
– Ms. Shania Meyer

*Grade 5* – Mrs. Amanda Jahnke  
Mrs. Heidi Wong

*Grade 6* – Mrs. Kristi Schwartz  
Mr. Trevor Froese

*Grade 7* – Mr. Chris Grainger  
Mr. Kurri Darby

*Grade 8* – Mr. Brett Eltom  
Miss Brienna Gillanders & Mrs. Ashley Tinant

*Student Services Teacher* – Mrs. Kris Burnett  
Mrs. Sheena McLean

*Interventionist* – Mrs. Jobi Regier

*Youth Worker* – Shantell Winter

*PAA* – Mr. Steven Dyck  
Mrs. Christine Thompson

*Counsellor* – Ms. Michele Gurski

*Band* – Miss Michaila Jersak



# 2025-2026 BELL SCHEDULE

Warning Bell –K-2

8:35

Warning Bell Gr. 3-8

8:38

O'Canada/Announcements

8:43

Period 1

8:45 – 9:24

Period 2

9:24 – 10:03

Break/Recess

10:03 – 10:18

Period 3

10:18 – 10:57

Period 4

10:57 – 11:35

Lunch

11:35 – 12:25

Period 5

12:25 – 1:04

Period 6

1:04 – 1:43

Break/Recess

1:43 – 1:58

Period 7

1:58 – 2:37

Period 8

2:37 – 3:15

Dismissal

3:15



# O.M. Irwin School

## September Events:

Sept 5 - City Wide Connection

Sept 8 & 9 - Girls Volleyball Tryouts: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Sept 11 - Boys Volleyball Tryouts: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Sept 12 - Boys Volleyball Tryouts: 11:35 a.m.

Sept 12 - Terry Fox Kick-off Assembly (Period 5)

Sept 12 - Fire Drill @ 9:35 a.m.

Sept 15 - Fire Drill @ 9:50 a.m.

Sept 17 - School Photos for Mrs Robson's Kindergarten @ 1:30 p.m.

Sept 18 - School Photos for Ms McWillie's K's and Grades 1-8 @ 9:00a.m.

Sept 18 - Terry Fox Movie Night Fundraiser

Sept 19 - Toonies for Terry Hat Day

Sept 24 - Pizza Hut Meal Day (Terry Fox Fundraiser)

Sept 26 - Toonies for Terry Hat Day

Sept 26 - Orange Shirt Day

Sept 26 - OSAC Presentation

Sept 26 - Orange Shirt Day

Sept 29 - PLC (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)

Sept 30 - PLC (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)



Oct 2 - Terry Fox Walk/Run: Periods 5 & 6

Oct 13 - Thanksgiving Day  
(NO SCHOOL)

Oct 14 - Dec 9 - Kids in the Kitchen (fall session)

Oct 15 - Early Dismissal @ 2:15

# O.M. Irwin School Reminders



- If you arrive late to school in the morning and your designated entrance door is locked, please come to the front main doors of the school and check in with Mrs. Painchaud and Mrs. Hanson.
- If you need to drop something off for a student, please bring it to the main office. If there is no one in the office, please be sure your child's name is on the item and we will deliver it to them.
- **Please remember to call (306-778-9270) or email the school when your child is absent.** If you email your child's teacher, please include Mrs. Painchaud ([hpainchaud26@chinooksd.ca](mailto:hpainchaud26@chinooksd.ca)) and Mrs. Hanson ([mhanson11@chinooksd.ca](mailto:mhanson11@chinooksd.ca)) in the email. We will not assume your child is staying home if they were home sick the day before. We appreciate your help with this!
- To ensure of your child's safety, please do not drop-off or pick up your child in the staff parking lot area. We are asking that you please use George Street for all drop-offs and pick-ups.
- Emergency Lunches - If a student forgets their lunch, they first phone home to see if someone is available to bring them lunch. If this is not possible, as a last resort, we will have items on hand for an emergency lunch to be made.
- The Ice Hut (school store) is now open for Grade 5 & 6 students on days 1, 3, and 5, and for Grade 7 & 8 students on days 2, 4, and 6!
- We are now using the **front east door to enter** our school, and the **front west door to exit**.



# 2025 / 2026 O.M. Irwin School Teaching Staff



*Kindergarten:* Kristen McWillie

*Kindergarten:* Brooke Robson

*Grade 1:* Christie Robinson

*Grade 1:* Anissa Crosbie

*Grade 2:* Alexis Potter

*Grade 2:* Carys Nisbet

*Grade 3:* Megan McCleary

*Grade 3:* Nikki Weisbeck

*Grade 4:* Carley Johnston

*Grade 4:* Shania Meyer

*Grade 5:* Heidi Wong

*Grade 5:* Amanda Jahnke

*Grade 6:* Kristi Schwartz

*Grade 6:* Trevor Froese

*Grade 7:* Chris Grainger

*Grade 7:* Kurri Darby

*Grade 8:* Brett Eltom

*Grade 8:* Ashley Tinant &  
Brienna Gillanders

*SST:* Kris Burnett

Sheena McLean

*Interventionist:* Jobi Regier

*Band:* Michaila Jersak

*6-8 PAA:* Christine Thomson

*6-8 PAA:* Steve Dyck

*Counsellor:* Michele Gurski

*Vice Principal:* Geoffrey Horn

*Principal:* Deb Steinley



# IN MOTION COMMOTION



**Back to school is such an exciting time of year, so why not start off on the right foot? The in motion goal for all children is to be physically active between 60-90 minutes a day. There are many great opportunities to be active in our community, including the outdoor parks, the golf courses, the skate park, the Aquatic Centre, or along the Chinook Parkway.**

***Also, the annual City Wide Connection is being held on Wednesday, September 4 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Stockade. Come and check out the many great local sport, recreation and culture activities that are available in our community.***

**City Wide Connection has something for all ages! For more information, please contact Community Services Division at 306-778-2787 or visit [www.swiftcurrent.ca](http://www.swiftcurrent.ca)**

# Pick-Up and Drop Off Guidelines For Parents and Caregivers



- ★ O.M. Irwin School is using the same pick-up and drop-off guidelines as last year, with the exception that parents may wait in the main foyer to pick-up their child(ren).
- ★ Please drop-off and pick-up your child(ren) outside of the school at the designated entrances. The designated entrances are :
  - North East Entrance -Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6.
  - South East Entrance - Grades K, 1, 2, 7 and 8.
- Please access the school via George Street to drop off and pick up your child(ren). Use the crosswalk and crosswalk lights when crossing George Street.
- ★ Parents and Guardians, please refrain from dropping off or picking your child(ren) in the staff parking lot and Chinook SD bus layover.

*Thank you!*





# Kids in the Kitchen

Kids in the Kitchen is an after-school cooking club for grade six students. It is a fun and interactive way for students who are interested in cooking to learn a few basic skills. It takes place on Tuesdays after school from 3:30-5:00 and there are three 8-week sessions available for students to choose from. There are a limited number of spaces in each session.

**FALL Session is Oct 14-Dec 9 , WINTER Session is Jan 13- Mar 10 (excluding Feb 18) SPRING Session is March 31- May 26 (excluding April 7)**

More registration information will be sent out to Grade 6 families in the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Thompson at the school, or email [cthompson@chinooksd.ca](mailto:cthompson@chinooksd.ca)



# Band Memo from Ms Jersak

**Here are a few reminders regarding transporting band and instruments on the bus:**

**Small instruments (Flute/Piccolo, Clarinet, Oboe) are to be held on your lap or placed in your backpack.**

**Medium Instruments (Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Sax, Trumpet & Trombone) are to be stored under the seat in front of you.**

**Large instruments (Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, French Horn, Guitars, Electric Bass) are to be placed securely in the space in front of the seat as close to the front barrier of the bus as possible.**

**Transportation of equipment to and from school is allowed following the guidelines outlined within, as long as capacity on the bus exists. Priority is given to the transportation of children to and from school and if room is unavailable for large carry-on items, they may not be transported on the bus.**



# TERRY FOX RUN (45th ANNIVERSARY!)

Our annual Terry Fox Run will take place on **Thursday, Oct 2nd** this year!

Once again, Irwin was the top fundraiser for K-8 schools in Saskatchewan last year, and we are so excited to celebrate our fantastic fundraising efforts! In 2024/2025 our school community raised **\$12,754.58** for cancer research! We are hoping to meet or beat this record-breaking total with this year's campaign. Our fundraising page is already active and ready to accept pledges. Visit <https://schools.terryfox.ca/96454> to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation today!

Toonies for Terry Hat Day will be **Friday, September 19th** and **Friday, September 26th**. Bring a toonie or other cash donation and wear your favourite hat to school for the day! Our **Wednesday, September 24th** Pizza Meal Day will be a fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation. Terry Fox Run t-shirts will be available for purchase. Youth sizes are \$25 and adult sizes are \$30. Order forms will be sent out after our campaign kickoff on **Friday, Sept. 12th**. We will be hosting a Family Movie Night on **Thursday, September 18th**, so stay tuned for more details!



#DEAR TERRY  
TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN





# Message from Michele

## HOW WE UNINTENTIONALLY UNDERMINE OUR CHILD'S CONFIDENCE

### WHEN WE CONTROL INSTEAD OF COACH

We make it all about us.

When we say: "That's not how you do it. Let me show you."

They think: "I guess Mom can do it better than me."



### WHEN WE DON'T SHOW TRUST

We don't believe our child might have the capability to do a new task.

When we say: "Go ask your Dad to help you."

They think: "My mom doesn't trust I can do it. She thinks I need help."

### WHEN WE FOCUS ON "THE RIGHT WAY"

We don't consider child's approach to a task.

When we say: "Are you sure that's how you want to do it?"

They think: "I must be doing this the wrong way."



### WHEN WE EVALUATE

We put judgment instead of fostering a child's internal evaluation.

When we say: "You didn't ask for help and look what happened."

They think: "I guess I don't need to try doing things on my own."

### CONFIDENCE ISN'T A GIFT WE CAN GIVE OUR CHILDREN.

TRUE CONFIDENCE IS LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF TRYING NEW THINGS, EXPERIENCING FAILURE AND SUCCESS, AND—BY HAVING THE EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO COPE WITH ALL OF IT.

### WHAT TO SAY INSTEAD

- Coaching = "Here's how I do this; maybe it will work for you."
- Trust = "That's not the way I do it, but give it a try. That approach might work!"
- Not focusing on perfection = "You persisted with that project even though it was difficult."
- Focusing on progress = "You have improved your organizational skills so much."
- Process praise = "I love how you wrote so descriptively in that book report."
- Noticing = "You must feel proud; that project took a lot of work"



Have a Fantastic Fall &  
2025 / 2026 School Year!

