

# MVP SPOTLIGHT

*Divisional Coordinator for the Middle School Grade Representatives*

## IRA VERGANI

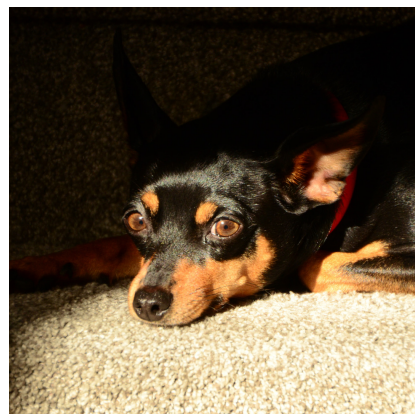
### Great piece of advice you have received

When you make a decision there will always be people that will criticise it. So once you made up your mind, do not care about what other people say and just follow through.



### Favourite vacation spot

I am torn here between any Caribbean Sea location and Italy. The first appeals my need for warm beach waters (something I really miss from Venezuela) while the second appeals to my family roots.



### Qualities you most admire in others

I admire people who are able to remain calm under stressing circumstances or when everybody else is rushing.



### As a busy lawyer, how do you find time to volunteer?

Lots of coffee to keep me awake! More seriously, the fact I only need 6-7 hours of sleep per night helps a lot. Mostly though, I would say that I am blessed with genes that allow me to multi-task and work fast while enjoying the process. Technology helps a great deal. We have a family

calendar (I swear by Cozy!) and I plan the rest of my life around it. My smartphone is essential as well - I respond to work email, get in conference calls and read documents wherever and whenever possible.

## Why I Volunteer

I am a helper by nature so that led me to volunteer at a very young age. The first thing I learned back then is that by volunteering I always end up receiving way more than what I give. When I volunteer, I feel useful, I see that I can positively impact someone's day or life just by lending a hand, it puts me in touch with all the blessings I constantly experience and that realisation fills my heart with incredible gratitude and joy. But above all, some years ago volunteering led me to become a mom and I guess that says it all!

## Meet Ira

I am a Venezuelan-Italian mom, hence the passion and loud cheers. My immediate family is my husband German, our son Jose (G8) and Cindy, our Mini-Pin. We moved to Vancouver in June 2014 and the North Shore, including Mulgrave, has been our home since then. Venezuela is a great country, with great people, but it has been struggling during the last 15 years. Safety and lack of opportunities for Jose were our main concerns so we were lucky enough to be able to legally immigrate to Canada. Through Mulgrave and community sports we have found a welcoming, friendly, and loving community. We have made very good friends in a very short time and consider them as extended family. We spend our afternoons and weekends watching soccer practices, games and road races as our son is a very active athlete. We love Vancouver and specially the North Shore where family and friendship are the pillars of life.