

# Dufferin Elementary

Volume 1

September 8, 2017

Dear Parents:

Welcome back to another school year! I am excited to begin the school year at Dufferin while Mrs. Topolovec is away, and am looking forward to meeting students and parents. I hope you all had a restful summer and were able to spend time with family and friends. Please feel free to stop by the office for a quick hello or to introduce yourself.

Mrs. Sewell

At Dufferin Elementary, we believe  
Our students should AIM high:  
Achieving excellence, Imagining a future  
and Making it happen, through  
creative, hands on academic and  
Social competencies.

## SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

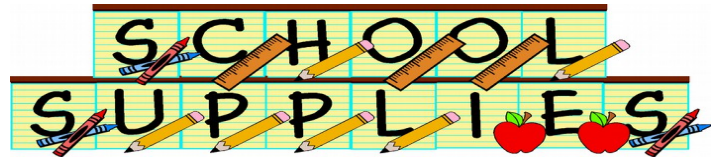


Please note that the school office hours are from **8:00am to 3:30pm**. If you are attempting to reach the school by telephone, please note that generally no one is available to answer the telephone outside of these hours.

## DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

8:22am	Warning Bell
8:30am	Classes Begin
10:05am	Recess Begins
10:20am	Recess Ends / Classes Begin
12:00pm	Lunch – Outside Play Time
12:45pm	Lunch – Inside Eating Time
1:00pm	Lunch Ends
2:30pm	Students Dismissed

## SCHOOL SUPPLY FEES



Dufferin Elementary offers a user fee program for school supplies. For a nominal fee, we supply all pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons, etc. that students will require for the year. Student fees for 2017/18 include supplies, an agenda and Young Peoples' Concert fee.

Kindergarten	\$44.00 (supplies/YPC)
Grade 1-3	\$51.00 (supplies/YPC/agenda)
Grade 4-7	\$66.00 (supplies/YPC/agenda)

Agendas are not offered to Kindergarten students so the cost of agendas are not included for them.

If you are purchasing your own school supplies, you will still need to pay for the Young People's Concert (YPC) and school agenda! Please note on the envelope that you are purchasing your own supplies and then include your payment for agendas and YPC. If you are not sure what the cost for agendas and YPC are, contact the school.

## STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Verification forms will be going home with your child on Monday. Please review and update the information on the forms and return them to the school by **Friday, September 15th**. It is important that we have your most current information at the school.

We would especially appreciate it if you would double check your email address or add one that the school can use when sending out important information outside of newsletter times.

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The PAC executive will be convening soon for their budget and planning meeting. Fall meetings will be determined soon. The PAC will be sending an information letter home soon with upcoming PAC meetings and events.

For information as it happens, visit the PAC Facebook Page at "THE DRAGON'S PACK", or email the PAC executive at [dufferinelempac@gmail.com](mailto:dufferinelempac@gmail.com).

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our projected enrollment for this year is around 240 students. The staff at Dufferin presently consist of:

Mrs. J. Carter / Mrs. Lundgren – Kindergarten  
Mrs. L. Thomas – K/1  
Mrs. C. Twamley / TBA – 1/ 2  
Mrs. N. Preymak – 2/3  
Mrs. P. Lovett – 3/4  
Mrs. C. Ross – 3/4  
Ms. L. Eacrett – 4/5  
Ms. J. Dalsin – 5/6  
Mrs. K. Geoghegan – 5/6  
Mrs. S. McGarry – 6/7  
Mr. K. Bamsey – 6/7  
Mrs. K. Sewell – Acting Principal /  
Mrs. C. Topolovec - Principal  
Ms. N. Gorman - Librarian  
Mrs. M. Bell - Learning Assistance  
TBA – Learning Assistance/Prep  
TBA – Teacher Preps

Certified Education Assistants (CEA):

Mrs. E. Zerr  
Mrs. N. Sun  
Mrs. J. Rahn  
Mrs. T. Mirtle  
First Nations Education Worker - Mrs. H. Farkas  
Library Assistant – Ms. D. Swain  
Secretary - Mrs. A. Grywachski  
Custodians – Mrs. N. Dhillon  
Mrs. K. Khabra

## BILLY GOAT RUN



Due to our smoky start and poor air quality, Dufferin will host its annual Billy Goat Cross Country running event later than usual - **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**. Students from schools across Kamloops will join us for an afternoon of running. Although we have many staff assisting with this event, we could use additional parent help.

***Please contact the school if you are able to volunteer during the Billy Goat Run.***

## SUPERVISORS REQUIRED

We are looking for people to assist us with supervision of students at lunch. We would like to set up a regular roster of supervisors between 12:00 and 1:00 from Monday to Friday.

An honorarium is provided for anyone interested in helping out. If you are able to supervise on any of these times or days on a regular / weekly basis, please contact the office at 250-374-4425!

## MEDICAL ALERTS



A special note to parents to remind you that it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school.

Parents who have completed forms last year are also required to update the information on file. Please contact the school office if you require more information or to pick up the forms to be filled out.

Please be aware that we have a number of staff and students who are allergic to peanuts and scents. As such our school is scent aware. Also, individual classrooms will be sending information home concerning expectations for peanut allergies at the beginning of the year.

## CELL PHONES

The school district has a policy (Policy 406.1) concerning the use of cell phones at school. Please be advised that should you require your child(ren) to have a cell phone at school, you and your child are required to read our guidelines which outline the use of cell phones. The guidelines can be found in the Parent/Student Handbook on our website.

Children bring cell phones to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

## SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our district operates an automated "Safe Arrival Program." After the morning check-in, teachers report the names of students who are absent or late (this is done on line). This is checked with the "reported absences" that are entered by parents on line and the parents of students who are unaccounted for are contacted in an automated call out. In order for this program to operate smoothly, it is imperative that parents call the 1-800 number or access the website to let the school know if their child is going to be absent or late. The website: <http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com> and the phone number: 1-844-350-2647 can both be found on our website, in the upper left corner of our Dufferin home page.

## SCHOOL PARKING

For the safety of our students and to avoid congestion, we would like to remind parents that parking/dropping off students in the ROUND-ABOUT AREA in front of the school is restricted to buses only.

We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school and it is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. This includes quick drop off and pick ups. Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.

## GYM STRIP

It is expected that all intermediate students will have gym strip for PE (running shoes, T-shirt), and all students will need a pair of runners with **non-marking soles**. Parents of primary students should check with their child's teacher to determine the expectations for their child.

Physical Education is an integral part of the school Curriculum and participation is mandatory. If for any reason your child can not participate, please provide a note or a doctor's excuse.

## ONE-TO-ONE READING VOLUNTEERS

Parents, grandparents, friends, university students – we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to assist us with our One-to-one Reading program again this year. This is a program where adults work with one child at a time to read books together, play word games, and simply listen to the child read. Volunteers, or 'tutors' as they are called, are asked to donate 1 ½ hours of their time, one day per week to help three students who are not yet confident readers. Full training is provided. If you are interested in volunteering for the One-to-One Reading program or want more information about the program, please contact the office at 250-374-4425.



## RAISE-A-READER

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Raise-a-Reader campaign is scheduled for Tuesday,

September 26<sup>th</sup>. This campaign boosts awareness about the importance of literacy and raises funds to support local literacy programs.

We will have a few volunteers hawking newspapers at the drop off area between 8:00 – 8:30 am. Parents are encouraged to donate their loose change to raise money for literacy programs in Kamloops. Look for the orange shirts!

## DUFFERIN ROCKS!

At Dufferin Elementary we follow our "ROCKS" matrix. ROCKS stands for:

**R**espectful  
**O**rganized  
**C**aring  
**K**ind  
**S**afe



This month we are going to be working on **Back to School Behaviour!**

- Respect
- Washroom & Hallways
- Outside / Playground Behaviour
- Classroom Behaviour

We will also be working on strategies to deal with peer conflicts (TILT):

T = Talk to the person  
I = Ignore  
L = Leave  
T = Tell an adult

If you could review these expectations as well as the parent/student handbook with your children at home it would help us maintain a positive school culture at Dufferin. A copy of the ROCKS Matrix can also be found in the student agenda. A copy of the parent/student handbook will be coming home in a paper version and can also be found online.

## VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball season begins on October 17<sup>th</sup> and we want to secure coaches for our upcoming season. Are you a coach or do you know somebody in the community who coaches? We would love to have you work with our intermediate students! Please call or email Mrs. Sewell if you can help.



## AIR QUALITY

As a result of the continuing poor air quality in the Kamloops region, the school district has decided that elementary school students should stay indoors when the AQHI reaches 7 or higher. Parents are encouraged to check the air quality index in the morning before sending students to school. We would appreciate students not arriving before 8:15 on these days so that we can provide proper indoor supervision.

## BABYSITTING / HOME ALONE COURSE

Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup> OR Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>.

These courses will be offered again in the spring 2018. They are designed for enjoyable learning and are at a cost that is considerably less than other local organizations. The students receive a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course.

Home Alone Course: \$15  
half day course for Grades 4+ (10+ years)

Babysitting Course: \$30 full day course for Grades 5+ (11+ years)

To register and receive the full details or for further information, please contact:

Course instructor  
Kerry Tarnawsky  
[250-682-3545](tel:250-682-3545)  
[kerrytarn@hotmail.com](mailto:kerrytarn@hotmail.com)

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sept 22 – Non-Instructional Day – No School  
Sept 26 – Raise-A-Reader Day  
Sept 27 – Picture Day  
Sept 28 – Terry Fox Run / Orange Shirt Day  
Oct 9 – Thanksgiving - No School  
Oct 13 – Billy Goat Run (afternoon)  
Oct 20 – Non-Instructional Day – No School

## FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

In the interest of saving paper and costs that we can put back into the school and our students, future newsletters will be provided electronically on our school website and will be sent as an email attachment to those parents that provide an email for the school.

Generally newsletters will be posted on the website at the beginning of each month. Some paper copies of the newsletters will be available at the office if you can not access the Internet.

Our school website is:  
[www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca)