



Dear Families:

I hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and Easter. Despite the cooler weather I hope you were able to get outdoors and have some quality family time.

Things always seem to get super busy this last term as we work on final curriculum concepts and review our year's worth of learning. It is extremely important at this time of year to ensure students maintain a homework/study routine and seek support for difficult concepts so that learning is solidified in preparation for next year's grade.

Mrs. T

APRIL DATES

Apr 6 – Day of Sucwentwecw Gathering – 9:00 am

Apr 6 – Kindergarten SPARKS session – 4:30 – 5:30

Apr 9 – Young People's Concert #3

Apr 10/11 – District Science Fair

Apr 12 – Twin Day/ Battle of the Books

Apr 19 – Battle of the Books Districts/ K SPARK session – 4:30 – 5:30

Apr 20 – Adopt a Road clean up afternoon

Apr 23 – Pro D Day

May 1 – School level Track Meet

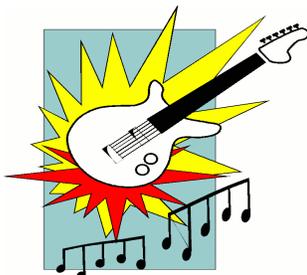
May 9 – Zone Track Meet

May 17 – District Track Meet

DUFFERIN ROCKS!

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

Respectful
Organized
Caring
Kind
Safe



This month we are going to continue to work on **Organization**.

Students will be reminded of the matrix expectations regularly and recognition awards will be given out to those students who are consistently following these expectations. Awards will be put up in the hallway at the main entrance to celebrate our students and their hard work in this area.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

A big thank you to all the parent and student volunteers who helped sell WestJet raffle tickets at the hockey game between the Prince George Cougars and Kamloops Blazers. Your efforts helped raise \$4100 towards PAC fundraising initiatives.

Also, a big thank you to WestJet for their generous donation and to the Kamloops Blazers for allowing us to sell tickets at the game.

The lucky winner of 2 WestJet tickets anywhere they fly was James Cudmore.

Upcoming Events:

Ongoing events include the hot lunch program, and General Grants bottle returns (account under Dufferin PAC).

Next scheduled PAC meeting is April 9, 2018. Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

ABORIGINAL UPDATE

I think that spring is finally here! We will begin this month with an assembly for the "Day of Sucwentwecw". Sucwentwecw means to acknowledge one another in Secwepemctsin. So it is a day to acknowledge the local First Nations people, their land, their knowledge and their culture. Then your child will be doing an activity in their classroom that explores different pieces of Indigenous knowledge. This month we will also be exploring the springtime activities of the Shuswap people. We will be making replica birch bark baskets and discussing the importance of stewardship of the land.

LIBRARY

Our library participated in 4 “Read Around the Planet” video conferencing sessions in March. These sessions connected classes from our school with classrooms from Texas, Illinois, and Pennsylvania. Students shared literacy based activities and asked questions to learn more about each other and our respective communities. These sessions were organized and led by our librarian, Mrs. Gorman who overcame many connectivity issues to make this happen for our kids!

Congratulations to the following students for making our Battle of the Books teams this year. These students have read 12 books and will compete against other teams who have read the same 12, answering questions to identify the correct title. The zone competition will take place [April 12th](#) and the top two teams from each zone will continue on to the District competition on [April 19th](#). Good luck to all of our teams.

Grade 3/4:

Calleigh Duchene
Cormack Eacrett
Sydney Lampman

Grade 6/7:

Sadie Douglas
Laura Hill
Elenor Loughrey

HERITAGE FAIR

Congratulations to Jorlie Anderson for receiving an honourable mention in the District Heritage Fair Stamp Contest!

BASKETBALL

As you probably already know our boys and girls tier one basketball teams did very well this year. Our girls played with heart all season, facing many, much larger schools and coming out victorious. They went all the way to the finals and fought hard against Brock Middle School. They played with sportsmanship and courage, and ended up second in the district! Our boys played a very successful season and gelled well as a team for almost every game. In the end, they faced Aberdeen and came out on top, district champions, in an extremely exciting game! We

are super proud of these two teams and our tier 2 teams. All students represented Dufferin well and proved that a small school can make great things happen! A big shout out to our coaches who worked countless hours with our students and our teacher sponsors who attended the games and cheered the kids on. Way to go Dufferin!

FLAG FOOTBALL

Our flag football season begins soon and we have enough interested students to form two teams. We are currently looking for one or more parents who are willing to coach a team. Please let Mrs. Geoghegan know if you are able to help out.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Royal City Soccer Club, a registered non-profit community organization, is proud to host their 26th annual popular grassroots summer soccer day camps... #1 in Canada. The program is designed to develop life skills, team building and of course, FUN! Uniquely designed to offer a soccer focus in the morning and a leisure swim with other organized activities in the afternoons to all children aged 5 to 13, the camp operates during all weeks in July and August. Check out the website at www.royalsoccer.com for more information or call 1-800-427-0536.

BOARD NOTES

February 19, 2018

CONSENT AGENDA

- o Policy Committee Highlights
- o Education Committee of the Whole Highlights

Details of the consent agenda can be found in the public agenda.

EDUCATION TOPIC

PRESENTATION TO PRINCIPAL KENT

BREWER — Principal Kent Brewer was recognized by the Board following his recent award as one of Canada’s Outstanding Principals. The award came from The Learning Partnership, a national not-for-profit organization that works for the improvement of public education in Canada. Kent is the principal of the Twin Rivers Education Centre, which provides

alternative education services for adults and teens who need different ways to access education.

SECONDARY ATHLETIC COUNCIL — Sa-Hali Secondary School Principal Sean Lamoureux, chair of the Secondary Athletic Council, told the Board about the value of athletics in schools, noting sports touches a huge portion of the secondary school population across the District. Student Sydney Gould, a Grade 8 student athlete, told the Board she chose Sa-Hali Secondary because of the success of the school's sport programs and the quality of the coaches. Sports helped her to make new friends, learn how to work with others and overcome adversity. Athletics are so important and have the ability to impact the live of students in positive way, she said.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SAFER SCHOOLS TASK FORCE — Supt. Alison Sidow told the trustees about an initiative being launched to explore the difficult but important subject of sexual misconduct, violence and harassment in District schools. Recent events have led her to look closely at District policies and protocols. The Superintendent's Task Force on School Safety will look at policies and protocols governing the investigation and handling of these issues with the goal of ensuring the District's policies serve all parties, especially those who make complaints to the District. The task force will provide a report to the Superintendent and to the Board by June 30. "We have a duty to protect our children and we have a duty to stand by them, as a community," Sidow told the Board.

WESTMOUNT ELEMENTARY TRAFFIC UPDATE — The Board was told the District is working with the City of Kamloops to explore solutions to the long-standing issue of traffic congestion at Westmount Elementary School and its impact on student safety. A traffic engineer will conduct an independent study of the problem and propose possible solutions.

REPORTS FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL — The District has

received several public complaints this year about snow and ice maintenance at schools. The Board was told that this year has proved to be exceptionally difficult for maintenance staff due to the many snowfalls and the frequent freeze-and-thaw cycles. Changes to improve District response to snowfall and ice removal would ultimately require changes to the budget, which could impact educational funding, the Board was told.

AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET BYLAW 2017-18 — Trustees approved an amended annual budget bylaw that sets out the estimated revenues and expenses for the 2017-18 fiscal year. The total (balanced) budget for this year is \$176,129,253, the Board was told.

MOTIONS

- o Policy 201.1 Board Committees
- o Policy 300.1 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests
- o Policy 303.1 International Student program
- o Policy 1136.1 Travel Expenses, Insurance and Cell Phones
- o Policy 1012.1 Smoking and Vaping Free Environment Details of the notices of motion can be found in the public agenda.

The next public meeting will take place at the School Board Office in Kamloops on March 12th at 7 p.m.

March 12, 2018

CONSENT AGENDA

- o Finance and Planning Committee Highlights
- o Day of Suwentwecw 2018
- o Let's Talk Cannabis Project Details of the consent agenda can be found in the public agenda.

EDUCATION TOPIC

WHAT SUSTAINS US? EXPLORATIONS PROGRAM, BROCK MIDDLE SCHOOL — Grade 8 students from Brock Middle School joined school teacher Nikki Stewart to tell the Board about a unique inquiry-based program that saw them explore the concept of what is required to sustain life. The students explored everything from rudimentary wilderness survival skills to

building more complex living structures such as yurts. They explored the history of the area's homesteading pioneers as well as First Nations history and how they lived. The program was made possible by an Innovation Grant from the Board.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES, PETITIONS AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

SMOKING AND VAPING REDUCTION, INTERIOR HEALTH — Jeff Connors told trustees that tobacco will kill five times more people this year than opioid abuse, making the use of tobacco and vaping products an ongoing and persistent health crisis. He suggested districts can better integrate wording regarding tobacco and vaping products into existing school alcohol and drug prohibition policies.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

SAFER SCHOOLS TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP — Supt. Alison Sidow told the trustees the membership of the Superintendent's task force has been decided and the work of the committee will get underway shortly. The group will be chaired by Michelle Marginet, who retired last year from SD 73 from her position as Health and Safety Manager. The task force will provide a report to the Superintendent and to the Board by June 30. Full details of the task force members and their credentials can be found in the public agenda.

RURAL SCHOOLS CONSULTATION UPDATE — Trustees will begin Phase 2 of a consultation effort designed to explore the possibility of moving Grade 7 students from elementary schools to secondary schools in Clearwater, Barriere and Chase. Public meetings with the Board will happen March 13, 14 and 15 in all of the communities. The Board is expected to make the decision regarding this proposal at the public meeting on April 23.

REPORTS FROM SECRETARY-TREASURER

PROVINCIAL BUDGET UPDATE — Trustees were provided a summary of the recent provincial budget. Education in B.C. will receive \$409 million in additional funding to accommodate a

range of initiatives, including \$207 million for enrollment growth. As well, changes to MSP will see SD 73 save \$425,000 this year but will increase costs by \$250,000 per year starting in 2020.

The next public meeting will take place at Haldane Elementary School in Chase on April 9th at 7 p.m