



Dear Families:

Please note that this newsletter is a combined February/March letter and there will be no separate newsletter in March. If there are any things of note in March that come up outside of what's in this newsletter, I will post updates on our school's web site and/or our facebook page.

Mrs. T

FEBRUARY/MARCH DATES

Feb 13-16 – Kindergarten registration
Feb 22/23 – Pro D Day
Feb 22-25 – BC Winter Games in Kamloops
Feb 28 – Pink Shirt Day
Mar 2 – School level Science Fair
Mar 5 – PAC Meeting – 6:00 pm @ school
Mar 9 – Young Artists Project due to District
Mar 13 – Lock Down Drill #2 @ 1:45 pm
Mar 16 – Report Cards home
Mar 17 – 25 – Spring Break
Mar 26 – First Day back after Spring Break
Mar 30 – Apr 2 – Easter Break
Apr 3 – First Day back after Easter

DUFFERIN ROCKS!

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

Respectful
Organized
Caring
Kind
Safe



This month we are going to be working on **kindness**.

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)

Upcoming Events:

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

The school is currently in need of a new coordinator and helper for our Fruit and Vegetable Program. If you are interested please respond by Mar. 1, to our PAC email. (dufferinelempac@gmail.com)

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help sell tickets for our playground raffle/draw. Our draw date is February 16th. We are getting closer and closer to our goal of raising enough money to provide our students with a beautiful new playground.

Next scheduled PAC meeting is Feb. 5, 2018. Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is taking place this week (Tues. Feb. 13 – Fri. Feb. 16). If your child will be turning 5 before Dec. 31st, 2018 then he/she is eligible for Kindergarten this fall. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, care card and proof of residence (ie. A utility bill). At school you will need to fill out a registration form and then you will receive an invitation to several Kindergarten readiness activities that will be held before the end of this year, to help prepare our new students for school. This program is called SPARKS, and is being facilitated by our school district to help parents with ready for Kindergarten ideas. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

PICK UP/ DROP OFF

A reminder that we are strongly encouraging parents to drop off and pick up students outside their entrance/exit doors. When many parents come inside to pick up or drop off, our entrance ways get very crowded. It helps a great deal with congestion when parents wait outside. As well, this encourages the independence in our students that we are working on through our social responsibility goal. Thank you for your consideration with this.

PARKING

Please refrain from parking in our round about or near the fire hydrant area by the loop exit. When there are vehicles in the loop or by the loop exit, our buses can't make the turn out of the loop and are stuck waiting to continue their routes until these vehicles move. If you need to come into the school, please park in our public parking lot, down towards the wetlands. As well, I would like to remind parents that there is a no idling policy along the fence and through the loop, as exhaust fumes, especially when there are many vehicles, fill the air right where our children are walking to meet the bus or families. For the health of our children, please ensure your vehicle is off while you are waiting.

ABORIGINAL UPDATE

In the spirit of the Olympics and the BC Games, this month's theme will focus on Traditional Indigenous games. The Indigenous people of this area and throughout Canada have always played games for enjoyment and for helping children build skills of accuracy, endurance, and observation, that will assist them with the tasks of adulthood. We will explore this by making toys and competing in games of the local Secwepemc people and other Indigenous groups within Canada.

March will be a month of newness as we move toward spring. We will focus on planting and stewardship of the land that we live on.

INTERIMS/REPORT CARDS

Interim reports will be happening this month, to ensure parents and students are aware of how this term has been going so far for each student. Interim reports can look like a written note, checklist or paragraph describing basic observations and assessments so far this term. Interim reports can also be phone calls, face to face meetings and open houses. Each of these contacts give parents and teachers an opportunity to discuss progress to date and make plans if there are any concerns. Please be sure to check in with your son/daughter's teacher if you have a questions regarding interim information.

Report cards for term two will be going home March 16, the last day before Spring Break.

ONE-TO-ONE READING

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.”

Emilie Buchwald

The first session of One – to – One reading recently finished. Students in the program were excited to attend the party (in the staff room) to celebrate their success. They were showered with recognition, plenty of smiles, and delicious snacks. The second session is now beginning.

What is One - to - One Reading?

One-to-One Reading boosts the reading skills of children. Classroom teachers and Ms Bell, the Learning Assistance teacher, recommend students who may benefit from some extra time to read. The students are matched up with trained reading tutors, one on one, during school hours. The tutors volunteer their time and expertise and thoroughly enjoy working with kids. The program is free to schools and students.

How Does This Work?

Students meet with a tutor three times a week for 30 minutes over 10 or 11 weeks. The student chooses a book at his or her level from the good supply in the reading room, then the student and tutor “warm up the book” (see the tip below) before enjoying the story. A reading game finishes the session. (Hangman and Whiz Kid are favourites.)

Tip of the Day for Parents/Grandparents/ Caregivers

“Warming up the book” is used when a child is starting a new book. Have your child look at the book before reading it. Possibly ask why he or she chose that particular book. Is the book jacket attractive? Take time to look at any illustrations. Ask what might happen in this story based on the pictures. What does the student already know about the subject or what does he or she want to learn about the topic (especially good with non-fiction)?

Why are we telling you this?

The ulterior motive is we will need our trusty, experienced tutors and new tutors (moms and dads, grandparents, adult siblings, interested adults of either gender) for the next school year. Think about it. Information on how to become a tutor will be in the June newsletter. If you have any questions or comments you may leave a message at the school office for Bonnie Halbert or Kathy Costerton, co-ordinators of Dufferin Elementary’s One – to – One program.

BOARD NOTES

January 15, 2018

EDUCATION TOPIC LITERACY IN KAMLOOPS (LinK) UPDATE —

Ms. Fiona Clare told the Board about LinK programs to increase literacy in Kamloops this year. The Board heard that LinK has provided parents with more than 1,000 learn-to-read packages during 35 Come Read With Me sessions. These sessions assist parents to help their children learn to read. As well, LinK supported 160 one-to-one volunteers who are reading with 300 students in 22 schools. LinK also raised almost \$119,000 in the annual Raise-a-Reader campaign, a fundraising effort to support literacy in Kamloops and neighbouring communities. Coming soon will be the annual Interior Savings Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week (January 20 to 27). It’s expected more than 5,500 students in 22 schools will take part, by setting aside their personal devices and reducing other screen time to do other things such as

reading, trustees were told.

PUBLIC INQUIRIES, PETITIONS AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS OWL AWARD PRESENTATION —

The Board of Education presented Dr. Nathan Matthew with this year’s Owl Award, which recognizes outstanding system-wide contributions to education on the part of member of a community in support of the provision of education in School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson). Dr. Matthew was recognized as a long-time community leader who has supported education through his lengthy career in service to First Nations communities. This is the third year that School District No. 73 has given an individual or organization this award.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS EXTRA-CURRICULAR STUDENT BUSSING —

The Board was asked to approve a request to allow the expenditure of an extra \$6,128.52 per year to cover the costs of bussing Kamloops students to rural schools in the district for sporting events hosted by rural schools. The Board approved the request.

OUT-OF-PROVINCE FIELD TRIP REQUEST —

Sa-Hali Secondary Schools asked for permission to send two students to a unique opportunity to travel to Ottawa to present a national youth white paper on water sustainability to the Canadian Senate and the Hon Dominic LeBlanc, the Minister of Oceans. Most of the cost of the trip will be subsidized by federal grants, with some funds required from participants. The Board approved the request.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE —

The Board received revised terms of reference for the Aboriginal Education Council. The new terms call for a broader mandate for the Council to work more closely with the District on “Aboriginal education matters.” The role of the Council is to guide and support the District in achieving its stated goals to ensure that every

Aboriginal student receives quality academic, social, emotional and cultural programs and services for school success and lifelong learning.

KAY BINGHAM ELEMENTARY STAFFING —

The Board heard about the decision to add an additional teaching staff member at Kay Bingham Elementary School to address enrolment pressures in the City's North Shore schools.

Funding for this position is available through existing staff budgets, the Board was told.

CHAIR'S REPORT Chair Wade told the board that she and Supt. Sidow met with Kamloops-North MLA Peter Milobar to discuss the District's pressing capital needs, and other local education issues.

The next public meeting will take place at the School Board Office in Kamloops on January 29th at 7 p.m.

January 29, 2018

CONSENT AGENDA

- *Superintendent's Update
- *Finance and Planning Committee Highlights
- *District Parent Advisory Committee Highlights
- *Schedule of 2018 Budget Meetings
- *Notices of Motion:
 - 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 1012.1
 - Smoking and Vaping-Free Environment
 - o Policy 1136.1
 - Travel: Expenses and Insurance

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

EDUCATION TOPIC TEACHER-LIBRARIAN STORYTELLING GRANT PROJECT —

District Coordinator Andrea Wallin, along with four colleagues, told the Board about a project that saw students in a variety of grades and schools analyze stories and storytelling techniques, particularly oral stories as often shared by First Nations culture. The project, funded by an Innovation Grant, saw students use

a variety of mediums and props to explore oral storytelling techniques, including moving, acting, speaking and listening. The students produced a series of videos to demonstrate their acquired skills.

REPORTS FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE DATA —

In January, the Ministry of Education released the six-year completion rates to districts across the province. An analysis of the 2016-17 school year shows SD 73 met its goal of obtaining an 85 per cent completion rate. Trustees also learned the completion rates were up across a variety of student categories, including Aboriginal and students with special needs. The Board also heard that the gap between completion rates for all students and Aboriginal students has narrowed dramatically through the last five years, with parity between the groups coming closer to reality.

EQUITY IN ACTION PROJECT —

The Board learned about a project the District is participating in with the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Education Unit. Currently there are six pilot projects across the province, and SD 73 is working closely with the Equity Action Team in preparation for joining the project next year. The project will generate student-specific data for school leaders to review in order to improve Aboriginal student success rates and develop meaningful strategies and interventions. It's believed the project will help close the academic achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

GRADE 7 to 12 RURAL SCHOOL PROPOSAL —

Principals from secondary schools in Barriere, Clearwater and Chase told the Board about a proposal to move Grade 7 students in those communities from the elementary schools to secondary schools. If approved by trustees following consultation with parents, the transition could happen next school year. The plan was proposed as a way to create learning environments that enhance positive outcomes for students and more effectively utilize space at both secondary and elementary schools.

RURAL SCHOOL PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS —

Trustees approved a two-phase consultation plan regarding a proposal to move rural Grade 7s to secondary schools. Phase 1 of the plan will see staff and trustees first meet with parents and school staff in Barriere, Clearwater and Chase to provide information about the proposal. Phase 2 will see public Board meetings held in each of the communities to allow trustees to hear directly from the public about their thoughts and concerns. The district will also use an online consultation portal to help share information with parents and gather feedback. A report will be prepared for Board consideration of the proposal for the April 23 public meeting.

SUMMER SCHOOL —

The District's summer learning programs provide an essential service to students who require support in acquiring foundational skills and core competencies necessary for graduation, trustees were told. As a result, the program will continue this school year, despite the fact that operating costs outpace revenues generated by enrollment.

ELEMENTARY STAFFING —

A review of learning assistance needs determined that an additional 0.1 FTE is needed at McGowan Park Elementary and 0.5 FTE is required at Haldane Elementary to better support learning assistance programs in these schools. The additional support will be paid from existing staff budgets.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Wade moved that trustees Harper and Karpuk be named to the Aboriginal Education Council. The motion was approved.

The next public meeting will take place at the School Board Office in Kamloops on February 19th at 7 p.m.