



Dear Families:

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and managed some time to rest and relax. I am so pleased to be back at Dufferin and am looking forward to the next half of the year.

Mrs. T

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY DATES

Jan 20-27 – Literacy Week  
Jan 25 – PAC Paint Nite Fundraiser  
Jan 31 – PJ Day  
Feb 5 – YPC Concert #2 / PAC Meeting 6:30 pm  
Feb 8/9 – Intermediate Ski Trip to Sun Peaks  
Feb 12 – BC Family Day  
Feb 13-16 – Kindergarten registration  
Feb 22/23 – Pro D Day  
Feb 22-25 – BC Winter Games in Kamloops  
Feb 28 – Pink Shirt Day

## 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 **playing safely**.

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:

We are looking forward to our “Farm to School” lunch that will take place in our gym on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>. Students (regardless of whether they order a lunch or not) will be eating together, picnic style to help promote school community, healthy eating/living, and fun!

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](mailto:dufferinelempac@gmail.com))

A huge thank you to Kevin Locken / Orica Canada for their \$1000 donation to our playground fundraising efforts and Elks Lodge No. 44 for their \$3000 donation. We very much appreciate the support and community spirit!

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

## FSA ASSESSMENTS

Marked booklets from these fall assessments will be going home some time this month. As a school, we look at learning trends and use these trends to help us plan our instruction to support student strengths and weaknesses. If you have a student in grade 4 or 7, look for these booklets to come home soon. If you have any questions regarding the assessment, check with your child's teacher.

## **SATISFACTION SURVEYS**

Satisfaction surveys for parents of grade 4 and 7 students will be coming up in early February. There will be a link sent home and more information when the survey opens.

## **INTERMEDIATE SKI TRIP**

Students in grades 4-7 will be going on ski trip to Sun Peaks Feb. 8 and 9 (Thurs./Fri.). All forms will be sent home soon and will need to be in to classroom teachers shortly after, so trip details can be finalized.

## **HEAP THE HONDA**

Once again, our school will be participating in the "Heap the Honda" Children's book drive as part of our Literacy Week activities. This book drive helps to stock the many "Bright Red Book Shelves" around our communities where children can borrow books to read for free or while waiting at a business or community building.

If you wish to participate in this book drive, simply send gently used and/or new children's books to school with your child. There will be collection boxes set up inside by our entrance mats. Last day for book collection will be Wednesday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for your support with this excellent cause!

## **INDEPENDENCE**

I am so pleased to see such growing independence from our students this year! I truly appreciate the parent cooperation with this, as we guide students to make age appropriate decisions and to gain independence. I see students happily saying good bye to parents at the door or inside front mat and making their way confidently down the hallway. This has also helped to relieve congestion in our small hallways – at the beginning and end of our days our hallways are pretty full with moving students. Good job with this everyone!

## **ABORIGINAL UPDATE**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful holiday spent with family and friends. This month we will continue our focus on Story Telling. We will be looking at traditional ways of storytelling and exploring legends. Hopefully, your child will be able to share with you one of the legends that they have heard this month.

## **SIGN IN/OUT PROCEDURES**

As you all know, we have begun a new sign in/ sign out procedure. This procedure is in place to help ensure student safety, as that is always of paramount importance to us. If you are picking up your child before dismissal time, please note that you will need to be present in order to sign him/ her out. This is to ensure that a student has a safe pick up person before we release them and that the sign out is approved by a parent/ guardian. The exception is, if you are using our safe arrival system and have approved an exit/pick up time in the system, then your child can sign out at that time and our secretary, Mrs. Grywacheski will double check the safe arrival system. Sign ins, can be done independently, as students are entering, not exiting our building. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

## **AFTER SCHOOL SLIDING**

There are many students who spend time playing on our playground after school and we thoroughly encourage this, however I wanted to take an opportunity to remind everyone of some safety parameters with this. If a student is playing on our playground after school is over, there MUST be an adult present that is responsible for the student in the case of injury etc. If your student arrives home first, and is then allowed to play back at the school, know that they will not have any direct supervision, as staff is heading home for the day and supervisors who are present are responsible for our after school bus students.

As for after school bus students... at this time, they are NOT allowed to slide on our hill after school as we have a new after school supervisor who is getting to know the students and it is impossible for her to monitor the younger students on the front playground and still keep a close "safety eye" on the students sliding. These bus students are welcome to play anywhere on our front two playgrounds and front field areas. We do have a few times where our bus students are picked up by parents/guardians, who then stay to watch them, and in this situation, the students are, of course welcome to slide as they are under the direct supervision of a parent or a parent assigned guardian.

Thank you for your understanding with this.