



Dear Parents:

Report card time is soon upon us. It is a very stressful time for students and parents (and staff). This is true for everyone no matter what is on your report card.

A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for you to communicate with your children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social-emotional growth.

Things you can do are:

1. Focus on the positive
2. Ask the right questions
3. Making a plan for next steps

At Dufferin Elementary, our aim is to develop students' knowledge, skills and attitudes so that they can reach their full potential and become contributing members of society.

As parents and teachers, we want the best for children, but in too many cases this is measured only by the number of A's and B's brought home. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that they can. Encourage them to succeed, and measure their progress in realistic terms, letting them know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure their growth, and the most advanced child can monitor their progress. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future,

you will help your child find the road to success.

We have a great resource on our Dufferin website (www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca) to help guide you through this process. You can find it in the "General Information" folder in "Parent Tips."

MR. BOWDEN / MRS. HALLAND

Mr. Bowden will be on leave for just over a week (from December 1 to December 10). We are excited to have Mrs. Halland fill in for him during his absence. Mrs. Halland is the Vice Principal at Juniper Ridge Elementary. Let's give her a warm Dufferin welcome!

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.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our school operates a "Safe Arrival Program." In order for this program to operate smoothly it is imperative that parents let us know if their child is going to be absent prior to the morning bell.

Please contact the school prior to the start of classes if your child will be absent OR late. **THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AS WE WILL BE USING A NEW ATTENDANCE SYSTEM THIS YEAR.**

The school phone number is: 250-374-4425 or email Ms. Norton at anorton@sd73.bc.ca Please include a reason for the late or absence.

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

A copy of the bell schedule can be found on the school website (<http://dufferin.sd73.bc.ca>) under General Information and Schedules.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our next PAC meeting will be on:

Monday, Nov 30 @ 7pm (at the school)

All parents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved at the school. Child minding is available upon request. Some upcoming PAC events are:

Meat & Candy Orders Due: **Dec 2, 2015**

Meat & Candy Order Pick Up: **Dec 17, 2015**

A **BIG** thank you to all the parents who have participated in all our fundraisers so far. Without you the PAC would not be able to support the school and our children the way we do! Having said that, we are always looking for more people to come out and get involved, especially parents with children in the primary grades.

MABEL'S LABELS

Parents can make orders from Mabel's Labels at any time. Part of the proceeds go to support the PAC. To order go to: mabelslables.com, click on 'support a fundraiser', find Dufferin Elementary.

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS & JERSEYS

School T-shirt orders and jerseys are now available to orders at the school.

TWO FOR ONE GIFT CARDS

The PAC will be selling Rotary two for one gift cards for golfing and restaurants. If you are interested, order forms will be going home this week!

MATHLETICS

The school, supported by the PAC is continuing with our



Mathletics online program. Teachers will be giving their students a Mathletic account, which includes a password and user name. Students can access Mathletics at home through the website: <http://www.mathletics.ca/>

If you would like to access this program and do not have a user name and password for your child, please contact your teacher for information.

KAMLOOPS MINOR BASEBALL

Kamloops Minor Baseball KMBA is offering indoor winter ball and outdoor spring and fall ball. If you are interested, please register online at www.kamloopsminorbaseball.ca. KMBA is for youth ages 4-17. More information can be found online.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2015

We are going to try a change for our Christmas concert this year. This year we will be having two afternoon concerts instead of our one evening concert. Our hope is this will allow more room for audience members as well as increased support and participation for students. Because it will be during the school day, the concert will be more inclusive of all of our children and we will be better able to support them.

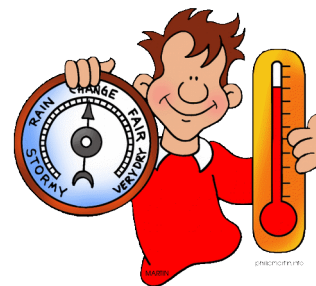
Our two concert dates are:

Wednesday, Dec 16 @ 1:00pm

Thursday, Dec 17 @ 1:00pm

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As we move later into Winter, please make sure students are dressed appropriately. The weather can change drastically during the day. This also affects our footwear. Students



should have separate inside and outside footwear. When entrances are marked by orange cones, this is an indicator that students should be removing their outside footwear at the door to keep our hallways and classroom clean.

Finally, A reminder that our cold weather days are approximately -15 with wind chill. We take our readings from environment Canada.

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.



Please try not to send sick children to school. Schools are busy places and illness can spread quickly in a school environment. We also have some students with immune challenges and they are especially susceptible to catching illnesses. If your child is ill and you are keeping them home, we would ask you contact the office and let them know if it is a stomach flu (Gastric Intestinal) or a cold (Respiratory).

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 free. Also, individual classrooms will be sending information home concerning expectations for peanut allergies at the beginning of the year.

STUDENT/SCHOOL SAFETY

Please be aware that parents and visitors should check in at the front office before they proceed into the school.

Also, if you need to be in the school, please make sure you use the front doors. Thank you in advance for observing this precaution for the safety of your children.

Thanks again for helping us keep our children safe!

HOT CHOCOLATE IN A MUG

On the last day of school before winter break (December 18), the PAC will be providing hot chocolate and a candy cane for all the students!

Students are encouraged to be environmentally conscious and bring their own mug! If they don't have a mug, that will be okay. All the students get approximately the same amount (so bringing a bigger mug will not make a difference).

Happy Holiday!

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank-you to all who supported our annual Fall Book Fair. It was a very successful event and with the funds raised we will be able to buy more resources for our library. Speaking of new resources....our library now has 29 Chromebooks and will soon have 2 iPads as well. Very soon we will be also getting our new tables!

BASKETBALL REFS NEEDED!!

We are in desperate need of volunteer basketball referees for our home basketball games starting in January. If you can help out with this and help our children contact the school (250-374-4425). Games are typically on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from about 3pm to 4:30pm. Little experience necessary.

SCENT AWARE SCHOOL!

Dufferin is a 'Scent Aware' school. Many people are extremely sensitive to perfumes, colognes, and other scented products including soaps and hair/body products. This can include 'naturally scented products.' Please try not to wear them when you are in the school. We do have individuals at the school who are allergic and these products can trigger allergic reactions. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information you can visit the Canadian Lung Association website:

(http://www.lung.ca/protect-protegez/pollution-pollution/interieur/scents-parfums_e.php)



HEAD LICE

It is recommended to parents that you **check our children at home at least once a week!** If you find any, please treat them immediately and report it to the school so that we can take steps to keep them under control. The school handles any reported cases confidentially.

More information about head lice and how to control them can be found on our school website. Thank you in advance for helping with this. Vigilance from the home is the best way to control the spread of head lice. Remember, it isn't enough to just use the shampoo. Some lice are immune - so removal of all the nits (eggs) from the hair after treatment is necessary or they can hatch and re-infest. It only takes one live louse to lay hundreds of eggs.

TELEPHONE USE

Please be aware that we have almost 300 students and only two phone lines available at the school. We would ask that parents try and make arrangements prior to school.

We understand that in some cases this is not possible. If that is the case, we would encourage you to contact the school well in advance of the final bell. The office is always very busy at the beginning and the end of the day and this will help with congestion, confusion and misunderstanding. Also, if students need to call home, encourage them to ask their teacher earlier on in the day. Please remember that our phones should only be used for urgent situations and should not be used for making social arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation!

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 and complete a permission form which outlines the use of cell phones. The guidelines and slips may be obtained at the office.

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

TOYS OR GAME CARDS

Please be aware that we do try and assist students who have items stolen or lost at the school. However, we also want parents to be aware that toys or playing cards (example: Pokemon, etc) are brought to school at your own risk. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items of this nature. If items of this nature are causing playground issues or become a distraction to learning, they may be confiscated.

2015/2016 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please note that the school calendar is also posted on the Dufferin Website (www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca). The website calendar will be updated on a regular basis and may change.

Dec 2	Meat/Candy Orders Due
Dec 4	Term 1 Report Cards
Dec 7	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 16	Christmas Concert #1
Dec 17	Christmas Concert #2
Dec 17	Meat/Candy Orders In
Dec 18	Free Hot Chocolate & Candy Cane
Dec 18	Last day before Winter Holiday

December 19 – January 3 WINTER HOLIDAY

Jan 4	School Reopens
Jan 18	Basketball Season Begins
Jan 22	NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 8	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 10-11	Early Closure / Interviews
Feb 19	NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 24	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 29	Leap Day

Mar 13	Daylight Saving
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 18	Term 2 Report Cards
	Last day before Spring Break

March 19 – April 3 SPRING BREAK

Apr 4	NI Day* (No school for students)
Apr 5	School Re-opens for students
Apr 7	Day of Suwentwecw
Apr 12	Flag Football Begins
Apr 18	NI Day* (No School for Students)

May 9	Mother's Day
May 16	NI Day* (No School for Students)
May 23	Holiday (Victoria Day)
May 26	Zone Track & Field Meet
May 30	District 1500m

Jun 1	District Track & Field Meet
Jun 19	Father's Day
Jun 21	Aboriginal Day
Jun 29	Last Day of School (½ Day)
	Term 3 Report Cards

***NI Day = Non-Instructional Day (Staff Professional Development)**

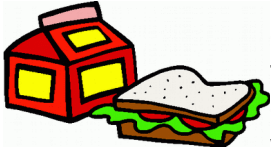
SCHOOL PARKING

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.

EATING LUNCH AT SCHOOL



Students who live close enough to school to go home for lunch are encouraged to do so. If not, students are welcome to remain at school

during the lunch hour. We ask that all students remaining at the school for lunch:

1. Eat lunch in their designated area
2. Behave in a mannerly fashion
3. Clean up after themselves
4. Remain on school grounds for the duration of the lunch hour

Students who are unable to follow school expectations during the lunch period may be asked to go home for their lunch.

If your child brings a lunch to school, we will assume it is your intention they remain at school for lunch. ***A final reminder: due to safety students are not permitted to leave school grounds and cross the highway to the Petro Canada during school hours unless accompanied by a parent/guardian or supervisor.***

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 **ROCKS!** We will be reviewing

all of our ROCKS matrix for the month of December. The staff is on the look out for students who are displaying our ROCKS motto. Round Ornament tickets will be handed out and put on our tree in the entrance for students who are caught doing this!

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 all of 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 can also be found online.