

Dufferin Elementary

Volume 11

February 1, 2016

Dear Parents:

February is shaping up to be a VERY busy month. We will be working on being organized, independent, and responsible. Organized is part of our Dufferin ROCKS. Staying organized is important in order to be successful.

We also want to begin helping students become independent. Some things we can do is give them responsibility for smaller tasks. We can also encourage them to be independent when arriving at school and leaving school. Instead of meeting them or taking them to the door or class, allow them to get ready and meet you at a spot outside.

Finally, being responsible. Another life-long skill. One thing we can encourage our children to do is make sure we are responsible for our things. For example, we have a large number of unclaimed lost and found items which end up getting donated several times throughout the year.

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.

AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP

It is great to encourage that community school feel. Unfortunately however, our school entrance and hallways are becoming more and more congested, crowded and noisy at the end of the day. Our



Kindergarten class also transitions to parents at the entrance and students are trying to get ready with their winter gear, which crowds the hallway and entrance way. It is becoming more challenging to navigate the entrance and hallway. To help, we would ask a couple of things:

1. Try not to arrive at the school to pick up your child too early. The dismissal bell is at 2:30pm.
2. Encourage independence! Meet your child outside. This will teach 'independence' skills and also help with our congestion. If they come outside not organized, we can then come back in and sort it out. A teachable moment.

Thanks for your help with this!

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:

Friday, February 05 @ 8:30am (at the school)

Some upcoming PAC sponsored events are:
Thursday, February 18: Family Movie Night

All parents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved at the school.

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.

SCHOOL T-SHIRTS & JERSEYS

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

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.

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!

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

As the weather gets worse we would like to remind parents to be EXTRA careful while driving through our school zones and in our parking areas.



Please keep the bus turn-about clear while the buses are running. Not only operating a running vehicle around a bus is extremely dangerous, but holding up a bus can disrupt their schedule. Most of our buses serve more than one school and community. If you are dropping your child off and are caught in the bus loop, please don't stop but proceed through or turn and drop off in the designated drop off and parking area.

VALENTINE CANDY BAGS for MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (MS)



On February 1st to 9th the leadership students will be selling Valentines Day candy bags.

25¢ for a small bag and 50¢ for a large bag.

Dufferin students will be able to purchase a bag of Valentine candy by filling in a heart note to whomever they choose. On February 12th the person who the student chose to give the candy bag to will receive their candy bag. All proceeds will be donated to the M.S. Foundation.

LIBRARY

A thank-you to all students who donated books to our Book Swap last week. Students traded about 600 gently used books, and we donated 330 to the Heap the Honda Book Drive for the Red Book Shelf project as part of Family Literacy Week and Unplug and Play!

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Please note on the school website and newsletter calendar, we have two early release days coming up on **Wednesday, February 10 and Thursday, February 11**. These days are scheduled to allow for parent teacher interviews. If teachers require an interview, they will be contacting you to schedule a time.

Buses will be running two hours earlier on those days. **Dismissal will be at 12:30pm.** Unfortunately due to conflicts with the high school, the Lac LeJeune bus will not be running early on these days. If your child takes this bus, you will want to make arrangements to pick them up from the school.

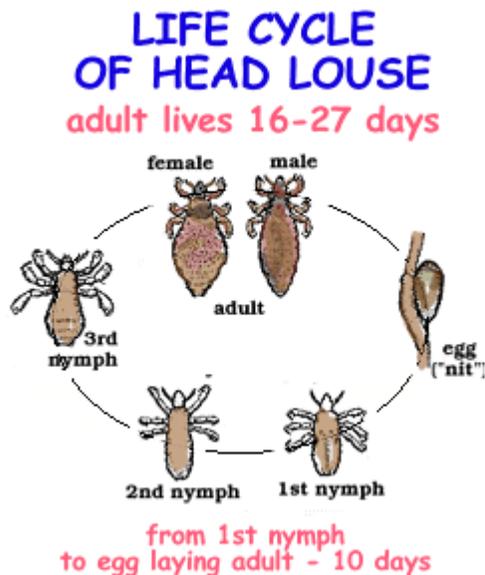
BASKETBALL

Due to our small gym size, we would like to ask that students who are not on the scheduled basketball team in the gym remain outside. However, as a parent, if you are coming to watch a game, your child is more than welcome to join you otherwise students are expected to be outside. Thank you for your support!

We are still looking for referees for our home games. If you can help out, please let the school know!

The game schedules are posted on the calendar on the Dufferin School website.

HEAD LICE



During the Winter Holiday we often get break outs of Head Lice. This is due to the fact that families and friends are visiting from all over and children and adults are often exposed during the holiday season. Please take extra caution during the holiday! Also be aware, head lice often take up to two weeks to hatch, therefore head lice break outs in January are often due to exposure that occurred during the holiday season.

It is recommended to parents that you **check your 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.

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.

Feb 1-12	Foundation Skills Assessment
Feb 3	District Math Expo
Feb 5	PAC Meeting
Feb 8	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 10-11	Early Closure / Interviews
Feb 10	Young People's Concert
Feb 12	School Spirit Day (Red & Pink Day)
Feb 15	Blazers Visit
Feb 18	Family Movie Night
Feb 19	NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 22-26	Kindergarten Registration
Feb 24	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 29	Leap Day
Mar 4	Young Artist's Entry Due
Mar 11	Movie Night
Mar 13	Daylight Saving
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 17	Young Author's Entry Due
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 8 Bike Rodeo
 Apr 11 Young People's Concert
 Apr 12 Flag Football Begins
 Apr 18 NI Day* (No School for Students)
 Apr 28 Young Artist's Conference
 Apr 29 Young Author's Conference

May 2 Young People's Concert
 May 9 Mother's Day
 May 13 1500/1200/1000m Zones
 May 16 NI Day* (No School for Students)
 May 20 Track & Field Meet - Zones
 May 23 Holiday (Victoria Day)
 May 26 1500/1200/1000m Districts
 May 27 Track & Field Meet - District

Jun 9 Fun Fair
 Jun 15-17 Eagle Bay Trip
 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)**

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 **CARING AND KIND!** We will be reviewing how to be **CARING AND KIND** for the month of February. The staff is on the look out for students who are displaying our **ROCKS** motto. Heart tickets will be handed out and put on our display 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.

The School District has also revised the CODE OF CONDUCT. Copies of the new CODE OF CONDUCT are on the school website as well as posted around the school.

CARING AND KIND IS COOL...



**BECAUSE DUFFERIN
 ROCKS!**