



# Dufferin Elementary



Volume 12

February 15, 2016

Dear Parents:

February is caring and kind month at Dufferin Elementary. It also fits well with Valentines Day and Pink Shirt Day which is all part of the month of February!

The 'C' and the 'K' in our ROCKS matrix stand for Caring and Kind and celebrates diversity in our school. As part of this we have Pink Shirt Day coming up which is about respecting diversity and choice. Diversity among people is one of the prominent features of British Columbia's society and our schools. Honouring diversity is based on the principle that if differences are acknowledged and utilized in a positive way, it is of benefit to the quality of learning and working environments.

Addressing diversity encompasses the following:

- taking into account the different beliefs, customs, practices, languages, behaviours and physical differences of individuals and cultural groups
- encouraging understanding, acceptance, mutual respect and inclusion, in order to make school communities and society as a whole more equitable for all people

Let's work together this month in promoting diversity by being caring and kind in February. DUFFERIN ROCKS!

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](mailto: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, March 4 @ 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.

## EPICURE FUNDRAISER

Eat clean and earn \$\$ for the PAC. You can pick up the Winter and Spring catalog on the PAC bulletin board at the school. 15% of all sales go to the Dufferin PAC. You can have your order shipped to the school or directly to your home. All orders must be received by February 25<sup>th</sup>. Delivery days may vary and pick up times will be emailed to you. Email Shari for a digital copy of the catalog ([shari.gourmetgirl@gmail.com](mailto:shari.gourmetgirl@gmail.com)).

## MOVIE NIGHT!

Dufferin PAC will be hosting a movie night on Thursday, February 18. Doors open at 6pm and the movie starts at 6:30pm sharp! The PAC will be selling popcorn and snacks. Unfortunately they will not be able to sell pizza as originally planned as the PAC was not able to get enough volunteers to accommodate this.

The movie will be "Inside Out." All children must be accompanied by an adult. See you there!



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for 2016-2017 will be open on February 22. If you have a child going into Kindergarten in September 2016, registering during the district wide registration week helps with our planning and making sure we have the necessary teaching staff in place by September. Late registrations can sometimes be disruptive the first month of school if we have to juggle classes because of unanticipated registration numbers.

## MAPLE THE THERAPY DOG

Maple is our new four-legged therapy dog-in-training at Dufferin. Maple comes to school with Mrs. Bartanus to continue her training toward being a Therapy Dog. Therapy Dogs are used in a number of schools and organizations (such as senior homes). Some things therapy dogs are used for in schools are:



1. Counseling / Social Emotional Goals
2. Occupational Therapy
3. Classroom Environment / Test Anxiety
4. Focus / Attention Goals

Precautions are taken to help students feel comfortable around Maple in the room. Visit Mrs. Bartanus after school Monday through Thursday to ask any questions about Maple and Therapy Dogs.

## 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.

## COLDEST NIGHT IN THE CITY

On February 20<sup>th</sup> our school will be participating in Coldest Night in the City. This is a walk and fundraiser that raises money for the hungry, homeless and hurting in Kamloops. If you are interested, forms went home and donations are due into the school on February 17.

## LIBRARY

We are starting to gear up for Battle of the Books! Dufferin did exceptionally well last year under the coaching of Mr. Rhynolds, our school librarian. It should be another exciting Battle of the Books season!

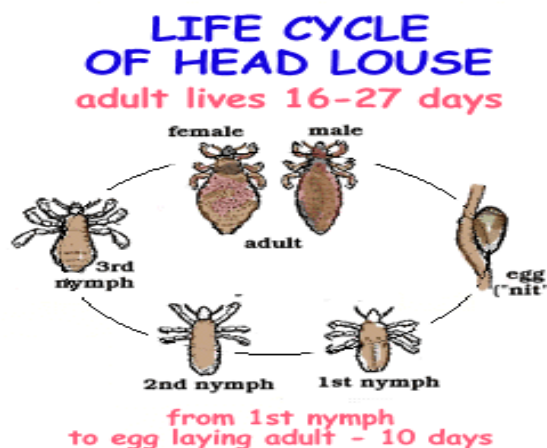
## BASKETBALL

February 15 to 18 is our final week for regular season school basketball league. Some of our Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams will be going into playoffs. Once the regular season has ended, players will be informed of the playoff schedule (if they make it). Please also refer to the school website for regular updates.

## HEAD LICE

After long weekends we often see out breaks of Head Lice. This is due to the fact that families and friends are visiting and children and adults are often exposed during that time. Please take extra caution! Also be aware, head lice often take up to two weeks to hatch, therefore head lice break outs are often due to exposure that occurred during the past long weekends or times when families and friends are more likely to get together.

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](http://www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca)). The website calendar will be updated on a regular basis and may change.

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 (PG13)  
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 Suwewtwew  
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 4 & 5 District Heritage Fair  
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:

**R**espectful  
**O**rganized  
**C**aring  
**K**ind  
**S**afe



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!**

