



Dufferin Elementary

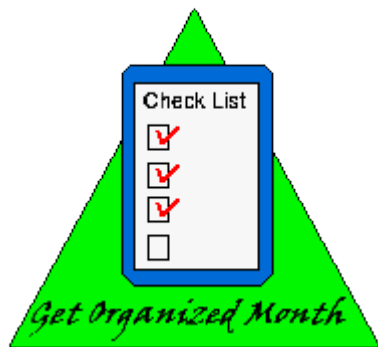


Volume 13

March 7, 2016

Dear Parents:

Opening a backpack, looking into a locker or desk can be a frightening experience. Crumpled assignments and tests, school announcements from two months ago, missing keys or other items – it's a mess! Many people think of organizational skills as the ability to keep things in order. However, people also use those same skills to keep their thoughts in order so they can retrieve information and use it effectively.



Children who have weak organizational skills also struggle with handling information in an effective and logical way. They will often have difficulty setting priorities, making

plans, sticking to a task, and getting things done. These skills become increasingly important as they move through different grade levels.

The good news is that organizational skills can be learned. Children with strong organizational skills can often follow directions without even thinking about it. They have the learned skills to come up with a plan and follow through to get things done. These skills remove a lot of anxiety from learning at school. Tools like checklists, planners, and regular 'backpack makeovers' can help them get more organized.

Weak organizational skills make learning harder (but not impossible) and increase stress and anxiety. It also can affect their attitude toward school. As they move up in grades and their responsibility to be independently organized increases, the less likely they will enjoy their learning at school, regardless of how motivating, and engaging their lessons are – or how charismatic the teacher is.

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. 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' and 'organizational' 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, April 8 @ 8:30am (at the school)

Some upcoming PAC sponsored events are:

Friday, March 11: Family Movie Night

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

Epicure is an ongoing fundraiser for the PAC. Monthly orders need to be in by the 25th of each month. Orders can be made online and information is posted on the PAC bulletin board under the TV monitor in the school hallway.



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.

SATISFACTION SURVEY

During the months of March to April, School District #73 Kamloops Thompson and Dufferin Elementary School is participating in the 2016 Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Satisfaction Survey Project in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the province.

Letters will be going home during the week of February 29 to all grade 4 and 7 parents. If you are a parent of a grade 4 and 7 student and have not received a letter with your code, please contact the school. More information is provided on the Dufferin School website.

KAMLOOPS MINOR FASTBALL

Kamloops Minor Fastball is looking for girls and boys ages 5-19 to come out and join fastball this season. Register on-line now through March 15 at:

<http://www.kamloopsminorfastball.com>

or in-person at Charles Anderson Stadium on Sunday, March 13 from 1-4pm. The season starts in April and runs through the end of June! Come out and play ball! It's so much fun. Please contact Nicole Trouton for more information at 250-372-1036.

HERITAGE FAIR

Congratulations to the following students for having their Heritage Fair Stamps selected to be sent to the Regional Heritage Fair Stamp contest: Morgan Beatty, Kaleb Preymak, Paige Geoghegan, Brooke Whitely, Kailey Moore, Sadie Douglas, Sophie Lovett, Paige Christianson, Yoshiki Mathews, Anisse McAusland.

Our school Heritage Fair will be held on Friday, April 15. We are looking for parents or grandparents who would like to help judge projects. No experience is necessary, just an interest in talking to students about their projects. Judging will take place in the morning and projects will be on display for parents and classes in the afternoon. If you would like to volunteer to judge, please contact Mrs. Geoghegan or Mr. Bamsey.

MOVIE NIGHT!

Dufferin PAC will be hosting a movie night on Friday, March 11. Doors open at 6pm and the movie starts at 6:30pm sharp! Admission is \$2 and the PAC will be selling popcorn and snacks.

The movie will be "Jurassic World" and is PG rated.

Remember, all children must be accompanied by an adult. See you there!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for 2016-2017 was open on February 22. If you have a child going into Kindergarten in September 2016, there is still time to register!



Registering early helps our planning and makes sure we have enough space for your child by September. Late registrations can sometimes be disruptive for the whole school if we have to juggle classes because of unanticipated registration numbers in the late spring or September.

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

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.

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

We would like to thank all of our players, coaches and sponsors on a great basketball season!

FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season soon begins! We will be needing coaches. Our coach from last year has moved on to a different school. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in coaching, please contact the school. The Flag Football season begins on April 12. Last year, Dufferin School went undefeated for the season!



TRACK AND FIELD



As the snow melts we are starting to think of our upcoming Track and Field season. We will be looking for parent volunteers to help with the events on our Track and Field days. If you can help out on those days, please let us

know:

April 13	Indoor Relay Fest
April 20	Dallas/Juniper Parloff
April 27	McGowan Parloff
May 11	Dufferin School Track Meet
May 13	1000m/1200m/1500m Zones
May 20	Zone Track Meet (TRU)
May 26	1000m/1200m/1500m Districts
May 27	District Track Meet (TRU)

Also, if you are interested in starting a Track and Field Club, please let us know.

YEARBOOKS!

Mrs. Harrison has generously donated her time to support a dedicated grade 7 team to create a yearbook for the school. If you wish to have a yearbook, you must pre-order by April 29, 2016. No additional copies will be available when the final copy comes out.

Dufferin Yearbooks will be available to order online for only \$25 with any credit card. Students have the option to personalize the cover for an additional \$5.

To order a yearbook:

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectJob>

Yearbook ID: 12776116

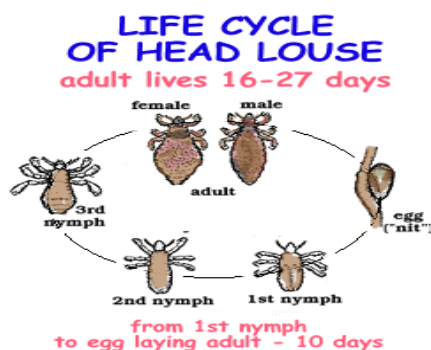
Cost: Standard Yearbook \$25

Optional: Personalized Yearbook cover (\$5)

(Your name gets printed on the cover) **ensure you have the correct spelling you wish on the cover**

HEAD LICE

Head lice often take up to two weeks to hatch, therefore head lice outbreaks are often due to exposure that occurred during 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).

The website calendar will be updated on a regular basis and may change.

Mar 10	Science World Presentation
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 Suwentwecw
Apr 8	Bike Rodeo
Apr 11	Young People's Concert
Apr 12	Flag Football Begins
Apr 15	School Heritage Fair
Apr 18	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Apr 21	Band Performance
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 11	Dufferin School Track Meet

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 **BEING ORGANIZED!** We will be reviewing how to be **ORGANIZED** for the month of March and April. The staff is on the look out for students who are displaying our **ROCKS** motto. Book 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.



BEING ORGANIZED IS COOL!



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DUFFERIN ROCKS!