



Dear Parents:

We are half way through January and into the middle of our school year! It is important that we find some time in our busy winter schedules to help our children develop good learning routines at home.

It is well known that good learning and study routines at home are directly related to better achievement and habits at school and in life. Homework, learning, enrichment and study habits at home do not have to be assigned by teachers and can be done at any age. We also know that skills like reading and math can always be practiced. Take time every day to work on reading skills or math... or reading about math!

If your child comes home and tells you the teacher didn't give them any homework, or you would like to provide them with some enriched learning activities over and above what they get at school, provide some predictable time and space every day to do it. It will build great habits and routines. Use it to have them read or just research topics they are interested in. There are a large amount of resources online, including Math Prodigy and Mathletics (see this newsletter for Mathletics). You can also access the government site for parents like LearnNowBC (<https://www.learnnowbc.ca/>).

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.

MR. BOWDEN / MRS. HALLAND

Mr. Bowden will be on leave for just over a week (from January 19 to January 29). We are excited to have Mrs. Halland fill in for him during his absence. Mrs. Halland is currently 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:

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

Some upcoming PAC sponsored events are:

Monday, January 25: Hot Lunch Orders Due!
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.

MOTHER GOOSE

A reminder that our Annual Mother Goose program for pre-schoolers will be starting on January 14. Please stay tuned for how to sign up and participate. There are a limited amount of spaces and they fill up quickly.

LIBRARY

A reminder that FAMILY LITERACY WEEK will be coming up. This is happening from January 25 to 29! During that week we will be encouraging students to "unplug" and spend time reading and playing.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Please note on the school website and newsletter calendar, the Non-Instructional Days for 2016. There are two additional provincial days for the next three years in order to implement the new curriculum. For the 2016 school year, those days are **January 22 and April 4**. Teachers and staff are working but there is no school for children on these days.

ANNUAL SUN PEAKS

SKI TRIP

Our annual Sun Peaks ski trip for grade 4-7 is booked for January 28 and 29.



BASKETBALL

Basketball season is starting. We have enough interest by students to have six teams this year! This will make practice times challenging (so please be flexible). Thank you to all the volunteer coaches this year!



Tier 1 Girls – Mrs. Deol / Mrs. Hembling
Tier 1 Boys – Mrs. Friesen / Mrs. Perrett
Tier 2 Girls – Mrs. Joe
Tier 2 Boys – Mr. Deol
Tier 3 Girls – Mr. Trouton / Mrs. Sharp
Tier 3 Boys – Mr. Bamsey / Mr. Murphy

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

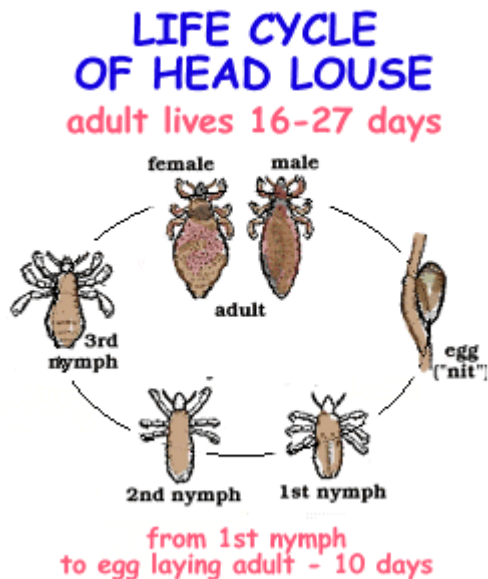
The game schedules are posted on the calendar on the Dufferin School website.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)

Students in grades 4 and 7 will be writing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) again this year. This is a provincial assessment based on the required learning outcomes in reading, writing, and numeracy. The assessment will be administered between **January 11 and February 12, 2016**.

All students in grades 4 and 7 in attendance during those dates are required to write this assessment. Please be aware that according to the School Act in BC, parents, teachers or principals **CAN NOT excuse** students from writing the assessment. The exception: the principal can excuse a student if they have a diagnosed special need that prohibits them from being able to take the assessment.

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.

SKATING

Dufferin will be continuing the skating program in January. The following is a schedule for you to refer to:

Jan 19: Carter / Thomas
Jan 26: Carter / Thomas

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.

Jan 18	Basketball Season Begins
Jan 18	RCMP TILT training (K-3)
Jan 20	School Spirit Day (Hat Day)
Jan 20	Come Read With Me
Jan 22	NI Day* (No school for students)
Jan 25	Hot Lunch Orders Due!
Jan 25-29	Family Literacy Week
Jan 25-29	"UNPLUG" Challenge
Jan 26	District Math Expo
Jan 28-29	Sun Peaks Ski Trip
Jan 11-31	Foundation Skills Assessment
Feb 1-12	Foundation Skills Assessment
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 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



**K ind
S afe**

This month we are going to be working on **SAFE!** We will be reviewing how to be **SAFE** for the month of January. The staff is on the look out for students who are displaying our **ROCKS** motto. Round snowflake tickets will be handed out and put on our snowman 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.