



Dufferin Elementary



Volume 16

May 3, 2016

Dear Parents:

May has arrived and Mother's Day is fast approaching. Acknowledging Mother's Day celebrates some very important people in our child's lives.



These events can often teach our children about empathy. Some say empathy is at least as important as academic success. A group of empathetic children will be more successful than a group of the happiest self-serving children.

Empathy is about knowing how to value, respect, and understand other people's views, even if we don't agree with them. Empathy, like other emotions, requires repetition to become second nature. To that end, there are ways to developing empathy in our children:

1. Empathize with your child and model how to feel compassion for others.

- Children who feel valued are more likely to value others and demonstrate respect for their needs. When we treat people like they matter, kids notice.

2. Make caring for others a priority and set ethical expectations.

- Rather than say, "The most important thing is that you are happy," say, "The most important thing is that you are kind and happy."

3. Practice empathy.

- if another child is unpopular or having social problems, talk with your child about how that person feels and ask them how they can help.

4. Expand your child's circle of concern.

- It is easier to empathize with friends or family and much more difficult to do it with others outside of that circle.

5. Help children develop self-control and manage feelings effectively.

- Sometimes when we feel empathy, societal pressures and prejudices can block our ability to express our concern. Children notice when we model calm, conflict resolution and anger management and express our concern for others.

Life is more harmonious when children are able to feel for each other and put the needs of others ahead of immediate, individual happiness. Caring children make for a more peaceful and cooperative learning and family environment. Just imagine what we could accomplish in a world populated by such children!

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 STUDENT PICK UP

Thank you to parents for helping us teach good pick up routines for students by waiting for them outside!

Not coming into the school at the end of the day helps relieve congestion and disruption in the hallways as well as encourages students to learn how to be organized and independent.

Things you can do to help:

1. Try not to arrive at the school to pick up your child too early (or drop them off 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: **Monday, June 6 @ 9:00am** (at the school)

Unfortunately there were **NO NOMINATIONS** for our PAC next year and only a very small number of parents who showed up for the AGM and elections. We will have no PAC executive at the end of June. Dufferin will have no active PAC starting September 2016.

Unless there is a change between now and June, the June meeting will be to review the budget and close it until a future PAC can be formed.

Some things that the PAC run, organized and sponsored are:

- a) Class field trips (bus funding)
- b) Classroom funds
- c) Additional technology (Ipads, Chromebooks, etc)
- d) Movie nights, family dances, fun days, and other after school events
- e) Concessions and hot lunches
- f) Additional playground items
- g) Athletics
- h) Sports Jerseys, etc
- I) Grade 6/7 Eagle Bay
- j) Grade 7 School Leaving tags
- k) Many, many other school functions.

The PAC is also the official forum for input about school goals and plans.

Until nominations and elections can be

held, the PAC will not be active as there is no active executive as of June.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this vital organization and keeping the PAC going, please contact the PAC by email: dufferinelempac@gmail.com or Mr. Bowden at the school.



A **BIG** thank you to all the parents who have participated in all our fundraisers

and volunteering so far. Without you the PAC would not be able to support the school and our children the way we have! Having said that, we are desperately looking for more people to come out and get involved, especially parents with children in the primary grades.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Math Program

For students who lack comfort when working in math or who would like some enrichment.

Grades 4 to 9
July 5 to 22
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 12:00pm

Registration opens in Mid-May. If you are interested go to the school district website:

<http://www3.sd73.bc.ca/kool/content/summer-school-2016>

HERITAGE FAIR

The Regional Heritage Fair is this week (Thursday and Friday). The following students have been selected to represent Dufferin! Good Luck!

Nikki Christiaens, Kailey Moore, Kaelinn Wilkie, Gurman Kang, Amaryn Mahal, Paige Geoghegan, Kaleb Preymak, Ila

Campbell, Paige Christianson, Paige Judiesch, Sophie Lovett, Jordan Smith, Hudson Shiels, Sam Zulyniak, and Anisse McAusland!

RECYCLING



Unfortunately we are no longer able to do juice box recycling at the school. In order to make an effort to be 'garbage' free we would like to encourage parents and students to use recyclable food and liquid containers to reduce waste and garbage.

If students do bring juice boxes or other recyclable waste containers, they will be asked to bring them home to get recycled.

Thanks for your help in reducing waste!

DRESS CODE

With the warm weather we would also like to share a friendly reminder about our dress code. Please be



aware that the dress code is in compliance with high school expectations. A detailed copy of the dress code can be found on the Dufferin School website in the Code of Conduct folder. www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca).

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Our Kindergarten Orientation this year is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 9am in the library. Registered Kindergarten parents will receive an invite with information in the mail in early May.

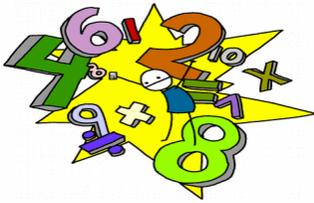
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for 2016-2017 was open on February 22. If you have a child (or know of someone who has a child) going into Kindergarten in September 2016, there is still time to register!

MATHLETICS

Unfortunately this may be the last year for Mathletics. Without the support of an active PAC,

we may have to drop the Mathletics program for the 2016-2017 school year.



The school, supported by the PAC is continuing with our Mathletics online program until the end of June. 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.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season has begun! We have had

many students registered and wanting to play, which is awesome!!

Unfortunately, some decisions had to be made to accommodate everyone. Because we were unable to get enough parent volunteers to coach we could only register one team. A big thank you to the parent coaches who stepped forward at the last minute!

Instead of cutting students, we have decided to give every student an opportunity to get some exposure to the game. All the students will have an opportunity to play in the home games as well as the season 'Jamboree.' Only the grade seven students will play the away games (some grade six students if necessary).

We are hoping next year we will have more coaches and can enter two or more Dufferin teams! If that is the case, all the students will get more playing time.



TRACK AND FIELD



We are still looking for parent volunteers to help with the events on our Track and Field days. Even with all of our intermediate teachers out running the events for the day, we still need six or more parents to help make the day a

success. If you can help out on those days, please let us know as soon as possible:

May 11	Dufferin School Track Meet
May 13	1000m/1200m Zones
May 20	Zone Track Meet (TCC)
May 26	1000m/1200m Districts
May 27	District Track Meet (TCC)

The PAC has also committed to running a concession at lunch. Please stay tuned for more information.

CHOIR TRY OUTS!

Dufferin is hoping to hold try outs for District Choir this month. We can select four students



for the Children's Choir (grade 2-3) and four students for the Honours Choir (grades 4-6).

More information will be sent home with interested students later in the week.

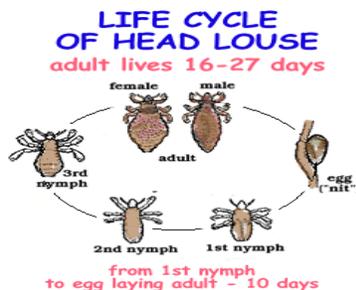
LIBRARY NEWS

We had another successful book fair! Thank you for all your support. Money and resources raised at the book fair go directly back to our school.

Dufferin primary students will be treated with a visit from children's author Lisa Dairymples on Monday, May 9 as part of Children's Book Week!

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. This includes extended holidays such as Spring Break!



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.

BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTRE - MINING DAY 2016

Saturday, May 7 - 10am to 3pm

FREE entry for all

Organized and sponsored by the Kamloops Exploration Group and CIM

Bring in your rocks to be identified. Learn to gold pan with Yukon Dan.

This is an incredible family event with so much to offer. All exhibitors will have hands-on educational fun!

More fun activities available:

- Win a brand new bike
- Photo Booth - Dress up in mining related gear
- Win a rock tumbler
- Bring in your used batteries for recycling
- BBQ lunch for purchase, on site by the Paddlewheelers Lions Club
- Dinosaur Footprint fossil casts (at the Fossil Club display)
- Face painting
- Educational displays
- Heavy machinery onsite
- NewGold firetruck
- And so much more!!!!

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.

May 4	1000m/1200m Try Outs
May 5 & 6	Regional Heritage Fair
May 5	Choir Field Trip (Sr. Centre)
May 6	Hot Lunch
May 8	Mother's Day
May 9	Children's Author Visit
May 11	Dufferin School Track Meet
May 12	Flag Football Jamboree
	TRU Sports Camp Visit
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
 May 31 Kindergarten Orientation

Jun 1 Gr 7 Sa-Hali Visit
 Jun 6 PAC Meeting
 Jun 9 Fun Fair
 Jun 15-17 Eagle Bay Trip
 Jun 19 Father's Day
 Jun 21 Aboriginal Day
 Jun 27 Fun Day!
 Jun 29 Last Day of School (1/2 Day)
 Term 3 Report Cards

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

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 **BEING SAFE OUTSIDE!** We will be reviewing how to be **SAFE** for the month of

May. The staff is on the look out for students who are displaying our **ROCKS** motto. Sports tickets will be handed out and put on our display in the entrance for students who are caught doing this! Check out the goal posts in the entrance way!

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 CODE OF CONDUCT are on the school website as well as posted around the school.

BEING SAFE IS COOL!



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DUFFERIN ROCKS!