



Dear Parents:

It looks and feels like winter has come to Dufferin school! A reminder that dressing for the weather is extremely important. Unless temperatures go below -15, students are expected to be outside during breaks.

As part of having a welcoming school, Dufferin enjoys having parents visit and is proud of our open doors. However, in order for us to continue this practice we would ask that parents and visitors follow a few simple guidelines:

1. If you are coming into the school during instructional hours (between 8:30 and 2:30) please check in at the front office before going further into the school.
2. If you need to talk to a teacher, it is always good practice to call and book an appointment ahead of time.
3. Pick Up / Drop Off – If you come early to pick up your child (before 2:30) please be respectful of the staff and students still working. People in the hall or entrance can be distracting or disruptive for students.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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.

## 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:

**Monday, Nov 30 @ 7pm** (at the school)

All parents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved at the school. Child minding is available upon request. Some upcoming PAC events are:

Poinsettia Orders Due: **Nov 17, 2015**

Blazers Night: **Nov 21, 2015**

Dufferin Night at Chapters: **Nov 26, 2015**

Movie Night (tba): **Nov 27, 2015**

Parents can make orders from Mabel's Labels at any time. Part of the proceeds go to support the PAC. To order go to: [mabelslables.com](http://mabelslables.com), click on 'support a fundraiser', find Dufferin Elementary.

School T-shirt orders and jerseys are now available 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.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2015

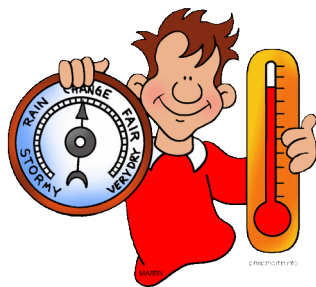
We are going to try a change for our Christmas concert this year. This year we will be having two afternoon concerts instead of our one evening concert. Our hope is this will allow more room for audience members as well as increased support and participation for students. Because it will be during the school day, the concert will be more inclusive of all of our children and we will be better able to support them.

Our two concert dates are:  
Wednesday, Dec 16 @ 1:00pm  
Thursday, Dec 17 @ 1:00pm

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

As we move later into Winter, please make sure students are dressed appropriately.

The weather can change drastically during the day. This also affects our footwear. Students should have separate inside and outside footwear. When entrances are marked by orange cones, this is an indicator that students should be removing their outside footwear at the door to keep our hallways and classroom clean.



## MEDICAL ALERTS

A special note to parents to remind you that it is your responsibility to let



the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school.

Please try not to send sick children to school. Schools are busy places and illness can spread quickly in a school environment. We also have some students with immune challenges and they are especially susceptible to catching illnesses. If your child is ill and you are keeping them home, we would ask you contact the office and let them know if it is a stomach flu (Gastric Intestinal) or a cold (Respiratory).

Please be aware that we have a number of staff and students who are allergic to peanuts and scents. As such our school is scent free. Also, individual classrooms will be sending information home concerning expectations for peanut allergies at the beginning of the year.

## BLAZERS NIGHT



On November 21, 2015 the Kamloops Blazers will be hosting an Elementary School night at the game. Dufferin will be participating in this as part of their Community Spirit as well as a fund raiser. We will be selling tickets for the November 21 game and \$5 from every ticket will come back to the school. The top three schools will be recognized at the game. If you purchase tickets, they will be delivered to the school prior to game night. Wear your Dufferin colours and go cheer on the Kamloops Blazers on November 21!

## DUFFERIN NIGHT AT CHAPTERS BOOK STORE

On November 26 between 6:30pm and 9:00pm, Dufferin PAC and Chapters/Indigo book store will be hosting a "Dufferin Night at Chapters." 10-20% of any purchases at Chapters on the evening of November 26 will go to books for our school.



## 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!

## PURDY'S CHOCOLATES

The grade 6/7's are selling Purdy's chocolates with proceeds going towards our Eagle Bay trip. Anyone who wishes to can order online through our account. Instructions are as follows below.

Online ordering:

1. Go to [www.purdysgpp.com](http://www.purdysgpp.com)
2. Click "Register" to create a new account or "Login" once you have an acct.
3. Join our group by typing in: 32400
4. Invite your friends and family to join our group and shop online!

## LIBRARY NEWS

### BASKETBALL REFS NEEDED!!

We are in desperate need of volunteer basketball referees for our home basketball games starting in January. If you can help out with this and help our children contact the school (250-374-4425). Games are typically on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from about 3pm to 4:30pm. Little experience necessary.

### SCENT AWARE SCHOOL!

Dufferin is a 'Scent Aware' school. Many people are extremely sensitive to perfumes, colognes, and other scented products including soaps and hair/body products. This can include 'naturally scented products.' Please try not to wear them when you are in the school. We do have individuals at the school who are allergic and these products can trigger allergic reactions. Thank you for your consideration.



For more information you can visit the Canadian Lung Association website:

([http://www.lung.ca/protect-protegez/pollution-pollution/indoor-interieur/scents-parfums\\_e.php](http://www.lung.ca/protect-protegez/pollution-pollution/indoor-interieur/scents-parfums_e.php))

## HEAD LICE

It is recommended to parents that you **check our 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 by 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.

## TELEPHONE USE

Please be aware that we have almost 300 students and only two phone lines available at the school. We would ask that parents try and make arrangements prior to school.

We understand that in some cases this is not possible. If that is the case, we would encourage you to contact the school well in advance of the final bell. The office is always very busy at the beginning and the end of the day and this will help with congestion, confusion and misunderstanding. Also, if students need to call home, encourage them to ask their teacher earlier on in the day. Please remember that our phones should only be used for urgent situations and should not be used for making social arrangements. Thank you for your cooperation!

## CELL PHONES

The school district has a policy (Policy 406.1) concerning the use of cell phones at school. Please be advised that should you require your child(ren) to have a cell phone at school, you and your child are required to read our guidelines and complete a permission form which outlines the

use of cell phones. The guidelines and slips may be obtained at the office.

Children bring cell phones to school at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

## TOYS OR GAME CARDS

Please be aware that we do try and assist students who have items stolen or lost at the school. However, we also want parents to be aware that toys or playing cards (example: Pokemon, etc) are brought to school at your own risk. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items of this nature. If items of this nature are causing playground issues or become a distraction to learning, they may be confiscated.

## SHOE BOXES FOR CHILDREN and BACKPACKS FOR ORPHANS

The grade 6/7 leadership team is supporting individuals across the world with care packages. All classes are invited to fill a shoebox and backpack for a child in need.

Thank you in advance for supporting the caring hearts of Dufferin students.

## 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.

Nov 16-20	Anti-Bully Week
Nov 17	Lock Down Drill
Nov 17	Poinsettia Orders Due
Nov 21	Blazer's Night
Nov 24	Poinsettia Pick Up
Nov 26	Dufferin Night at Chapters
Nov 27	Dufferin Movie Night (tba)
Dec 4	Term 1 Report Cards
Dec 7	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 16	Christmas Concert #1
Dec 17	Christmas Concert #2
Dec 18	Last day before Winter Holiday

## December 19 – January 3 WINTER HOLIDAY

Jan 4	School Reopens
Jan 18	Basketball Season Begins
Feb 8	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 10-11	Early Closure / Interviews
Feb 19	NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 24	Pink Shirt Day
Feb 29	Leap Day
Mar 13	Daylight Saving
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 18	Term 2 Report Cards Last day before Spring Break

## March 19 – April 3 SPRING BREAK

Apr 4	School Reopens
Apr 7	Day of Suwentwecw
Apr 12	Flag Football Begins
Apr 18	NI Day* (No School for Students)
May 9	Mother's Day
May 16	NI Day* (No School for Students)
May 23	Holiday (Victoria Day)
May 26	Zone Track & Field Meet
May 30	District 1500m
Jun 1	District Track & Field Meet
Jun 19	Father's Day
Jun 21	Aboriginal Day
Jun 29	Last Day of School (½ Day) Term 3 Report Cards

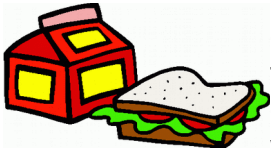
**\*NI Day = Non-Instructional Day (Staff Professional Development)**

## SCHOOL PARKING

For the safety of our students and to avoid congestion, we would like to remind parents that parking/dropping off students in the ROUND-ABOUT AREA in front of the school is restricted to buses only.

We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school and it is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. This includes quick drop off and pick ups. Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.

## EATING LUNCH AT SCHOOL



Students who live close enough to school to go home for lunch are encouraged to do so. If not, students are welcome to remain at school during the lunch hour. We ask that all students remaining at the school for lunch:

1. Eat lunch in their designated area
2. Behave in a mannerly fashion
3. Clean up after themselves
4. Remain on school grounds for the duration of the lunch hour

Students who are unable to follow school expectations during the lunch period may be asked to go home for their lunch.

If your child brings a lunch to school, we will assume it is your intention they remain at school for lunch. ***A final reminder: due to safety students are not permitted to leave school grounds and cross the highway to the Petro Canada during school hours unless accompanied by a parent/guardian or supervisor.***

## 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 Respectful!** Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.

- Treating people with courtesy (good manners)
- Using appropriate language (including not calling people names)

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

November 16-20 is also National Anti-Bully week. We have a great resource on our website to define the difference between mean behaviour and bullying. We sometimes get the two behaviours confused and how we deal with them can be different. If you have some time, review the resources for bullying on our website in the code of conduct folder.

If you could review 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.