



Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that we are already moving closer to Halloween! I would like to thank parents for the relatively smooth start up to our school year. I would also like to thank our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for their enthusiasm and support as we settle into our 2015-2016 year. I also want to comment how impressed I have been with the level of responsibility, respect and leadership students have been demonstrating during our gatherings such as assemblies! For example, the fire department joined our last Fire Drill for an inspection. We passed the inspection with flying colours. The attending fire men said that it was one of the most impressive fire drills they have ever seen. They were most impressed with the level of safe behaviour displayed by our students. Keep up the good work! 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.

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, Nov 2 @ 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:

Blazers Night: **Nov 21, 2015**

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

School T-shirt orders and jerseys are now available at the school – students should be bringing order forms home. Also, lunch forms should be going home soon for our lunch program!

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 community audience members as well as increased support and participation for students. Because it will be during the school day, the concert will be inclusive of all of our children.

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

X-COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

Congratulations to all members of the Dufferin Cross Country Run Team on a fun and successful season. Runners came out to practice and ready to participate regularly. The team showed how well Dufferin ROCKS by showing excellent behaviour and support for each other at our 5 Wednesday races across the city. We are proud of our excellent athletes! - Ms Dalsin, Coach

SUBSTITUTE SUPERVISORS REQUIRED

We are looking for people who might be able to fill in as a supervisor when our regular parent volunteer supervisors are not available. If you are interested, please leave your name and number at the school. You will have to fill out a criminal record check free of charge.

Morning	7:40am to 8:30am
Lunch	12:00pm to 1:00pm

An honorarium is provided for anyone interested in helping out.

If you are able to supervise on any of these times or days on a regular / weekly basis, please contact the office at 250-374-4425!

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. Also, 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 the Dufferin PAC and Chapters 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 library.

STUDENT 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!

LIBRARY NEWS

There are a few Library activities you should be aware of.

Pumpkin carving display: October 30

Fall Book Fair: November 12 to 13

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.

Please try not to wear them when you are in the school for any length of time.

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

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 our 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.

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.

Oct 21-22	Early Closure / Interviews
Oct 23	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Oct 26	Young People's Concert
Oct 26	D.E.A.R.
Oct 30	Pumpkin Carving Display (Library)
Nov 1	Daylight Saving (Back 1hr)
Nov 4	Picture Retakes

Nov 10 Remembrance Day Assembly
 Nov 11 Holiday (Remembrance Day)
 Nov 12-13 Fall Book Fair
 Nov 21 Blazer's Night
 Nov 26 Dufferin Night at Chapters

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 Suwewtwecw
 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

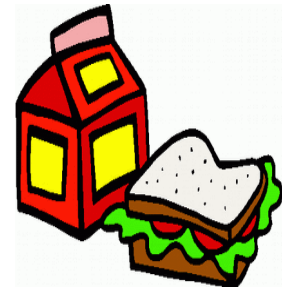
For the safety of our students and to avoid

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 that for 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.

ONE-TO-ONE READING VOLUNTEERS

Parents, grandparents, friends, university students – we need your help!

We are still looking for volunteers and alternates to assist us with our One-to-one Reading program.

It is Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday starting from mid October until mid January.

If you are interested in volunteering for the One-to-One Reading program or want more information about the program, please contact the office at 250-374-4425.

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!**

- Respecting peoples space
- Hands and feet to self
- Playing in a safe manner on the playground
- Making safe choices

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 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.