

Dufferin Elementary

Volume 3

October 5, 2015

Dear Parents:

October is here and fall is coming. Thanksgiving and changing leaves seem to be the theme! We are beginning to settle into more regular routines at school. It is important to also reinforce routines at home like regular quiet time and homework routines. Even if there is not homework from school, teaching children the habit of predictable and routine 'homework' time where they can quietly read or engage in educational games is important. Finally, sleep! It is recommended that children from the ages of 6-12 get 10 to 11 hours of sleep per day, otherwise it impairs their abilities to function and regulate themselves during the day. Monday's seem to be particularly challenging for students as they often have a difficult time transitioning from a different weekend routine and then need to change back and adjust to the regular school routine the next day. This is hard for many adults! So the better we can slip back into a Sunday night routine the better they will be able to cope on the Monday back to school.

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 (8:30am).

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, October 5 @ 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:

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!

X-COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

The Dufferin Cross Country Running Team training is well underway! We are winding up our season. We would like to thank all the students,

parents and Ms. Dalsin for a successful and awesome season!

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.

GO GREEN WITH CRAYOLA!

This year Dufferin is going to try and take part in a green initiative program sponsored by Crayola. Kamloops is one of the few cities being offered this program.

Bring in any old markers (it can be any name brand) highlighters and dry erase markers, drop them in the labeled box at the front entrance and the PAC will take care of sending them to Crayola! They will be then be taken to a conversion facility where they will be transformed into clean-burning fuel.

DUFFERIN NIGHT AT CHAPTERS

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!

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 7	Picture Day
Oct 12	Holiday (Thanksgiving)
Oct 13	Volleyball League Begins
Oct 21-22	Early Closure / Interviews
Oct 23	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Nov 1	Daylight Saving (Back 1hr)
Nov 4	Picture Retakes
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 11	Holiday (Remembrance Day)
Nov 26	Dufferin Night at Chapters
Nov 27	Term 1 Report Cards
Dec 7	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 16	Christmas Concert
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.

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.

VOLLEYBALL 2015

We are looking for volunteers interested in coaching or being an assistant coach volleyball this year. Mrs. Primus, Mrs. Geoghegan, and Mrs. Preymak are the helping teachers.

The season starts on **October 19, 2015**. We will need coaches and helpers for senior boys and girls (grade 6/7) and junior boys and girls (grade 4/5).

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 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.