



Dear Parents:

Welcome back to school! I am looking forward to working with everyone and having an exciting 2015-2016 year with the Dufferin community! It should be an exciting year with many opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, and academically. I would also like to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and families. I would encourage you to become involved with our school as a volunteer, PAC member or just casually as a parent. Please feel free to drop by or talk to your child's teacher any time during the year and find out how you can become involved at the 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.

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

A copy of the bell schedule can also be found on the school website (<http://dufferin.sd73.bc.ca>) under General Information and Schedules. The first week we will be going with the old bells at

recess (10:15-10:30). After the first week we will be adjusting the recess bell accordingly.

8:20am	Warning Bell
8:30am	Classes Begin (O'Canada)
10:05am	Recess Begins
10:20am	Recess Ends / Classes Begin
12:00pm	Lunch – Outside Play Time
12:30pm	Lunch – Inside Eating Time
12:45pm	Lunch – Warning Bell/Clean Up
12:53pm	Lunch Ends / Classes Begin
2:30pm	Students Dismissed
3:00pm	Detained Student Dismissal

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION!

At Dufferin Elementary we traditionally begin our first day of school with students going to their homeroom / classroom they attended in June. New students will go to the library with Mrs. Bell. Students will then come the following morning and be placed in their 2015-2016 Den Groups. These are family groups from kindergarten to grade seven. Den groups will provide students in making connections with all staff at Dufferin as well as build relationships with other students outside of their grade and class. Den groups will rotate through stations designed to provide students with an education on school expectations and practices so that they can start the year on a positive note. After the end of two days of rotations, students will then be sent from their Den Group to their regular classroom assignments for 2015-2016.

Please be aware that placement of students is not taken lightly and is a time consuming process.

Please avoid making requests for social reasons. We know

children always want to be placed with their friends, but they will have opportunities during



breaks (recess & lunch) to socialize. Also, it is our experience that students will settle into their classroom after the first few weeks of school if given the opportunity and parent encouragement.

Finally, we have reviewed all the parent requests made before the June deadline. **Any new requests made in September will probably not be considered** due to classroom dynamics, numbers and classroom support. Moving one child, especially in the new year can impact many. We encourage parents to advocate for their children with the understanding that we must make decisions not only on what is best for their child, but what is also best for **all** the children, classrooms and school. Sometimes these wants can be conflicting and we don't make those decisions lightly. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support and apologize if we were not able to accommodate your request.

SCHOOL SUPPLY FEES



Dufferin Elementary offers a user fee program for school supplies. For a nominal fee, we supply all pens, pencils, exercise books, crayons, etc. that students will require for the year. Student fees for 2014/15 include supplies, an agenda and Young Peoples' Concert fee.

Kindergarten	\$27.00 + \$15.00 YPC
Grade 1-3	\$49.00
Grade 4-7	\$64.00

The Young Peoples' Concert will be offered for the Kindergarteners for the 2015-2016 school year and the cost will be added later. Agendas are not offered to Kindergarten students so the cost of agendas are not included for them.

An envelope will be going home later this week. Please place your cheque or cash in the envelope, complete the front portion of the envelope and return it to the school secretary (do not give it to the classroom teacher). Please use one envelope per student.

If you are purchasing your own school supplies,

you will still need to pay for the Young People's Concert (YPC) and school agenda! Please note on the envelope that you are purchasing your own supplies and then include your payment for agendas and YPC. If you are not sure what the cost for agendas and YPC are, contact the school.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Verification forms will also come home with your child. Please review and update the information on the forms and return them to the school immediately. It is important that we have your most current information at the school.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The first PAC meeting for this year will be tentatively scheduled for early in September (To Be Announced). Subsequent meetings are typically held on the second or third week of the month in the evening. Child minding is available free of charge and all parents are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our projected enrollment for this year is around 280 students. The staff at Dufferin presently consist of:

Primary Teachers:

Ms. J. Carter	Mrs. C. Twamley
Mrs. N. Preymak	Mrs. P. Lovett
Mrs. M. McGeough	Mrs. L. Thomas
Mrs. B. Primus	

Intermediate Teachers:

Ms. L. Eacrett	Ms. J. Dalsin
Mrs. K. Geoghegan	Mr. K. Bamsey
Mrs. S. McGarry	

Teacher Support:

Principal	Mr. M. Bowden
Librarian	Mr. R. Rhynolds
Learning Assistance	Mrs. M. Bell
	Mrs. K. Bartanus
Math Resource Teacher	Mr. C. Levitt
Teacher Preps	Mr. J. Berezowski
	Mrs. K. Bartanus

CUPE Support:

Certified Education Assistants (CEA)

Mrs. P. Behrmann
 Mrs. S. Dickinson
 Mrs. N. Sun
 Mrs. J. Rahn
 Mrs. T. Mirtle
 Mrs. C. Cleveland
 First Nations Education Worker (FNEW)
 Ms. F. Joe
 Library Assistant
 Mrs. L. McBurnie
 Secretary
 Ms. A. Norton
 Custodians
 Mr. D. Bruno
 Mr. D. Smith

SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are looking for people to assist us with supervision of students in the morning, lunch and after school. We would like to set up a regular roster of supervisors for the following times from Monday to Friday.

Morning 7:45am to 8:30am
 Lunch 12:00pm to 1:00pm
 After School 2:30pm to 3:45pm

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.



Parents who have completed forms last year are also required to update the information on file. Please contact the school office if you require more information or to pick up the forms to be filled out.

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.

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.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Our school operates a "Safe Arrival Program." After the morning check-in, teachers report the names of students who are absent. This is checked with the "reported absences" and the parents of students who are unaccounted for are contacted.

In order for this program to operate smoothly it is imperative that parents let us know if their child is going to be absent. 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

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.

Sept 8-11	First Week & Den Groups
Sept 18	Billy Goat Run
Sept 25	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Sept 30	Terry Fox Run
Oct 1	Earth Rangers Presentation
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 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.

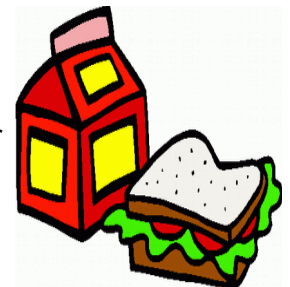
We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school and it is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. This includes quick drop off and pick ups. Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.

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.

GYM STRIP

It is expected that all intermediate students will have gym strip for PE (running shoes, T-shirt). Gym strip is mandatory and students will not be permitted to participate without proper gym strip. Participation is one of the factors teachers take into account when determining term letter grades. Parents of primary students should check with their child's teacher to determine the expectations for their child.

Physical Education is an integral part of the school Curriculum and participation is mandatory. If for any reason your child can not participate, please provide a note or a doctor's excuse.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL OCCASIONS

There are a number of events that are important to most children. Recognition of their birthday is an example. We like to acknowledge birthdays over the PA system. If you do not wish to have your child recognized in this manner, please let the office know.

Another milestone in a child's life is losing their baby teeth. When a child's tooth falls out at school we supply a container to keep their teeth safe until they get home.

ONE-TO-ONE READING VOLUNTEERS

Parents, grandparents, friends, university students – we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to assist us with our One-to-one Reading program. This is a program where adults work with one child at a time to read books together, play word games, and simply listen to the child read. Volunteers, or 'tutors' as they are called, are asked to donate 1 ½ hours of their time, one day per week to help three students who are not yet confident readers. Full training is provided. 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

Volunteers interested in coaching volleyball this year. The season starts on **October 13, 2015**. We will need coaches for senior boys and girls (grade 6/7) and junior boys and girls (grade 4/5). Also, there will be a **FREE** volleyball clinic put on by TRU on Tuesday, September 22 on the North Court. This will be helpful as there will be new rules this year for elementary volleyball concerning 'three hit' volleyball.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

In the interest of saving paper and costs that we can put back into the school and our students, future newsletters will be provided electronically on our school website!

Generally newsletters will be posted at the beginning and middle of each month. Some

paper copies of the newsletters will be available at the office if you can not access the Internet.

Our school website is:

www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca

I am looking forward to a great year!!

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 **Back to School Behaviour!**

- Respect
- Washroom & Hallways
- Outside / Playground Behaviour
- Classroom Behaviour

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.

