

# Dufferin



# Elementary

Volume 1

December 1, 2016

Dear Parents:

Time has been going by so quickly this year and our winter break is almost upon us. Christmas is by far my most favourite holiday as it gives me that much needed, non-rushed time with my children and family. With two grown children and only one left at home I am aware that time is fleeting. So please, take time this holiday season to enjoy those moments with family and friends over the holiday break.

Take care and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and New Year!

Mrs. T and the Dufferin Staff

## DECEMBER DATES

Dec 2 – Report cards home

Dec 5 – Pro D day

Dec 8 – Grade 6 Vaccinations

Dec 13 – Dress rehearsal @ 10:30

Dec 14/15 – Christmas Concert @ 1:00 pm

Dec 16 – Last day before winter break

Dec 17 – Jan 2 – Winter break

Jan 3 – First day back after the holiday

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Upcoming Events:

Poinsetta delivery – Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>

Meat fundraiser delivery – Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Concerts – Dec. 14/15<sup>th</sup> - PAC has hired a videographer to record one of the sessions and will be selling copies for those that are unable to attend the day time shows.

Free Hot Chocolate – Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - Please have your child bring a reusable cup to help save our environment.

Ongoing events include the hot lunch program, and General Grants bottle returns (account under Dufferin PAC).

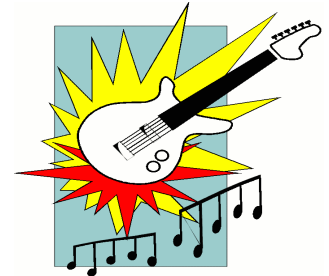
Next scheduled PAC meeting is Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

Future meetings are scheduled for: Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and Jun. 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 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 a **review of the entire matrix.**

Students will be reminded of the matrix expectations regularly and recognition awards will be given out to those students who are consistently following these expectations. Awards will be put up in the hallway at the main entrance to celebrate our students and their hard work in this area.

Students did an excellent job last month when we worked on respect and we had many poppies on our wall.

## SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM

Thank you to parents for making the shift to our automated safe arrival system! By the break, all elementary schools in our district will have been transferred to this system. In the New Year secondary schools will begin to make the transition as well. This system takes a bit of getting used to, but makes it so much easier for our office to check on students to ensure they are safe at school when they are supposed to be. If you are not using the system yet, please go to <http://ktsd.schoolconnects.com> to sign up for access to the system, or you can also call 1-844-350-2647 to report an absence/late. We appreciate your patience and cooperation with this new system!

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Our two afternoon Christmas concerts this year will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Both concerts will begin at 1:00 PM so that we can end before our regular dismissal time. We are looking forward to sharing our performances with you!

Non-perishable food bank donations gratefully accepted.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Our lost and found bin continues to overflow! If your child is missing any items, please stop by to have a look or inform your child's teacher and he/she can support your child in looking through the bin for the missing items.

## **WINTER SAFETY**

Just a reminder to parents and students that there are some safety concerns surrounding our colder winter weather. Please be sure that your son/daughter has appropriate outdoor clothing, as students are expected to go outside during the recess break and lunch play time. So far this year our weather has been quite mild as far as winters go, but we know that weather is unpredictable and often gets colder into January.

As well, bus drivers want students to know that warm clothing is important in the event the bus ever broke down or there were issues with the heating system. Also, a reminder to community members and parents that roads will soon get icy and traction will be dicey in some areas, so slow down when students are on the roads and stay well behind busses at any stops.

## **SNOW SLEDS**

As we get further into our winter season, and more snow falls, we often get students wanting to bring sleds, crazy carpets, etc. to school. Bus drivers have asked us to remind parents that these items can not be transported on the buses as they pose a safety hazard (may become projectiles). As well, they are difficult to take on and off safely without hitting or bumping other students. Thank you in advance for your support with this!

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to all of the parents who have been taking their boots/shoes off during our winter weather days. Please look for the orange cones on the mat to determine if it is necessary to remove footwear. When everyone removes wet footwear, it keeps our hallways dry and safe.

## **CHRISTMAS CHEER**

The grade 7 leadership team will be doing a coin drive from Dec. 1-16th. They have set a goal of \$250 to raise money for the Kamloops Food Bank - perishable food items for needy families this Christmas. Students are encouraged to bring coins to donate. There will be a contest to see who brings in the most coins – the boys or the girls! Thank you for your support.

## **BOARD NOTES**

### ***From the Board Meeting of: October 24, 2016***

1. The Board recognized Teacher Katie McCormack who received the Outstanding Elementary Teacher Award from the BC Association of Math Teachers.
2. The Board received an update from Danalee Baker on the progress of this year's United Way Campaign. School District No. 73 was recognized and presented the Quantum Leap Award for the outstanding contributions employees of the District made to the campaign last year.
3. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Teacher Theresa Hafeli and Student Katlyn Sangha on the Google Classroom project.
4. The Board received a report on the final results of the 1701 Echo Report received from the Ministry of Education.
5. The Board received an updated report on Class Size and Composition.
6. The Board received an update on the District's School Enhancement Program submission and the funding that will be received from the Ministry of Education for the flooring project at Brocklehurst Middle School.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on

Monday, November 7, 2016 at Chase Secondary School, 420 Cottonwood Street, Chase, BC.

### ***From the Board Meeting of: November 7, 2016***

1. Principal Grigg, Aboriginal Education Worker Shane Camille, and students of Haldane Elementary School provided the Board with an Aboriginal Education presentation that included a welcome song with dancing and drumming. Packages of sage were also provided to the Board, district administration, and members of the public who were present.

2. The Board enjoyed a presentation on Problem Based Learning from Teacher Telisa Johnston and students from Chase Secondary School.

3. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with a report on the activities of the Superintendent's Council for the month of October.

4. *Notice of Motion* was provided on Policy 306.3 Assessment: School Completion (Evergreen) Certificate.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, November 21, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.

### ***From the Board Meeting of: November 21, 2016***

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:

- a. Finance and Planning Committee Report;
- b. Policy Committee Report;
- c. Notice of Motion – Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct;
- d. Notice of Motion – Policy 612.1 Student Dress Code.

2. The Board enjoyed '*Presentations of Learning in Elementary Math Classrooms*' by District Numeracy Coordinator Amanda Russett, Teacher Lisa Carr, and two grade 3 students from David Thompson Elementary School.

3. The Board received an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination presentation from Graham Specht, Diversity Outreach Coordinator for Kamloops Immigrant Services. The Board signed an Anti-Racism/Anti-Discrimination Declaration to show support for programs and initiatives promoting diversity and inclusivity in our communities.

4. The Board approved the District's 2016-2017 Interim School Learning Plan process and the school staff development focus areas for all schools.

5. The Board received and reviewed a report on the 2016-2017 graduation ceremony schedule.

6. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the 2015-2016 CommunityLINK Funding and Information Report;

7. Superintendent Sidow provided the Board with the Enrolment Comparison Report for their information.

8. The Board received an update from Secretary-Treasurer Stretch on Ministry of Education Rural Education Strategies.

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday December 12, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.