



Dear Parents:

It's hard to believe that we are half way through our year already! Every year I get older, time seems to spin a little quicker and it gets harder to slow down and appreciate the small moments. Two of my children are grown and gone and the youngest is already in high school, so I guess the message in all of this is we all need to take a moment to appreciate our children through these learning and growing years.

At times the process of learning seems slower than we wish and has its challenges, but all too soon, the years are gone and our children are ready to face the world on their own. As a parent, I would like to send a big thank you to all of those teachers who have come and gone through my children's lives and helped shape the good life long learners that they have become. As an educator, I would also like to thank parents for all the support you offer our school and the wonderful students you send us to work with each day!

Now... fingers crossed for warmer weather and spring, as the winter "blahs" seems to have me waxing philosophical☺.

Mrs. T

FEBRUARY/MARCH DATES

Feb 6 – 10 – Candy Grams on sale
Feb 13 – BC Family Day holiday – no school
Feb 14 – Valentine's Day/ "Red Day"
Feb 14-17 Kindergarten Registration
Feb 21-13 – Toonie for Heart & Stroke
Feb 22 – Pink Shirt/Anti Bully Day
Feb 24 – Pro D Day – no school for students
Feb 28 – Free STRONG fit class @12:00 PM in the gym
Mar 17 – Report Cards home/ Cupcake Day (PAC)
Mar 18 – Apr 2 – Spring Break
Apr 3 – First Day back after Spring Break

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Upcoming Events:

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

Our PAC has also been busy planning many fun events and working hard towards our goal of getting a new playground. An exciting raffle with AMAZING prizes is in the works and ideas for end of the year fun activities are already being organized.

Due to the generosity of Sweet Spot Cupcakes, PAC will be giving out St. Patrick's Day cupcakes on Mar. 17th, right before we head off to Spring Break.

Next scheduled PAC meeting is March. 6, 2017. Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

Future meetings are scheduled for: Apr. 3rd, May 1st and Jun. 5th.

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 **Caring and Kind**.

This is something that we work on daily, but will be especially focused on this month. 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.

LEADERSHIP GROUP

Our Grade 7 leadership team under the direction of Mrs. Lovett has a lot going on this month. They have chosen to support the HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION, so this month is Heart Smart month!

*They are selling candy grams this week only for 50 cents each - they will be delivered on Feb. 14.

*Skipping is being offered in the gym every day at recess for the entire month for all interested students.

*Feb. 21-23, they are encouraging each student to donate a toonie for HEART AND STROKE, hoping to meet their goal of raising \$700.

*On Feb. 28, they will wrap up the month with a den group activity in each class and a special exercise class in the gym, free for parents, students and staff, led by Sabrina Sinclair from FIT BY DESIGN!! The exercise class will begin at 12:05, hope you can join us!

*Feb. 14 is school spirit day - the children are encouraged to wear RED that day.

Healthy heart facts will be on the announcements daily throughout the month! Thank you for supporting our leadership team! It should be an energetic, fun month!

INTERMEDIATE SKI TRIP

Students in grades 4-7 went on a ski trip to Sun Peaks Feb. 2 and 3 (Thurs./Fri.). Students, teachers and parent supervisors all report having a wonderful time! Thanks to all of the parent helpers and staff for making this another successful ski trip year. A big thank you to Ms. Eacrett for once again organizing this adventure for us!

PRO D DAY

Friday, Feb. 24th is a non-instructional day. Teachers will be in professional learning workshops while students have the day off.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Dufferin's Kindergarten registration for the 2017-2018 year will take place next week from Feb. 14 – 17th. Children must be turning 5 before Dec. 31st, 2017 to attend. Parents will be asked to provide a birth certificate, Care card number and proof of residential address. Registration hours are from 9 am – noon and 1 pm – 3 pm.

PINK SHIRT DAY

Every day we focus on our behaviour matrix and positive interactions between students. However, Feb. 22, is a day where we specifically focus on anti – bully initiatives in honour of the movement started in Nova Scotia by several high school boys who wanted to support a fellow teen who was being bullied. On this day, our classes will continue to focus on our caring/kindness PBIS month, but will also discuss anti - bully awareness, strategies and supports.

REPORT CARDS/ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Our second term report cards will be going out Mar. 17th, which is our last day before Spring Break and also happens to be St. Patrick's Day. To celebrate these two events, PAC will be handing out free cupcakes kindly donated by Sweet Spot Cupcakes. Students with specific food allergies will be provided an alternative.

COMMUNITY NEWS

School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson) and the Ministry of Education are hosting a community meeting on Thursday, February 9th, 2017, to share ideas on rural education in B.C. Interested parents and community members are invited to attend and express their thoughts on rural education and the importance of rural schools. This Open House is part of a public engagement process to help develop a provincial rural education strategy by the summer of 2017. Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Education Linda Larson and Ministry of Education staff invite everyone to attend this event at: Thompson Rivers University – Terrace Room, Campus Activity Centre, 900 McGill Road, Kamloops BC from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2017 You are also invited to respond to the Ministry's draft discussion paper on rural education engagement, at

<http://engage.gov.bc/ruraleducation>.

All feedback received will help government shape a final report on an integrated rural education strategy. The strategy aims to find long-term solutions for the unique challenges facing rural school districts and communities, including looking at the important social, cultural, and economic roles that schools play in small communities.

BOARD NOTES

From the Board Meeting of: January 16, 2017

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - Adoption of the Mid-Term Inaugural Meeting minutes of December 12, 2016
 - Rural Education Engagement Response
 - BCSSA Thompson-Okanagan Chapter Forum
 - Aboriginal Enrolment Comparison
 - 2017 Committee Appointments
 - Chair's Report
2. The Board received an engaging presentation from District Library Coordinator Andrea Wallin on the Digital Literacy Innovation Project.
3. The Board was pleased to present the OWL Award for Excellence in Public Education to this year's recipient, Mr. Chris Rose. The award was established by School District No. 73 to recognize an individual, group, or organization that has distinguished themselves by providing outstanding service to public education in the Kamloops/Thompson School District.
4. The Board enjoyed a presentation from District Literacy Coordinator Fiona Clare on upcoming events sponsored by Literacy in Kamloops (Link), Interior Savings, and

other partner groups. Family Literacy Week runs from January 21-28, 2017 which includes a variety of free Unplug and Play Week Activities.

5. The Board received a presentation from District Early Years Coordinator, Marianne Vande Pol, and Manager Sue Lissel from Make Children First, on the 2016 Early Development Instrument (EDI) results.
6. The Board received a report from Director Smillie on the 2016 Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) results.
7. The Board approved two Out-of-Province Field Trip Requests from Brock Middle School and Norkam Senior Secondary School for students in their Core French Program and IB French Program to travel to Papineauville, Quebec in April 2017.
8. The Board defeated the Motion to develop a three-year school calendar beginning in 2017-2018 that incorporates a two-week Spring Break. After a lengthy debate, the Board approved a Motion to ask administration to develop a calendar which reflects a one-week Spring Break.
9. Secretary-Treasurer Stretch provided the Board with a report that provided summary Capital Spending Information by school district.
10. The Board approved Capital Bylaw Projects No. 116953 and No. 127208.
11. The Board approved a 5:30 PM start time for all future In-Camera Meetings.

The next Regular Public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, February 6, 2017 at NorKam Senior Secondary School, 730 – 12th Street, Kamloops, BC.

From the Board Meeting of: February 6, 2017

1. The Board approved the Consent Agenda which contained the following reports/information:
 - Finance and Planning Committee Highlights

- Policy Committee Highlights
 - Education Committee of the Whole Highlights
 - District Parent Advisory Committee Highlights
 - FSA Results 2016 Update
 - Rural Education Engagement - Regional Community Meeting
 - Notices of Motion:
 - *Policy 301.1 Ordinarily Resident
 - *Policy 543.1 Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings (New)
 - *Policy 903.1 Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment and Discrimination - Universal
 - *Policy 903.2 Bullying, Intimidation, Harassment and Discrimination - Employee Specific
2. The Board received a presentation from Principal Carol DeFehr, Teacher Kim Edstrom, and a grade 7 student from Westmount Elementary on the Seven Principles of Learning.
 3. The Board received a presentation from Kamloops-Thompson Teachers' Association's President, David Komljenovic, regarding the two-week Spring Break.
 4. Associate Superintendent Olsen provided the Board with copies of the proposed school calendars for 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 which reflects a one-week Spring Break. The Board approved the posting of the school calendars on the School District's website for a period of one (1) month for public consultation, starting February 10th or sooner. During this period, feedback will be collected from parents and the community through a link provided on the website.

The next Regular Public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, February 27, 2017 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.