



Dear Parents:

Despite the fact that we are rapidly approaching Spring Break, winter appears to be maintaining its tight hold on us all. I am looking forward to warmer weather and lots of outdoor learning time at Dufferin, so I have my fingers crossed for nice weather after we are back from Spring Break. The staff and I want to wish you all a wonderful Spring Break and hope that you all have some time to rest and renew as a family!

Mrs. T

MARCH/APRIL DATES

Mar 17 – Report Cards home/ Cupcake Day (PAC)

Mar 18 – Apr 2 – Spring Break

Apr 3 – First Day back after Spring Break

Apr 7 – Day of Sucwentwecw Assembly @ 9 am

Apr 10 – Instructional Rounds visitors

Apr 11 – Young People's Concert

Apr 13 – Lock Down Drill

Apr 14 – 17 – Easter Holiday

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 April 3, 2017.

Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

Future meetings are scheduled for: 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 **Organized**.

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.

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.

FLAG FOOTBALL/TRACK AND FIELD

After Spring Break we will be moving into our Track and Field season, followed by Flag Football. At this time we are looking for parent helpers for some track activities and a parent coach for our flag football. Please let the school know if you are interested in either of these activities.

PARKING

This is my regular reminder to parents that parking in our bus loop is strictly against the rules. There are many spots to stop along the road and by the far parking lot if you are dropping off. If we see you parked in the bus loop, you will respectfully be asked to move as we have several buses in the morning and afternoon, as well as buses scheduled through the day on many occasions for field trip pick ups. As well, please be aware that our drop off zones are idle free zones (if you are parking) – car exhaust is environmentally harmful, especially for our childrens' lungs.

We are also asking that vehicles NOT park in our handicapped parking spot near the entrance without an appropriate permit. This is actually a parking violation, as well as being against our school policy. Please remember that there are many members of our community that legitimately require that space for accessibility purposes. Thank you in advance for your attention to these issues.

K ORIENTATION

Our kindergarten orientation for new K students will take place May 2nd from 8:45 – 9:45. Kindergarten students for the 2017/18 year and their parents will be introduced to our Kindergarten teachers and school personnel that may be working with your child, as well, children will have the opportunity to play and experience some time in the Kindergarten room. More detailed information will be sent home soon to those families who have registered.

BIKE RODEO

A student group from TRU is looking to host a bike rodeo at our school again, sometime after spring break. More information will follow as a day/time/targeted grade is decided. As per last year, we will use our 4 square area if the weather is good and our gym if we need a dry place. Students/families will be expected to bring and pick up bikes and ensure each student has an appropriate helmet.

INSTRUCTIONAL ROUNDS

In early April, Dufferin will be involved in something called Instructional Rounds. This is a process where we, as a school look at ways to help improve our students' overall learning capabilities and social/emotional growth. In general, our school performs very well academically, but our ultimate goal is to help students grow and be successful in all areas of life. Often we see that our students lack a bit of resilience when it comes to persisting with a task, trying different strategies when stuck and being independent in their developing social/organizational skills.

To that end, we will be having teams of educators visit some of our classrooms to help us see areas where we can support our students and to suggest ways in which we can help foster their resilience. You can help at home also, by fostering independence; guiding with a task, but not doing it; giving age appropriate chores or suggesting strategies if your children are stuck on an assignment.

We are looking forward to this process and hope to see lots of suggestions and strategies come out of it. As a parent, we are also hoping you can help by taking a minute to do the survey below. Your thoughts on your child's education and development can help us tremendously when setting our goals for the future. :)

<https://goo.gl/forms/6MX4S60FSzVCWxJj2>



BOARD NOTES

From the Public Board Meeting of: February 27, 2017

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

- a. Ministry of Education Rural Education Engagement
- b. Projected Enrolment Update
- c. Student Learning Grant
- d. Lieutenant Governor of BC Visit
- e. Notice of Motion - Policy 200.1 Board Meetings

2. The Board enjoyed a presentation on the Leadership Development Program (LDP). Several first-year LDP candidates were introduced to the Board. TRU Professor Tory Handford provided an overview of the educational portion of the program while Principal Walt Kirschner and LDP candidate Domenic Comita from South Kamloops Secondary School shared their own experiences with the program.

3. Superintendent Sidow provided a response to the Kamloops Thompson Teachers' Association's presentation made at the Public Board Meeting on February 6, 2017.

4. The Board approved the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for 2016-2017.

5. The Board adopted the use of the Consent Agenda as part of their order of business in the Regular Public School Board Meeting Agenda.

6. The Board adopted the following policies:

- a. Revised Policy 301.1 Ordinarily Resident;
- b. New Policy 543.1 Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings;
- c. Revised Policy 903.1 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Intimidation, Harassment, and Discrimination – Universal;
- d. Revised Policy 903.2 Bullying, Cyberbullying, Intimidation, Harassment, and Discrimination - Employee Specific.

The next Regular Public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, March 13, 2017 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.