



Dear Parents:

I was reminded recently of some basic truths about children and as an educator and parent these truths hit home. Truth #1: Children are our future. I know this is a much used phrase, but really, it is true. The children we are educating and raising right now will continue our legacies and help to shape our world long after we are gone. Truth #2: Children are born geniuses. Research shows that genius traits are much sought after by today's companies in our ever changing 21<sup>st</sup> century world and children possess many of these traits from birth. The ability to question, imagine, and solve problems in unique ways comes naturally to children and we must foster these traits as they grow and learn so that their genius traits remain strong. Truth #3: It takes a village to raise a child. Again, one of those phrases that we hear a lot about, but so applicable in our small city. Working together as parents, community members and educators we can ensure that our children grow up able to show the world their genius in whatever form this takes!

I love what I do and value the children I work with everyday, and I think it is crucial for all of us to be reminded that we have an important job to do! Thank you families for being a part of it and sending us your geniuses every day!

Mrs. T

## NOVEMBER DATES

Nov 4 – Lock Down Drill @1:15  
Nov 7 – PAC Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 – Dufferin staff room  
Nov 9 – Grade 6 vaccinations  
Nov 10 – Remembrance Day Assembly @ 10:30  
Nov 11 – Remembrance Day holiday (no school)  
Nov 18 – PAC Movie Night

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our school PAC has many upcoming activities/ events for our school community. On Friday, Nov. 11 @ 5 pm, our Dufferin school community can

participate in Kamloops Blazer's Elementary School Night. Attending a Blazer's game on this night is good family fun, but if the game is a sell out, the school communities attending also get some money. Order forms and payments for tickets are due by Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Friday, Nov. 18, PAC is hosting a Movie Night! They will be showing the movie, "Secret Life of Pets". Doors open at 6 pm and movie starts at 6:30 pm.

There is also an ongoing fundraiser with General Grants Bottle Drive. Empties can be taken any time and the money donated to the Dufferin PAC account. Bottle Depot is located at 963 Camosun Crescent.

Next scheduled PAC meetings are Monday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00 pm and Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Babysitting can be provided if requested in advance. Everyone is welcome!

## 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 **Respectful Behaviour Everywhere**.

Students will be reminded of the respectful play 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 safety and we had many leaves on our "Safety Tree".

## **SAFE ARRIVAL SYSTEM**

By now most of you will have received an email with a link to sign up for the school district's new safe arrival system. This system makes it easier and more efficient for us to check on students and ensure they are home safe on days when they haven't arrived to school. By calling in to the 1-800 number or using the secure web site to report student absences, we can be efficient in our safety protocols. We appreciate that it takes time to become familiar with any new system so it is fine over the next couple of weeks to call or email Ms. Norton with absences, but we will be fazing this option out as we all adjust. :)

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY**

Our school's annual Remembrance Day assembly will take place Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. As in the past, students will be decorating classroom wreaths to lay and listening to stories, poems and songs of remembrance. Parents are welcome to attend! The following day, Friday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> is the Remembrance Day holiday.

## **LOCK DOWN DRILL**

Our school will be practicing a lock down drill on Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:15. The school district requires us to practice various drills (fire drills, earthquake, lock downs) in the interest of student safety. All classes will discuss the drill with students prior, so that students understand the importance and know that it is just a drill.

## **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!

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Our lost and found bin is overflowing these days! 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.

## **BOOTS**

It is getting to be the time of year when our outside weather is wet and soon, snowy. We expect that students will bring footwear appropriate to the weather and will change out of these "outside shoes" when they enter our building. There will be orange cones at the end of our mats when entering that will remind the students it is "change your footwear" time. I am expecting that as adults, we set the example and remove our own shoes as well when entering from outside. I know that this always feels inconvenient, but it is just respectful so that there isn't water and mud down our hallways, especially when students are walking in their socks and carrying their footwear. Our morning custodian is not here much after the first bell and our afternoon custodian doesn't begin his shift until 3:00, so mopping, to ensure there isn't a slipping hazard, falls on staff. We appreciate your support in communicating this to your child(ren) and setting the example yourself!

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Kamloops Minor Fastball (KMFA) is looking for girls and boys ages 5+ years old to come out and join fastball this season. Indoor runs January-March in local gyms. Register on-line at <http://www.kamloopsminorfastball.com> now through **January 8, 2017**. The outdoor season starts in April and runs through the end of June! Come out and play ball! It's so much fun. For more information contact Nicole Trouton at **250-372-1036** or [scheduler@kamloopsminorfastball.com](mailto:scheduler@kamloopsminorfastball.com).

## ***From the Board Meeting of: October 3, 2016***

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal McKenna and Vice Principal Whitney of Vavenby Elementary: "Why Salmon Make a Good Inquiry-Based Learning Project."
2. The Board received information regarding Ministry funding grant opportunities in the areas of Computational Thinking and Coding Support, Skills Training and Access Grants, and Skills Training Support Agreements.

3. The Board received a report on the District's School Immunization Program.
4. The Board received information regarding a new District Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) District Coordinator position.
5. The Board received a report on the Youth Homelessness Count surveys to be administered in our District.
6. The Board received information regarding the District's preliminary 1701 Enrolment Report.
7. The Board approved the Rotary Club of Kamloops' request to continue with the Family Dinner Program at NorKam Senior Secondary School for the 2016-2017 school year.
8. The Board recognized the School District's receipt of the United Way Quantum Leap Award in recognition of the District doubling its fundraising contributions in 2016.
9. The Board adopted the following revised policies:
  - Policy 200.1 Board Meetings
  - Policy 203.1 Trustee Remuneration
  - Policy 506.5 Graduated Adults: Course Fees
  - Policy 912.1 Principals and Vice-Principals: Mobility
  - Policy 912.2 Principals and Vice-Principals: Process for Appointment
  - Policy 1136.1 Travel: Expenses and Insurance

The next regular Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 24, 2016 at the School Board Office, 1383 Ninth Avenue, Kamloops, BC.