



Dear Parents:

Welcome back to a new school year! I am excited to be here at Dufferin and am feeling very welcomed by students, staff and parents. What a lovely community Dufferin is! Although the summer seems to go by more and more quickly every year, I am happy to be back to work, doing what I love! I would 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.

8:20am	Warning Bell
8:30am	Classes Begin
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
12:49pm	Lunch Ends / Classes Begin
2:30pm	Students Dismissed

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION!

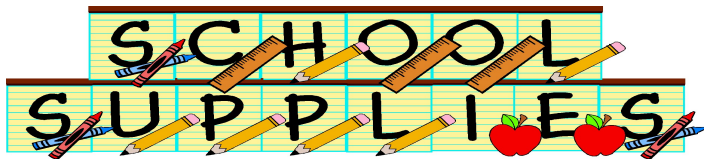
Regular classes are up and running! Students and teachers alike are getting to know each other and planning out the school year. We appreciate your patience during this past week, as class placement is a time consuming process.

The staff here at Dufferin takes this very seriously and put in many hours of extra time to help ensure classrooms were balanced, equitable and met the ministry class size requirements.



We know there were many emails sent with parent input and these were considered, where possible. **Any new requests made in September will probably not be considered** due to classroom dynamics, numbers and classroom support that has been put in place. 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 we 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 2016/17 include supplies, an agenda and Young Peoples' Concert fee.

Kindergarten	\$44.00 (supplies/YPC)
Grade 1-3	\$51.00 (supplies/YPC/agenda)
Grade 4-7	\$66.00 (supplies/YPC/agenda)

Agendas are not offered to Kindergarten students so the cost of agendas are not included for them.

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 have already 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.

We would especially appreciate it if you would double check your email address or add one that the school can use when sending out important information outside of newsletter times.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The first PAC meeting for this year will be September 12th from 6-8:30 in the Dufferin staff room. Fall meetings will be Oct. 3rd, Nov. 7th and Dec. 5th.

PAC's first event is coming up shortly! We would

like to invite all parents/students out to a BBQ at the school Sept. 20th from 5-7 pm. Burgers, hot dogs, etc. will be available along with drinks. Pre-order forms will be coming home through the school. Hope to see you all there!

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our projected enrollment for this year is around 245 students. The staff at Dufferin presently consist of:

Mrs. J. Carter/ Mrs. J. Ellis – Kindergarten
Mrs. L. Thomas – K/1
Mrs. C. Twamley/ Mrs. M. McGeough – 1/ 2
Mrs. P. Lovett – 2/3
Mrs. N. Preymak – 2/3
Ms. L. Eacrett – 4/5
Ms. J. Dalsin – 4/5
Mrs. K. Geoghegan – 5/6
Mrs. S. McGarry – 6/7
Mr. K. Bamsey – 6/7
Mrs. C. Topolovec - Principal
Mr. R. Rhynolds - Librarian
Mrs. M. Bell - Learning Assistance
Mrs. A. Tanner – Learning Assistance/Prep
TBA - Self Regulation/Project Based Learning
Mr. J. Berezowski - Teacher Preps

Certified Education Assistants (CEA):

Mrs. E. Zerr
Mrs. N. Sun
Mrs. J. Rahn
Mrs. T. Mirtle
Mrs. C. Cleveland
Ms. J. Bains
First Nations Education Worker - Mrs. H. Farkas
Library Assistant – Mrs. L. Mcburnie
Secretary - Ms. A. Norton
Custodians - Ms. C. Fuller
Mr. D. Basran

SUPERVISORS REQUIRED

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

Lunch 12:00pm to 1:00pm

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 aware. 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. The school phone number is: 250-374-4425 or email Ms. Norton at anorton@sd73.bc.ca

2016/2017 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 16	Billy Goat Run
Sept 23	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Sept 27	Picture Day
Sept 29	Terry Fox Run
Oct 5-6	Early Dismissal/ Parent Teacher Interviews 1-6
Oct 10	Holiday (Thanksgiving)
Oct 12	Earth Rangers Presentation
Oct 21	NI Day* (No School for Students)
Oct 28	PAC Halloween Dance
Nov 1	Picture Retakes
Nov 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 11	Holiday (Remembrance Day)
Nov 18	PAC Movie Night
Dec 2	Term 1 Report Cards
Dec 5	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 14-15	Afternoon Christmas Concerts
Dec 16	Last day before Winter Holiday

December 17 – January 2 WINTER HOLIDAY

Jan 3	School Reopens
Jan 20	Curriculum Day (no school students)
Feb 6	Early Dismissal / Parent Teacher Interviews 1-6
Feb 13	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 17	Family Dance (PAC)
Feb 24	NI Day* (No school for students)
Mar 17	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 17	Term 2 Report Cards
	Last day before Spring Break

March 18 – April 2 SPRING BREAK

Apr 3	School Reopens
Apr 7	Day of Suwewtwew
Apr 14-17	Easter Holiday
Apr 24	NI Day* (No School for Students)
May 8	Early Dismissal/ Parent Teacher Interviews 1-6
May 15	NI Day* (No School for Students)
May 22	Holiday (Victoria Day)
Jun 21	Aboriginal Day
Jun 28	Recognition Ceremony
Jun 29	Last Day of School (½ Day) Term 3 Report Cards Year End Assembly

***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.

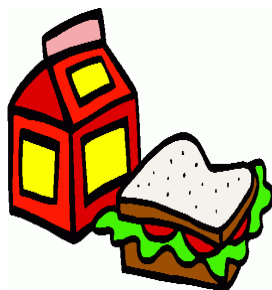


We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school and it is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. This includes quick drop off and pick ups. Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.

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



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). 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 again this year. 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.

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 and will be sent as an email attachment to those parents that provide an email for the school.

Generally newsletters will be posted at the beginning 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

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 will be coming home in a paper version and can also be found online.

