

DUFFERIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 2012/13 Issue 3
September 13, 2011

Dear Parents:

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our student enrollment is currently 331, which is within the range for which we were staffed last June.

Our present teaching assignments are:

Mrs. Carter	- kindergarten
Mrs. Twamley/Mrs. Schmidt	- grade 1
Mrs. Hammerton	- grade 1
Mrs. Stonehouse/Ms. Leflufy	- grade 2
Mrs. Preymak	- grade 2 & 3
Mrs. Kwan	- grade 3
Mrs. Lovett	- grade 3 & 4
Ms. Eacrett	- grade 4
Ms. Dalsin	- grade 4 & 5
Mrs. Ritcey	- grade 5 & 6
Mrs. Geoghegan	- grade 6
Mrs. Bubela	- grade 6 & 7
Mr. McGarry	- grade 7

NEW STAFF

We would like to introduce several new staff members to Dufferin Elementary and are indeed privileged to have them working as part of our school team.

- Ms. Angela Kelly joins us from David Thompson Elementary. She is teaching in Prep coverage for a number of primary teachers
- Mrs. Bell - our new learning assistance teacher, replacing Mr. Law
- Mrs. Schmidt - teaching in Ms. Twamley's classroom on Fridays
- Ms. Leflufy - teaching in Ms. Stonehouse's classroom on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Mrs. Jen Bubela - teaching grade 6/7 in place of Ms. Routledge who retired in June
- Mr. Michel - our new First Nations Support Worker



- Mr. Djelmo - returning to us as a school support worker.
- Mrs. Sue Macdonald - school support worker

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The first PAC meeting for this year will be held on Monday, Sept. 17 at 7:00pm.

All parents are welcome to attend.

Child minding is available free of charge. Please contact Sue Macdonald at 250-372-5508 so she is aware of your child care needs



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 2012/13 include school supplies, an agenda and Young Peoples' Concert fee.

Kindergarten	\$ 26.00
Grade 1-3	\$ 47.00
Grades 4-7	\$ 62.00

The YPC series and agendas are not offered to kindergarten students. Payment may be made at the school office. Please do not give it to the classroom teacher.

TOONIE FOR TERRY

On Friday, Sept. 14, Dufferin Elementary will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run. The run begins with an outdoor assembly to talk about Terry Fox, and his battle with cancer. Then students then warm up

before setting off on their run course. In conjunction with the run we encouraged students to bring in a "toonie" for Terry as we help raise funds for cancer research. Donations may be dropped off at the office until Sept. 29

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Our school will be closed on MONDAY, SEPT. 24 for professional development. Schools are permitted to use six days during the school year for professional development and these are made possible by extending the school year for teachers. Students still attend the required 195 school days. All of the schools in the Kamloops school district will be closed on this date. Our staff will be participating in a district wide inservice.

YOUNG PEOPLES' CONCERTS

Once again students in grades 1 – 7 will have the opportunity to participate in the YOUNG PEOPLES CONCERT SERIES.

This program is an optional program offered to all intermediate students in the district. Young Peoples' Concerts

compliments our school fine arts program and we would strongly encourage all students to participate. The cost for the four concerts is \$15.00 (includes busing to/from the Sagebrush Theatre) and was included in our school fees this year. More information about the specific performances will be coming out soon.



ONE TO ONE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parents, Grandparents, Friends, University Students – we need your help ! Volunteers are at the heart of the One to One Reading Program at Dufferin. 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. The volunteers, or 'tutors' as they are called, are asked to donate 1 and ½ hours of their time, one day a week to help three students who are not yet confident readers. Our first One to One session will run for about 10 weeks starting in mid October. A three hour

training session is provided so that tutors know what to expect.

Training dates: Tuesday, September 27, 9:00am-noon
OR Tuesday, October 4, 6:00pm-9:00pm @ Henry Grube Education Centre

Refresher/Word games training, Monday, October 3, 6.30pm-8.00pm @ the Grube

If you are interested in volunteering for the One to One Program please contact Bonnie Halbert at g.halbert@shaw.ca or leave a message at the school.

PLAYFIGHTING

As part of our effort to reduce the number of incidents of "rough play" on the playground at recess and lunch, parents are advised of our school NO PLAYFIGHTING POLICY. While many people associate "playfighting" with harmless wrestling or "boys-will-be-boys-play",

at school it often has unpleasant spin-offs. Sometimes "combatants" engage in increasingly aggressive or rougher action resulting in one of them getting the worst



of the situation or is injured accidentally. When a third party joins in, perhaps not knowing that it is a game, it can turn into "ganging up" or "bullying". Often the situation escalates evoking stronger feeling, which often carry over into the classroom and disturb the learning environment.

Parents of students who engage in "playfighting" after several warnings, will be contacted and warned that should the playfighting continue, their child may lose his/her noon hour privilege of remaining at school for the noon hour. It is our goal to help each of the students at Dufferin Elem. to grow up to be considerate and respectful adults. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Abley at the school.

STUDENT SAFETY

Your child's safety is a concern not only to you but also to the staff of Dufferin Elementary. To assist in achieving this goal we would like to offer the following suggestions:

1. "Street Proof" your child by discussing the possible danger in talking to strangers and

what to do in the event that they are approached by a stranger. The school front door is open in the morning around 8:00 am and provides a safe haven for children in need.

We encourage students not to arrive at school too early in the morning. Before 8:22am teachers are busy preparing materials for the day's lessons and generally are not available to supervise students in the classroom. The outside doors open at 8:22 am in preparation for opening exercises at 8:30 am. Please discuss with your child how long it takes them to walk to school from your home so that they can time their arrival at the appropriate time.

2. Make certain that your child knows where he/she is to go after school. We expect students to report home before going out to play at someone's home unless they have specific instructions to the contrary. We do not allow students to use the school phone to phone home to see "if they can go to play at Susie's house." We believe that students should report home before going to a friend's home to play etc. If your child is to be picked up by certain people, please inform your child's teacher.

DUFFERIN'S BILLY GOAT RUN



On Friday, Sept. 21, at 1:15pm our school will be hosting the 24th^d annual Dufferin Elementary Billy Goat Run. All schools in the district have been invited to join us.

The course for grade 3 & 4 students is approximately 1.7km, running up Copperhead Drive and down through the grasslands back to the school. The grade 5 to 7 run is approximately 2.4km, starting at the west entrance to Mount Dufferin Park, east on Copperhead Drive and down the grasslands path back at the school.

We are looking for volunteers to assist us with supervision on the two routes. If you could help us that afternoon, please contact Mr. Law or Mr. Abley at the school.

BICYCLES

The wearing of bicycle helmets is compulsory in British Columbia. We would urge all parents to ensure that if their child (ren) are riding bicycles to school



that they wear helmets. Throughout the year a number of bicycles are reported as stolen while at school. We cannot be responsible for bicycles which are lost or stolen and would encourage parents to ensure that if their child (ren) brings a bicycle to school that they have an adequate lock

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 telephone the school to let us know if their child is going to be absent.

If your child is going to be absent for a prolonged period of time, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher to obtain information about the schoolwork your child will miss.

TARDINESS

One of our attempts again this year will be to reduce student tardiness. Many times this is not the fault of the child but rather the parent(s) who bring(s) them to school.

The staff believes very strongly that punctuality is an important habit for students to develop. Students who arrive late often miss out on important instructions or activities at the beginning of the day. Students arriving late also disrupt other students as they have already commenced activities.



We would appreciate it if you would take a few moments to discuss this with your child. Punctuality is important and by working together with you we hope that it will become a positive habit for your children.

EXTRACURRICULAR TEAM SPORTS

We are again looking for parent volunteers to assist in coaching volleyball or basketball this year. More information about the time commitments/schedules can be obtained by talking with Mr. McGarry. Mr. Law

or Mr. Abley. Without parent's assisting, we may not be able to offer a full range of extra-curricular programs.

NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS WANTED

We are looking for parents who are willing to assist us in supervising students at lunch time, before and after school. There is an honourarium of \$10 per hour. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Abley or Mr. Law

SCHOOL DAILY SCHEDULE

8:22am	Warning Bell - students may enter the building
8:30am	O' Canada - school officially begins
10:15am	Recess
10:30am	Recess ends
12:00pm	Lunch break begins (playing outside)
12:35pm	Lunch break eating period
12:55pm	Lunch break ends/warning bell
1:00pm	Afternoon classes begin
2:30pm	Students dismissed
3:00pm	Dismissal for students detained for various reasons

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.

R PARENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED FORMS LAST YEAR ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A NEW ONE THIS YEAR. Please contact the school office if you require more information or to pick up the forms to be filled out.

NUT AWARE ZONE

For parents new to the school, please be advised that we have a number of students who get allergic reactions from nuts or from products made using "nut oil". For their safety, our school is NUT FREE zone and we ask that all students not bring products, which contain nuts or made using nut oil to school.



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 it is possible that no one is available to answer the telephone outside of these hours



LUNCH/PETRO CANADA/AFTERSCHOOL CARE

One of the on-going issues at the school involves students leaving the grounds and going to the Petro Canada store. As we indicated in our first newsletter, any students leaving the grounds at lunch should be giving their classroom teacher a note signed by a parent. Should a student have your permission to go to the Petro Canada store, we would not allow them to bring "treats" onto the school grounds upon their return.

Another concern is the supervision of students after school. The district has provided us with a supervisor to assist with the students taking the two Pine View Valley buses as well as the Lac LeJeune and Cherry Creek buses. We encourage all other students to report home immediately after school. A number of students are staying at school to play and we wish to advise you that the primary responsibility of the supervisor is the bus students. On inclement weather days, bus students may be brought into the school. All other students are expected to play outside or go home immediately after school.

VEHICLES DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP STUDENTS

As it has been for a number of years, the issue of parents picking up /dropping off students continues to be a safety concern. The round-about area in front of the school is restricted to allow staff to reach the staff parking lot and for buses.. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THAT AREA. No Parking signs have been posted and the city By-Law Dept. has indicated that they will be ticketing offenders. Please be advised.

