



Dear Parents:

It has been a very busy month so far in April! We kicked the month off with our ROCKS Assembly where we recognized students who won awards in the Legion's Remembrance Day poster and writing contest. We also had our District Science Fair, an EXCELLENT Family Dance hosted by Shakewood Annie. The Day of Suwentwecw as well as the third installment of Young Peoples Concert. A grade three bike parade, Battle of the Books, a Taste of Dufferin and finally an excellent Jump Rope for Heart Skip-a-Thon! It was great to see everyone outside in the warm spring weather participating in a healthy activity like skipping.

As we finish off April we will continue to be busy with outside activities such as Flag Football and Track and Field. We will also be participating in great events like the Math Challenge, Young Artists, and Young Author's conferences and a visit from the Vancouver Aquarium's Aquavan.

With all the busy activities that go along with warm weather and long days, remember to keep those healthy routines for children and make sure they are getting lots of sleep. Finally, if you are spending lots of time outside, remember to keep an eye out for ticks. There is information on this newsletter as well as posted on the school website.

Developing students' knowledge, skills, and attitudes to their potential, so they can contribute to a multi-cultural society, and information-based world.

PAC NEWS

Our next PAC meeting is on



Monday, May 5th at 6:30pm. As a parent at our school you are automatically a member on our Parent Advisory Council. Our PAC Executive welcomes your involvement at any time! If you miss a meeting, don't forget to check out the minutes posted on the website on the right hand side.

During this PAC meeting, we will be voting on our executive for next year (2014-2015). If you are interested in either being on the executive or wanting to come and vote, please show up. If you know of anyone who might be interested in being on the executive, please check our nomination form on the school website.

If you are planning on attending the next PAC meeting and require free child care, please contact Kirsten Christianson at dufferinelempac@gmail.com or at 250-851-9397.

AQUAVAN - TUESDAY, APRIL 15!

Thanks to the generosity of our Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The Vancouver Aquarium's Aquavan will be paying Dufferin school a visit on Tuesday, April 15th. They will be sending out teams of educators and live sea creatures to spend time in every class! It is sure to be an excellent opportunity for all of our students.

TICKS ARE BACK!

Warm spring weather brings out ticks, small bugs that bite and feed on the blood of humans and animals and can sometimes transmit disease.



Ticks are most often found in tall grass and wooded areas, including playground areas. Fortunately there are precautions people can take and ways to deal with them.

One of the most important ways to reduce the risk is to do a daily skin check on your children. If you find a tick, wear gloves and gently remove it. Be careful not to crush the

tick as this could cause it to inject its stomach contents in to the skin. If you find a tick, check very carefully for others. Other tips to remove ticks safely include:

- Use needle-nose tweezers to gently grasp the tick close to the skin.
- Without squeezing, pull the tick straight out.
- After removal, clean the area with soap and water.

For more detailed information about ticks, please refer to the handout under general information on the Dufferin School website (<http://dufferin.sd73.bc.ca>).

BIKES / SCOOTERS / SKATEBOARDS

Now that the snow is gone, many students are bringing their bikes, scooters and skateboards to school. Unfortunately, this also causes some safety concerns. For the time being, students can use them for transportation before and after school, but during morning, recess and lunch they will need to be put away. Our play area is limited and used for basketball, four square and skipping. Riding skateboards and scooters presents a hazard during these busy times and the school does not have a designated area for this activity.



When students are using their bikes, scooters, or skateboards before and after school, they **MUST** be wearing a helmet at all times.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that the school calendar is also posted on the Dufferin Website (<http://dufferin.sd73.bc.ca>). The website calendar is updated on a regular basis.



Apr 15	Aquavan (Vancouver Aquarium)
Apr 15	Flag Football Begins
Apr 17	NI Day (No School for Students)
Apr 18	Good Friday (Holiday)
Apr 21	Easter Monday (Holiday)
Apr 22	Lights Out Canada
Apr 25	Kids Can Move (gymnastics)
Apr 28	Young People's Concert (YPC)
Apr 29	Class/School Photos
Apr 29	District Math Challenge
May 1	Young Artist Conference
May 1	One-to-One Reading Wrap Up
May 2	Young Author's Conference
May 5	PAC Elections

AFTER SCHOOL

Please be aware that students who do not take a bus and walk home – should be going directly home after school. The school is not set up to provide child care or supervision after school for students who are not waiting for a bus. After school, unless there is an extracurricular activity they are participating in, or they are waiting for a bus, children need to make their way home in a timely manner. If you have children that walk home, please talk to them about this. Thank you for your support.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season has started! It looks like we have a number of students interested in playing. Ms. Simpson with the help of Mr. Bowden have volunteered to be the teacher sponsors. However, we are in desperate need of coaches and referees!



If you are interested in coaching or being a referee, please contact the school. The games are after school and will begin the week of April 14th. You can email Mr. Bowden at mbowden@sd73.bc.ca if you are able to help!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART



Thank you everyone for a successful Jump Rope for Heart event. Thanks for all your donations for such a great cause. If you still wish to donate

you can go to the websited
www.jumpforheart.ca.

SHOE DRIVE

This will be the last week for our Dufferin Shoe Drive. Please bring in your gently used shoes and we will be collecting them as part of a school district initiative to send to children in Nicaragua. Each class has their own collection as part of a little friendly competition. Thank you for helping out!

HOT LUNCH!

Monday, April 14th was the deadline for hot lunch orders. Please refer to the following dates for our hot lunch:



Friday, April 25 - Wendy's
Friday, May 2 - Subway
Thursday, May 8 - Panago Pizza
Thursday, May 15 - Sweet Home Cafe

A reminder that we have reverse lunch on hot lunch days. This means that children will be eating before they go outside.

PARKING!

For safety and access, there should be NO STOPPING or use of our round-about area while buses are active for any reason. A BIG thank you to everyone who is honouring our parking signs and not stopping in the bus drop off area.



Please respect our bus round-about. This is between 7:40am and 8:15am and between 2:15pm and 3:40pm. Please use the designated public parking areas for pick up and drop off.

We thank you a head of time for modeling respect and for our school and helping to keep our students safe.

TRACK AND FIELD

The school track meet will be held on May 9th this year! We are inviting Savona to come and participate with us.

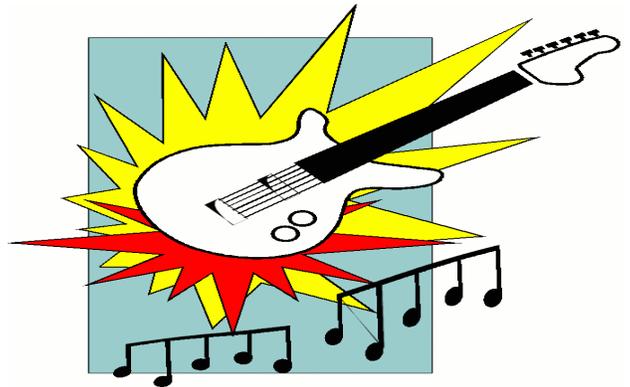


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We are looking for parent volunteers for that day. If you can or are interested, you can contact the school or email Mrs. Bubela at jbubela@sd73.bc.ca

DUFFERIN ROCKS!

At Dufferin Elementary we follow our ROCKS matrix. ROCKS stands for:



Respectful
On time and prepared
Careful
Kind
Self-disciplined

This month we are going to be working on **Bathroom Behaviour!** This includes HUSH, FLUSH, and WASH.

If you could review these expectations with your children at home it would help us maintain a positive school culture at Dufferin.