



Dear Parents:

It is hard to believe that the winter holiday season is now upon us and we are bringing to a close the 2013 Year! The last day of school will be this Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and students will return back to school on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

As we enter a busy season for students after the winter break, I would ask that you maintain your focus on reading daily with your children and trying to stick with good daily routines. I also encourage you to take some time to visit our website [www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca) and check out our newsletters, calendar and announcements! We also would like to continue to thank our parents for the extensive support we receive from you. You do a great job in serving the students and the school!

I wish each of our families a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. We will see you in 2014!

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, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. As a parent at our school you are automatically a member for 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.

The PAC would like to thank you all for your

support with the poinsettia and cookie dough sales! All the money raised goes to support PAC projects that directly help students at Dufferin.

Don't forget to purchase a ticket for a chance to win a VIP package for either the afternoon or evening performance at the Dufferin Christmas Concert. The VIP package includes a reserved parking spot and front row seating at the concert! If you don't have tickets, you can get them on the school website. The PAC will also be doing a 50/50 draw during the performance or anyone who wishes to participate!

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT!

The Christmas Concert is quickly approaching. We are scheduled to have our concert on:

**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:15pm – Afternoon Performance

6:30pm – Evening Performance

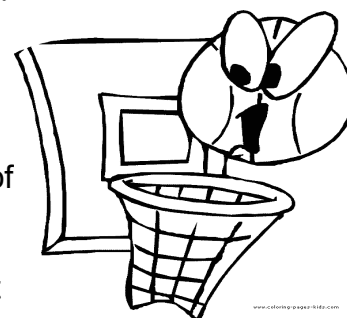
**Doors open for students and parents at 6:00pm**

Parents and family are encouraged to attend the afternoon performance if possible. There is limited seating at our evening performance and it can be crowded! We are anticipating the performance will take about an hour. The PAC will also be doing a 50/50 draw during the evening performance. We will be collecting items for the Food Bank at the door. See you there!



## BASKETBALL 2014

Basketball season is upon us! The league begins in January. We have had an overwhelming number of students interested in basketball this year. Unfortunately we do not



have enough coaches.

Dufferin is looking for volunteers to take on coaching grades 4-7 girls and boys tier one or tier two teams! If you are interested, please contact the school at 250-374-4425 or email Mrs. Geoghegan ([kgeoghegan@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:kgeoghegan@sd73.bc.ca)) or Mr. Bowden ([mbowden@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:mbowden@sd73.bc.ca)).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Dec 18	Christmas Concert (afternoon & evening)
Dec 19	WE Team Cake Walk
Dec 20	Last Day of Classes
Dec 21	Holidays Begin
Jan 6	Classes Return
Jan 6	SPC Meeting
Jan 6	PAC Meeting
Jan 10	ROCKS Assembly
Jan 10	Sahali Band Performance
Jan 8-14	School Book Drive
Jan 15	School Book Swap

## INSIDE SHOES!

With the change in weather and the arrival of snow, this is just a friendly reminder to make sure students have inside



shoes. When they do come in from outside it is important for students to be able to change into warm dry footwear. This also helps keep our school clean and our floors safe and dry.

## SCHOOL PARKING

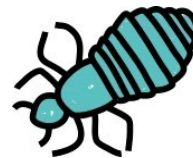
Please respect our bus round-about. There is no parking (including dropping off or picking up) in the bus loading or staff parking area.

Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.



## HEAD LICE

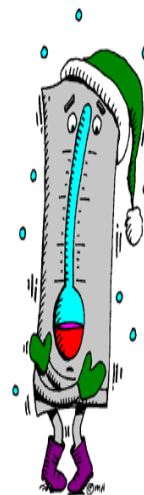
The holidays are here and this increases the chances for the spread of our friendly Head Lice.



With family and friends all gathered around visiting and inside during cold weather, plus the many hugs and sleep overs, there are many opportunities for head lice to spread. We should be extra vigilant checking heads over the holidays and for a few weeks after children return to school. Although they are not a health problem and more of a pest, let's make sure we try and control the spread of head lice as they do take some work to get rid of. Thank you again for helping with this!

## COLD WEATHER DAYS

Please make sure your children are dressed for the cold weather when they come to school. All children are expected to be outside during our breaks (morning, recess, lunch and after school).



Our cold weather days (inside) range between -10 and -15 depending on wind chill and amount of time outside. If they come to school dressed for -15 weather they can always take layers off if it is warmer. It is also good to send extra socks or pants if they like to roll in the snow!

## LOST AND FOUND

Our lost and found is overflowing! Please take some time this week to go through the Lost and Found. Anything left over the holiday season may be given away to charity!

## LIBRARY MONTH

January is Library Month. At Dufferin we are hoping to get a visit by the Cat-in-the-Hat to kick off our Library activities. We will be also participating in a book drive. We will be collecting gently used books starting on January 8<sup>th</sup> to build up for our annual book swap on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January!

## HELP WANTED

If any of our older students is interested in helping walk some of our younger neighborhood children to school and back home, please contact the school for arrangements! There may be some compensation.

## DUFFERIN ROCKS!

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

R *espectful*

O *n time and prepared*

C *areful*

K *ind*

S *elf-disciplined*



Some of the more recent things we have been working on are:

1. **Hands and feet to self** – especially during breaks. Rough housing often leads to children getting hurt (mostly unintentional) and angry reactions.
2. **Appropriate language** – encouraging students to use appropriate language, especially during breaks.
3. **Coming into the school right when the bell goes** and being prepared to participate in class. As we move into the year, some students are slower to return to their classes after the bell.

Finally, with **the arrival of snow**, it is our expectation that snow stays on the ground. This means **no snowballs** or even kicking snow at other students.

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

## SKI TRIP

The Dufferin Ski Trip this year will take place over two days:

**February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

All parents are welcome to participate as part of the school group. If you are participating you will be assigned to supervise a small group of students. The ski package for parent chaperones are indicated on in the Ski Trip information letter.

All students are required to take a lesson. An information letter with costs has been sent home with students. If you have not received one, please let the school or your child's teacher know.



## WE TEAM CAKE WALK

It is that time of the year again for the annual WE Team Cake Walk!

**It is at 12:00pm on Thursday, December 19.  
\$1.00 per round.**

Peanut free cake donations are welcome. Gluten free cakes are also appreciated. Please bring your donations to the office. **All proceeds will be going to the WE Team Clean Water Project in Kenya!**

**From everyone at Dufferin  
Elementary School  
Have a Great Holiday Season and  
Happy New Year!**