



Dear Parents:

December is here and we are not far off from Winter Holidays! December marks the end of term 1 and the beginning of a new term. The first report card has been distributed and hopefully been shared at home with parents. A report card is a summary of progress toward achieving the learning outcomes for each grade level. Comments often describe what a student is able to do, areas that require attention and suggestions for additional support that may be required to extend a student's learning.

The new term and New Year is just around the corner and is often seen as a new beginning and fresh start. We look forward to the challenges and learning opportunities that this next term and New Year will bring! We will continue to strive and work in partnership with you to make learning a successful experience for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher regarding any achievement questions you may have.

Finally, I would like to thank you in advance on behalf of the school and school PAC for your continued support of our charity and fund raising initiatives that have taken place at the school. Your support and kindness will make a difference.

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 Tuesday, December

3rd at 6:30pm. As a parent at our school you are automatically a member of 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.

Poinsettia's will be delivered to classrooms on Thursday, December 5th. If you have placed an order, please arrange to pick them up from the school.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

Wednesday, December 18th
Food Bank donation appreciated!



We will be having an afternoon concert for the school children and family who can't make the evening performance. Times and details for both the afternoon and evening performances will be shared and posted on the website when they are available!

VOLLEYBALL (BASKETBALL)

Congratulations to the girls tier 1 Volleyball team on a great season! A big thank you to Ms. Brandy Simpson, Sara Saari, and Catherine Applegath for coaching!

We will be looking for volunteers to coach our grade 5-7 boys and girls basketball teams in the New Year. The league starts in February. If you are interested, please contact the school in the New Year (2014)!

SCENT AWARE SCHOOL!

Dufferin is a 'Scent Aware' school. Many people are extremely sensitive to perfumes, colognes,



smoke from cigarettes, and other scented products including soaps and hair/body products. Please try not to wear them when you are in the school for any length of time. These products can trigger allergic reactions. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information you can visit the Canadian Lung Association website:

http://www.lung.ca/protect-protegez/pollution-pollution/indoor-interieur/scents-parfums_e.php

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Dec 3	PAC Meeting
Dec 5	Poinsettia's
Dec 12	Cookie Dough
Dec 17	Christmas Concert Rehearsal
Dec 18	Christmas Concert (afternoon & evening)
Dec 20	Last Day of Classes
Dec 21	Holidays Begin
Jan 6	Classes Return

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

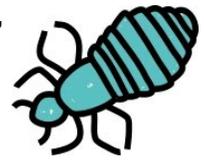
Please respect our bus round-about. There is no parking (including dropping off or picking up) in the bus loading or staff parking area.



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

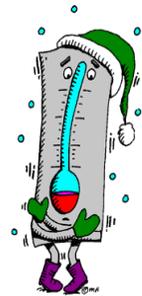
HEAD LICE

With the arrival of colder weather, students will be 'bundling' up and wearing hats. This makes it easier for our pesky friends the head lice to spread. It is recommended to parents that we **check our children at home at least twice a month!** If you find any, please treat them immediately and report it to the school so that we can take steps to keep them under control. The school handles any reported cases confidentially. Thank you in advance for helping with this.



COLD WEATHER DAYS

Winter has arrived! It is expected that Dufferin students remain outside during non-instructional times (breaks) such as morning, recess, lunch and after school. The exception to this is cold weather days (or significant rain). We have cold weather days (or inside days) when the temperature reaches -15 no wind or -10 with wind. Please make sure your child comes to school dressed accordingly.



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.

COMMUNITY CAUTION

It has been brought to our attention that some of our students after school hours have been playing around the pond/swamp in the Pineview area (Python Lake). Although this is not a school issue we wanted to share this with your children and talk with them about being cautious and safe.

HELP WANTED!

Do you have an older child who walks to school interested in being a walking buddy for a younger child (or children)? If you do, please let the school know and we can help make arrangements!