



Dear Parents:

Happy New Year to everyone from Dufferin Elementary School! I hope you all had a restful break and returned back to school ready to participate with renewed energy.

As we enter the long winter months it is important to help your children maintain good routines and get plenty of sleep. One way to help them build great study habits is to plan a daily study time at home. If they don't have homework, this could be a time where they just 'unplug' and read. Research shows that children who do daily reading do better in school. Even if you don't unplug, there are a number of great learning activities on the computer. Check out the resources we have available on our school website and on Mr. Rhynold's Dufferin Library 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, February 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.

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.

The PAC would like to thank you all for your support with the fund raising at the Christmas Concert and wish everyone a happy New Year!

HOT LUNCH

The hot lunch form can now be found on the school website under the PAC folder



(www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca). Order forms are due into the school by Tuesday, January 21st.

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|------------------|--------------------------|
| Friday, Jan 31 | - Papa John's Pizza |
| Friday, Feb 14 | - Lunchbox Cafewraps |
| Thursday, Feb 20 | - Senor Froggy's Mexican |
| Friday, Feb 28 | - Spa-ghet-ti Pasta |

FAMILY CHILI DINNER

On February 20th the PAC will be sponsoring a Family Chili Dinner at Dufferin Elementary

School. Bring your family out for an evening of fun and enjoy a hot dinner! Proceeds will go to the PAC activities that support your children.



Pre-ticket sales will be available starting January 27th! See you there!

BOOK SWAP

Thanks for all the families and students who participated in Dufferin's annual Book Swap! We kicked it off with a visit from the Cat-in-the-Hat and Dufferin made the front page of the Kamloops This Week newspaper.

It was a great time. We had 677 total donations, with 368 books going to the Heap the Honda

Literacy initiative in the community. Great job!

GRIFFITHS TWINS TEAM

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

From January 20-24, the Griffiths Twins Team will be hosting the annual Alzheimer's Awareness fund raising drive. All week they will be competing for donations by collecting coins and having a fun competition between the boys and the girls. Monday = nickles; Tuesday = dimes; Wednesday = quarters; Thursday = Loonies; Friday = Toonies.

MOVIE NIGHT – Alzheimer's Awareness will end Friday evening with the annual Movie Night! The movie playing will be Despicable Me 2.

Date: Friday, January 24

Time: 6pm (doors open) 6:30pm movie start

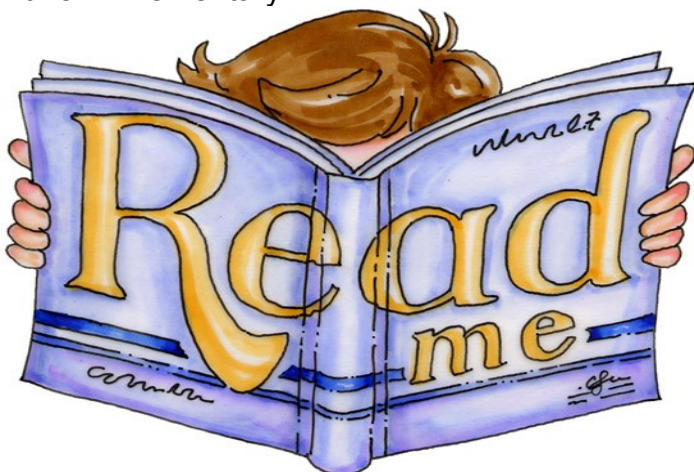
Place: Dufferin Elementary Gymnasium

Donations are welcome at the door and movie snacks will be for sale!

Expectations: All children must be accompanied by an adult. Even though this is being held in the gym, please respect the audience by remaining quiet and seated. Please no running around or wandering through the school. Please help keep the gym surface clean and put garbage in garbage bins before you leave for the night.

FAMILY LITERACY WEEK!

Across Canada January 20-27 is chosen as Family Literacy Week. The idea of the week is to get children and families away from electronics, tv's, iPods/iPads, etc... and get them spending quality time doing other activities together. Have Fun! Here is what January 20-27 will look like at Dufferin Elementary:



Monday, Jan 20 – Kickoff

- Blazer's visit
- Jersey Day (wear your favourite hockey Jersey)
- Handout “Unplug & Play” booklets

Tuesday, Jan 21 – Wear a Word

- Wear clothing with words on it or write some words and pin them on (appropriate of course)!
- Record hours in “Unplug & Play” Booklet

Wednesday, Jan 22 – Poem in Your Pocket

- Write a poem (yours or your favourite), put it in your pocket and share.
- Record hours in “Unplug & Play” Booklet

Thursday, Jan 23 – How Do You Unplug?

- Share one way you have unplugged this week.
- Last night to record in “Unplug & Play” Booklet.

Friday, Jan 24 – DEAR / Dress Up Day

- Drop Everything And Read (DEAR)
- Dress Up Day – Come to school dressed up according to your class' theme!

FOUNDATION SKILLS

ASSESSMENT (FSA)

Every year students in grade four and seven are required to participate in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). The assessment helps provide schools and parents with a snapshot of how well students are doing in reading, writing and numeracy based on provincial performance standards. This is only one of many types of assessments teachers, schools, and districts do on a regular basis to help inform parents and teachers and better assist your child with their success in school.

All students in grade four and seven in British Columbia must participate in the FSA.

If they are in attendance during the time of the assessment (January 20 to mid February), they can not opt out of the assessment - unless they have special needs that would prevent them from participating. If they are absent, they will be required to make up the parts of the assessment they missed when they were away. **The principal does not have the authority to excuse students from the assessment.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school or refer to the school website:

www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca

BASKETBALL 2014

Basketball season is upon us! The league has begun. Practice and game schedules are posted on the school website under Dufferin Athletics! Remember that when we are playing or watching a basketball game we are representing our school. Dufferin school prides itself on being respectful and a great example of sportsmanship.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have stepped forward to make this season possible!

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.

Jan 20-24	Family Literacy Week
Jan 20-24	Alzheimer's Awareness Week
Jan 20-31	Foundation Skills Assessment
Jan 20	Jersey Day / Blazer's visit
Jan 20	Come Read With Me
Jan 20	SPC Meeting
Jan 21	Wear a Word
Jan 22	Poem in Your Pocket
Jan 23	How do You Unplug?
Jan 24	DEAR & Dress Up
Jan 24	Movie Night (Despicable Me 2)
Jan 31	Hot Lunch – Pizza
Feb 3	Young People's Concert
Feb 3	SPC Meeting
Feb 3	PAC Meeting

PARKING ISSUES!

Please respect our bus round-about. We have noticed that there has been an increasing amount of traffic and parking in our bus drop off area.



For safety and access, there should be NO STOPPING or use of our round-about area while buses are active for any reason. 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 helping to keep our students safe.

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*

This month we are working on **Hallway Behaviour**. This includes walking in the hall, using appropriate language and level of noise. No fooling around in the washrooms or hallway. Walking on the appropriate side of the hall, and keeping hands and feet to self. Finally, leaving room for others to pass (not obstructing the hallway).

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

