



Dear Parents:

Welcome back from your summer vacation! For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mr. Bowden and I will be your new principal this year. I am looking forward to working with everyone and being part of the Dufferin community! It should be an exciting year with many opportunities to grow emotionally, physically, and academically. I would also like to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and families. I would encourage you to become involved with our school as a volunteer, PAC member or just casually as a parent. Please feel free to drop by or talk to your child's teacher any time during the year and find out how you can become involved at the school.



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

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 generally no one is available to answer the telephone outside of these hours.

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

8:22am Warning Bell
8:30am Classes Begin (O'Canada)

10:15am	Recess Begins
10:30am	Recess Ends / Classes Begin
12:00pm	Lunch – Outside Play Time
12:40pm	Lunch – Inside Eating Time
12:55pm	Lunch Ends / Classes Begin
2:30pm	Students Dismissed
3:00pm	Detained Student Dismissal

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION!

At Dufferin Elementary we have traditionally begun our first day of school (Tuesday) with students going to their homeroom / classroom they attended in June. Students will then come on Wednesday morning and be placed in their 2013-2014 classrooms. Due to an unanticipated increase in Kindergarten enrollment, we may have to extend the practice of students attending their last year classrooms until we can get our numbers sorted. Unfortunately, due to the complex nature of placing almost 300 students, **that decision will have to be made on a day-to-day basis**. Students will be informed at their arrival in the morning if they should go back to their old classroom again or look for their new 2013-2014 placement.

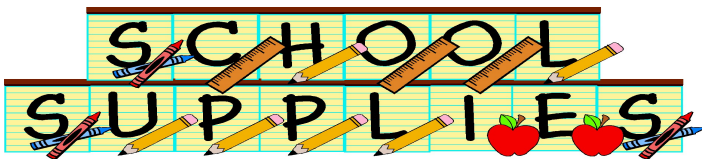
Placement of students is not taken lightly and a time consuming process. Parent requests are considered but may not always be accommodated (it is only one consideration).



Please avoid making requests for social reasons. We know children always want to be placed with their friends, but they will have opportunities during breaks (recess & lunch) to socialize. Also, it is our experience that students will settle into their classroom after the first few weeks of school if given the opportunity and parent encouragement.

Finally, we have reviewed all the parent requests made in June. **Any new requests made in September will be considered but will be extremely difficult to accommodate** due to classroom dynamics, numbers and classroom support. Moving one child, especially in the new year can impact many. We encourage parents to advocate for their children with the understanding that we must make decisions not only on what is best for their child, but what is also best for *all* the children, classrooms and school. Sometimes these wants can be conflicting and we don't make those decisions lightly. We thank you in advance for your understanding and support and apologize if we were not able to accommodate your request.

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 2013/14 include supplies, an agenda and Young Peoples' Concert fee.

Kindergarten	\$27.00
Grade 1-3	\$49.00
Grade 4-7	\$64.00

Please be aware that there is a slight increase this year due to increased supply costs. The Young Peoples' Concert and agendas are not offered to Kindergarten students so the cost was not included for them.

An envelope will be going home later this week. Please place your cheque or cash in the envelope, complete the front portion of the envelope and return it to the school secretary (*do not give it to the classroom teacher*). Please use one envelope per student.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

The first PAC meeting for this year will be announced and is typically held in the second or third week of September in the evening. Child minding is available free of charge and all parents are welcome to attend.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our projected enrollment for this year is around 300 students. The staff at Dufferin presently consist of:

Primary Teachers:

Mrs. J. Carter	Mrs. C. Twamley
Mrs. N. Preymak	Mrs. H. Bailey
Ms. L. Kwan	Mrs. P. Lovett
Mrs. M. McGeough	

Intermediate Teachers:

Ms. L. Eacrett	Ms. J. Dalsin
Ms. R. Ritcey	Mrs. K. Geoghegan
Ms. J. Bubela	Mrs. R. Covaceuszach

Teacher Support:

Principal	Mr. M. Bowden
Librarian	Mr. R. Rhynolds
Learning Assistance	Ms. M. Bell
Teacher Preps	Mr. J. Berezowski
	Mr. R. Rhynolds

CUPE Support:

- Certified Education Assistants (CEA)
 - Ms. P. Behrmann
 - Ms. S. Dickinson
 - Ms. N. Sun
- First Nations Education Worker (FNEW)
 - TBA
- Library Assistant
 - Ms. L. McBurnie
- Secretary
 - Ms. A. Norton
- Custodians
 - Mr. D. Bruno
 - Mr. D. Moutsos

SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED

We are looking for people to assist us with supervision of students in the morning, lunch and after school. We would like to set up a regular roster of supervisors for the following times from Monday to Friday.

Morning	7:45am to 8:30am
Lunch	12:00pm to 1:00pm
After School	2:30pm to 3:45pm

An honorarium is provided for anyone interested in helping out.

If you are able to supervise on any of these times or days on a regular / weekly basis, please contact the office at 250-374-4425!

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.



Parents who have completed forms last year are also required to update the information on file. Please contact the school office if you require more information or to pick up the forms to be filled out.

CELL PHONES

The school district has a policy (Policy 406.1) concerning the use of cell phones at school. Please be advised that should you require your child(ren) to have a cell phone at school, you and your child are required to read our guidelines and complete a permission form which outlines the use of cell phones. The guidelines and slips may be obtained at the office.

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

2013/2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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

Sept 3	School Opens (10:30-12:00)
Sept 4	First Full Day of Classes
Sept 9	First Full Day for Kindergarten
Sept 12	PAC Welcome Back BBQ
Sept 20	Bill Goat Cross Country Run

Sept 27	NI Day* (No school for students)
Oct 4	Picture Day
Oct 9	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Oct 10	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Oct 14	Holiday (Thanksgiving)
Oct 25	NI Day* (No school for students)
Nov 8	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 8	Picture Retakes
Nov 11	Holiday (Remembrance Day)
Nov 29	Term 1 Report Cards
Dec 2	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 20	Last day before Winter Holiday
December 21 – January 5 WINTER HOLIDAY	
Jan 6	School Reopens
Feb 10	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 12	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 13	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 21	NI Day* (No school for students)
Mar 14	Term 2 Report Cards Last day before Spring Break
March 15 – March 23 SPRING BREAK	
Mar 24	School Reopens
Apr 17	NI Day* (No school for students)
Apr 18	Holiday (Good Friday)
Apr 21	Holiday (Easter Monday)
May 16	NI Day* (No school for students)
May 19	Holiday (Victoria Day)
Jun 26	Last Day for Students (½ Day) Term 3 Report Cards

***NI Day = Non-Instructional Day (Staff Professional Development)**

SCHOOL PARKING

For the safety of our students and to avoid congestion, we would like to remind parents that parking/dropping off students in the ROUND-ABOUT AREA in front of the school is restricted to buses only.



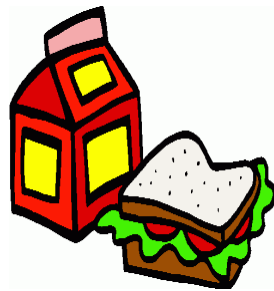
We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school and it is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. This includes quick drop off and pick ups. Please obey the traffic signs and stop or park only in designated areas.

EATING LUNCH AT SCHOOL

Students who live close enough to school to go home for lunch are encouraged to do so. If not, students are welcome to remain at school during the lunch hour. We ask that all students remaining at the school for lunch:

1. Eat lunch in their designated area
2. Behave in a mannerly fashion
3. Clean up after themselves
4. Remain on school grounds for the duration of the lunch hour

Students who are unable to follow school expectations during the lunch period may be asked to go home for their lunch.



If your child brings a lunch to school, we will assume it is your intention they remain at school for lunch. If they have your permission to leave school grounds, they will require a written and signed note EACH TIME you give permission. A blanket note will not be accepted.

GYM STRIP

It is expected that all intermediate students will have gym strip for PE (running shoes, T-shirt). Gym strip is mandatory and students will not be permitted to participate without proper gym strip. Participation is one of the factors teachers take into account when determining term letter grades. Parents of primary students should check with their child's teacher to determine the expectations for their child.

Physical Education is an integral part of the school Curriculum and participation is mandatory. If for any reason your child can not participate, please provide a note or a doctor's excuse.

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL OCCASIONS

There are a number of events that are important to most children. Recognition of their birthday is an example. We like to acknowledge birthdays over the PA system. If you do not wish to have your child recognized in this manner, please let the office know.

Another milestone in a child's life is losing their baby teeth. When a child's tooth falls out at school we supply a container to keep their teeth safe until they get home.

ONE-TO-ONE READING VOLUNTEERS

Parents, grandparents, friends, university students – we need your help! We are looking for volunteers to assist us with our One-to-one Reading program. 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 reading. Volunteers, or 'tutors' as they are called, are asked to donate 1 ½ hours of their time, one day per week to help three students who are not yet confident readers. Full training is provided. If you are interested in volunteering for the One-to-One Reading program or want more information about the program, please contact the office at 250-374-4425.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING TEAM

The Cross Country Running Team will be off to a quick start this year! An information meeting will be held from 12:05 to 12:30 in Ms. Dalsin's class on Friday, Sept 6 for all interested Grade 3-7 students. Practices will be held from 12:05 to 12:30 every lunch hour except Wednesdays. Meets will be after school Wednesdays from 3:00 to 5:00 at various locations around the city. The team will be relying on committed parent drivers to get students to and from meets.

We look forward to a fun and exciting Cross Country Season.

Ms. Dalsin and Mrs. Preymak

**CUP STACKING! SPEED STACKING!
SPORT STACKING!**

Dufferin has a "Speed Stack Sport Kit" and students have been able to try the beneficial mind and body challenge of stacking cups! Ms. Ritcey will be sponsoring 'Stack It' club time and student coaches will help newbies get started.

Cup stacking is not only fun and challenging, but students that sport stack on a regular basis have shown increases in test scores and levels of concentration. When students sport stack they are crossing the "mid-line" of their bodies and develop new connections in their brains. These new connections help to spur brain growth which in turn promotes greater academic achievement.

For information on what speed stacking is please go to the website under speedstacks.com. Click on the TV – Video Screen on the right or also view under the left Teacher Central tab where you will see video and read info on the benefits of speed stacking.

http://www.speedstacks.com/groups/teacher_central.php

For students interested in speed stacking club time, there will be an info sheet and pamphlet to pick up near the office area by mid September. To order stacking cups go to SpeedStacks.com and go to the Group Orders button on the right side, Click on British Columbia, Click Dufferin School, credit card orders are accepted. The speed stack package comes to the school and Ms. Ritcey will hand out the orders. The student order opens Sept. 15th and will close Oct. 4th. Another order period can be set up after that.

Students can speed stack practise with their DVD directions and get faster for competitions and the spring district tournament! We look forward to sharing speed stacking with students and parents!

KAMLOOPS TRACK & FIELD CLUB

Join a great club, learn to RUN, JUMP, and THROW for ages 9-12. Practices are Mondays and Wednesdays at the Tournament Capital Centre from 4:30 to 6:30pm starting November 5th. If you are interested call 250-851-2512 or go to:

www.kamloopstrackandfield.ca

If you are 6-8 years old, you can join the TRACK RASCALS! It will start November 6th at TCC every Wednesday night. To register call 250-374-9982 or go to the website indicated above.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

In the interest of saving paper and costs that we can put back into the school and our students, future newsletters will be provided electronically on our school website!

Generally newsletters will be posted at the beginning and middle of each month. Some paper copies of the newsletters will be available at the office if you can not access the Internet.

Our school website is:

www.dufferin.sd73.bc.ca

I am looking forward to a great year!!

