



Dear Parents:

April is already here, Spring Break and Easter have come and gone and we are into the final stretch of our year.

Spring time means longer days and nicer weather. This time of year brings many positive opportunities, including more sunshine and opportunities to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. It is also important to not lose our focus on school, help students keep their focus, and have a strong finish to their year!

Even though the days are longer, getting enough sleep is key to having a good learning day. Stick to those bedtime routines and make sure your child is getting enough sleep every night. Also, the nicer weather will often mean an increase in extra-curricular activities. Although exposing our children to many opportunities can be beneficial, also remember not to overwhelm yourself or your child. Everything in moderation.

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



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. If you need to contact the school outside of these hours to let us know of an absence, please feel free to email our secretary Ms. Norton ([anorton@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:anorton@sd73.bc.ca)) and leave a message.

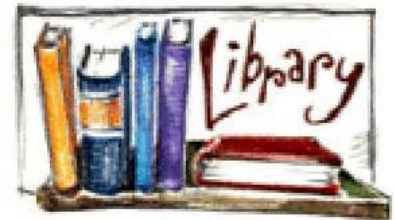
## SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Satisfaction Survey has been sent out to all parents of grade four and seven students in School District 73. It is a provincial survey that gathers information related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used as planning for individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective. If you are a parent of a student in grade four or seven and have not yet received your information package and would like to participate, please let the school know.

Students in grade four and seven will also be completing their satisfaction survey at the school sometime in mid April.

## LIBRARY NEWS

We are asking your help to try and make sure we return our overdue library books. When books are



overdue, that means they are no longer in circulation for other students to enjoy. If books are overdue for over a month we would ask that you pay for them so we can replace it. Our library budget is not large and currently we have a significant amount of books overdue. If the book comes back after they have been paid for, we would be happy to refund your money.

Thank you for all your support. We always appreciate it!

## MATH MINDS

Math Minds is an exciting opportunity for students to experience math games and activities during lunch.



**Mondays** – Primary students will have an

opportunity with Mrs. Lovett between 12:00 and 12:30 interacting with various math activities.

Due to the nice weather, we are going to wrap up our Math Minds for the year. IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!! Thank you Mrs. Lovett for organizing this opportunity and Mr. Noble for helping (plus all the other volunteers).

## DAY OF SUCWENTWECW

April 7, 2015 marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Day of Sucwentwecw (acknowledge on another) in School District 73, an initiative that acknowledges the Secwepemc and Nlaka'pamux Nations, their traditional territories and histories.

The theme for this year is "Connecting to the Land," which is based on one of the First Nations Principles of Learning: *"Learning ultimately supports the well-being of self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors."*

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Leadership will be organizing a school spirit day on Friday, April 24. The day will be TWIN DAY. Dress up and show your Dufferin spirit!

## FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season will be starting the week of April 13! Schedules will be out as soon as they are available. Mr. Noble has volunteered to be the teacher sponsor. We are also looking for some parent volunteers to help out. If you are interested, please contact the school and let the office know. All coaches require a criminal records check which is free for schools. Forms are available at the office.



## 2015 Relay Fest

We are looking for parent volunteers who might be interested in helping out with the 2015 Relay Fest race on Wednesday, April 8 from 3:15 to 6:00pm. Mrs. Bubela has volunteered to be the teacher sponsor.

## Track and Field

We are starting to look for volunteers to help with upcoming Track and Field. May 20 are the Zones and May 26 is the Districts. For the 1500 it is May 14 & 25. Please let the school know if you can help out!

## LearnNowBC

This is a rich online resource available to students, educators and parents. It contains student services such as online tutoring, courses, learning resources and a number of other students supports. It also has resources for parents and information around learning options and access to other parent resources about education. If you are interested, go to the following website:

<http://learnnowbc.ca/>

## MORNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO SCHOOL

***Please be aware that for safety and liability the school is not open to the public, parents or students without an appointment, or unless it is a cold weather day (below -15) until the first bell at 8:22am.*** If you need to be in the school prior to that time, please let the office know so arrangements can be made.

If you are in the building, unless it is for pick up at the end of the day or drop off after the first bell, you are required to sign in at the office. This will be in accordance to new school district safety protocols. Thank you for your attention and understanding.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

The International Student Program of School District 73 is looking for Kamloops families to host students from around the world. The students will attend Sa-Hali Secondary, NorKam Secondary, SKSS, Beattie School of the Arts, and Westsyde Secondary. The host family is asked to provide a welcoming home, three meals a day and a positive English speaking environment. The compensation is \$750 per month. If you think your family would be interested in this international experience, please contact: Leslee Faubert, Homestay Manager, SD73 (250-372-9000) or (lesleefaubert@shaw.ca).

## DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

A copy of the bell schedule can also be found on the school website (<http://dufferin.sd73.bc.ca>) under General Information and Schedules.

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our next PAC meeting is on:

**Wednesday, April 15 @ 7pm** (at the school)

All parents are encouraged to attend and become actively involved at the school. Child minding is available upon request. If you do need child minding, please let us know the Friday before. You can email the PAC at: [dufferinelempac@gmail.com](mailto:dufferinelempac@gmail.com)

Some upcoming PAC events are:

### **Hot Lunch Orders – Due April 14**

School T-shirt orders and jerseys are available at the school – students should be bringing order forms home.

## 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 and daycare only**.

We have four buses that bring students to school and pick up after school as well as bus pick up for field trips. It is important that the roundabout area is accessible for buses at all times. We have had several incidents where buses could not access the round about for loading during school field trips due to vehicles stopped in “no parking” zones. Please model respect and obey the traffic signs. **Also be aware that these are city by-law regulations, and by-law officers will be monitoring and ticketing offenders.**

## SCHOOL ILLNESS

The flu season has been a bad one this year! Sickness is going around. Please be aware that in accordance to public health, **to avoid further transmission in the school and community, students who are ill should be kept home**

**from school.**

## 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 be aware of our guidelines concerning the use of cell phones.



Students can not use cell phones or electronic devices during instructional times unless explicitly directed by the teacher. They are also required to use devices appropriately at all times, which includes respecting others rights to privacy by not taking pictures or videos without permission from an adult from the school. A violation of this policy will result in confiscation of the electronic device.

**Also be aware that children bringing cell phones or other electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for theft or damage.**

## 2014/2015 SCHOOL CALENDAR

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 will be updated on a regular basis.



Apr 2	Young Authors Submissions
Apr 7	Young Artist Submissions
Apr 7	Day of Suwentwecw
Apr 8	ROCKS Assembly
Apr 8	Indoor Relay Fest
Apr 15	PAC Meeting
Apr 16	Battle of the Books
Apr 17	School Heritage Fair
Apr 20	NI Day* (No school for students)
Apr 24	Spirit Day (TWINS)
Apr 27	Young People's Concert
Apr 28	School/Class Pictures
Apr 28-29	Spring Book Fair
May 1	Young Author's Conference

May 8-9	District Heritage Fair
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11	NI Day* (No school for students)
May 14	Zones 1500m Race
May 15	Young Artist Conference
May 18	Holiday (Victoria Day)
May 20	Zone Track Meet
May 22	Spirit Day (Crazy Hair)
May 25	District 1500m Race
May 26	District Track Meet

Jun 21	Father's Day
Jun 22	School Fun Day
Jun 25	Last Day for Students (½ Day) Term 3 Report Cards

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

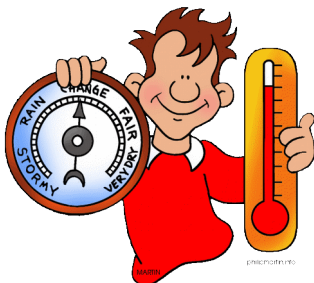
## TICKS

With the warm weather, ticks are out! Children are outside almost every day of the week. It is important to check them (and pets) daily for ticks, especially before they come into the house. Ticks can easily drop off on carpets or furniture. Some favorite places for ticks are under arms, between legs, hair, behind your knees, and even in your belly button!



Some other ways to avoid ticks are: wear light-colored clothing; wear long pants with sneakers (socks or bare feet don't work); and stay on trails or groomed areas.

## DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER



Please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. The weather can change drastically during the day. This also affects our footwear. Students should have separate inside and outside

footwear. When entrances are marked by orange cones, this is an indicator that students should be removing their outside footwear at the door to keep our hallways and classroom clean. A reminder students are expected to be outside during breaks unless the temperature is **colder than -15 Celsius**. Please have your children

dress accordingly.

## HERITAGE FAIR

A Heritage Fair is a multi-media educational program developed to increase awareness in Canadian History, unique community events, and family culture.

This year, Dufferin will be hosting the school Heritage Fair on Friday, April 17 from 10:30am to 12:00pm in the gym. If there are any parents who would like to help judge, please contact Mrs. Geoghegan or Mr. Bamsey at the school. Your help would be appreciated!

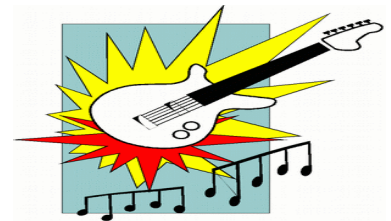
Classes and parents are welcome to come and view student displays. Some students will be selected from the School Heritage Fair to go on to the District Heritage Fair on May 8 and 9 at the Henry Grube Centre.

There may be a 'snack' concession hosted by the grade seven during the Heritage Fair to help raise money for their year end trip.

## DUFFERIN ROCKS!

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

**R**espectful  
**O**rganized  
**C**aring  
**K**ind  
**S**afe



This month we are going to be working on being **ORGANIZED!** Being organized means keeping our lockers, desks, classroom and hallway space tidy, being prepared to learn by making sure we have all our materials ready, and making a plan before we do something.

We will also be working on strategies to deal with peer conflicts (**TILT**):

**T** = Talk to the person  
**I** = Ignore  
**L** = Leave  
**T** = Tell an adult

If you could review these expectations as well as the parent/student handbook with your children at home it would help us maintain a positive school culture at Dufferin. A copy of the ROCKS Matrix can also be found in the student agenda.