



Dear Parents:

It is December already! December is always a time of excitement as well as a time for stress. Excitement for the holidays and stress over all the expectations those holidays bring for many families. Managing those emotions is always challenging for adults as well as our children.



One of the best ways to manage this is to keep predictable routines at home. We know that the holiday season is always full of disruptions to our regular routines. However, when children (and adults) can predict what is happening, that helps take away the stress of uncertainty. It can be as simple as having predictable homework times, eating times, and bed times. Sleep is especially important in managing stress. Making sure that everyone is getting lots of sleep will help with stress levels and make the holiday season successful for all!

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. 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.



## MOTHER GOOSE

Kamloops Early Language and Learning Initiative and School District No. 73 present Parent-Child Mother Goose Program at Dufferin Elementary.

Enjoy an hour of rhymes, songs, and stories. Learn ways to encourage language and social development. Meet other parents. Learn about community resources.

When and where? 6:00pm to 7:00pm every Thursday starting on January 15 and going to March 5 at Dufferin Elementary School. To register call 250-374-4435. The cost is FREE but spaces are limited!

## ANNUAL SUN PEAKS SKI TRIP

Our annual Sun Peaks ski trip for grade 4-7 is scheduled for January 29 and 30 this year. Registration forms will be going out to parents the first week back from the break.

Please be aware that the cost is \$135 per student for two days and rentals. \$110 if you have your own equipment. Students who have their own ski pass it is \$75 with rental or \$50 if you don't need rental. Lessons are mandatory and included in the price.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

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

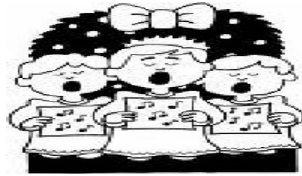
**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

1:00pm – 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!



The PAC will also be doing a number of activities, including:

- 50/50 draw
- Raffle for VIP seating and parking
- Coffee and Tea sale

We would also like to encourage you to bring a donation to the food bank. We will be collecting donations at the door.

## 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.

## 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.

8:22am	Warning Bell
8:30am	Classes Begin (O'Canada)
10:05am	Recess Begins
10:20am	Recess Ends / Classes Begin
12:00pm	Lunch – Outside Play Time
12:30pm	Lunch – Inside Eating Time
12:45pm	Lunch – Warning Bell/Clean Up
12:50pm	Lunch Ends / Classes Begin
2:30pm	Students Dismissed
3:00pm	Detained Student Dismissal

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our next PAC meeting will be on:

**Monday, January 5 @ 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 @ [dufferinelempac@gmail.com](mailto:dufferinelempac@gmail.com)

Some upcoming PAC events are:

PAC Craft Fair: **Saturday, Dec 6 (10am - 3pm)**

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.**

## BASKETBALL SEASON

The Basketball season is ready to begin this year. League play will start beginning the week of January 9 and ending the week of February 19. Playoffs will follow. Tier 1 boys (grade 6/7) will play on Tuesdays and girls (grade 6/7) on Thursdays. Tier 3 (grade 4/5) boys and girls will play on Wednesdays.

Practices will be starting the first week of December. If students are interested, they can show up to practice and join. It is expected that students make their best effort to show up and participate in practices if they wish to play.



**We are still looking for a coach for the Tier 1 (grade 6/7) girls team.** If you are interested, please contact the school.

## SCHOOL ILLNESS

It is that time of year where 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.

## VOLLEYBALL

The Volleyball season has come to a close! It was a great season and the school and students would like to thank our coaches and volunteers. Without their help, our students would not have been able to participate in the season.

Our grade 4/5 volunteers: Mrs. Geoghegan, Mr. Deol, and Mrs. Preymak. Plus all the other parents who pitched in as drivers and fans!

Our grade 6/7 volunteers: Mrs. Trouton, Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Cumming, Ms. Dalsin, Mrs. Bubela, and Mr. Noble. We would also like to thank all the volunteer referees and score keepers!

School extra-curricular programs depend on volunteers and we are lucky to have had this dedicated group!

## 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.



Dec 1	Poinsettia Pick Up
Dec 3	Dieleman Order Pick Up
Dec 5	NI Day* (No school for students)
Dec 6	Craft Fair (PAC)
Dec 17	Christmas Concert
Dec 19	Last day before Winter Holiday

## December 20 – January 4 WINTER HOLIDAY

Jan 5	School Reopens
Jan 15	Mother Goose Begins
Jan 20	Basketball Begins
Jan 29-30	Sun Peaks Ski Trip
Feb 2	Groundhog Day YPC – Project Soul
Feb 9	Holiday (BC Family Day)
Feb 11	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 12	Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 14	Valentines Day
Feb 20	NI Day* (No school for students)
Mar 8	Daylight Savings
Mar 13	Term 2 Report Cards Last day before Spring Break

## March 14 – March 29 SPRING BREAK

Mar 30	School Reopens
Apr 3	Holiday (Good Friday)
Apr 6	Holiday (Easter Monday)
Apr 7	Day of Suwentwecw
Apr 20	NI Day* (No school for students)
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11	NI Day* (No school for students)
May 18	Holiday (Victoria Day)
May 20	Zone Track Meet
May 26	District 1500m Race
May 27	District Track Meet
Jun 21	Father's Day
Jun 25	Last Day for Students (½ Day) Term 3 Report Cards

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

## HEAD LICE

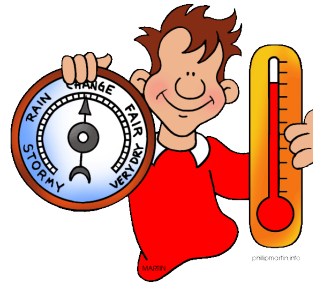
With the colder weather and holidays, students are 'bundling' up, wearing hats, keeping inside and in close contact with friends and family. This makes it easier for our pesky friends the head lice to spread.

It is recommended to parents that you **check your children at home at least once a week!** 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.

**More information about head lice and how to control them can be found on our school website.** Thank you in advance for helping with this. Vigilance by the home is the best way to control the spread of head lice. Remember, it isn't enough to just use the shampoo. Some lice are immune - so removal of all the nits (eggs) from the hair after treatment is necessary or they can hatch and re-infest. It only takes one live louse to lay hundreds of eggs.

## 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.



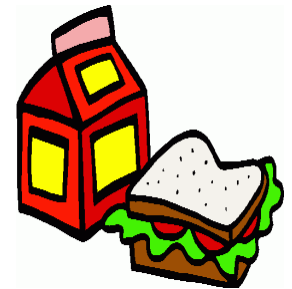
When entrances are marked by orange cones, this is an indicator that students should be removing their outside footwear at the door to keep our hallways and classroom

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.

## EATING LUNCH AT SCHOOL

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.

**At this time and due to safety, we will not be granting permission for students to cross the overpass (Copperhead Drive) during school hours. This includes going to the Petro-Canada Service station.**

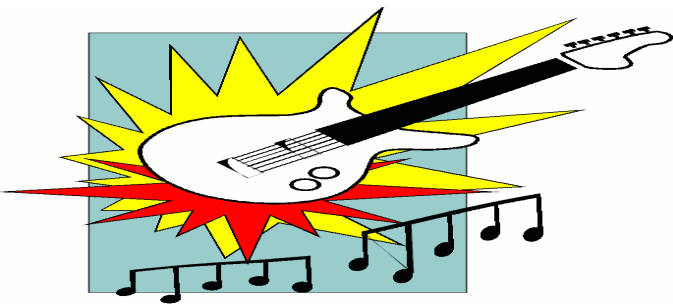
Parents may take their children to lunch. Students can be released to other parents at lunch if there is a signed note confirming

permission for your child to leave with that parent. If students need to purchase a lunch we encourage you to take advantage of our lunch program or parents may sign their child out and take them to lunch. If you take your child for lunch, please sign out at the office and sign in when you return.

## LOST AND FOUND

The school will be donating any extra lost and found items still remaining before the winter break. If you have a moment, please make sure you come and check for items your child may have lost.

## 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 **Respect!** Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.

- Treating people with courtesy (good manners)
- Using appropriate language (including not calling people names)
- Caring enough about yourself or others that you don't do things that will hurt you or get you in trouble, or hurt others or get them in trouble

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.