



Dear Parents:

As we move into February and over half the school year is completed we should keep in mind the importance of physical activity.

The winter months can be the longest and sometimes we wish we can just hibernate like bears with a good book, television and a warm blanket. However, it is important to remember how physical activity is so important, especially for our children.

It is recommended that we get at least 35 minutes per day, five days a week of exercise that gets our heart pumping. We have to be especially mindful of how much exercise we are getting during the winter months where we are more prone to be naturally less active.

Exercise not only improves physical health, but it also improves mental alertness, mood, sleep, and energy levels. Take some time every day to schedule some physical activity in for your children and the results will pay off both at home and at 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. 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) and leave a message.

EARLY RELEASE DAYS (FEB 11 & 12)

On Wednesday, February 11 and Thursday, February 12 Dufferin School will be having our early release days to meet with parents. There will be no sign up. If teachers wish to make an appointment to see you, they will be contacting you directly.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm and buses will be running early. Please make arrangements for your children to be home early on those days. If your child rides the Lac Le Jeune bus, it will not be able to run at the early times due to the high school. Please make arrangements for your child to be picked up on those days.

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.

Wednesdays – Intermediate students will have an opportunity with Mr. Noble and Mrs. Lovett between 12:00 and 12:30 interacting with various math activities.

If you would like to volunteer and help out, please contact the school and let Mrs. Lovett know.

FAMILY DANCE NIGHT with SHAKWOOD ANNIE!

The PAC would like to thank everyone for attending and helping at a successful Family Dance night on January 30!

Shakewood Annie Dance Shows include a huge variety of family activities and dance games. It was great fun!

DINNER NIGHT

The PAC is hosting a Dinner Night at "On the Rocks Pub and Grill."

Saturday, March 7 from 5pm to 9pm

Tickets are only \$12 and you can get them by filling out the online form (school website) or at the school. You have a choice of steak, butter chicken, or veggie pasta.

There will also be a 50/50 draw and Raffle. The PAC is also looking for donations for their raffle. If you can donate, please contact Angie at angie4mt@yahoo.com or Julianne at juliannevanstone@hotmail.com

Proceeds from the PAC Dinner and raffles go to support the PAC and school activities!

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.

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 is on:

Monday, March 2 @ 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

Some upcoming PAC events are:

Dinner Night (On the Rocks Pub & Grill):
Saturday, March 7 (5pm - 9pm)

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

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.

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). The website calendar will be updated on a regular basis.

Feb 11 Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 12 Early Closure for Parent Interviews
Feb 14 Valentines Day
Feb 19 Basketball Regular Season Ends
Feb 20 NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 23 Basketball Playoffs Begin
Feb 25 Pink Shirt Day

Mar 2-6 Kindergarten Registration
Mar 2 PAC Meeting
Mar 6 Basketball Season Ends
Mar 7 Dinner Night (On the Rocks Grill)
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 1 Young Author's
May 10 Mother's Day
May 11 NI Day* (No school for students)
May 14 Zones 1500m Race
May 18 Holiday (Victoria Day)
May 20 Zone Track Meet
May 25 District 1500m Race
May 26 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)**

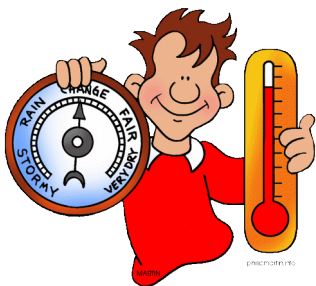
HEAD LICE

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.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)

It is that time of year again for students in grades 4 and 7 to write the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). This is a province wide

assessment for students based on provincial learning outcomes in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Grades four, seven, and ten students in the school district will be writing the FSA between **January 19th and February 13th, 2015**.

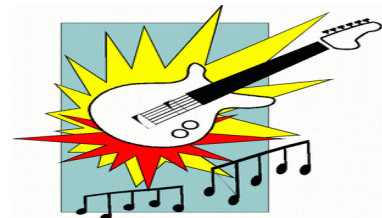
All students in grades 4 and 7 in attendance during those dates are required to write this assessment. Please be aware that according to the School Act in B.C. - parents, teachers, or **principals CAN NOT excuse students** from writing the assessment unless they are on a modified special education program, or have a **diagnosed** medical disability that prevents them from writing.

More information about the FSA can be found on our school website.

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 **Kind!** Being kind means you act in a way that is kind to yourself and others. One of our goals is to be kind on purpose at least twice a day (or more). If everyone at Dufferin does this, we would have over 600 kind acts a day happening at our school!

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.