



Dear Parents:

I hope everyone had a restful holiday and New Year! Despite some interesting weather we are ready to start 2015. The winter months leading to Spring Break tend to be busy with lots of activities and learning happening for our students.



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During the long winter months of January and February, it is important for students to keep their energy and focus up. With the weather, we tend to spend more time inside breathing stale air. Building in regular times where children spend some time outside getting fresh air and sunshine is important. Fresh air contains more oxygen. Our brains need 20 percent of our bodies oxygen. More oxygen brings greater clarity to the brain, improves concentration, helps you think more clearly and has a positive effect on your energy level.

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.



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.

Thank You from Ms. Eacrett's Class

Ms. Eacrett's class would like to thank General Paint and the Anderberg family for their generous donation of craft supplies! It is generous donations and volunteers from the community that add value to our student's learning experiences.

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. \$115 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.

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)

Because of the unusual weather and Snow Days, the January 5th PAC meeting was canceled. It will be rescheduled and announced on the school website.

Monday, Jan 12 @ 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:

Shakewood Annie/Family Dance: **Friday, Jan 30 (6pm - 8pm)**

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 19 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.

Our volunteer coaching staff this year are:
 Grade 4/5 Boys – Mr. Deol
 Grade 4/5 Girls – Mrs. Deol
 Grade 6/7 Boys – Mr. Bamsey/Mrs. Friesen
 Grade 6/7 Girls – Mrs. Brooks

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.

Jan 5	School Reopens
Jan 7	Cat in the Hat Visit
Jan 9	Sahali Secondary Jazz Band
Jan 12	PAC Meeting
Jan 14	Annual Book Swap
Jan 15	Mother Goose Begins
Jan 19	FSA Begins (Grade 4 and 7)
Jan 20	Basketball Begins
Jan 26-30	Family Literacy Week
Jan 29-30	Sun Peaks Ski Trip
Jan 30	Shakewood Annie/Family Dance
Feb 2	Groundhog Day YPC – Project Soul
Feb 6	Kindergarten Vision Screening
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 19	Basketball Regular Season Ends
Feb 20	NI Day* (No school for students)
Feb 23	Basketball Playoffs Begin
Mar 6	Basketball Season Ends
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

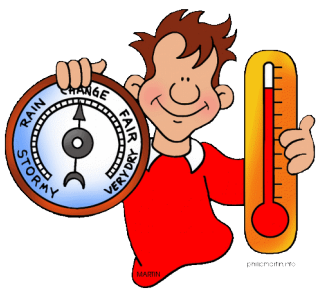
With the colder weather and holidays, students are 'bundling' up, wearing hats, keeping inside and in close contact with friends and family. This makes it easier for our pesky friends the head lice to spread.

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.

FOUNDATION SKILLS

ASSESSMENT (FSA)

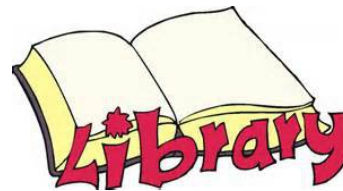
It is that time of year again for students in grades 4 and 7 to write the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). This is a province wide

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.

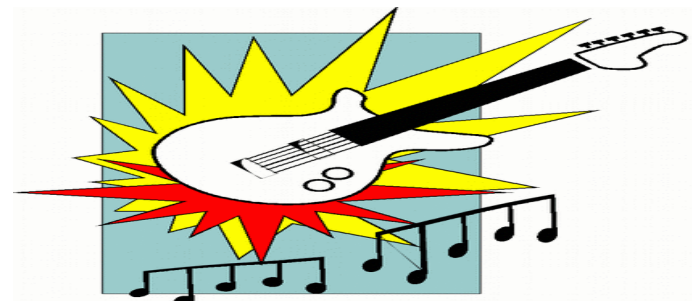
LIBRARY NEWS



Our annual Book Swap will be happening on Wednesday, January 14th to collect books for the Heap the Honda literacy project here in town.

Students are asked to bring in gently used books from home that they think other students might like to read. Students who bring in books will have an opportunity to pick some "new to them" books, and all remaining books will be donated to the Heap the Honda. This is always a very successful event at Dufferin!

DUFFERIN ROCKS!



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

Respectful
Organized
Caring
Kind
Safe

This month we are going to be working on **Safety!** Being safe means you act in a way that shows you are being safe at all times and care about others safety.

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.

Some of the SNOW SAFETY rules are listed below, please review them at home with your child.

Sliding



- Slide in designated areas only
 - Soft sleds only
 - Feet first
 - Make sure the hill is clear BEFORE sliding down
- Move off hill (bottom of hill) as soon as you come to a stop
 - No horseplay

Snow Rules

- Snow stays ON THE GROUND
- Snow is for building and sliding – Respect what others have built (look after it if you are using it and ONLY break things that you alone have built).