



Dear Parents:

March is upon us and it is going to be a busy month! Report cards are coming as well as a longer Spring Break this year!



Second term report cards are going out to students in two weeks (just before Spring Break). We have put some advice for parents on report cards on

the school website under "general information." It recommends that the focus should be on the positive, to ask the right questions, and there is also some advice on how to set goals for the next term.

Spring Break has also been extended this year. Another week has been added. Although there are a number of activities for children organized in the city this year, it is important to try and maintain some routines. Some of those routines can include reading daily. There is also a number of excellent learning resources available on sites such as LearnNowBC (information is included in this newsletter).

It isn't necessary to overwhelm children with extra school work on their break. However, we know that during longer breaks, students who spend 30 minutes to an hour a day either reading or doing a learning activity do much better when returning to 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



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

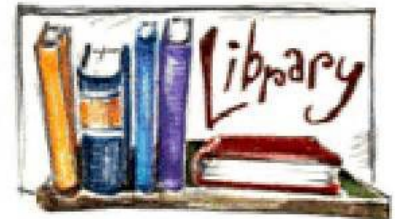
these hours. If you need to contact the school outside of these hours to let us know of an absence, please feel free to email our secretary Ms. Norton (anorton@sd73.bc.ca) and leave a message.

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.

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 over \$880.00 worth 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.



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.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The leadership team did a great job at fundraising for Coldest Night of the Year! They sold bracelets and raised over \$246. Students who led this initiative were: Aaliyah Billyboy, Courtenay Brennan, Sabine McAusland, Skyla Keir, Ariel Trouton, Brook Pattison, Kolby Sage, Tyler Musey, Amanda McGillivray, Jayden Luton, Josie Cumming, and Kalissa Brooks!

FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season will be starting right after Spring Break. Dufferin Elementary is looking for interested coaches for the 2015 season. 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.



BASKETBALL

We would like to thank everyone for an excellent 2015 basketball season! There were many comments about the level of sportsmanship by our students while representing our school. Also the skill improvement by all of our students. We would especially like to thank our volunteers: Mr. & Mrs. Brooks, Mr. & Mrs. Deol, Mrs. Friesen, Mrs. Hembling, Mr. Bamsey, Mrs. Lovett, Mrs.

Preymak and our regular referee Felicia Brooks! Without them we would not have been able to have a basketball season.

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.

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:

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

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

Mar 2-6	Kindergarten Registration
Mar 2	PAC Meeting
Mar 7	Dinner Night (On the Rocks Grill)
Mar 8	Daylight Savings
Mar 13	Term 2 Report Cards
	Spirit Day (Hat Day)
	Last day before Spring Break

March 14 – March 29 SPRING BREAK

Mar 30	School Reopens
Apr 2	Young Authors Submissions
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 Conference
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)**

TICKS

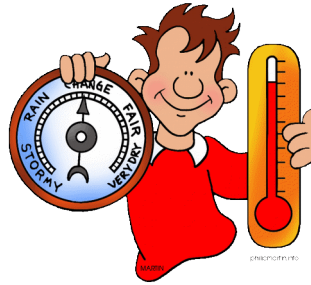
With the warm weather, ticks are out! Children are outside almost every day of the week. It is important to check them (and pets) daily for ticks, especially before they come into the house. Ticks can easily drop off on carpets or



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.

BIG LITTLE SCIENCE CENTER

The Big Little Science Center offers a number of camps and clubs from January to June. They will also be offering daily and weekly camps over Spring Break!



Super Science Camp for grades 2 and up from March 16-20. \$180 per child for fun and exciting hands-on science.

Daily Science Fun Camps from March 23-27. \$50 for the whole week or \$15 per day. Each day will have a different science theme.

If you are interested, there are information pamphlets at the school office, or contact Susan Hammond at 250-554-2572 or email susan@blscs.org.

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 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.

WE CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD



With KINDNESS