



Dear Parents:

Spring is here and children are buzzing with activity. Hopefully in all the activity we try and find time for children to be children. As families try and establish spring activities and routines, it is also important to remember that as children grow and learn, it is important to build those intimate family connections and relationships that happen during family dinners and family activities.

It is also important to have some free time for children to learn through exploration and the joy of discovery. To be able to problem solve their own issue (with guidance) and experience the immediate world around them. Spring offers many opportunities for children to learn this way. It is important that we invest our time in our most valuable resource – our children.

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.

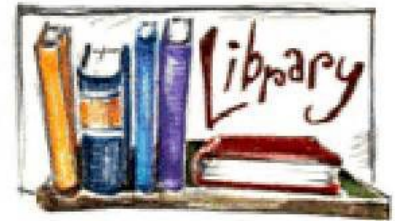
BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLE

In the summer of 2014 the PAC purchased two benches and a picnic table to add to our

playground. They will be installed this spring. Initially a bench was going to be put by the main entrance to the school, however it had to be moved due to building service access. The picnic table and both benches will now be installed around the edge of the East playground equipment.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you everyone for the extra effort in getting your library books returned on time!



Also, there will be a Book Fair on Tuesday, April 28th and Wednesday, April 29th from 8:30am to 3:30pm in the room next to the computer lab. Proceeds go toward purchasing new library resources.

We will also be hosting a visiting author Joel Sutherland here at Dufferin on May 6 from 8:40am to 9:40am in the gym. He is a Canadian author well known for his Haunted Canada 4 book. Students in grades 3-5 will have an opportunity to meet him.

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

MATH CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top six for our school. They will be representing our school at the district math challenge!



Amanda McGillivray, Tyler Musey, Evan McCarthy, Mason Whitehead, Paige Hembling, and Bradey Woodruff.

We also had a number of students participate in the grade five Mathematica Centrum national

math competition. We will probably get results in June! We are wishing them luck!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Three teams went to the Battle of the Books Zones on April 16. Our grade 3 /4 team place third out of six teams. Our grade 6 /7 team placed third out of six teams and our grade 5 team placed second.

Our grade 5 team will be moving on to the District Battle of the Book competition on April 23 at the Henry Grube Education Centre. Great job and good luck to our grade five team!

TCC INDOOR RELAY FEST

Dufferin school sent a number of teams to the TCC Indoor Relay Race. Special recognition go out to our grade 4 girls who placed first overall. The grade four girls team consisted of Taya Nordee, Paige Araneda, Olivia Teale, and Kalie Saari.

Other relay team members were Eric Hembling, Aidan Sutter, Ben Greenwell, Mason Whitehead, Zach Gibson-Lawrence, Ryan Sanderson, Bryce Wongs, Devin Benson, Kaelinn Wilkie, Frances Harrison, Abby Sanderson, Brooklyn Crawford, Alexandria Gammel, Paige Judiesch, Sophie Lovett, and Kenzie Sinclair.

ABORIGINAL NEWS

Thank you everyone for participating in our School District's annual Day of Suwewtwewcwl!

Dufferin is also planning to host an Aboriginal Day on June 19th which will include a number of cultural activities.

FLAG FOOTBALL

Flag Football season has started. There were a large number of students who signed up to play. In order to make it manageable, we will be dividing the games up for students. Students will not be playing every game, but they will be alternating. A schedule of when they will play will come out shortly.



TRACK AND FIELD

Our school track meet is tentatively booked for May 13. We are looking for parent volunteers as well as volunteers to help run a concession to raise money for Eagle Bay. If you can help out that day, please contact the school!

We are also looking for volunteers to help with upcoming Zone and District Track and Field Meets. 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!

YOUNG AUTHOR'S CONFERENCE

The annual Young Author's Conference is coming up on May 1. We have a number of Young Authors who will be attending and representing our school. Congratulations to Sophia Lovett, Anthea Neves, Breanne Campbell, Jazmine Roberts, Nikki Christiaens, Brooke Whiteley, Morgan Beatty, and Maia Matheson on being selected to represent our school at the upcoming conference.

YOUNG ARTIST'S CONFERENCE

The annual Young Artist's Conference is coming up on May 15. We have a number of Young Artists who will be attending and representing our school. Congratulations to Jayda Deol, Erin Plowe, Paige Geoghegan, Kailey Moore, Amanda McGillivray, and Josie Cumming on being selected to represent our school at the upcoming conference.

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.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

Our next PAC meeting is on:

Monday, May 4 @ 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:

PAC Executive Elections – May 4, 2015

If you are interested in becoming part of the PAC executive or know someone who is, nomination forms will be available at the school or on the Dufferin website.

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.



Apr 27	Young People's Concert
Apr 28	School/Class Pictures
Apr 28-29	Spring Book Fair
May 1	Young Author's Conference
May 4	PAC Meeting & Elections
May 6	Visiting Author (J. Sutherland)
May 8-9	District Heritage Fair
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11	NI Day* (No school for students)
May 13	School Track Meet

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 10	Kinder Orientation
Jun 11	Fun Fair
Jun 15-17	Eagle Bay Trip (Grade 7)
Jun 19	Aboriginal Day
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)**

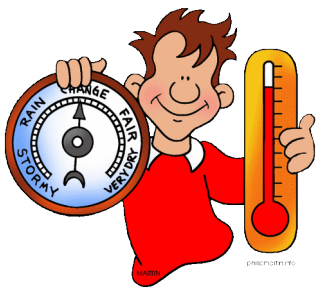
TICKS

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.

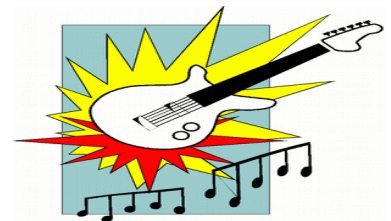
This year, Dufferin will be sending 10 students to the District Heritage Fair. Congratulations to the following students for moving on to represent our school and themselves at the District Fair on May 8th and 9th:

Dayton Tomlin, Kobe Pavlovich, Amanda McGillivray, Josie Cumming, Kalissa Brooks, Jodh Singh Nahal, Paige Hembling, Devin Benson, Brielle Brooks, Gurman Kang. Jodh Singh Nahal also won honourable mention for the stamp he entered in the District Heritage Fair Stamp Collection contest.

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 **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.