

*Dufferin Elementary*  
**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**September 12th, 2023**

**'Home of the Dragons'**



**Welcome to the 2023-2024 School year!**

Summer Break brings many memories of lazy days, family trips, ice cream, staying up late/sleeping in, and warm nights. However, it also is a break from routine, allowing for freedom of play.

Welcome back to Dufferin Elementary and a daily routine of early mornings, making lunches, riding the bus, gaining knowledge, homework, class trips, friends and friendships.

The Staff at Dufferin Elementary are pleased to welcome our new students and four new staff members, along with our returning group of over 265 students.

Thank you to the parents/caregivers for your patience and understanding while classes were formed and students placed into their new learning environments.

During the first week students were taught many valuable Social, Emotional, and Behavioural lessons in order to establish a consistent and positive school environment, along with various other activities.

Throughout the school year students and staff will be utilizing PBIS: A Behavioural Management System that focuses on doing what is effective and positive when it comes to interacting amongst the students and staff while at Dufferin Elementary School.

PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) with the underlying theme of teaching behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject. The primary prevention of positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) consists of rules, routines, and physical arrangements that are developed and taught by school staff to prevent initial occurrences of behavior the school would like to target for change. Research indicates that 3-5 behavioral expectations that are positively stated, easy to remember, and significant to the climate are best. At Dufferin we are focusing on ROCKS – Respectful, Organized, Caring, Kind, and Safe behaviour.

We hope all of our students enjoy their year of learning here at Dufferin.

Mr. G. Cumming ~ Principal

## Dufferin turns 40!

On **Thursday, September 21st** we will celebrate Dufferin's 40th Birthday with a school wide assembly including cake! PAC will also be hosting their **Welcome Back BBQ starting at 4:30 pm**. We will be having students dress from the 80s on Thursday, September 21st, along with having music and trivia. More information to come.

## Monthly Calendar of Events

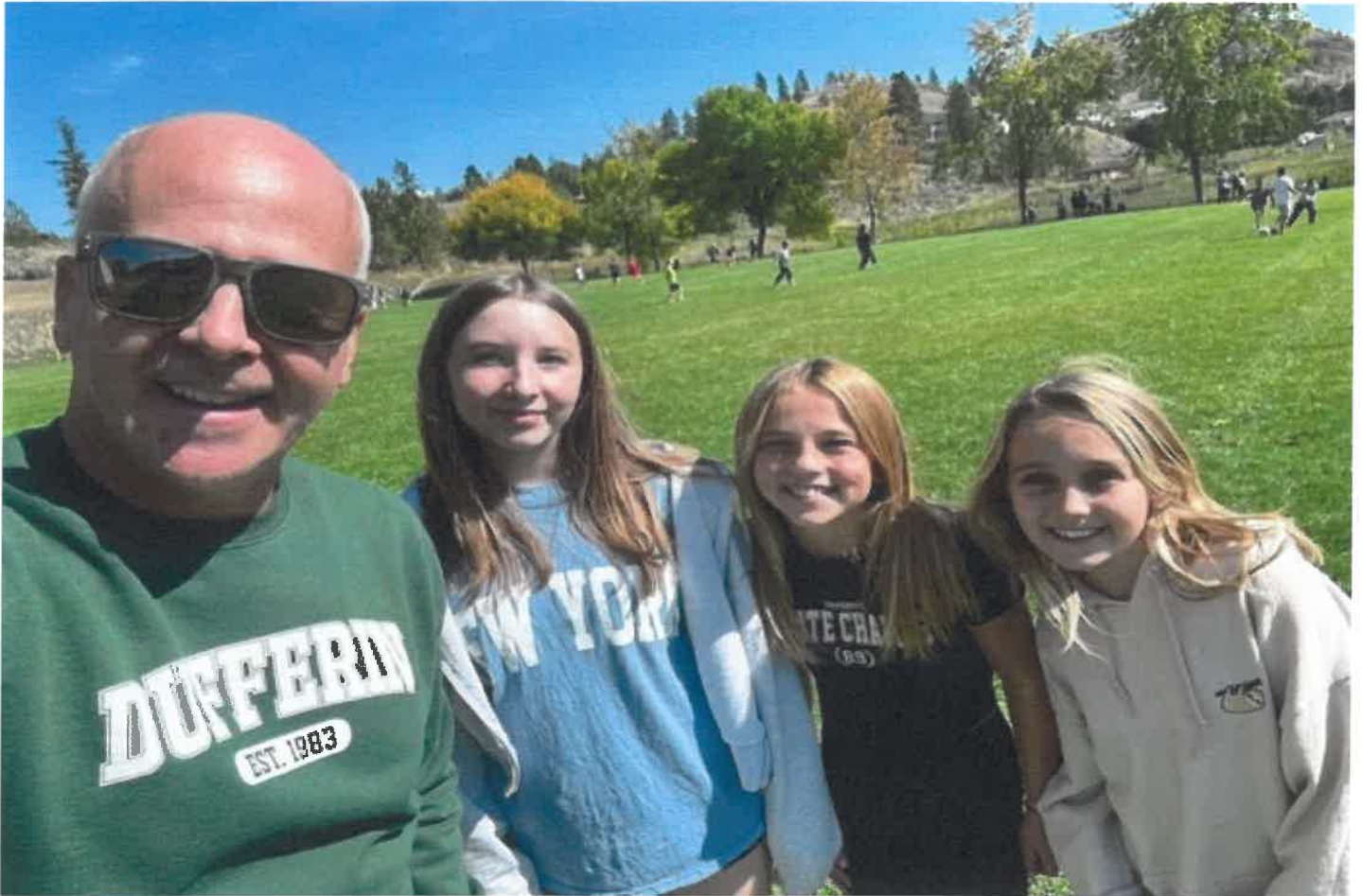
September 14th	PAC Meeting in the Library @ 6 pm
September 21	PAC Welcome Back BBQ @ 4:30 pm
September 25	Non-Instructional Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
October 2	National Day of Truth & Reconciliation - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
October 9	Thanksgiving Holiday - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
TBD	Terry Fox Run
October 10	Individual Photo Day
October 25	Retakes AND Class Photos



## School Learning Plan

Information on Dufferin's School Learning Plan (SLP) can be found at:

[W](#) 2023-24 September Copy SLP Dufferin .docx



## Hot Lunch Program Info

Dufferin will be running a Friday, Hot Lunch Program

**Munch-A-Lunch** - The Meal menus for Munchalunch can be found on their website.

Login to: <https://munchalunch.com/login.aspx> to place orders or to register a new account.

## Bell Schedule 2023-24

Welcome Bell: Students enter the Building	8:25 am
School Starts: Students ready to learn	8:30 am
Recess	10:10 am
Students re-enter school	10:25 am
Lunch - eating in the classroom	12:05 pm
Lunch - Play time outside	12:25 pm
Lunch Ends - Classes resume	1:05 pm
Dismissal	2:41 pm

### ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT -

It is your responsibility to inform the school if your child is going to be late or absent. We have a “safe arrival” program at Dufferin Elementary. **Please call 1-844-350-2647 before 8:30 am or visit: [ktsd.schoolconnects.com](https://ktsd.schoolconnects.com)** In addition, be sure your child knows what the family plan is for their after school care **before** they go to school. If the after school care is different from the norm be sure to write a reminder for your child in their agenda book. If your child will be riding on a bus they don't normally ride or will be getting off at a different bus stop, write a dated consent note for the bus driver.

**If your child is going to be arriving late, please remind them that they must check in at the office.**

### Medical Alert Info

You've all read the headlines and seen the news stories: food allergies are a growing concern in schools across North America. Millions of children - children who are perfectly healthy and normal in every other way - must watch every single bite they eat, or risk suffering a severe or even life threatening reaction. I'm sure you can appreciate how a major health issue such as this one needs to be taken very seriously, and it has always been the policy of this school to make the safety and well being of our students our top priority. If you have any questions or concerns about food-allergy related issues, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Remember to always wash your hands before eating and after using the washroom.

**Parents : Remember, it is your responsibility to let the school know if your child has a serious health condition or requires medication at school. Contact the school office if you would like more information or to pick up the required forms. If your child already has a form on file at school please review and update the plan as soon as possible.**

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

All students will have their **individual photo taken on Tuesday, October 10th**. For best results, brightly coloured clothing should be worn and hair should be groomed. Please bring a comb and your **BEST SMILE!**

**\*Retakes AND Class Photos will be on Wednesday, October 25th**

## BUS DRIVERS & ROUTES

Bus Number	Route	Driver
21735	Cherry Creek	Glen
20730	Walloper/Lac Le Jeune	Mary
18732	Tobiano	Brent
21739	Long Lake/Pineview	Don

If you have any problems or questions regarding bus routes, please call the Kamloops District Transportation Department @ 250-372-5853. As you can appreciate, the school cannot be responsible for organizing and monitoring over 100 students and their bus schedules. It is vital that families arrange for and plan their child's daily transportation to and from the school. We appreciate your understanding of this issue.



## **SCHOOL STAFF ~**

**Principal: Mr. G. Cumming**

**Administrative Assistant: Mrs. A. Grywacheski**

**Certified Education Assistants:**

Tracey Mirtle

Kari Simons

Terri Rowand

Kristi Taylor-Hanson ( Library Assistant)

Julia Wright (AEW)

**Custodial Staff:**

Trevor Dick

David Walton

**Primary Teaching Staff:**

Jacqueline Carter/Stephanie Danyluk

Linda Thomas

Tiffany Cross

Donna Thomson

Nicole Preymak

Brianna Lofgren

Pam Lovett

**LARTS**

Michelle Bell

Giuliana Barros

**Intermediate Staff:**

Seema McGarry

Wes Mueller

Kim Geoghegan

Josette Dalsin

Lorry Eacrett

Janet McCloy (FA PREP)

Morgan Keith (PE PREP)

**Librarian**

Nicole Gorman

**TRU Teacher Candidates:**

Morgan Toews in Mrs. Thomas' Kindergarten Class

Charles Riley in Mr. Mueller's Grade 6/7 Class

## **LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS**

We are looking for a few Lunch Time and Morning Supervisors. If you are interested **please contact Mr. Cumming at the school 250-374-4425. We do pay!**

## PAC

Welcome back after a wonderful summer and good luck to everyone in the new school year. If there are any parents interested in becoming a part of our PAC, **the first meeting is Wednesday, September 14th @ 6:00 pm in the Library.**

We encourage you to be involved in your children's education. Our aim is to make our children's educational experience the best that it can be. Come and meet other parents and share your ideas and concerns. We need your support.





## Fair Notice for Parents and Students 2023-2024

Dear Parents and Students:

The safety of our students is a top priority for us all. As a school system, we have been involved in intensive safety training with our community partners – the police, Child & Youth Mental Health and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Together we have developed a district plan for responding to all situations in which students may be posing a threat to themselves or others. School District No. 73 has a policy in place that requires principals to activate a multidisciplinary “threat assessment” protocol in all cases of students making significant high level threats to harm themselves or others. The procedure is available on the school district website at [www.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.sd73.bc.ca)

### What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats must be taken seriously, investigated and responded to.

### Duty to report

In order to keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers, students and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

### What is a Site-Specific Threat Assessment Team?

The school has a site-specific threat assessment team that includes the principal(s), counsellor(s), teachers and a member of the police.

### The purposes of a student threat assessment are:

- to ensure and promote the emotional and physical safety of students, staff, parents, the student making the threat, and others
- to ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- to understand the factors underlying the behaviours of the threat maker
- to be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker
- to promote the emotional and physical safety of all

### A student threat assessment will be initiated for behaviours including, but not limited to:

- serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- online threats to harm/kill others
- possession of weapons (including replicas)
- gang related intimidation and violence
- verbal/written threats to harm/kill others (clear, direct, plausible)
- bomb threats (making and/or detonating explosive devices)
- fire starting
- sexual intimidation and violence

### What parents and students need to know:

- any threat must be reported to the school principal
- investigations may involve the student services counsellor, the police or other community agencies
- investigations may involve locker or personal property searches
- interviews will be held with the threat maker and other students or adults who may have information about the threat
- parents of students who are directly involved with a threat will be notified
- threatening behaviour may result in disciplinary action and/or change in school placement
- an intervention plan may be developed for the student making the threat and a support plan developed for any individuals targeted by threats

### Collection Notice

The School District is subject to personal information privacy laws, and will undertake the collection of this information in compliance with the requirements of such laws, including limiting collection of information that is relevant and necessary to address a risk or threat and by ensuring that information is collected from online open source sites. The School District will not collect information as part of a threat assessment unless there is reason to believe that a risk exists. Information collected as part of a threat assessment may be provided to law enforcement authorities in appropriate circumstances.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Nixon, Ph.D, Superintendent of Schools





**Come Read with Me**

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER TUTOR

Do you have **2 HOURS  
A WEEK** during school  
hours to read one-on-one  
with young students?

- No experience is necessary, but you must have good English language skills
- We provide free training and ongoing support
- Tutors read with 3 elementary students for 30 minutes each, once a week for 12 weeks



## Volunteer Training

Thursday, Sept 28  
5:30pm-8:30pm  
Room 6

Tuesday, Oct 3rd  
9am-12pm  
Room 6

*Henry Grube Education Centre  
245 Kitchener Crescent*

Please register by contacting Cami at  
[cami.literacyinkamloops@gmail.com](mailto:cami.literacyinkamloops@gmail.com) or 250-573-1785

## DUFFERIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL SUPPLIES FORM 2023 / 2024

School supplies are provided to students for a user fee. This ensures that the school will supply all pens, paper, etc. for the school year, as the child needs them. We encourage parents to use this system as it is economical and provides consistency of materials throughout the classroom. Grades 1-7 are required to use an Agenda Book. Kindergarten students will use a modified version of an Agenda folder that the Kindergarten teachers will provide to kindergarten students.

All students attend a series of music/drama concerts throughout the year.

For your convenience we have listed all fees below. To make it easier Dufferin has made these amounts one lump sum online.

### STUDENT AND FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND (SFAF)

The Province of BC has provided funding to help families with the rising cost of living through the Student and Family Affordability Fund. This year some of your child's fees (school supplies, Art Starts, and Agenda's) can be paid through the Provincial Student & Family Affordability Fund.

You can either pay for your children's fee's online by your preferred method or choose to pay through the SFAF online. IF USING THE ONLINE METHOD, PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM TO OFFICE. Please create a new account or pay online at: <https://schoolcashionline.com>

**PLEASE NOTE: FEES ARE DUE BY October 6, 2023.**

Complete form below, if paying by cash or cheque, or requesting SFAF to be processed at the office. (You may write one cheque per family, if you wish.) *Make cheques payable to Dufferin Elementary.*

Grade	Basic Supplies	Art Starts	Agenda	Total per child
Kindergarten	32.00	15.00	0.00	47.00
Grades 1-3	32.00	15.00	10.00	57.00
Grades 4-7	49.00	15.00	10.00	73.00

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_ AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_ AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_ AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_ TEACHER: \_\_\_\_\_ AMT: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT OWING:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My student(s)' fees have been paid by *cash or cheque*.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to use the *Student and Family Affordability Fund* to pay for school fees.