



Dufferin Elementary School

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January 2026

Principal's Message

Welcome back and Happy New Year to our Dufferin Elementary community.! I hope everyone had a restful and joyful break and enjoyed time with family and friends. It has been wonderful to welcome our students back to school—the halls are once again filled with energy, laughter, and learning. Staff have been eagerly looking forward to seeing the children again, and it has been exciting to reconnect and hear all about their holiday experiences.

January is always an exciting time at school. Classrooms quickly settle back into routines, students dive into new learning, and there is a real sense of renewed focus and enthusiasm. We also have lots of fun activities planned this month to keep students engaged and motivated during the winter season and as always, there are constant opportunities for students to learn, create, and collaborate.

Thank you to our families for your continued support as we begin this new year together. We are looking forward to a fantastic month ahead and to all the learning, growth, and fun that January will bring.

Sincerely,

Scott Galloway



This year **kindergarten registration** will take place between February 2nd and 6th. Registration will be open to children turning five by December 31, 2026.

- Registration process:
 - Pick up registration package from our school (between February 2nd and 6th). Return completed forms to school by 3 PM on February 6th, 2026.
 - Parents will be required to provide a copy of both sides of their child's BC service card, proof of address (driver's license, lease/Rental Agreement/purchase agreement, Gas or Hydro Bill), child's birth certificate, and custody agreement if applicable.

Registration packages for students with an older sibling may be sent home (**by request only**) with that sibling. Return completed forms to school with sibling.

We encourage you to attend the **SD73 Kindergarten Information Night**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 - 6:30 PM (virtual session)

[ZOOM Link Here](#)

Meeting ID: 634 1071 0053

Passcode: 389554

Join us to learn more about kindergarten registration and ask questions to the SD73 Early Learning team.

To learn more about Kindergarten in SD73:

- Explore the [Welcome to Kindergarten Handbook](#)
- Explore the Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Kindergarten Registration [here](#).

Salvation Army Food Donations

A big thank you to our Dufferin families for your kind and generous donations of non-perishable food items. Your donations were passed on to the Kamloops Salvation Army who distributed hampers to families in need in our community.

Christmas Show

Our Christmas Show was a great success! Special thanks to Dr. McCloy and Ms. Thomson for organizing the production and for set design. Bravo!

Basketball

Basketball season begins soon. League play starts on the week of January 19th.



The coaches for this season are:

- *Rec Boys: Mr. Galloway
- *Rec Girls: Mrs. Lofgren and Community Coach (Ms. Jurista)
- *Competitive Boys: Community Coaches (Mr. Cross and Mr. McNeil)
- *Competitive Girls: Mrs. Keith

Unplug and Play Family Literacy Week

Dufferin Elementary will be participating in the Unplug & Play School Challenge for Family Literacy Week from January 24th to 31st. Each teacher will receive Unplug and Play forms to get students to unplug a little more during the week. The goal is to help promote a healthy balance between active family time and recreational screen time.



One way to motivate school aged children to unplug is to offer them the **student challenge**. They pledge to reduce recreational screen time for the week and then reflect on the experience.

Young Artists

The Young Artists Conference is an annual event for aspiring artists in elementary school to showcase their artwork and take part in a series of workshops. SD73 has offered this unique opportunity to students since 1987.



Each year over 120 students from grades 4 through 7 are selected to participate in the Young Artists' Conference. Each school has a selection committee which reviews a variety of 2-dimensional artwork submitted by students. The selection committee chooses between two and six students (depending on school enrollment numbers) to represent their school at the Young Artists' Conference.

Grades 4 to 7 students interested in participating in this year's Young Artists Conference should start creating and collecting their artwork. Students should save up to 3 completed pieces of 2D artwork. Mrs. Lofgren will host a student information meeting in the next couple of weeks.

Young Authors

The Young Authors' Conference brings together committed young writers in School District No. 73 to work with professional authors. 2026 marks the 47th anniversary of this popular event. Students in grades 4-7 can participate and submit their manuscripts to be chosen to attend the conference, which is being held May 1, 2026, at Thompson Rivers University. Weekly workshops to work on writing to submit for adjudication will begin at the end of January with Dr. McCloy and Mrs. Bell. More information will be sent home with interested students.

Winter Clothing

Winter conditions **require indoor shoes** to wear throughout the day inside the school. Students should not wear winter boots during school time. Bare feet or just socks are not suitable for school due to safety and hygiene requirements. Students are expected to bring



warm outdoor winter clothing to wear outside at recess and lunch.

Sledding

With the onset of snow brings everyone's favorite recess and lunch time activity...sledding. Please remind your child to bring the appropriate sledding clothing which must include the following: snow pants, winter jacket, gloves, toque and snow boots. As well, only crazy carpets and foam sleds are allowed on the hill. No other sliding devices are permitted.

Important Dates

- Fri, Feb 6nd – District Non-Instructional Day
- Mon, Feb 16th – Family Day
- Mar 14th – 29th – Spring Vacation Period
- Fri, Apr 3rd – Good Friday Closure
- Mon, Apr 6th – Easter Monday Closure
- Mon, Apr 27th – District Non-Instructional Day
- Fri, May 15th – District Non-Instructional Day
- Mon, May 18th – Victoria Day
- Fri, Jun 26th – Administrative Day