

January, 2009

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Dear Parent (s) / Guardian (s):

As you can see, we have one more addition in hard copy of our newsletter. The website is live now, but it will take me a few more weeks to reach the point where I can post ALL the items I would like to share in a readable form. Thanks for your continued tolerance as I learn "webmastering techniques". Like a recipe, just because you have the list of ingredients and the cooking instructions, there is no guarantee that the cake will turn out perfectly! We have a tear-off portion to this newsletter for you to indicate your preference of format (paper versus website). Please have



this completed and returned to the school before **Feb. 1**

I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable break. It always seems to go too quickly. We are well into term two now and although Spring seems very far away, it is surprising how quickly it arrives.

Term Two reports go out *BEFORE* the March Break this year. (date to be announced) While parents are always welcome to arrange an interview with their child's teacher, there is no formal interview night for term Two. If you have concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher.

~ Jane Goldspink

January /February

Virtues of the Month

January: *Ambition*
 Respect



February: *Responsibility*

BULLYING PREVENTION & INTERVENTION - CHARACTER EDUCATION

Our *Character Education* Programming at École Dufferin includes the Virtues Project, TRIBES, Roots of Empathy, and Five Simple Rules. We know that you believe with us that it is important to treat everyone (students, staff, parents, and visitors) with respect, honour and celebrate individuality, promote problem solving skills, and work towards reducing / eliminating bullying and hands-on behaviours.

February's Newsletter will feature an article (one of three) regarding bullying entitled, "The Big Bad Bully". We hope to share these articles with you throughout the rest of the school year, then "test your savvy", with a personalized "What is Bullying" Survey for parents / staff / students / community members. The results will inform our programming for next year.



Cooperation, Helpfulness, Honesty, Empathy, Courage, Tolerance, Optimism, Ambition, Respect, Responsibility, Perseverance, Citizenship, Imagination, Justice, Inventiveness, Goals, Loyalty, Pride.

SKATING TIMES

Jan. 20 ~ Ivanski & Rohan @ 9:30
 ~ Gorecki & Waddell @ 10:30
 Jan. 21 ~ Wadell & Van Klink @ 9:30
 ~ Goncalves & Mew @ 10:30
 * @ Lion's Park
 March 31 ~ Soules & Goncalves @ 9:30
 ~ Gorecki, Rohan & Goncalves @ 10:30

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 21 - Grade 8 parent Info Night @ BCI @ 7-9 p.m.
 Jan. 28 - Parent info Night for KP new students @ 6-7 p.m. @ École Dufferin
 - Pizza Day
 Jan. 30 - PA Day ~ no students at school
 Feb. 4 - DPC in library @ 6:30 p.m.
 Feb. 17 - Grad Photos
 Feb. 27 - Pizza Day




Please be sure students:

- are dressed properly for skating with NO scarves.
- bring their helmets & skates with blade covers (VERY important if they ride the bus)

It almost impossible to make last-minute calls before our bus leaves at 9:05.

DUFFERIN PARENT COUNCIL (DPC)

Dufferin Parent Council is off to a terrific start this year, with 17 people attending our first meeting! We have a terrific mix of dedicated "experienced" members as well as lots of new faces and fresh ideas. We are very busy setting priorities for the year and we think you'll see lots of new resources and equipment in the school, thanks to all the fundraising we do. All parents are welcome to attend meetings and bring forth issues. If you would like to speak to a member of Parent Council, the Executive this year is **Kevin Spencer-Raymond**, Chair, **Heidi Nanda**, Vice-chair, **Rahno Simpson**, Treasurer, and **Karen Pugh**, Secretary. Thank you to **all** the DPC members for your commitment and enthusiasm!

 DPC will soon have a link through our website. Here you can see the minutes, agendas and other info as posted by the council.

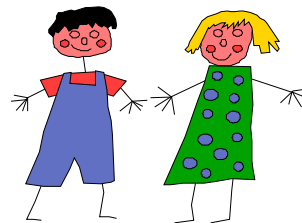
DUFFERIN WEBSITE

It is up and running! Please excuse the errors and the "interesting" information that is included (it is from Fairview)I have no idea how it got posted to our website, but it will be removed ASAP.

Thanks to everyone for understanding regarding the huge learning curve for me in preparing this website. I am literally learning each and every time I go on the site.

Staff will be posting their class newsletters in Feb. Below is a tear-off sheet to indicate if your family wants a paper copy of the newsletter. **ONLY** families with a returned tear-off by **FEB. 1** will be sent a paper copy. *Yea for our trees!!*

KINDERGARTEN INFO



Kindergarten registration takes places during the month of January. Please call the school to arrange an appointment.

Kindergarten Information Night for NEW KP registrants will be on Jan. 28th from 6 to 7 p.m. If you have *not* yet registered your child, but are considering French Immersion, please feel free to attend the session. Hopefully we will be able to answer some of your questions.

KP registration requires a birth certificate be presented. In addition, as there are two French Immersion Schools (Fairview and Dufferin), if you are not sure which is your catchment area, please check the Grand Erie Board's *locater* to confirm.

In order to be more accurate regarding staffing numbers for September, it is important that schools have a clear idea of the numbers of students who will be attending.

We will also be hosting *Welcome to Kindergarten Program* in May for parents and their child. This program will involve our teachers & other community members as well. Watch for more details in April.

(please complete, tear off, and return by Feb. 1st)

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ÉCOLE DUFFERIN FAMILY REQUEST FOR PAPER COPY OF NEWSLETTER

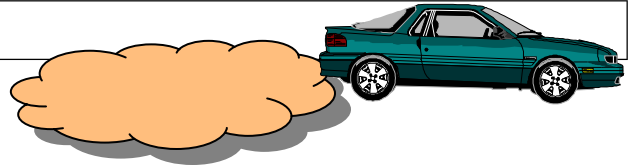
Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. _____ would like a paper copy of École Dufferin's monthly newsletter.

Student(s) in the school:

OLDEST: _____ Teacher: _____ Other Students: _____

(Name) (Name) _____

NO IDLING ZONE



Five Reasons to Take Part in Brantford's Idle *FREE* Program!

1. *Our air will stay cleaner;*
2. *The health of children will benefit;*
3. *Vehicles will last longer and require fewer repairs if they are idled less frequently;*
4. *Money and fuel will be saved;*
5. *Fewer greenhouse gases will be released, helping to slow the process of climate change.*

Our **No Idling Zone** signs will be posted soon. Please refrain from idling your car in these areas.

For more information about the **National Anti-Idling Campaign**, go to www.oeenrcan.gc.ca/idling



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Character is that force that enables an individual to carry out a resolution once the mood in which that resolution was born has died."

~ Anonymous



HELP! TOYS & CANADIAN TIRE \$\$ NEEDED

Dufferin's largest event and fundraiser of the year is our Fun Fair. It is a fun family event you will NOT want to miss. Each year, money raised at the Fun Fair goes directly back into resources for the school. For example, this year funds have paid for presentations, a projection screen for the gym, a classroom TV, CD players for many classes, playground equipment, and the trees in the playground.

Since the holidays brought waaaay too much to our little angels, we are hoping that parents would like to "unload" some "treasures" you have around the house. These can be gently used toys, kid's meal toys, grab bag toys, unused presents....you get the picture. These will be used for prizes at the fun fair.

We are also asking for donations of Canadian Tire money. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Please send donations with your child to school.

Thank you in advance,

Dufferin Parent Council

MAGAZINE PURCHASES - DPC

Thanks you for your magazine purchase in support of our school fundraiser this past fall. By now, most magazines should be arriving in the mail. If you have questions please do not call the school office but call the QSP Customer Service Hot-line at 1-800-667-2536, and they will assist you.

You can also order magazines online and support our school all year by visiting www.qsp.ca and entering our on-line account number is