



## A Message from the Principal

March 14, 2022

Hello to our Duffield Community:

We are looking forward to a wonderful School Council meeting tomorrow evening. We are very excited to be able to invite parents to the school to have an in-person meeting. The doors will be open by 5:50! I hope to see you here at Duffield for the meeting!!

Because we also recognize that being able to meet online is much easier for some families, I will also have a Gmeet open so that parents can participate in the meeting from home if you so wish. I have included the gmeet link and agenda below:

<https://meet.google.com/jvh-pcqa-bkv?hs=122&authuser=0>

[March School Council Agenda](#)

### What is happening at Duffield School?

#### **My Path: Outdoor Pursuits:** [My Path: West End Website](#)

We are very excited to be entertaining the possibilities of some alternate programming for our West End Schools - Entwistle, Wabumen, Tomahawk, and Duffield-as we are partnering with CFL and My Path. All families will have received a google form survey to express interest in having your children participate in core subjects in the morning and then potentially 2-5 afternoons with outdoor pursuits that could potentially include Hunter's Education, outdoor cooking, cross country skiing, crop management, and land based learning.

If you are interested, please complete the survey and then look for communication about opportunities to engage in Question/Answer sessions at each school.

**Staffing Updates:** We have had the great privilege of working with Mrs. Hennig at Duffield School. She is a gifted Educational Assistant who is loved by both students and staff alike. Mrs. Hennig will be moving to a new position at Parkland School Division's main office. We wish Mrs. Hennig all the very best. She will be missed.

**Thought Exchange PSD Schools:** Thank you to all the parents and staff who participated in our PSD Thought Exchange. The results can be found on our website. Know that I value the

feedback given and am actively finding ways to improve in areas that were identified in the survey.

**Blanket Exercise:** We are very proud of a group of our Grade 6 students who participated in a workshop to learn to facilitate a blanket exercise in our school. The blanket exercise is a hands-on way to explore the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. Our Grade 6 facilitators have learned how to share this activity and on our March 28 PD Day, the students will work with our staff to engage in the blanket exercise, along with an Elder and our FNMI Liaison, Mrs. Kensington. The students will also share this important activity with our Grade 6 and Grade 9 students on March 30.

**Books for Classrooms:** All of our classrooms have been thrilled with the addition of classroom libraries. A huge thank you to our DPAC for the purchase of books for each classroom. The students all had input into the purchases so we have books in each classroom that kids love to read during our daily Duffield Reads time!!



**Grade 9 End of Year Celebration:** Our Purdys Fundraiser will be wrapping up on March 27 so that we can guarantee delivery before Easter. We want to thank everyone for their support and remind you to place orders by March 27. The money raised will go towards an end of year celebration for our Grade 9 students which will include a day at West Edmonton Mall and an evening with parents and families to say farewell to our Grade 9 students.

**Covid Restrictions and Updates:** We are feeling so optimistic about COVID restrictions being lifted and while we continue to be diligent about cleaning and also about ensuring that students and staff stay home when sick, we are excited about our new normal. Teachers are planning field trips, we are thinking ahead to events in which parents will be invited into the school, and we are enjoying more movement as cohorts are not now necessary.

**Marmot Ski Trip:** With COVID restrictions lifting, we are now able to go ahead with a very exciting ski trip for our Grade 7-9 students. Details about the trip have been shared and we look forward to a beautiful day of skiing with our students on **April 1**. We will be leaving Duffield at 4:00am and will be returning about 9:30 that evening. A big thank you to Ms. Whalen for organizing a wonderful event for our students.

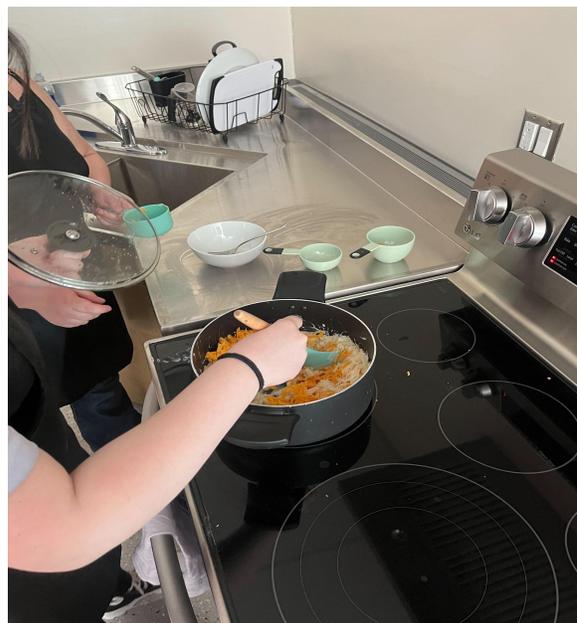
**Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year:** I know that the 2022-2023 school year seems so far away but it is important that you take a bit of time to complete the registration process to guarantee busing and also to help us with the projection of student numbers for the upcoming year. Having a good estimate of the number of students in each grade will help me with class configurations! **The deadline for registration and guaranteed busing is March 18.** If you need assistance, please contact Ms. Shave at the office and she can guide you through the process. Thank you in advance!!!

**Badminton:** We have now started our Junior and Senior Badminton try-outs and are excited to begin games with other school teams! A huge thank you to Ms. Fleming, Ms. Gyorgy, Mr. McDonald, and Ms. Kensington for volunteering their time after school to coach our students.

**Upcoming dates:**

- ❖ March 14 and March 16 - Parent Teacher Interviews (Virtual)
- ❖ March 18 -Term Two Report Cards Released
- ❖ Mar 21-25th - Spring Break
- ❖ March 28 - PD Day; No students in attendance
- ❖ April 15 - Good Friday
- ❖ April 18 - Easter Monday

**Foods Lab:** Our Foods Lab is the hub of our school on Fridays, with our Pizza Day distribution organized by our DPAC, and then with our CTF Course: Foods!! I wanted to share some photos with you to help highlight how excited our students are to be able to use such a beautiful facility to create delicious, homemade foods!



Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to read this message. Know that I am available for conversations at any time to discuss any concerns or celebrations you may have. I look forward to the next month with your children!!

Respectfully,  
Cherie Lovsund