



# Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack  
School District

November 2018

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## Our Code of Conduct

Watson Wildcats **R.O.A.R. to Success** – **R**espect, **O**utstanding Attitude, **A**chieve Goals, **R**each Out

### Message from the Principal:

One of the most important days in November is our early dismissal day. Our upcoming early dismissal day is Thursday, November 8. Students will be dismissed at 12:15 AM on that day. This is a time that parents, students and teachers meet to discuss student's progress so far, this year. The importance of the Parent/Student and Teacher conference, in communicating student learning, cannot be understated. Educating a child is a shared responsibility between the home and the school. The time spent between the students, parent and the teacher discussing a student's progress and exploring ways to support involvement is essential to ongoing success.

We want to thank all the parents who call into our school when they know that their child will not be attending for the day. This really helps the office run efficiently at the beginning of the day. Our Safe Arrival system seems to be really working well...thanks to you. Also, we have noticed that there are many students arriving late in the morning—please continue to make an effort to arrive on time in the morning! Our morning bell is 8:19 AM.

We really want to let all parents know what a great start we have had to the school year. The students at this school are amazing! We have seen so many acts of kindness. There is a real feeling of respect and fun in this school. We will be working on a few items like line ups, quieter hallways and appropriate lunch time play activities—but for the most part, things have been fantastic!

Terry Bateman

At **Dismissal Time** the focus is on getting children into cars or to their parents or guardians safely. As you enter our parking lot we have a Drop Off/Pick Up Lane that runs along the curb close to the side walk. **This is a No Parking Area.** Drivers should only be stopping for a couple of minutes for your children to get in the car. If your child is not there drivers can continue to circle out onto Watson road or park in the main lot. This area needs to be kept clear for the Safe Pick Up of Children. If parents need to get out and walk their children to the school, they should park the car in the main parking lot. This keeps the car line moving smoothly and efficiently.

## While Driving

These safety tips can help make navigating the often crowded, confusing school parking lots easier and safer.

- Only use designated pick up areas. Areas such as the Staff Parking Lot are not as safe.
- We have a school bus entering our parking lot in the mornings and after school. Please keep our through lane clear and do not park in the school bus parking area.
- Yield to pedestrians, crossing guards, and buses, and be aware that children who are walking home may not look both ways before venturing across a parking lot or pick up lane.
- Be sure to drive the proper direction through Parking Lot.
- Obey all local speed limits in school zones. **10 kilometers per hour in the Parking Lot** and pick up/drop off zones.
- Always pick students up at the nearest curb and do not encourage them to cross parking lots to reach the car.
- Use turn signals when entering and leaving the pick up areas and check blind spots carefully.
- Once students are in the car, make sure their [seatbelts](#) are fastened immediately. Injuries can occur even from slow-moving crashes and fender benders, particularly for young children.

Do not dally once students have been picked up - other parents are eager to pick up their children and moving quickly and efficiently can help keep the traffic flow more consistent.

We have signs and will be using our cones to help guide us in our parking lot. Please be aware and remember it is for the safety of all of our community members. We have volunteers who help to make sure our parking lot traffic flow is safe and efficient. Please respect their presence and guidance.



## STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATES

Parents please continue to call or email the school to let us know if your child will be absent or late to school. (Phone 604-858-9477, email [watson@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:watson@sd33.bc.ca))

At Watson we value our instructional time and make a concerted effort to monitor and reduce the number of students who arrive late for school.

Children need constant practice and repetition of the basic skills and concepts to ensure that they understand what they are learning and how the information is integrated into other subject areas. When a child misses such crucial information on a regular basis, especially first thing in the morning, gaps in learning become evident and can impede future academic growth.

When a child is late and enters the classroom after instructions have been given, or when the class is in the middle of a lesson or activity, the whole class experiences a disruption to their learning. The teacher loses the attention of the others when they redirect their attention to see who has entered the room. Valuable time is wasted while the teacher re-explains to your child what has already been taught.

**In the morning our first bell goes at 8:19 and the morning begins at 8:24. Please help your child arrive early or on time for school so that their day starts off great. Thank you for your continued support in helping your child have a successful school year.**

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Cross Country Team

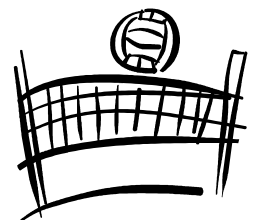
Congratulations to our Cross Country Team this season! We had many strong finishes, and tons of fun! Thanks so much to Ms. Bartel for her help coaching. It is great to see so many students out running.

### Soccer Season

We had a great soccer season this year! Both teams were outstanding in sportsmanship!! Thank you Mr.O'Brennan, Ms.Magneison and Mrs.Matheny for coaching!

### Volleyball Season

It's almost time for volleyball season to begin. This sport will be open first to grade 5 students. Practices start soon so remind your child(ren) to listen to the announcements so they know when to sign up. Girls' Coach is Mr.O'Brennan, and the Boys' coach is Mr.Brien.



## Winter Clothing

**Brrrrr! It's cold this week but we do prefer our students to be outside at recess and lunch on most days. We only have "In Days" on extreme weather days. Please make sure your child comes dressed for the weather- hat, mittens, warm jacket and maybe even boots are necessary to stay warm. Your child might need some reminders. Thank you for helping your child remember.**

## Is School Open? - Poor Weather Guidelines

Inclement weather conditions such as freezing rain, significant snowfall, high winds or power outages can occur during the fall and winter months. In such conditions, decisions on the opening or closure of school district facilities are made by the Superintendent of Schools in consultation with management and supervisory staff who have checked first-hand on the driving conditions and general condition of buildings.



While service to students and parents is a priority and schools will be kept open as much as is reasonably possible, student and staff safety is the primary consideration.

In the event of extreme weather conditions, parents are urged to check the School District website [www.sd33.bc.ca](http://www.sd33.bc.ca), tune into radio stations STAR FM 98.3, The Drive 89.5 FM, or CBC 91.7 FM to receive up-to-date information on school closures and information on the buses. Reports will start after 6:00 a.m. and will be repeated often. The information broadcast is directly from the School District. The reports are confirmed and there is no need to call your school, the School District Office or the radio station. Students will be marked absent for the day, but such an absence will not affect a perfect attendance record.

In the event that there is inclement weather but the school remains open, it is the parent's decision, based on their assessment of the relative safety of travel conditions, as to whether or not their children attend school.

## MUSIC NEWS

**Save the date! Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – 1:00pm and 6:30pm for our Christmas Concert!**



## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

November 13, 14, and 15<sup>th</sup> the Scholastic Book Fair will be taking over the library! Regular book exchange will be paused during this week. The book fair will open at 8am until 12:00pm, and then re-open after lunch from 1pm- 3pm each day. This is a great way for parents to visit our library - we look forward to seeing you there!

Proceeds from the book fair benefit our Library. Part of the credit we receive is used to purchase all of our awesome prize books that we LOVE to give away! We also are able to purchase new and exciting titles for our collection. We appreciate your support!

Remember to keep filling in the Watson Super Reader Record in the front of the planner. Each box needs a month and date filled in. After recording 25 dates of reading, a parents initials are required. Then bring your planner to the library to receive your prize!

## **GLEE CLUB for students in Grades 4 and 5**

Glee Club began on Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> and will continue to run every Tuesday after school from 2:15- 3:00pm. Interested Grade 4 and 5 students are required to attend all rehearsals (unless they are ill, have an appointment, etc.) in order to hold their spot in the club. Any questions please feel free to email Ms Thom at [kristen\\_thom@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:kristen_thom@sd33.bc.ca)

**Watson Garden Club** will be taking a winter break from Nov.9<sup>th</sup> to the beginning of April. We will start up again April 9<sup>th</sup>, see you then!

## **Remembrance Day Invitation to our Watson Family Veterans**

We would like to invite you to attend our Remembrance Day Ceremony on Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. If you are able to join us, please contact Mrs. Perkins at [traci\\_perkins@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:traci_perkins@sd33.bc.ca) or call at 604.858.9477 by Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup>. We also encourage Girl Guides, Brownies, Cubs etc to wear their uniforms



<p><b><u>WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PAC</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Chair: Lori Cox</li> <li>❖ Co-Chair: Kairy Pennington</li> <li>❖ Secretary: Sarah Preston</li> <li>❖ Treasurer: Francine Douglas</li> </ul> <p>PAC EMAIL: <a href="mailto:watsonpac33@gmail.com">watsonpac33@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>NEXT HOT LUNCH!</u></b></p> <p>Our next Hot Lunch will be offered November 29th and will be SUBWAY!</p> <p>Forms will be out the first week of November please hand them in as soon as possible.</p>
<p><b><u>LICE CHECKS:</u></b></p> <p>We have volunteers ready to begin lice checks in the next few weeks.</p> <p>Lice Prevention Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Don't share items that touch the head (combs, hats, etc)</li> <li>❖ Keep long hair pulled back in a pony tail.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>HELP WANTED!</u></b></p> <p>PAC is looking for their DPAC representative!!! The DPAC representative will attend monthly DPAC meetings as well as our monthly PAC meeting to ensure we are up to date on what is going on in our district, as well as bring forward any concerns specific to Watson Elementary!</p> <p>Please email your interest to the PAC inbox!</p>
<p><b><u>NEXT PAC MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Our next monthly meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the School Library.</p> <p><b>ALL PARENTS WELCOME!</b></p> <p>Come prepared with your ideas to support the success of our school community!</p>	<p><b><u>NEUFELD FARMS FUNDRAISER COMING!</u></b></p> <p>Potential pick up date will be Dec 4th – time TBD.</p> <p>You will need to be able to pick up, or have someone pick up your order at the designated time as we do not have space at the school to store unclaimed orders.</p>

**WHAT IS A PAC???**

It has come to our attention, that there are parents within our community that are not aware what a PAC (parental advisory committee) is and why we have one. So, here are a few quick details that hopefully answer or bring forth some questions.

**What is a Parent Advisory Committee?**

PAC is the officially recognized collective voice of parents of their school. The School Act gives the right, through the PACs, to assume an advisory role, to bring forth any matters relating to the school, to the school board, principals, and staff of the school.

Parents' voices are important and can bring ideas and support to some of the challenges that face us in our schools. The PAC strives to represent all parents and students within our school community by:

- \* Providing opportunities to educate and inform parents about the school.
- \* Involving parents in volunteer activities
- \* Openly discussing concerns and aspirations of the parents for their schools

**THE PURPOSE OF THE PAC CAN INVOLVE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- \* To help parents gain a better understanding of our school
- \* To give input into school-based decisions
- \* To participate in goal setting
- \* To monitor and review school rules and conduct, the safety programs, the educational programs, learning materials, equipment and the school building.
- \* To provide methods to resolve problems between the school and community by directing parents and students to the Advocacy Project.

The PAC is NOT a forum to discuss individual problems or conflicts. Those should be carried out directly to the principal or through private communication to the PAC executives through our email [watsonpac33@gmail.com](mailto:watsonpac33@gmail.com)

Parental involvement is encouraged and welcomed. Bring forth your suggestions and ways to carry out those suggestions. Come to our PAC meetings. They are open to all parents and care givers of Watson Elementary. Please see the Watson Elementary website for our meeting schedule. We look forward to seeing you.

Many students at Watson had the opportunity to try out **Sphero robots** during the month of October. These robots are on loan from the Chilliwack school district, but did you know you can borrow one from the Fraser Valley Regional library as well? They can be borrowed just like a library book and controlled using a free app on any smartphone or tablet. Several classes were able to try the Spheros in the gym (which allows for lots of space and less signal crossing), changing colour, controlling direction, and calibrating and coding for some of the more advanced students. It was wonderful to see



students taking turns with each other and being responsible with the technology. I also really appreciated having some grade 4 students help to sync and demonstrate the robots for the younger grades. Watching students controlling a dozen glowing multi-coloured spheres in a darkened gym was a memorable experience - I wish the photos could do it justice!

**NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- November 1 Christmas Plant fundraiser begins
- November 7 Wildcat Wednesday!
- November 8 Early Dismissal at 12:15**
- November 9 Remembrance Day Assembly (Parents welcome)
- November 12 Remembrance Day Stat, Schools closed**
- November 13-16 Scholastic Book Fair
- November 20 PAC Meeting, 7 pm in the Library
- November 27 Boys volleyball game after school (coach is Mr.Brien)
- November 28 Girls volleyball game after school (coach is Mr.O’Brennan)
- November 29 Christmas plant fundraiser order deadline today
- November 30 PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**



Upcoming dates to note:

- December 13 Christmas Concert, K-5. 1:00pm and 6:30 pm
- December 24 through January 4 – Christmas Holidays!!