



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 2019

Terry Bateman, Principal | Tel 604.858.9477 | terry_bateman@sd33.bc.ca | <http://watson.sd33.bc.ca>
Carolyn Ingham, Vice Principal | Tel 604.858.9477 carolyn_ingham@sd33.bc.ca
Traci Perkins and Farah Parks, Administrative Assistants | watson@sd33.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year at Watson Elementary School. We are excited for another great year with our hard-working students and staff. Our staff are very dedicated to the success of all students. We are eager to meet the new families as well as welcome back those who are already a part of the wonderful Watson community. Our vision is to create and maintain a safe environment that ensures every member of the school community reaches their potential. Our Staff has been in and out of the building these past few days preparing for students. We are excited about this school year!

The Watson Staff are committed to academic success for all student. We will do whatever it takes to help each student do his/her best! As our partner, we need your assistance to achieve our goal. Do you read to your child each night? No matter the age, all children benefit from hearing fluent readers. This exposes your child to quality literature that she/he may not be able to read and provides a special bonding time for you and your child. Just 20 minutes a night can make a world of difference.

Research shows that the more parents are involved in their child's learning it impacts their achievement positively. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, Sept. 18th at our Meet the Teacher night. I would also like to point out that we have early dismissal days for parents to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress. This year we have October 24th and February 14th scheduled for Parent Teacher meetings. There will be more information sent out by teachers.

You can also help by having your child arrive on time each day. There is a very high correlation between good attendance and good grades. Being punctual is an important life skill that students can learn at an early age. This helps students begin their day on a positive note. We also need your help in reducing classroom interruptions. If you need to meet with the teacher, please do so before or after school. If your child forgets something, please leave it at the office, and we can have them pick it up at a convenient time. Please do not pick up your child early unless you cannot make other arrangements. Our students' learning is precious, and as adults we need to show them that we respect what they are doing each day.

Our school website has a great deal of information on it and is regularly updated. Newsletters are generally not sent home in a paper copy but will be posted on-line during the first week of each month. <http://watson.sd33.bc.ca> If you have any questions please feel free to contact us at the school by phone or email. terry_bateman@sd33.bc.ca

Warm Regards,
Terry Bateman

Happy September from your Vice Principal, Mrs. Carolyn Ingham!

Welcome back to our 2019/2020 school year! I am looking forward to a great year of making friends and learning together. I am excited to meet our new students to Watson and welcome back our students from last year! Over the summer break, I hope you were able to enjoy some special family time together. As summer slowly comes to a close, please help your child start getting into consistent routines. A good night's rest will help your child to arrive at school on time, be engaged at school, tackle challenges and have fun being back to school. Don't forget that school starts at 8:17 am, 2 minutes earlier this year!

“Work hard, be kind and amazing things will happen.” Conan O'Brien

FIRST DAY FOR GRADES 1-5!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019: 8:17 – 10:00am

**All returning Watson students please go to your last year's classroom.
All NEW Watson students please go to the Gym.**

Bell Schedule

8:17 ENTRY WARNING BELL

8:22 CLASSES BEGIN

10:15 RECESS BEGINS

10:30 RECESS ENDS

12:10 PLAY PERIOD BEGINS

12:35 PLAY PERIOD ENDS/EATING PERIOD BEGINS

12:50 AFTERNOON WARNING

12:55 AFTERNOON CLASSES START

2:15 CLASSES DISMISSED



Plan for Wednesday September 4 and the rest of this week:

This will be a full day of instruction for students in Grades 1-5. **Please have your child at school no earlier than 8:02 as we are unable to provide adequate supervision before that time.**

We will have students placed in classes as soon as possible. Typically that happens on Friday. For this week students will begin the morning in the following places:

- **Grade 1-** please meet in undercover area,
- **Grade 2-** please line up outside the grade 2 door, at the back door closest to the playground
- **Grade 3-** please line up outside the grade 3 door, at the back of the school in the northeast corner by the lost & found
- **Grade 4 -** Please line up at the back on the hockey court
- **Grade 5-** please line up at the back on the basketball court
- **ALL NEW STUDENTS to Watson please meet in the gym again on Wednesday**

All doors will be clearly marked and there will be designated places for lining up. Students are to remain outside until a teacher comes to get them.

We will have the students in classrooms as soon as possible. Thank you so much for your patience.



Please Be On Time!

At Watson Elementary, we are excited and proud of our student accomplishments as we continue to work towards our goals. We have been working at improving our attendance and tardiness.

Benefits of daily attendance and being on time: By attending class regularly and being on time, your child is more likely to keep up with the daily lessons and assignments.

Achievement: Students who are on time and attend school regularly are more likely to do well in reading and math. These are not missing important instruction and understand classroom routines.

Being part of the school community: Just by being present at school and on time, your child is learning how to be a good citizen by participating in the school community, learning valuable social skills, and developing a broader world view.

The importance of education: Your commitment to school attendance will also send a message to your child that school is a priority for your family, going to school every day and on time is a critical part of educational success, and that it's important to take your responsibilities seriously including going to school and being on time.



Kindergarten

It is an exciting time and we have a new Kindergarten gradual entry plan to help make the transition easy for students and parents. Information has been sent home to families. **Our little ones will be in attendance for the full day on Monday September 16.** We will be helping them learn about play areas, school rules, where to line up and how to play safely.

School Supplies

The classroom teachers for Kindergarten through Grade 5 have ordered the school supplies for students, and the supplies will be purchased out of the classrooms. **Each classroom teacher will send home information indicating how much the supplies will cost, and if any extra supplies will be needed by your child's teacher. Please do not send money or supplies until you have been asked to do so.**

Our custodians and many others have been working hard to clean our school up. All students need **clean inside shoes. These need to be non-marking runners, suitable for gym activities.** Students must have shoes on their feet at all times. This is a safety concern and is also respectful to our building, and helps our custodians out as we all try to help keep it clean.

Parking Lot



We encourage our students and their parents/guardians to walk, ride or carpool to school. Children who start their day off with a little exercise have a chance to really wake up so they are prepared to learn. We realize some children get a ride to school. Our parking lot gets extremely congested and we are requesting your cooperation and patience. Our expectations are as follows:

- 1) Do not park and leave your car in the Drop Off Zones. Busses need to get in and cars parked in the drop off zone make it extremely challenging for busses to drive into our lot.
- 2) Drop your child off on the sidewalk side of the car. It is dangerous for children to step out of the car into traffic. Have them slide across the seat if at all possible.
- 3) Park in designated spaces. We realize there are not enough parking spaces for all vehicles so we encourage you to park on the side streets and walk to the school. There is parking on Arlington. If no spaces are available, drive through the parking and loop back from Watson Road – keep the flow of traffic moving.
- 4) Arrange an outside meeting place with your child or children. Our students are dismissed out specific classroom doors and we do teach them to walk around to the front to a meeting place, if necessary.
- 5) The front parking lot is only for staff parking, delivery vehicles or legitimate daycare vans that need to pick up students and go immediately to another location for pick-up. Please pre-arrange daycare pickups with the office. Thank you.
- 6) Finally- be patient. If you are driving please be prepared to wait. It actually only takes about 10 minutes to clear out our parking lot but it can be busy. Drive slowly at all times, even after your own child is in the car. We want to keep everyone safe.
- 7) Teach your child to use the crosswalks. Running across parking lots and through traffic and parked vehicles is dangerous. It only takes a few extra steps to get to the crosswalks.
- 8) Thank you for your cooperation!

Student Pick Up and Drop Off

At our school we do have inside and outside days. For the most part students will be going outside. Fresh air and exercise help keep children healthy. Please make sure they are dressed for the weather. On inside days, students play quietly inside their classrooms.

Before School- Supervision begins at 8:02. Students should arrive after 8:02. The first bell goes at 8:17 and schools starts at 8:22. Our students have designated line up spots and do line up and wait for their teachers. Parents/ guardians are welcome to wait outside with their children or with them in their line- up.

After School- Parents/guardians are asked to wait outside of the building at the end of the day. This keeps our hallways calm, allows the teachers to wrap up the day and protects our learning environment. At times when there are people waiting it can be noisy and distracting to our students. Please respect their learning time. If you'd like to meet with the teacher please feel free to connect before or after school.



Questions/Concerns If you have questions or concerns please feel free to come into the office area to speak to one of us. We will work hard to help you out.

Cell Phone Use- Student cell phones are turned off and kept in backpacks for the day. Students are welcome to use them outside to check in with parents when they get to school, and as they leave the school grounds at the end of the day.

Electronic Devices, Toys etc.

Please leave these types of toys, games, devices at home. We have other things for students to play with at school. Expensive devices and toys can get broken, misplaced or lost and the school cannot guarantee their safety.

Bikes

Just a reminder that it is mandatory for all bicycle riders to wear a helmet. Please ensure that your child(ren) has both a helmet and an adequate bike lock. For safety reasons our school also expects students to wear helmets when rollerblading or riding a scooter to school. Your children's brains are worth protecting. Thank you for your cooperation.

Accident Insurance



September 2019

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)

The Chilliwack School District or Schools Protection Program (SPP) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities. Parents/Guardians are responsible for these expenses.

iA Financial Group is now offering a new comprehensive accident insurance plan with a critical illness component designed for the whole family.

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by your provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Regardless of the size of your family, all eligible family members can be insured under one set monthly rate.

To apply or to find out more, visit solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc

Plan Details are available here: [Plan Overview](#)

June 2019

Discontinuation of Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. has been discontinued.

This change is effective with the 2019-20 school year. All policies currently in force for the 2018-19 school year will remain in force until expiry on September 30, 2019.

For more information, visit <https://www.kidsplus.ca/>

2019-2020 Local School Calendar

Days in Session	188	
Number of Instructional Days	180	
	Student Instructional Time (Hrs)	Teacher Instructional Time
Hours of Instruction (Required 878) Grade K-5	878 (293 min/day)	308 min/day including 15 min recess
Hours of Instruction (Required 878) Grade 6-8	878 (293 min/day)	336 min/day including 15 min recess
Hours of Instruction (Required 952) Grade 9-12	965 (320 min/day)	336 min/day including breaks
Schools Open	September 3	
Thanksgiving Day - Statutory Holiday	October 14	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #1 (Pro-D Day)	October 25 (Provincial)	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #2	November 1 (Assessment & Evaluation)	
Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday	November 11	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #3	November 29 (In Lieu)	
Schools Close for Christmas Holidays	December 20	
Christmas Holidays	December 23 to January 3	
Schools Reopen after Christmas Holidays	January 6	
Family Day - Statutory Holiday	February 17	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #4 (Pro-D Day)	February 21 (District)	
Schools Close for Spring Vacation	March 13	
Spring Vacation Period	March 16 - 27	
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	March 30	
Good Friday - Statutory Holiday	April 10	
Easter Monday	April 13	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #5 (Pro-D Day)	May 1 (CTA)	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #6	May 15 (In Lieu)	
Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday	May 18	
Last Day for Students	June 25	
Administrative Day	June 26	
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #7	School Based Staff Development Day	