



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

October 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

Our Mission

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

Our Goals

1. In what ways can a school community systematically respond to the learning needs of students, staff and parents?
2. Watson Elementary student, staff and community are responsible school citizens

Principal's Message

Well under Way!

As I write this newsletter I am amazed how quickly we have moved into October. September has come and gone and what a busy month it was! Students are now well into school routines and programs are under way. Our first early dismissal is **Thursday October 24** and it is an opportunity to get a first important glimpse into how your child is doing. Please take advantage of this opportunity to find out how to support your child or to celebrate where your child is at.

We as a staff at Watson are inspired to help our students be the best they can be in every way and as I walk around the school and into classrooms, I see constant evidence of learning and relationship building taking place. It is a busy and exciting time of the year and as we take this journey together, we look forward to being partners in learning with you.

On September 30th we celebrated Orange Shirt Day to remember the residential schools and their impact on so many, and to celebrate the fact that Watson Elementary loves and values all children.

During the month of October, we will focus on the first R in our R.O.A.R to success. The first R is for Respect. This means that we will be helping our students, staff and school community find ways to learn about and demonstrate Respect. We will also spend time on thankfulness. We all have things to be thankful for and October and Thanksgiving are perfect times to reflect on the good things in our lives. Our staff hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

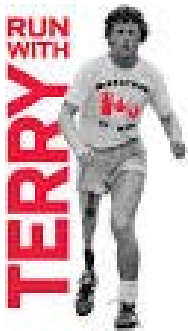
Mr. Bateman

A Quick Note from Mrs. Ingham ~ Vice Principal

It's hard to believe September has come and gone! The students have settled into their new classrooms, begun new learning and are reviewing routines and rules. Please ask your child about the ROAR traits: what they are, and what they look like at school and at home. We know there are many sports and extra-curricular activities that many of our students participate in after school in the fall; however, try to dedicate time to read together every day, and help your child follow consistent bedtime routines when possible so they are ready to learn when they come to school.

Student Health

It seems that the cold and flu season is already upon us. If your child has symptoms of illness, **particularly a fever**, please keep him/her at home. We are trying to prevent the spread of germs. Our students do go outside on most days and if your child is too sick to go outside on "Out" days then it is best to keep him/her at home. We generally are not able to provide inside supervision. Thank you for your help with this.



Terry Fox Run

On Friday we held our annual Terry Fox Run. It was a huge success and a lot of fun.

We raised just over \$1000.00 and will be sending it to the Terry Fox Cancer Research Foundation. Well done Watson Wildcats.! **A huge thank you to Ms. Alexandra Fox, niece of Terry Fox and daughter of our own Mrs. Fox, for speaking at our Terry Fox assembly!**



Head Lice

Head lice is a common problem in many communities. The best way to control the spread of head lice is to get rid of them immediately. Please check your child's head on a regular basis; daily if possible. If you find nits you will need to pull them out. It's a time consuming process but is very necessary. Live head lice need to be treated with a special shampoo which can be purchased at any drug store.

School Parking Lot Safety, message from Mr. Bateman

I would like to focus the rest of my message on our School Parking lot, which gives me much concern. The safety of our students and community members is very important.

When everyone practices proper parking lot safety, it makes it easier to keep everyone safe. Our school parking lot can be an incredibly busy place in the morning when children arrive, and in the afternoon when it's dismissal time. Ensuring that no one gets hurt is a primary concern of the school staff, and it requires everyone's participation, including parents.

Mornings of any school day can be incredibly busy. Parents may walk or drive their children to school. There are some procedures that need to be followed to ensure that everyone is following the rules to make the mornings smooth and trouble-free. Our parking lot has lanes, where designated areas are set aside specifically for parents to drop their children off. If parents walk their children inside, we ask that you use the parking spaces in the main parking lot (not the staff parking area). There is also plenty of room for parents and their children to walk without worrying about being in the way of traffic.

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 sidewalk. **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, 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. **Other areas such as the Staff parking lot are not as safe.** We have a number of people who ignore this request and put our students' safety at risk.
- The area right in front of the school is a **No Parking Area** and is well marked on the ground.
- 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 the 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 up students 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 children 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.

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.

Phones/ Messages

We understand that there are times when you may need us to give your child a message and we are happy to do that. For the most part we do ask that you or your child make pick up arrangements before coming to school. Thank you for your continued consideration.

Early Dismissal

Our first Early Dismissal day will be on Thursday, October 24th. The students will be dismissed at 11:25 on this day. We hope you will all be able to stop in and visit your child's teacher. This is a great opportunity to find out how your child is progressing. You will also be able to find out if your child is struggling in a certain area and will be given strategies to help him/her. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. The classroom teachers will send home information regarding their conference times and plan. We hope to see you there.

Student Activities

At this time our **Boys and Girls Soccer** teams are up and running. The Boys' coach is Mr.O'Brennan and the Girls' Coach is Ms.Magneison. Both teams have played a couple of games and are doing a great job of representing Watson in a really positive way.

Ms. Bartel is coaching our **Cross Country Team**. They practice on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch and all students are welcome to participate. Their next meet is at Twin Rinks on Thursday Oct.10th. Students are responsible for getting themselves to and from the meets.

Good luck to all of our athletes and many thanks to all the coaches too. Volleyball will begin in November, information will be provided when available.

Library News

Watson Library will be having a Book Fair on November 5-7! Proceeds from this fair benefit our school. We appreciate the enthusiasm our students show for this special week!

Watson Elementary Library is on Instagram! Follow us @watsonlibrary for updates on programs, new books, and more!

PAC News

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Little Coupon Book fundraiser. We always appreciate all contributions. We have already been able to help out with giving back to the school and into the classrooms, the music program and learning assistance programs.

Thank you everyone for wearing their Orange shirts on September 30th to honour residential school children.

PARENTS / CAREGIVERS! IMPORTANT:

Please ensure the office has your up to date email.
You will be receiving Newsletters and upcoming dates etc. by email if we have your correct address.



OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 1 Glee Club 2:15
Boys soccer game vs. Evans
- October 2 Girls soccer game vs. Unsworth
- October 3 Cross Country, Fairfield Island 3:30
- October 4 Pizza hot lunch day
- October 8 Boys soccer game vs. Cultus
Glee Club 2:15
- October 9 Girls soccer game vs. Cultus
- October 10 Cross Country, Twin Rinks 3:30
- October 11 New Parent Tea, 9:00 in the Library
- October 14 Thanksgiving Stat, all schools closed**
- October 15 Boys soccer game vs. Promontory
Glee Club 2:15
PAC Meeting 7pm, Library
- October 22 Boys soccer tournament
Photo retakes
Glee club 2:15
- October 23 Girls soccer tournament
- October 24 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:25am**
- October 25 PRO DAY (Provincial) – No School for Students**
- October 29 Glee Club 2:15
- October 31 Black & Orange day!



LOOKING AHEAD:

- November 1 Pro Day (District) – No School for Students
- November 5-7 Scholastic Book Fair
- November 8 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45
- November 11 Remembrance Day Stat – schools closed
- November 15 PAC hot lunch day
- November 29 Pro Day – No School for Students