



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 2020

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Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at Watson Elementary. If you have returning children, I hope you are ready for another great year. If you are new to Watson, I hope you will soon feel at home here.

It has been an exciting few days as we reconnected with students and also met a lot of new students. Students have been assigned to their classes and were excited to meet their teacher. This year has been a very different start up. Along with class placements, students are part of a cohort that consist of another class. A cohort is a group of students and staff who remain together throughout the school year. Cohorts reduce the number of in-person, close interactions a student has in school. Based on the cohort group students are in they have staggered entry, break times and end times. Please familiarize yourself with start and end times.

I am sure you have heard from your child that we are training students and staff on our Health and Safety protocols. You will hear that our students are washing their hands often at school during the day. When students enter the building in the morning, they are required to wash their hands. They wash their hands before exiting for breaks and then when they re-enter the school. They will be required to wash their hands throughout the day and once again before they are dismissed. Students have also been taught on minimizing physical contact. We ask that students avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs & handshakes) keeping their hands, feet and body to themselves. We encourage students to not touch their face and to stay spread out as much as it is practical to do so. In the building we are working on always walking on the right side of the hallways and observing markings we have on the floor to help with the flow. Please ask your child(ren) about the routines they are learning.

As adults we can also help. We are encouraging parents to prevent crowding at drop-off and pick-up times. At drop off, please leave students at their line-up in the morning and then leave or stand further away. At pick-up time at dismissal, please pick up your child(ren) at their outside door and then proceed home. It would be fine if you would like to return after 3:30 to have a play on the playground. We are asking parents to not enter the building without an appointment. The front doors are unlocked for parents to come in. Only one adult at a time should be in our entrance. Visitors are required to sign-in when they arrive. Parents are encouraged to phone to make an appointment if they wish to meet with staff. Parents entering the building are required to follow the same protocols staff and students follow. Parents and Guardians will be required to wash their hands when entering the building.

Communication is an area that is extremely important, and we are trying to improve the way that information is sent home. Here are some ways that we use to keep everyone informed:

1. Monthly newsletters will be sent home by email the first Friday of every month. There will also be paper copies available at the office and posted on our Website.

2. Our school website, <http://watson.sd33.bc.ca/> is kept up to date.

Warm Regards, Mr. Bateman



Happy September from your VP, Mrs. Carolyn Ingham!

Welcome back to our 2020/2021 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 and a healthy breakfast will help your child to arrive at school on time, be engaged at school, tackle challenges and have fun being back to school. There are many changes and new routines to get used to with our health and safety protocols. Please give yourself grace, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we all learn together.

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



Watson’s Cohorts and Staggered Schedule

Group 1

Vriend & Fordy/Munro
 Zurowski & Bartel
 Moreh & Burke
 Jackson & Monchalin
 O’Brennan & Vieira

Group 2

Robinson, Bedard & Magneison
 Weber & Delisle
 Stradling & Thiessen
 Clouston & Shea
 Anderson & Crozier

	Time	Groups
Start Time	8:15 (warning signal)	1
	8:20 (instruction time)	
	8:25 (warning signal)	2
	8:30 (instruction time)	
Dismissal	2:10	1
	2:20	2



Please be aware that we need to stay with our Cohort Dismissal times as scheduled. This is a Government requirement that we need to be compliant with.

We have also been advised to have students be outside as much as possible. At our school students will be going outside as much as possible. Fresh air and exercise help keep children healthy. Please make sure they are dressed for the weather (rain or shine).

Questions/Concerns If you have questions or concerns please feel free to call 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 and Scooters

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.

We are very lucky to have some new staff members joining us at Watson Elementary.

Please extend a warm Watson Wildcat welcome to:

Mrs. Shea, who is teaching Grade 3/4, **Mrs. Munro**, who will be teaching Kindergarten on Mondays, **Mrs. Viera**, who is teaching Grade 5, **Mr. Zavers**, who is teaching PE Prep, **Mr. Wiley**, who is our Librarian, and **Mrs. Tiechrob** who is our counsellor.

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.



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:

- 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.
- 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.\
- 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.
- 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.
- The front parking lot is only for staff parking.
- 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.
- 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.
- Thank you for your cooperation!



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 Wednesday September 23.** 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.

2020 – 2021 Local School Calendar

Days in Session	183
Number of Instructional Days	176
As outlined in the School Calendar Regulation, students are receiving a minimum of 878 hours of instruction at Elementary, 879 hours of instruction at Middle and 952 hours of instruction at Secondary.	
Number of Non-Instructional Days	6
Schools Open	September 8
Thanksgiving Day - Statutory Holiday	October 12
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #1 (Pro-D Day)	October 23 (Provincial)
Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday	November 11
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #2	November 16 (Assessment & Evaluation)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #3	November 27
Schools Close for Christmas Holidays	December 18
Christmas Holidays	December 21 to January 1
Schools Reopen after Christmas Holidays	January 4
Family Day - Statutory Holiday	February 15
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #4 (Pro-D Day)	February 19 (District)
Schools Close for Spring Vacation	March 12
Spring Vacation Period	March 15 - 26
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	March 29
Good Friday - Statutory Holiday	April 2
Easter Monday - Holiday	April 5
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #5 (Pro-D Day)	April 30 (CTA)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY #6	May 21
Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday	May 24
Last Day for Students	June 24
Administrative Day	June 25