



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

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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 29** 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 are settled into their new classrooms, begun new learning and are reviewing routines and rules. It's hard to believe that many of our students have been away from school since spring break. Please try to get into the practice of dedicating 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.

DAILY HEALTH CHECK

Parents and guardians are an essential link in the safety protocols we are following, and your commitment to using the Daily Health Check is so important. Please continue to monitor your child's health each morning, and do not send a sick child to school. The latest Daily Health Checklist is here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>. At this time, our district has not yet adopted the new protocols set out by CDC, we continue to follow the original list of symptoms.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING YOUR DOG TO SCHOOL

Dogs are an important part of life for many Watson families, and as such, are often included in day-to-day activities such as walking children to and from school. The school appreciates this inclusion and values pet ownership as an educational experience; it also acknowledges other families (and individuals) can find contact with dogs stressful, even frightening. We are asking families to please respect our request to keep their dogs off the school property. This is in place for the health and safety of all of our Students. Thank you.

IN/OUT DAYS

With the fall weather on its way, we can expect more frequent wet & windy weather. Even on days with drizzle or light rain children will be sent out for a period of time to get fresh air. The day is long and children do crave exercise and fresh air. **PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE CHOICES AND ENSURE THEY ARE DRESSED PROPERLY FOR THE WEATHER. Keeping a change of clothes in their backpacks is encouraged!**

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Thanks to parents and guardians to help us practice physical distancing during drop off and pick up times. 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. Thanks for helping us keep kind, calm, and safe.

INSIDE SHOES

We are heading into the wet and rainy season. Please make sure your child(ren) have Inside shoes as the weather starts to change. This helps us keep our school clean and safe.



Terry Fox Run

On Monday, September 28 we held our annual Terry Fox Run. It was a huge success and a lot of fun. **We are still collecting online donations and counting money from our coin drive. We will be sending all of the proceeds to the Terry Fox Cancer Research Foundation.** Well done Watson Wildcats.! Thank you to Ms. Bartel for organizing the materials for the Terry Fox Run.

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

The safety of our students and community members is very important.

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. **This is a No Parking Area.** 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.

The smaller parking lot in front of the school is for staff parking and it is closed to all traffic during the day. This is to provide a safe area for our Kindergarten families when they are dropping off and picking up their children.

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 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 29th. The students will be dismissed at 11:25 on this day. 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 look for information from your child’s teacher. The classroom teachers will be sending home information regarding how they will be conferencing with their families.

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. Please see the PAC Facebook Page for upcoming fundraisers and important events.

Orange Shirt Day and Walk
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 12 Thanksgiving Stat, all schools closed
- October 23 PRO DAY (Provincial) – No School for Students
- October 29 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:25am

LOOKING AHEAD:

- November 11 Remembrance Day Stat – schools closed
- November 16 Assessment and Evaluation – No School for Students
- November 27 Pro Day – No School for Students

