



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

November 2020

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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:

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!

One of the most important days in October was our early dismissal day. Our early dismissal days are 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 would like to thank all of our families for taking the time to meet with their children's teachers on October 29th.

We want to also 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 try and arrive on time in the morning!

Remembrance Day is in the month of November. This is a time we take a moment to remember those who have fought for our freedoms. This year our students will be experiencing a virtual district wide Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th.

Terry Bateman

Hello from Mrs. Ingham ~ Vice Principal



Welcome to November! With a change in the weather to cooler and wetter days, please make sure your child has a pair of **inside shoes** to help keep classrooms and the school tidy and dry. At recess and lunch, we will often be sending students outside for some fresh air even on wet days, so please also help your child come to school with appropriate coats and footwear for wet and muddy weather.



We will be recognizing Remembrance Day on November 10 by watching a district wide wreath laying ceremony. At home, discuss with your child the significance of Remembrance Day, and what we all can do to spread peace and kindness at school, at home and in our community.

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)

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.

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.

Watson’s Cohorts and Staggered Schedule

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

Group 1

Vriend (K) & Fordy/Munro (K)
 Zurowski (1) & Bartel (1)
 Moreh (2) & Burke (1/2)
 Jackson (2) & Monchalin (3)
 O’Brennan (5) & Vieira/Matheny(5)

Group 2

Robinson (K), Bedard (K) & Magneison (K)
 Weber (2) & Morgan-Elworthy (1)
 Stradling (3) & Thiessen (3)
 Clouston (4) & Shea (3/4)
 Anderson (4) & Crozier (4/5)

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, 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.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

November 30 -December 4 the Scholastic Book Fair will be taking over the library! With Covid-19 restrictions parents will not be permitted to browse the shelves. The book fair will open to students only. An online link will be sent out to families. Students can purchase books when they visit the book fair with their classes or parents can purchase online through the link. Regular book exchange will be paused during this week.

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!

Remembrance Day Assembly

This year our Remembrance Day Assembly will be a virtual Ceremony on Tuesday, November 10th. All of the schools in the district will be experiencing the assembly at the same time. We also encourage Girl Guides, Brownies, Cubs etc to wear their uniforms on this day.



IN/OUT DAYS

WE WILL GO OUTSIDE MOST 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.

NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 11** Remembrance Day Stat, Schools closed
- November 13 Christmas plant fundraiser order deadline today
- November 16 **Assessment & Evaluation Day, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- November 27** **PRO-D DAY, NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- November 27 Christmas plant fundraiser pick up 11am-2pm
- November 30- Dec. 4 Scholastic Book Fair



LOOKING AHEAD

December 21 to January 3 – Schools Closed for Christmas Holidays.
January 4 – School Reopens