



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 2021

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Principal's Message,

It is our pleasure to welcome everyone to another great school year. Whether you will be dropping your child off at Watson Elementary for the first day of Kindergarten or are a veteran parent of a school-aged child, the start of a new school year is always a time filled with excitement.

Our school staff are excited to have students back in their classrooms and filling the hallways with energy and enthusiasm for learning. Watson is a safe place for staff and students and we continue to follow our district Communicable Disease Plan Guidelines.

It is our goal to help every child and their family to feel welcomed, connected, and part of our Watson Wildcat family. Additionally, we strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic, social and emotional abilities.

Our registration has increased this year and we have grown by three divisions. Along with adding the three divisions we have had a few staffing changes. Mrs. Moe will be retiring, Ms. Weber has retired over the summer and Miss. Thom has resigned her position in Chilliwack to teach in Surrey. Our custodian staff have both moved on to the new High School, Imagine High. We wish Ms. Weber all the best in retirement. We also wish Mr. Payne and Mr. Coupal all the best at their new school.

Please join me in welcoming our new staff:

Mrs. Dewijn teaching Kindergarten
Mrs. MacCarron teaching Kindergarten
Mrs. Istace teaching Grade 1
Ms. Pera teaching Grade 5
Ms. Bluda Custodian (day)
Mr. Davidson Custodian (evening)

Mrs. Stradling is our school counsellor this year and will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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 2021/2022 school year! We are so happy you are here!

I am looking forward to a fantastic year of making friends, learning about each other and learning together. I am excited to meet our many new students to Watson and welcome back our students from last year! We also have many new teachers joining us at Watson this year! Over the summer break, I hope you were able to reconnect with family and friends and enjoy some special family time together. As summer slowly comes to a close, please help your child start getting into consistent routines. Going to bed (not too late) and waking up at consistent times, and starting the day with a healthy breakfast will help your child to arrive at school on time, have a more positive mindset to learn and be engaged at school, tackle challenges, regulate emotions, and have fun being back to school. As we continue to follow health and safety protocols like wearing masks, handwashing, respectful distancing, and staying home when you are not feeling well, we appreciate your ongoing patience as we all build relationships and learn together during these times of change.



"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." ~Fred Rogers

MASKS

All grade 4 & 5 students must wear a mask at school. The Ministry of Health strongly encourages all students Kindergarten – grade 3 to also wear masks. The office is handing out 30-50 masks per day to students that are not bringing their own masks to school. The cost of these masks is not covered and is taken from other school resources.



PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH A FACE MASK.

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.

ELETRONIC DEVICES, TOYS ECT.

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.

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.

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.



HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Please keep the school office informed of your current address, phone number, and all other changes we should be aware of including updated emergency contacts and any health changes. You can email us at watson@sd33.bc.ca or phone the school at 604-858-9477. Thank you.

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. When you are parking in our parking lot please use our crosswalk when walking to the school and playground. 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 Monday, September 20th.** 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. Grades 1-5 \$45 Kindergarten \$40 cash or cheque payable to *Watson Elementary*.



**Watson
Elementary School**

2021 – 2022 School Calendar



Chilliwack
School District



Days in Session	181
Number of Instructional Days	174
Number of Non-Instructional Days	6
School Opens Dismissal 10:20am	September 7
Federal Truth and Reconciliation Day	September 30
Early Dismissal 11:25am	October 8
Thanksgiving Day – Statutory Holiday	October 11
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	October 22 (Provincial)
Early Dismissal 11:25am	November 5
Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday	November 11
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	November 12 (School Based)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	November 26
Schools Close for Winter Holidays	December 17
Winter Holidays	December 20 to January 3
Schools Reopen after Winter Holidays	January 4
Early Dismissal 11:25am	February 17
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	February 18 (District)
Family Day – Statutory Holiday	February 21
School closes for Spring Vacation	March 18
Spring Vacation Period	March 21 to April 1
School Reopens after Spring Vacation	April 4
Good Friday – Statutory Holiday	April 15
Easter Monday – Statutory Holiday	April 18
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	April 29 (CTA)
NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY (Pro-D Day)	May 20
Victoria Day -Statutory Holiday	May 23
Early Dismissal 11:25am	May 27
Last Day for Students	June 23
Administrative Day	June 24