



October 2021

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## Principal's Message

The start of school has certainly been a busy one. We sure appreciate the way our community has been understanding as we grow and settle into the school year. 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 29th 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. Our Grade 1 to 5 students gathered with Tyson Elementary at the Balmoral Park. We welcomed the Purcell Family from the Tzeachten First Nation. The Purcell Family spoke about Orange Shirt Day and drummed and sang for us. We then participated in a story walk around the park before heading back to school. Our kindergartens participated in a walk on our school grounds. Thank you, Mrs. Cooke, for organizing such a meaningful event for our students.

The provincial government has expanded its provincial health and safety measures to mandate masks for all students in B.C.

Starting on Monday, Oct. 4, all public and independent school students in B.C. have been required to wear a mask when inside school buildings, including while at their desks and on buses. This is an update to previous guidelines, which mandated masks for Grade 4-12 students only. The new mandate now also applies to kindergarten to Grade 3 students.

Masks are an effective layer of protection, in concert with other measures such as frequent hand washing, daily health checks and staying home when sick.

Here are some helpful links to use with your kindergarten to Grade 3 student about how to safely wear a mask.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsTSkUUK9v0>
- <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/how-to-wear-a-mask-in-school-kids-video>

For more information on provincial health and safety measures in schools, see the

[Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings.](#)

## A Note from Mrs. Ingham ~ Vice Principal

Happy October everyone! September has come and gone so quickly! The students continue to settle into their new classrooms, begun new learning and are reviewing routines and rules. It is so wonderful to see our students happy to come to school and greeting Mr. Bateman and I in the hallways and outside. Don't forget to send inside shoes with your child. We often go outside when it is rainy and muddy, and having inside shoes help keep our classrooms and hallways tidy. We have started learning and reviewing our Watson ROAR traits: RESPECTFUL, OUTSTANDING ATTITUDE, ACHIEVE GOALS and REACH OUT. At home, ask your child: what does it mean to be a Watson Wildcat? In the classroom? On the playground?



## Administration Staffing News

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Ingham has been assigned as Acting Principal at FG Leary Integrated Arts and Technology effective immediately. She will be leaving us at Watson until January. We wish Mrs. Ingham all the best as she moves on to this new role. We all know that FG Leary are very lucky to have her join their team. Good Luck Mrs. Ingham!!!

Mrs. Burke who has taught the last four years will be filling in for Mrs. Ingham while she is in her new role. Please help me welcome Mrs. Burke back to Watson in a new role as Acting Vice Principal of Watson. Welcome Mrs. Burke!!!

## Student Health

It seems that the cold and flu season is already upon us. If your child has **any** symptoms of illness, **including a fever**, please keep him/her at home. We are trying to prevent the spread of illness. 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 are not able to provide inside supervision. Thank you for your help with this.

Include here: [Daily Health Check](#)



## Terry Fox Run

On Monday, September 20 we held our annual Terry Fox Run. It was a huge success and a lot of fun. **We raised just over \$914.40 and will be sending it to the Terry Fox Cancer Research Foundation.** Well done Watson Wildcats.!

## COPS FOR CANCER

We were visited by the Cops for Cancer tour team on September 21. Our Grade 2-4 classes cheered them on and some student representatives presented them with a cheque for \$1429.00 to go towards pediatric cancer research and programming. Our school raised this money last year at our Break the Rules Day! Way to go!



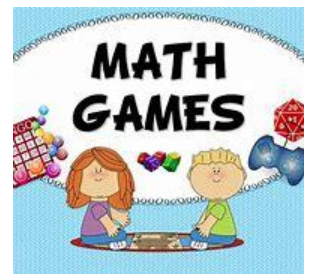
## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 29, our Grade 1-5 classes walked to the community park on Balmoral Avenue and joined Tyson Elementary to recognize Orange Shirt Day. We were joined by guest drummers from Purcell family from Tzeachten First Nation. Huge thanks to Mrs. Cooke, our Aboriginal Education Assistant for organizing this event.

## VIRTUAL FAMILY MATH GAME NIGHT

The Curriculum Department is hosting a virtual family game night focused on Math Grades K-5 on Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm.

<https://watson.sd33.bc.ca/sites/watson.sd33.bc.ca/files/2021-10/Virtual%20Family%20Math%20Night.pdf>



## MASKS

All students K- grade 5 are required to wear face masks unless exempt. Students will receive another reusable clothe mask. Please make sure your child comes to school with a mask.

[https://watson.sd33.bc.ca/sites/watson.sd33.bc.ca/files/2021-10/K-12%20Mandate\\_0.pdf](https://watson.sd33.bc.ca/sites/watson.sd33.bc.ca/files/2021-10/K-12%20Mandate_0.pdf)

## NO TREATS

At this time, due to our health and safety protocols, we are asking families not to bring in cupcakes or treats for birthdays.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Student Activities

At this time our **Boys and Girls Soccer** teams are up and running. The Boys' coach is Mr. Allen and the Girls' Coach is Ms. Dewijn. 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**. The First Cross Country meet is at FG LEARY on Thursday Oct.7th. 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.

## PAC News

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the Little Coupon Book fundraiser. We always appreciate all contributions. Our PAC recently had their election. We would like to welcome our new PAC board members.

CHAIR: David Freeman  
CO CHAIR: Katherine Pomroy  
TREASURER: Sarah Featherstone  
SECRETARY: Elizabeth Beacom  
DPAC: Elizabeth Beacom

## OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 5 Boys soccer @ Yarrow  
October 6 Girls soccer @ Watson  
October 7 Cross Country, FG Leary 3:00  
October 8 Early Dismissal 11:25  
**October 11 Thanksgiving Stat, all schools closed**  
October 12 Boys soccer @ Watson  
October 13 Girls soccer @ Vedder  
October 14 Cross Country, Fairfield Park 3:00  
October 19 Boys soccer game @ Watson  
October 20 Girls soccer @ Watson  
**October 22 PRO DAY (Provincial) – No School for Students**  
October 26 Photo Day  
October 29 Black & Orange day!

