



Watson Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack
School District

September 2022

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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 do our best for everyone. Due to the fact that there are several students currently attending our school who have severe and life-threatening nut allergies, Watson Elementary is a NUT-AWARE SCHOOL. This includes peanuts and tree nuts. We are asking families to be extra careful to not include items that contain any of these nuts in their snacks and lunches.

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.

This year we have a number of changes in our staff. At this time we have reduced in size by two divisions. Along with our number changing we have had a few staffing changes. Mrs. Matheny has moved on to teach at Chilliwack Middle School. Ms. Goforth has resigned her position as our Indigenous EA. Mrs Burke is now Vice Principal of Vedder Middle School. Mrs Stradling is now the counselor for Stitó:s family of schools.

Please join me in welcoming our new staff:

Mrs. Berkes our new Vice Principal
Mrs. Allen teaching Grade 2
Mrs. Page teaching Grade 3/4
Ms. Hutton teaching Grade 1
Mrs. Langelaan teaching Grade 2/3
Ms. Matusiak teaching Kindergarten
Mrs. Graham teaching Music
Ms. Funk teaching Kindergarten



Communication is an area that is extremely important, and we are trying to improve the way that information is sent home. 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. Our school website, <http://watson.sd33.bc.ca/> is kept up to date.

Warm Regards, Mr. Bateman

Allergy Aware School



Due to the fact that there are several students currently attending our school who have severe and life-threatening nut allergies, Watson Elementary is a NUT-AWARE SCHOOL. This includes peanuts and tree nuts. We are asking families to be extra careful to not include items that contain any of these nuts in their children's snacks and lunches. Please read the email link that was sent to families. If you have any questions please call Mr. Bateman.

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 \$55 Kindergarten \$45 cash or cheque payable to *Watson Elementary*.

Wednesday September 7, 2022

When the bell rings, **ALL** students will be grouped according to their current grade and will go to a specific location.

Grade 1 students meet in the covered area

Grade 2 students line up outside at the first back door across from the playground

Grade 3 students line up outside at the back door by Mrs. Moreh's Room

Grade 4 students line up on the hockey court

Grade 5 students line up on the back Basketball Court.

Calendar 2022-2023

Days in Session	182
Number of Instructional Days	176
Number of Non-Instructional Days	9
Schools Open	September 6
Truth and Reconciliation Day – Statutory Holiday	September 30
Pro-D Day – No School	October 7
Thanksgiving Day - Statutory Holiday	October 10
Pro-D Day – No School	October 21 (Provincial)
Early Dismissal	November 4
Remembrance Day - Statutory Holiday	November 11
Pro-D Day – No School	November 25
Assessment & Evaluation – No School	November 28
Schools Close for Christmas Holidays	December 16
Christmas Holidays	December 19 to January 2
Schools Reopen after Christmas Holidays	January 3
Assessment & Evaluation – No School	January 27
Early Dismissal	February 16
Pro-D Day – No School	February 17 (District)
Family Day - Statutory Holiday	February 20
Schools Close for Spring Vacation	March 17
Spring Vacation Period	March 20 – March 31
Schools Reopen after Spring Vacation	April 3
Good Friday - Statutory Holiday	April 7
Easter Monday - Holiday	April 10
Pro-D Day – No School	April 28 (CTA)
Pro-D Day – No School	May 19
Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday	May 22
Assessment & Evaluation – No School	June 2
Last Day for Students – Early Dismissal	June 29
Administrative Day	June 30