

Dear Watson Road families and students,

We hope your summer has been both relaxing and inspiring, and that you're feeling recharged for the upcoming school year. We're looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your children.

We're gearing up for what promises to be another outstanding school year! Our committed staff are getting excited to welcome your child(ren) back. Behind the scenes, our energetic office team is registering new families, organizing supplies, and ensuring all student records are up to date (office is open from 8:00 am - 2:00 pm daily August $25^{th} - 29^{th}$). Meanwhile, our custodial team has worked hard over the summer to ensure our school is clean, safe, and sparkling for the year ahead. We're also grateful to our dedicated PAC Executive, who is already planning fun family events, coordinating volunteer opportunities, and preparing to warmly welcome families. Together, we form a strong, supportive community united in our mission to nurture kind, responsible learners and inspire academic excellence.

Start-up Week: Parents, you can <u>expect an email early morning on **September 2nd**</u> (be sure to check your junk mail folder) letting you know which teacher your child has been assigned to this year. Once you arrive at the school, please have your returning student line up with their new teacher by 8:25 am. <u>Teachers' names will be posted around the perimeter of the school in grade order to easily find where to line up.</u> NOTE: Students will be dismissed at 11:00 am on the first day only.

A common wonder: If your child attended our school last year, there's no need to re-register as they've already been placed in a class for the next grade level. We're excited to welcome them back for another great year of learning!

All **newly registered students** to Watson Road this year in gr. 1-6 are asked to come to our school library where we will happily welcome our students and their families.

Our **newest kindergarten students** will also begin on Tues., September 2nd. Please refer to the gradual start-up schedule posted on our school website for more detailed information.



New Staff: Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. These dedicated professionals have already stopped by the school to meet with colleagues, review the curriculum, and set up their classrooms as they, too, excitedly await your children's arrival. A full list of employees is available on our school website.

Student Placement: A great deal of time, effort, and thought has gone into the process of student placement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Our classroom placements have been made with great care and thoughtful consideration. Each class has been carefully balanced both academically and socially to ensure equitable class sizes across all grade levels.

We sincerely appreciate your support in helping your child understand that, while we do our best to consider individual needs, it's not always possible to place every student with a preferred teacher or close friend. Please know that every member of our staff is committed to creating a welcoming and positive learning environment for *all* students.

At Watson Road, we are excited to partner with you in enriching your child's educational journey. We also recognize that adjusting to a new grade, peer group, and teacher can take time. Thank you for your patience and understanding as your child settles into their new classroom community.

Other items to note:

<u>School Supplies</u>: As usual, students will be receiving supplies throughout the school year as needed. School fees for the year have increased and are \$50 (\$40 for supplies + \$10 cultural performance fee). For convenience, we encourage parents to use the online system to pay school fees at this link https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com/29

Note: If you are a new family/student to this school, it takes at least two weeks for new students to enter this system. We thank you in advance for your patience – and ask that you try to pay your fees after September 20th.

Office Open: For those new to Watson Road, please note that the school office will be open August 25th – August 29th (9:00 – 2:00 pm) for those that need to bring in any documentation. All required documentation for new 'in-catchment' students is due by Thursday, August 28th to finalize the registration process.

<u>General Information</u>: Finally, our 2025-2026 Parent Handbook is now posted on our <u>website</u> under the 'About Our School' tab. The handbook contains information on our school calendar, hours of operation, Code of Conduct, and much more.

We hope you are enjoying your last few days of summer holiday, and we look forward to seeing you next week!

Janet Williams & Dave Johnson,
Watson Road Elementary Administrative Team