

September 2025



RED WING NEWS

"A SCHOOL WHERE EVERY STUDENT MATTERS AND EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!"



Welcome back to another exciting school year at Watson Road! As we open our doors and hearts to our students, we do so with tremendous hope, joy, and enthusiasm for all that lies ahead.

This year, our guiding theme is:

"Learning Starts with Me" — and it's all about Learner Agency.

What does that mean? It means every student is not just in the classroom — they are at the center of their learning. We're empowering our young learners to make choices, take ownership, and grow as confident, capable individuals.

Agency is not about knowing everything, it's about knowing you have a voice, a choice, and the power to grow.



This year, we're continuing to focus on two important learning priorities: **Writing** -We're helping students develop the skills they need to become stronger, more confident writers. Our goal is for every child to express their ideas clearly, creatively, and with purpose. **Intercultural Competencies** - We are building students' understanding of themselves and others by learning *with* and *from* people of different backgrounds. This helps us grow a respectful, inclusive school community.

Together, with your partnership, we will foster a school where every child feels safe, valued, and inspired to be their best self.

So as we trade in beach towels for backpacks, let's embrace this fresh start with energy and excitement.

**Here's to a wonderful year of discovery, growth,
and joyful learning — together.**

www.wat.sd23.bc.ca

www.sd23.bc.ca

Principal:

Mrs. Janet Williams

Email Janet.Williams@sd23.bc.ca

Mr. David Johnson

Email: David.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca

Phone: (250) 870-5137

Wash your Hands!
Remember the #1 best guard
against virus, colds and flu is to
WASH YOUR HANDS!!



DATES TO NOTE:

Sept. 10—First full day of Kindergarten

Sept. 8—Safety Patroller Training

Sept. 25—First PAC Meeting

Sept. 25 & 26—Early Dismissal Days will be at 12:30 pm

Sept. 26—Terry Fox Run

Sept. 30—STAT (no school today)



Watson is an allergy aware school. We have some students with life-threatening allergies (eg. dairy, eggs, nuts). Special letters will be sent home for these classes.

Please note: Thank you for not using our parking lot which is restricted to accommodate our large staff.

Daily Healthy Eating is still “on the menu” at Watson!



A friendly reminder to all that the Watson Road School community encourages students to make healthy food choices and follows the Ministry of Education Food and Beverage Sales guidelines. These guidelines help provide direction on how we will celebrate student achievements, holidays, and birthdays by being more mindful on focusing on fun rather than food. In particular this year, we will continue to only share 'store bought' packaged items when requested, and if parents choose to honour their child's birthday celebration with treats, we ask that only non-food items (i.e. pencils, stickers, erasers) be shared in the class. Please do not send pop, chips and candy items to school. We encourage all students to begin their learning day with a healthy breakfast. Finally, just a reminder that Watson Road is 'allergy aware'! All classrooms will encourage children not to bring nut products to schools as we have various identified medical alerts which are life threatening in our school community. We teach our students not to 'trade' food for safety reasons.



What To Do If the School Bus Doesn't Arrive?

Due to an unforeseen problem a school bus may be late, or may not arrive. In this instance, parents should have an alternate plan for their children. If, after 20 minutes, the school bus has not arrived, students should return home and parents should phone the Transportation Department at **250-870-5151** for further assistance, or call the school. Although the Transportation Department does its best to prevent problems, sometimes circumstances arise that are beyond their control. Again, parents are encouraged to have alternate arrangements in place.

Please visit <https://www.sd23.bc.ca/transportation-services-programsservices> for more information about bussing, and safety rules for bus riders in the Central Okanagan School District.

School Fees are Due

Kindergarten - Gr. 6 = \$50.00

We encourage all fees to be paid online.

School Fee Payment online:

<https://centralokanagan.schoolcashonline.com/>

Or, cheques can be made payable to
Watson Road Elementary.



The Central Okanagan School District's Financial Hardship Clause

Within School District [Policy 425 – Student Fees](#) the Board of Education has indicated “that a student will not be excluded from any educational program due to financial hardship.” This clause in the policy provides for the private and confidential consideration of financial circumstances of individual students and families, while preserving the dignity of families who may be unable to pay. Please contact the school principal if you are facing a financial hardship that may restrict the ability of your child to access a school program.

Bell Schedule

One way parents can support your children's learning is to make sure they arrive at school on time. Start and end times for classes are listed below.

- ⊙ 8:00 - Supervision starts
- ⊙ 8:25 - AM Entry Bell
- ⊙ 8:30 - Classes begin
- ⊙ 11:10- Lunch Break

***Primary students play first, and intermediate students eat first**

- ⊙ 12:02 - Warning Bell
- ⊙ 12:07 - Classes begin
- ⊙ 1:30—1:45 Recess
- ⊙ 2:30 - Dismissal
- ⊙ 2:45 - Supervision Ends

District Appeal Policy: School District #23 policy states that parents must be informed once a year about its “Appeals Policy” (5101). This policy outlines the steps for parents to follow when questioning a school district employee's decision that significantly affects the education or health of their child. Parents are encouraged to discuss the situation directly with the person involved at the school. If there is no resolution, the parents should then ask for assistance from the school administration. After further discussion at the school level, if the concern persists, the parent may wish to contact the [Assistant Superintendent of Central Schools, Mr. Al Lalonde](#) Following all these steps, if the matter is still not resolved, it may be appealed to the Board of School Trustees.

PLEASE BE ON TIME....

☺ The start of a school year is a good time to refocus on arriving at school on time. Students who arrive late, even a few minutes a day, adds up to substantial class time being missed over the year as well as additional teaching time lost for all students in the classroom while the teacher re-explains what is happening that morning. When students miss the beginning of the day in class they miss important information about the day and sometimes very critical academic instruction. I have watched the effect of students arriving late in classrooms and have noticed how disorientating it seems to be for the student who comes in part way through a lesson in progress. Avoid the undue anxiety that being late can cause...



school starts at 8:25 am!

PROCEDURE: If your child is arriving after the 8:30 bell, your child needs to report to and sign in at the office. If you are taking your child from school prior to the 2:30 dismissal, please sign your child out at the office. Please note, children cannot leave the school property without their parent or guardian during the school day.

Parent Communication



Here are some ways that we stay in touch with parents/guardians:

- 1) **School website:** <https://wat.sd23.bc.ca/> is your source of information to our school calendar, and link to Tumble Books (Virtual Library), Learning Links, and our School Community Learning Plan to name a few.
- 1) **Teacher newsletters & websites:** Each classroom teacher will indicate their preferred method of keeping in touch with parents. Please connect with the classroom teacher for more information.
- 2) **PAC Meetings:** Held once a month, the Parent Advisory Council provides an opportunity to stay in touch with other parents regarding events & activities in the school, as well as to help plan upcoming events. Check our their Facebook page and information on our school website.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN: Central Okanagan Public Schools does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Parents and guardians can voluntarily purchase private accident insurance. The Kids Plus Accident Insurance Program that was previously offered to our students was discontinued in 2019. The IA Financial Group now offers the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) which is a voluntary plan that provides coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses, and critical illness. To apply for the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan or to find out more, click [here](#).

P A C N E W S

First Meeting:

Thursday,
Sept. 25th @
6:30

All parents &
guardians
encouraged to
attend!



- **Did you know?** Every parent &/or guardian who has a child attending Watson Road Elementary is a member of the PAC: [WRPACS](#) (Watson Road Parent Advisory Council Society)
- **Please 'LIKE'** and follow us on our Facebook page at [Watson Road Elementary PAC](#) for the latest and greatest details of events, etc. for the upcoming school year. You can also send a personal message there too if you have any questions. As well, check out our information on the school website [HERE!](#)
- **Introducing our PAC Executiver Members:**

President— Tara Swim

Vice President—Tori McVicar

Treasurer— Danielle Neale

Secretary— Emma Miller

COPAC Rep— Ayrn Sklapsky

Special Events Coordinator— Nicole Hoodicoff

Communication Coordinator— Jessica Jeffery

Lunch Program Coordinator— To be determined

Fundraising Coordinator— Melissa Martin

Volunteer Coordinator—Shawna Swayze

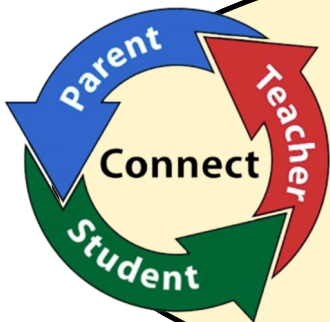
Member at Large—Krystle Pfau



PHOTO DAY—bring your smiles!

September 15th

Kindergarten students are always first



Very soon we will have our student-parent-teacher conferences scheduled for **September 25th & 26th**. These dates are in our school calendar, and are early dismissal days. School ends at 12:30 pm on these two days. More information will be sent home from your child's teacher.

To Do:

- Return the verification form being sent home with your child next week. Please note any changes directly on the forms.
- Let the school know if you did not receive this newsletter electronically, as that means we do not have a correct email address for you in our system.
- Please, for convenience and ease, pay school fees online.
- **NOTE:** All field studies need a **SIGNED** parent permission slip.



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation came into effect for schools in the fall of 1994. To ensure that we are complying with the legislation, we ask that you please read the following information carefully.

When you registered at our school, specific questions were asked regarding this policy. There are occasions when our school would like to have contact with parents to consult them directly about school issues or meetings, or to plan school related activities. The school will normally make your name, home address and phone number as well as the child's name and grade available to school district personnel, Parent Advisory Councils or others responsible for organizing these types of activities. Your personal information will not be disclosed to anyone for business or commercial purposes.

It is a tradition in our school district to allow staff members and the media photograph individual students and groups of students to commemorate events and to promote various educational, sports and cultural events taking place in the district. While photographs add to the community life of our school, they are not required for education purposes. Students' names, photographs and comments may be published in the school newsletter, school website, and on occasion, in the school district calendar, annual report, or in the news media.

If the information on file has changed, please contact the school a.s.a.p. so that all staff can comply with your direction.

From the School Office...

From time to time we all forget things. Should you find the need to drop off forgotten items for your child such as lunches, books, etc., **please drop them off at the office rather than going to your child's classroom (e.g. modular or portable).** Fewer interruptions mean maximum learning time for all learners, and we will be happy to deliver the item during the next non-instructional break. As well, we receive phone calls throughout the day to pass on messages to students. Please understand that we do not interrupt classes to deliver messages except on an emergency basis. By keeping non-emergency messages to a minimum, we will incur fewer classroom disruptions and more time will be spent on the important work of educating our students.



SEPTEMBER 30TH is a STAT

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

It is fitting that it falls on Orange Shirt Day which has been honoured in BC schools since 2014. Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. We will encourage our WAT community to show their support by wearing ORANGE on September 29th.

[Orange Shirt Day](#) is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

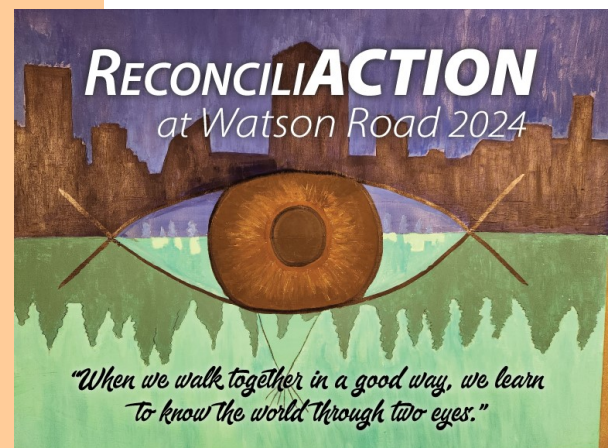
Terry Fox Run: The annual Terry Fox Run at the school will be run Sept. 26th.

We will be seeking donations to help us realize our goal of raising \$1000.00.

MARATHON



OF HOPE



CODE OF CONDUCT:



Student behaviour at all times, including when coming to and from school, students are expected to behave in accordance with the school code of conduct.

Expectations for student behaviour are taught in all school settings at the beginning of the year and reviewed as necessary. Student code of conduct and follow-up consequences for misbehaviour are stated in the front section of the student agenda, and on our website <https://wat.sd23.bc.ca/codeconduct>

As we enter a new school year, we want to remind parents about the Provincial regulations around electric scooters and e-bikes. Children under the age of 16 are not permitted to operate electric scooters or e-bikes. We want to ensure the safety of our students and as such, must follow the Provincial regulations by not allowing electric scooters or e-bikes on our property during the school day. Please see the attached for more information:



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-environment/active-transportation/scooter/safety>

3x3 Youth Basketball Registration now open



westkhoops.ca

Registration deadline: Sept 15, 2025

Little dunkers
K-Gr. 2

House league
Gr. 3-10