



September 9, 2025

**Bastion • École Élémentaire • Elementary School**  
**School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)**

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***Principal/Vice-Principal's Message***

Bonjour and Hello! Welcome back to the 2025-26 school year! I'd like to thank families and students for the patience they showed last week as we juggled and sorted the classrooms. Though it was hard to wait, it meant we were able to alleviate a couple of points of pressure, resulting in what we hope will be a strong start. That said, it was wonderful to see the students, and it is always great to get back to the routines that the new school year provides. We welcome all returning and new students back.

This year, we again think about the importance of belonging and community at Bastion. Our initial assembly this week highlighted this important characteristic of École Élémentaire Bastion Elementary School as we connect as a whole school. As a school district, our mission, vision and values are:

**MISSION**

Empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.

**VISION**

Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world.

**VALUES**

Belonging, Respect, Reconciliation, Empathy, Equity, Perseverance

Over the next weeks we will be working together as a staff to define this year's specific learning goals for the year ahead. We will continue to work hard in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy as well as social emotional goals all with an overarching lens of equity, diversion and inclusion embedded. As we start to dip our toes into the water around the school reconfiguration that will happen in Fall 2027, we believe it is vital to have a strong sense of community at Bastion. There is much to do ahead of us- but I believe that as a community we will be able to accomplish the work ahead together and in a way that benefits the students we have.

There will likely be four newsletters this year (this one, one in Dec, one in March and a last one in June), but stay tuned weekly or bi-weekly for updates on Friday afternoons. We will try to keep you abreast of important information pieces that way. As always, check out our website at <https://bas.sd83.bc.ca/> for up-to-date information. Our website will be changing to a different platform likely in October.

Please know that we are just a phone call, email or a visit away. Our door is always open to answer any questions you may have or concerns as well.

Have a great September!

Warmly,

*Heather Gobbett*  
Principal

*Rita Tedesco*  
Vice-Principal

# Bastion PAC New

## Hello Bastion Bobcats!

We hope you've had a restful summer and an excellent start to the new school year. Bastion PAC is excited for the 2025/2026 school year and for the opportunity to continue to support our kids, their teachers and classrooms and our fantastic school community! If you are interested in the PAC's work and would like to help coordinate or volunteer for our events and fundraisers, you can join us at one of our monthly meetings or email us to learn more about PAC [bastionpacSD83@gmail.com](mailto:bastionpacSD83@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bastionschoolPAC](https://www.facebook.com/bastionschoolPAC)

### **What is PAC?**

PACs are forums within each school community to discuss matters affecting your school and the education of your children. Parents' voices are a tremendous value to their school. They offer a wealth of ideas and support in the challenges that face all public schools. PACs strive to represent the diversity within their communities and contribute to the benefit of all students by:

providing opportunities to educate and inform parents about the school; involving parents in volunteer activities; and openly discussing parents' concerns and aspirations for their schools.

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## Your Support Matters

**The easiest way to support our school, have a say or "be in the know" is to attend PAC meetings.**

We generally hold our meetings in the school music room (or occasionally online via Microsoft Teams) on the 1st Monday of the month. Meetings start at 6:30 pm and usually only last an hour to an hour and a half. **BUT September's meeting will be on Thursday September 11th at 6:30 pm. FREE CHILDCARE WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

At these meetings, we hear from Principal Heather Gobbett, Vice Principal Rita Tedesco and occasionally our School Board Trustee, Marianne VanBuskirk. They will give us updates on what is happening around our school and our school district. After that, we discuss what monies we have spent, funds to distribute, what upcoming fundraisers we have, Fun Food Day update, school initiatives etc.; there is an opportunity for parents to discuss, give feedback and ask questions.

I cannot stress how informal these meetings are. Everyone has an opportunity to speak as much or as little as they like and have a say in what matters to them. Each parent and guardian at our school is automatically a PAC member, and your thoughts and opinions matter to your children and us.

If you're pressed for time but have any ideas on potential fundraising idea, want to find out how to volunteer for PAC events, or want to share thoughts on supports and items we can fund please email us at [bastionpacSD83@gmail.com](mailto:bastionpacSD83@gmail.com).

## ***Bastion Staff Members 2023-2024***

Mrs. Leahann Mohle  
Mrs. Gillian Rasmusson  
Ms. Cheri Matuga/Ms. Sara Mitchell  
Mme. Johie Burns  
Mme. Candy Martel/Mme. Megan Weir  
Mrs. Kim Chambers (T-F)/Mrs. Rita Tedesco (M)  
M. Joshua Ajohn  
Mrs. Jae MacDermott  
Mme. Mahri Runciman  
Mrs. Christine Williams  
Mme. Charlotte Bird  
Mme Bartsch (M-W)/ Mme Kailey Cannon (Th/F)  
Mme Amber van der Wagt  
Mme Heather Harker (T-F) Mme. Valerie Viens (M)  
Mrs. Megan Ollinger (MT, TH,F)/ Mrs. Denise White  
Ms. Sheri Webster  
M. Austin Mueller  
Mme. Jesse Henry  
Ms. Valerie Viens (T-TH)  
Mme. Melissa Larivierre  
Mrs. Carol Hall (W/Th)  
Mr. Jarrett Bass  
Ms. Erin McBean  
Ms. Holly Shaw  
Ms. Vicky Coubrough-Blanchette  
Ms. Lani Burnham  
Ms. Azlyn Gadbois  
Ms. Jess Gareau-Hemsworth  
Ms. Melissa Lightle  
Mr. Travis Roberts  
Ms. Christina Fraser  
Ms. Jenny Thomas  
Mr. Joe Wourms  
Mr. Cam Duford  
Mrs. Trudy Rosman  
Ms. Megan Brooke  
Ms. Erin Warden  
Ms. Jaden-Lee Herrington

Mme Rita Tedesco  
Mrs. Heather Gobbett

Secretary-in-Charge  
Secretary (M/W)  
Grade 4/5 English  
Grade 4/5 French  
Grade 4/5 French  
Grade 4/5 English  
Grade 3/4 French  
Grade 3/4 English  
Grade 3 French  
Grade 2 English  
Grade 2/3 French  
Grade 2 French  
Grade 1 French  
Grade 1 French  
Grade K/1 English  
Kindergarten English  
Kindergarten French  
Kindergarten French  
Teacher-Librarian  
Music Teacher  
Music Teacher  
Learning Resource Teacher  
Learning Resource Teacher  
Certified Education Assistant  
Certified Education Assistant/Lunch Hour Supervisor  
Certified Education Assistant/Lunch Hour Supervisor  
Certified Education Assistant/Lunch Hour Supervisor  
Certified Education Assistant  
Certified Education Assistant  
Certified Education Assistant/Lunch Hour Supervisor  
Certified Education Assistant/Lunch Hour Supervisor  
Certified Education Assistant  
Evening Custodian  
Evening Custodian  
Counsellor  
Speech Language Pathologist  
Early Childhood Educator  
Indigenous Education Worker  
Driver- Morning Dinosaur Bus  
Driver – Afternoon Giraffe Bus  
Vice-Principal & District French Coordinator  
Principal

### **PARKING LOT:**

Just a friendly reminder to please use the drop and go lanes as just that. If you would like to get out of your car and come to the courtyard, please park and do so. Passing is not permitted in the drop and go lanes at any time.

## Bastion SWAG

We are pleased once again to provide the opportunity for families and staff to order Bastion gear. We will have try-on racks in the front entry of the school at the Welcome back open house. If you would like to order, please follow the links at our online store. <https://bastion2025.itemorder.com/shop/home/>



## IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS (parent homework 😊)

Attached to this newsletter are important verification documents. Please fill out and return asap. Additionally, we request that parents log on to the ParentConnect Portal: <https://parentconnect.sd83.bc.ca>. Instructions for accessing the portal can be found here: <https://bas.sd83.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/parent-connect-1.pdf>  
These are important permissions that we request each year. Thank you for your quick attention to these matters.

(NOTE: the newsletter with the live links will be sent out electronically and posted on our website so that you can just click on the link!)

## SCHOOL FEES:

Thank you to the parents that have inquired about our school fee payment. You will be receiving (with this newsletter) the requisition for the fees. For parents of Grade 3 students, we will advise you later on if recorders will be needed.

## Absences/ Early Pickups/ Late arrivals:

Please notify the office as soon as possible. While we do our best, any time after 1:30 is tricky to get messages to students about after school/pick up instructions. Thank you.

## WELCOME BACK OPEN HOUSE



We are excited to welcome parents into our school on THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 9. This is an informal opportunity to come and see your child's classroom, see their desk, where they hang their backpack and have a chance to chat with school personnel. The schedule is as follows:  
5:30pm – 6:15pm: School is open for a visit. Then at 6:15pm all families are asked to come out to the courtyard. We will introduce the staff and bid you farewell by about 6:30

**\*\*Please note:** it is important to know that this is NOT a parent teacher interview. This is about making a connection for the first time with your child's teacher. We will look forward to our Student/Parent/Teacher interviews in October to chat about your child's learning.

## Communicating Student Learning

As a parent at Bastion School, you can expect to receive 2 informal learning updates, and 3 formal learning updates. The dates are as follows.

Monday Oct. 20:	Student/Parent Teacher conferences
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(first informal learning update – you will be sent out information to sign up for a slot)</li></ul>
Tuesday Dec. 13	Written Learning Update #1
Tuesday Mar. 10	Written Learning Update #2
April 27-May 7	Student-Led conferences
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(second informal learning update – date TBD)</li></ul>
Thursday June 25	Written Summary of Learning

## Terry Fox Run 2025

Our annual Terry Fox run will be held on Thursday Sept. 25 beginning at 1:00pm and will be held on our field.

# CHARACTER COUNTS

I want to get more involved.  
How can I make a difference?

Let's all "Try like Terry"



Students are encouraged to bring coins for a silver collection should they wish to contribute. Coins will be collected starting Monday Sept. 15 in the mornings. Parents are welcome to join us to walk with their children 😊

## Orange Shirt Day

Our annual Orange Shirt Day will take place on Friday Sept. 26 in honour of the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation that happens on Sept. 30. Various activities will take place throughout the day, with the goal of honouring, learning and listening.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of “Every Child Matters”. The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

Bastion is dedicated to providing equal opportunities for all students, as part of our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation. Please consider encouraging your child to wear orange that day.

If you would like to order a locally sourced and designed orange shirt for your child, feel free to order at this link. Note that the Online store CLOSES on Sept. 15. <https://sd83orange.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

## School Photo Day

Our school photo day is set for Tuesday October 7, 2025  
Retakes will happen on Tuesday Nov. 4, 2025



## Fun Food hot lunch program

This much-loved program will once again run this year, so stay tuned for information after our first PAC meeting on Sept. 9. In the meantime, feel free to look at the instructions on our website for how to renew your password. <https://bas.sd83.bc.ca/fun-food-days/>

## Volunteers Volunteers Volunteers!!!

Our wonderful school would be bereft without you! École Bastion Élémentaire / Bastion Elementary is simply a great place to spend some time. Please contact your classroom teacher if you would like to help out in the classroom or on a field trip. Additionally, we may need to utilize more parent drivers this year. Here's what all volunteers need to ensure that you have:

- A criminal record check completed at

Online Link: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>  
Access Code: 6TQTFUJGQP



- A volunteer registration form (available at school office or can be sent home) has been completed
- If you are driving, that you have the correct form filled out along with proof of insurance (\$1000000 liability)
- NOTE: You can also do a Criminal Records Check via your BC Services card app!
- If you would like to volunteer in the library, please let us know! With over 350 students x 2 books/week, we have a lot of books that need to be shelved.

## School Attendance Matters!

As educators, we believe so strongly that school attendance is vital to your child's learning success. Our School District No. 83 policy states that:

"The success of the educational process is predicated on the continuity of instruction and therefore the Board expects that students shall attend school daily."

Research shows us that attendance problems have dynamic, compounding relationships with mental health and academic achievement issues, which often begin in elementary years. As we jump into the 2025-26 school year, we want to invite you to ensure that your child is at school when at all possible and is on time. There are vital components of the day that happen within the first 15-20 minutes of the day, so we love to have all students present. Thank you.

## School Breakfast program

We are always so grateful for support with our school breakfast program and are once again in need of a 'crack' team of parents to help us put on breakfast each day. Please see the flyer on the next page. If you would consider being on a regular rotation for this pivotal role, please contact Mme. Rita Tedesco at [rtedesco@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:rtedesco@sd83.bc.ca). We are eager to get this program running asap. This year we will only need to have one volunteer each day as we will have a paid Breakfast program person staffing it.

## On the Horizon

Monday Sept. 15	First Full-Day Kindergarten
Thursday Sept. 9	Welcome back/Open House 5:30pm-6:30pm (see above)
Thursday Sept. 9	First PAC meeting 6:30pm (sometimes first meeting is a little longer than typical)
Thursday Sept. 25	Terry Fox Run 1:00pm
Friday Sept. 26	Orange Shirt Day
Monday Sept. 29	Pro-D Day (Non-instructional day for students)
Tuesday Sept. 30	Stat Holiday for National Truth & Reconciliation Day
Tuesday Oct. 7	School Photo day
Monday Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Monday
Monday Oct. 20	Student/Family/Teacher Conferences (no-school day for students)
Friday Oct. 24	Pro-D Day (Non-Instructional Day for students)
Friday Oct. 31	Halloween (please plan fun costumes- no masks/violent costumes- more to come)



SD83

# FEEDING FUTURES

Feeding Futures funding is provided to all school districts to support students who need it most by delivering school food programs in ways that reduce stigma. Students may experience hunger at school for many reasons, including forgetting to pack their lunch, not having time for breakfast one day, or not having enough food at home. Each school district has the flexibility to develop programs to meet the needs of their local communities. This means that school food programs might look different across schools and districts.

## The following are the free programs available at Bastion:



### Breakfast Club:

Breakfast club runs every day from **7:50 am-8:10 am** from our kitchen room (access from outside at the back side of the school, near the upper field). We serve a variety of foods such as eggs, toast, fruit and smoothie.



### Lunch top-ups

Youth appetites can be unpredictable! If your child did not bring enough lunch, they can ask the lunch hour supervisor or their teacher for a snack. We have ready-to-eat snack items such as yogurt, fruit or granola bars.



### Fresh For Kids:

Our school participates in the BC Ag in the Classroom's Fresh for Kids programs providing BC fruit, vegetables and dairy to students.

***\*If your child has a serious food allergy, please inform the school.***

Every year, school food programs receive donations of cash, food and time from many parents, businesses and students. We appreciate the important role this plays in making our programs strong and sustainable. If you are able to volunteer your time or wish to make a donation to the program, or if you have questions about our programs, please contact Serena at [scaner@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:scaner@sd83.bc.ca)



Become a

# Reading Tutor

For children in Grades 2-4 in  
North Okanagan-Shuswap schools

1.5 hours per week, Oct - Dec  
and/or Jan - Mar

Join our fabulous team of volunteers!  
Training and support provided

Focus on making reading fun to help build  
reading skills and self confidence

Attending a 3-hour training session and completing a criminal record check is required.  
Training sessions in September . Email [coordinator@shuswapliteracy.ca](mailto:coordinator@shuswapliteracy.ca)  
OR call Kristy at 250-463-4555.

 **LASS**  
Literacy Alliance of the Shuswap Society  
[shuswapliteracy.ca](http://shuswapliteracy.ca)

 **ONE TO ONE**  
A Children's Literacy Program

Scan here to fill out  
a registration form.

