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June 26th, 2023

Principal/Vice-Principal Message

Thank you for sharing your children with us, each day! We truly value the time we spend with the students as we learn together and build memories together. As we work with our students and their families, together we are working towards a learning environment where students are happy and healthy.

We could not be prouder of our school community, as our students, their families, and our staff have done a remarkable job of working together to do our best to provide the students with wonderful social, emotional and academic learning experiences. As we prepared the year-end slideshow, we looked through hundreds of photos. In the photos, the students always had smiles on their faces and were actively involved in day-to-day activities, as well as special events. We should all be proud of ourselves and celebrate all the great things that happened over the school year!!

On behalf of all the staff members at Bastion Elementary, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer break! We hope your summer is filled with relaxation, fun and adventure. Everyone should look forward to building memories as a family!

Sincerely,

Joel Menzies
Principal



Megan Weir
Vice-Principal

A Message from Mr. Menzies

Working at École Élémentaire Bastion Elementary School, for the last five years, has been an absolute pleasure. I have enjoyed my time at our school, as I've had the chance to work with amazing educators, caring and supportive families, and incredible students.

The team approach between staff members and families, to support and care for the children, is second to none at Bastion. The staff members and families work incredibly hard to ensure our students improve and progress every day. When there are challenges, the adults in the student's lives step-up and support the children to help them feel successful, safe and happy at Bastion. I could not be prouder of a school community!!

Ultimately, I will miss the students the most. The students at Bastion bring their own unique personalities to school, which helps our school be a fun and interesting place to work and learn. Getting to know so many children's interests, strengths, and challenges is the best part of my job, and when the school community works together to help a child be their best... there's nothing better. I wish all of the children success and happiness in the future. This is not a good-bye, as I will look forward to seeing the children in the community and at various school district events.

My hope is that the Bastion Bobcat school spirit continues to thrive, and that all our students are extremely proud to be Bastion Bobcats. The goal of a Bastion Bobcat is to be polite and kind, so everyone feels important and cared for, and I would love for students to carry this idea with them forever.

Thank you to all the Bastion Bobcats (students, staff and families) for helping to make my time at Bastion memorable and enjoyable. I truly appreciate all of the well wishes, kind words and wonderful student artwork I've received as adults and students say good-bye.

Sincerely,

Joel Menzies



Saying “Good-bye” is Always Hard

It is always hard to say good-bye at this time of year, to students who will be leaving, as well as staff members.

Several of our Grade 5 students have attended Bastion Elementary since Kindergarten, and Bastion Elementary is a big part of their lives. Those Grade 5s who have joined Bastion in the last few years have been a welcome addition to our school. We would like to wish our Grade 5 students all the best as they move on to middle school and start the next chapter in their learning journeys.

We would also like to say good-bye to those students, and their families, who are moving to new schools or new communities over the summer. We hope your children enjoyed their time at Bastion Elementary, and we would like to wish each of you all the best in your new endeavors.

A few of our staff members will be leaving Bastion Elementary. These individuals have helped Bastion Elementary be a wonderful place to learn and teach. We have been very fortunate to have a strong teaching staff and support staff, who always look out for the best interests of all the students. We would like to say good-bye to the following individuals and wish them all the best as they move on to new opportunities, where they will continue to have a positive impact on the lives of children:

- Tyffanee Marsh** (temporary CEA position ends)
- Melissa Wood** (temporary CEA position ends)
- Paige Mercier** (temporary CEA position ends)
- Nicole Robinson** (accepted a CEA position at SA West)
- Darcie Fletcher** (accepted a CEA position at SAS-Jackson)
- Denise Billard** (temporary Physical Literacy Teacher position ends)
- Elyse Johnston** (temporary Gr. 2 FI position ends)
- Chelsea Goshulak** (accepted a Music teacher position at South Broadview Elem.)
- Elliot Sorban** (accepted a teaching position at SAS-Sullivan)
- Sam Lazar** (accepted a teaching position at Shuswap Middle School)
- Joel Menzies** (transferred to South Broadview Elem.)

New Additions to Our Bastion Team

We are pleased to announce the names of the following individuals, who have been recently hired to join the Bastion staff for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Mrs. Heather Gobbett** (joining Bastion, from South Broadview, as the principal)
- Mme Rose Trudeau** (joining Bastion, from Shuswap Middle, as an Intermediate French teacher)
- Mr. Brook Roberts** (joining Bastion, from Hillcrest, as a part-time Music teacher)
- Ms. Marwah Sadeq** (joining Bastion, from Carlin, as a Certified Education Assistant)
- Mr. Bryce Kuchta** (joining Bastion, from Ranchero, as a Certified Education Assistant)

Volunteer and PAC Support

Bastion Elementary is very fortunate to have so many family and community members show their support on a regular basis. We have several volunteers who help in the classrooms – whether they are reading with children, helping teachers prepare materials, walking on fieldtrips, delivering Fun Food lunches, or sharing a passion with the school, we truly appreciate the support. We look forward to continuing to have volunteers support our learning community!

Being available to prepare breakfast, make a few lunches and simply connect with the children are just some of the ways our Breakfast Program volunteers help several of our students begin their day in a positive way. We would like to thank the following volunteers for their time and support: **Terri Mason (coordinator), Margo Longland, Robin Watt, Angela Backus-Roy, Nicole Nadin, David Colombe, Marika Mint, Marzena Cichosz, Lana McNeil, Jody Serviss and Kelly Herder.** Merci beaucoup!

Our wonderful Parent Advisory Council (PAC) executive and their team of parents have continued to support our school in numerous ways. Fun Food Lunches, new Bastion traverse climbing wall, materials for classrooms, Bastion Movie Night and Spring Carnival, Staff Appreciation Lunches, financial support for the Breakfast Program and financial support for field trips are just a few ways the PAC supports our students and staff members. Thank you very much to the family members who attend our monthly meeting and provide suggestions on how the PAC can support the school. A big thank you goes to the following PAC executive members for their hard work throughout the school year:

Sylvia Meikle (President/Chair)
Tiffany Loewen (Vice-President)
Melodie Smith (Treasurer)
Larissa Image (Secretary)
Allison Drager (Fundraising Coordinator)
Katie McCallum (Fun Food Coordinator)

Our PAC executive will remain the same for the 2023-2024 school year, except for **Aiden Poehnell**, who will be joining the team as the new PAC vice-president. Welcome to the team, Aiden! Tiffany Loewen has stepped down from her position on the PAC, as her child is moving on to Shuswap Middle School. Thank you very much to Tiffany Loewen for her many years of being part of the Bastion PAC!

Preventing the “Summer Slide”

Our students work very hard during the school year, and all of them make significant improvements from September to June. Academic, social, and emotional growth are evident in so many of our learners, and we hope everyone takes advantage of various opportunities to continue strengthening their skills over the summer. **Summer is a time to relax, have fun, and seek adventure.** Keeping this in mind, studies have shown that students who make gains over the school year, do in fact show some regression in their learning when they stop thinking about skills they work so hard to achieve over the year. The term “summer slide” refers to the loss of academic skills. Here are some suggestions to help the students prevent the “summer slide”:

- Continue to use on-line programs introduced to the students, by the classroom teachers. All students who used these programs throughout the school year will continue to have access to the programs during the summer. Teachers will be able to provide you with login information if your child does not already have that information.
- Students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 can join the Okanagan Regional Library’s Summer Reading Club. Parents can visit the ORL website and register their children for this fun program. There are summer programs/events that run through the library, and everything is free!
- Whether or not your child joins the Summer Reading Club, the goal is to try to have them read throughout the summer. It is always a benefit when the parents can model good reading habits to their children!
- Children can write in various ways about their adventures over the summer. Whether it is writing on paper or an iPad, or creating a journal or scrapbook, children should be encouraged to be creative and write about events/ideas, which are personally interesting.

Revised Bell Schedule for 2023 - 2024

Due to a small change in the number of Instructional Minutes the school is required to provide each day, we will be adjusting our bell schedule. Here is the new bell schedule for the 2023 - 2024 school year:

8:07	Welcoming Bell
8:10	Classes in Session
9:40	Recess
9:57	Classes in Session
11:27	Lunch Recess
11:57	Lunch Eating Time
12:14	Classes in Session
2:10	Dismissal

Looking Ahead to September

- 1. **Office Hours.** The school office will be open from 8:30 - 2:00, starting Monday, August 28th. Our secretaries, along with Mme Weir (VP) and Mrs. Gobbett (Principal) will be in the school all week, preparing for a new school year and welcoming any parents/students who wish to stop by and say "hi".
- 2. **First Week of School.** The Grade 1 - 5 students will start school on Wednesday, September 6th. When the Welcoming Bell rings at 8:07, the students will line-up at the exterior door of *last year's* classroom. The students will spend the first day (a half day – **Early Dismissal at 11:10**) in their last year's classrooms, so we can determine who has moved away and who has recently registered. On Thursday, September 7th (maybe even Friday), the students will be able to go to their classrooms for the year and meet their teacher(s).

Kindergarten students will begin their Gradual Entry on Thursday, September 7th. A reminder about the Kindergarten Gradual Entry will be sent to Kindergarten families very soon.

- 3. **School Supplies.** Families do not need to go shopping and purchase school supplies for their children. The school has purchased school supplies for each classroom, and families are charged a School Supply Fee to cover the cost of the supplies used over the course of year. In preparation for the first day, students will need to have a backpack and a clean pair of indoor runners (with non-marking soles). A copy of the School Fee Schedule for 2023-2024 can be seen on the next page.

Please wait to pay the school fees, until you receive a copy of your child's fee statement in mid-September.

School District No. 83 Calendar

Please click on the following link to view the 2023-2024 District Calendar:

LINK: <https://sd83.bc.ca/district-calendar/>

School Fee Schedule 2023-2024

Permissible Fees:

- Listed below are the permissible school fees in compliance with provincial legislation. A **financial hardship policy** is in place at Bastion Elementary for families unable to afford school fees. Please contact Mrs. Gobbett or Mme Weir (250.832.3741) for further information. If you wish to work out a payment plan, please contact Leahann Mohle, the school secretary.
- *Due by Monday, October 2nd, 2023*
 - **School Supplies (K – Gr. 5):** **\$35**
 - **Student agenda:** **\$8** (Agenda replacement: \$8)
(Please Note: Kindergarten students and some Primary classes do not need to purchase agendas. During the second week of school, families will receive a breakdown of fees, which will indicate if an agenda needs to be purchased for the student.)

Requested Fees:

- Provincial legislation does not allow schools to charge a mandatory activity fee. Our PAC and staff believe these programs and activities are important for our students. We are requesting parents continue to pay these fees, so these programs can continue. Our ability to provide these programs will depend on the response from parents. No student will be denied access to a school sponsored program/activity for financial reasons. If circumstances do not permit payment at this point, please contact Mrs. Gobbett or Mme Weir.
 - **Optional Cultural Performance and Activity Fee \$20 per student (max. \$60 per family).**
 - **Field Trips:**
Teacher may plan field trips and charge a fee to cover costs (eg. transportation, entry fees, accommodation, food, equipment rentals, etc.).

Payment can be made by cash, cheque or e-transfer, after you receive your child's fee statement in mid-September.

E-transfers can be sent to bas@sd83.bc.ca

A password is not required.

Please be sure to include your child's first and last name and what the payment is for in the Memo/Notes section (eg. Suzy Smith – School Fees).

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Gobbett or Mme Weir (250.832.3741), if you have any questions regarding fees.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their continued support.

