



**School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap)**

Dear Parents/Guardians of our new Kindergarten students,

We would like to wish a very warm welcome, from École Élémentaire Bastion Elementary School, to both you and your child! Whether this is your first child to enter Kindergarten, or you already have children in school, getting ready for and starting Kindergarten is very special for children, as well as their families. Seeing the children share new experiences and meet new friends is very exciting for everyone!!

In September, all of the Kindergarten students will participate in a “gradual entry”, which means your child will attend school for a portion of each day, for the first week and a half. The children’s time will increase over the course of the week and a half, building up to their first full day of school on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. The gradual entry process helps support a smooth and successful transition into Kindergarten. Teachers will be introducing children to classroom routines and procedures and helping the students adjust to the new social and emotional realities of school.

**The Bastion Elementary Kindergarten Gradual Entry schedule is as follows:**

**Tuesday, September 3<sup>th</sup>**

Non-Instructional Day - students do not attend

**Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**

First day for Gr. 1-5, with an early dismissal  
Kindergarten students do not attend

Date	Start Time	End Time
Thursday, September 5 <sup>th</sup> (Parents/guardians attend with child)	Group A - 8:15 Group B - 9:45	Group A – 9:15 Group B – 10:45
Friday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Group A - 8:15 Group B – 10:15	Group A – 9:45 Group B – 11:45
Monday, September 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	11:30
Tuesday, September 10 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	11:30
Wednesday, September 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	11:30
Thursday, September 12 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	11:30
Friday, September 13 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	11:30
Monday, September 16 <sup>th</sup>	8:11	2:10

Your child is in **Group A.**

Parents are welcome to attend, with their children, on September 5<sup>th</sup>. After the first day, the children should be entering the classroom independently. Thank you for your support in fostering the children's independence.

*On September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, French Immersion students will be with all the French Immersion Kindergarten classroom teachers. The teachers will take time to get to know the students, and then the students will be placed in their regular classrooms for Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **Reminders for your child's first days at school:**

- Children should have a pair of clean indoor shoes, with non-marking soles, to be kept at school. If your child has not yet mastered tying laces, Velcro or slip-on shoes will be helpful;
- Children should come to school with a water bottle and a couple of healthy snacks during the "gradual entry";
- During a full day of school (8:11 – 2:10), children will also need a healthy lunch;
- All of your child's belongings should come to school in a backpack, and personal items labelled with your child's name;
- Please send an extra change of clothes (labelled in a large Ziploc bag) which can be kept at school;
- Please ensure your child is independent when using the washroom. If there are any concerns about your child's toileting routines or independence, please talk to your child's teacher;
- There is no need to purchase school supplies. The school buys all of the students' supplies and charges families a School Supply Fee;
- If your child will be taking the school bus, a staff member will always be at the front of the school to greet the students in the morning, and staff members will be outside with the students, after school, to ensure the students are on the correct bus. If you are unsure of bus pick-up/drop-off times for your child, please contact the SD No. 83 Transportation Dept. at 250.832.9415. If your child is riding a school bus home, a parent/guardian must be at the bus stop to pick the child up.
- If your child will be attending a daycare, please communicate the "gradual entry" times with your daycare provider. If your child is picked up by a parent/guardian or would typically take a school bus home after school, please arrange pick-up for your child, during the gradual entry. School buses only transport students home at 2:25 (approximately).
- In September, please be sure to let the classroom teacher and office staff know your child's after school routine (eg. parent/friend to pick child up, child to ride the school bus, child to be picked up by a daycare, etc.).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the principal or vice-principal at 250.832.3741. The school office will be open, starting August 26<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

We are truly looking forward to sharing the wonderful experience of Kindergarten with you and your child!!

Sincerely,

The École Élémentaire Bastion Elementary School Kindergarten Team

Ms. Sheri Webster (English Kindergarten Teacher)

Mme Jesse Henry (French Kindergarten Teacher)

Monsieur Austin Mueller (Part-time French Kindergarten Teacher)

Mme Megan Weir (Vice-Principal)

Mrs. Heather Gobbett (Principal)