

Chers parents et amis,

October has flown by, and the students are in as much disbelief as I am that November is already here. October gave us some opportunities to come together as a community. I was proud and humbled by the decision of the class to use the annual Student Council pumpkin decorating competition in a way that would be inclusive and inviting to all. You would have been most impressed to witness the teamwork and problem solving that went into the construction of our Eiffel Tower, gumball machine, and Christmas tree pumpkins. We also thoroughly enjoyed our first school dance. Our classmates enjoyed themselves while maintaining respect for the school environment and their peers. While supervising, I can honestly say I witnessed and learned a few new moves!

With each month that passes I see progress and growth in the students' abilities, work habits and confidence. Students are working to become more efficient and independent learners. The challenge for some students remains using oral and written instructions, models and criteria to plan and to complete their work independently and to realize when assignments and projects would benefit from more accuracy or detail. Another important goal is to be able to communicate relevant information from French texts (fiction and non-fiction) without copying all information directly from them. Paraphrasing is an important skill to develop in order to demonstrate reading comprehension at this grade level and in the Intermediate grades. Students are also working on demonstrating perseverance, and the ability to maintain focus over longer periods of time while accessing different strategies for problems they might encounter in their work.

A note about Progress Reports ...

The progress report will be sent home November 13th. It is designed to show a student's development of the *learning skills* and *work habits* during the fall of the school year, as well as a student's *general progress* in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. This means that the progress report will contain no grades associated with the subjects. Rather, a progression level is assigned to all subjects. For all subject areas you will see one of the following three progression levels: progressing very well, progressing well, and progressing with difficulty. Unlike the report card, you will see only one progression level for each of English, French and Math, rather than a progression level for each strand within those subjects.

It is important to understand the significance and meaning of each of these progression levels, as follows:

Progressing very well – indicates that the work **consistently** demonstrates progress toward achievement of expectations that **surpasses** the provincial standard (level 4 / A-, A, A+).

Progressing well – indicates that work **consistently** demonstrates progress toward achievement of expectations **at** the provincial standard, *It is important to note that "progressing well" encompasses students who are working at level 3 and level 2, as level 2 approaches the provincial standard (C-, C, C+, B-, B, B+).

Progressing with difficulty – indicates that work is progressing toward the achievement of expectations at the provincial standard with limited effectiveness (level 1 or below, D-, D, D+).

Learning skills are of critical importance in students' abilities to achieve success in the classroom. The learning skills and work habits continue to be evaluated the same way: E-excellent, G-good, S-satisfactory and S-needs improvement. The learning skills are: Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-Regulation.

I look forward to discussing your son or daughter's progress at the conferences on November 16th or 17th. Conference time request sheets have gone home and the confirmation (day and time) will be in your son or daughter's progress report envelope on November 13th.

Curriculum Update

French Language Arts: Students are currently reading a fairy tale entitled "Le piège du magicien". They will soon be writing a text related to the character they developed based on the story. Once completed, they will present their text in role. An important goal for several students is to demonstrate greater reading comprehension when responding to short texts in French by locating sufficient relevant main ideas and supporting details. We will be reading short fiction and non-fiction texts this month to help develop reading comprehension.

English Language Arts: Students are enjoying enjoyed reading Freak the Mighty. Students will be completing a letter from one character to another. We will also be working on a radio interview related to the same novel. In November we will also delve briefly into a study of newspaper articles, using the Remembrance Weeks newspapers published by Veteran's Affairs Canada. This resource will allow us to explore some history and themes about Canada's involvement in international conflict while examining the newspaper format. It will serve as a way to set up an activity we hope to have on-going all year using articles from the news about current events.

Mathematics: We continue to incorporate problem solving through all areas of Math with the use of the 4 step problem solving model. We are working very hard at selecting and applying a reasonable strategy, as well as justifying our answers. These activities will be on-going. We also introduced the standard order of operations, which students are very much enjoying! We recently completed our Patterning unit, and will be moving on to a study of linear Measurement.

Science: Activities related to ecosystems and biodiversity will continue this month.

Social Studies: We spent a good deal of time using the Government of Canada website to research Indigenous Cultural groups to study the make up of early Canadian communities, examined in brief the concept of mutually advantageous trade between First Nations peoples and Europeans. We will now begin examining the period of immigration around the first and second world wars.

Congratulations to the students who...

- are using time more efficiently and staying on task for longer periods of time
- are adding more detail to clearly explain and support responses to written texts
- use the agenda independently and effectively
- use instructions, models and criteria to plan, complete and evaluate their work
- are kind and courteous to their peers in the classroom
- persist to complete tasks when initially faced with difficulty
- have participated and represented the school in extracurricular activities

I am fortunate to have such a good group. Our year is off to a great start. Thank you to all parents for encouraging your child and supporting their education. I appreciate your cooperation when signing tests and assignments. As usual, if you have any concerns or comments please feel free to get in touch with me at the school. I look forward to seeing you all with your son or daughter at the student led conferences on November 16th and 17th.

Sincerely,
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