

Hello & welcome back, students.

Grade 4 French Immersion will look a bit different this year, but I guarantee we will have a good time and we will learn a lot. I am super excited about this year in our new space. I have included some pictures of the classroom because I know your parents are curious about it, but can't come and take a peek. The space is not all decorated yet because, of course, none of your projects are finished. We will have time to personalize the class once you move in.

I have some other exciting news. We have a wonderful new addition in room 303 this fall. Mme Arielle Hildebrand will join us on alternate days. She will be teaching based out of Ecole Laura Secord School, most days, but she will be in our room every second day. She is awesome. Her French is great, and she has taught with colleagues I know, over at another WSD French Immersion school. She is a math keener, like me, who understands that French needs to be the main language spoken in school so that you get the opportunities to practise the language. We will share French, math & English, so you will get the best from each of us. She will take the lead in science, while I will lead social studies and health.

Mme Hildebrand and I spent time together last week getting to know each other and preparing things for the class. I've shared lots of tips about École Laura Secord School, and I assured her that you'd make her feel welcome and help her find her place in our community.

This year, we are Cluster C, so our AM recess is 9h55-10h10, lunch recess from 11h30-12h, lunch from 12h-12h30 and PM recess 1h50-2h05. At 3h30 school is done. We will wear masks in class. Bring a clean, filled, reusable water bottle, and a small fruit or vegetable snack for after morning recess. There will be some new rules and guidelines that I will go over them on the first day, and of course things will be a little different this year, being up on the third floor.

Français is the language of instruction and is integrated with science, social studies, and health themes. Language study and grammar, oral practice, reading instruction and comprehension activities are often but not always integrated into our studies. Gr 4 Social Studies Units: Geography of Canada, Living in Canada, Living in Manitoba, History of Manitoba and Canada's North and Treaty Education. Gr 4 Science Units: Habitats and Communities, Light, Sound, Rocks and Minerals and Erosion.

Math: We start the day with math, so arriving on time is important. The four strands in math are: Statistics and Probability, Number Concepts and Operations, Patterns and Relationships and Form and Space. The Grade 4 curriculum includes multiplication, division, fractions and an introduction to decimal numbers.

There is an hour each day of English Language Arts instruction (in the afternoon). Certain lessons and discussions (Family Life, Second Step, Conflict Resolution, and Kids in the Know, may take place in English.

You won't receive a lot of homework. However, home reading in French is a regular daily task starting mid-September. You are, of course, also expected to read in English. If you need extra practice in a subject area, we will, from time to time, send home activities and a note explaining our expectations for a little extra practice. Unfinished math work sometimes goes home to be completed as well as English assignments that aren't completed in class.

There is no class daily agenda book, but notes will come and go as needed. Your parents can email me (lball@wsd1.org) or Mme Hildebrand (ahildebrand@wsd1.org) with questions or concerns and we will email your parents if we have questions or concerns.

Let's have a lovely year,

Lesley Ball and Arielle Hildebrand

