



Bonjour de la classe de Français--Hello from French class- Grade 1

Dear parents,

Your children have made me so proud this year! They have worked hard and French no longer seems like a "foreign language", but rather one they are comfortable living with and learning. In January we continued our study of the senses and saying what we could see, eat, touch, and hear, in French, of course! While we "visited" Benoît and Caroline in France, Felix in Quebec, and Amimata in Senegal, we noted some different animals that each child could see and hear as well as some foods they might eat. We counted peanuts, the major Senegalese crop, and we colored flags. We also began describing all the different things Caroline, Benoît, Felix, and Amimata had named, using ten colors we learned in French.

We then returned closer to home and learned to name the family members. We shared how many brothers and sisters we had, and we named our pets as well. We learned how to introduce our family members and how a French child would greet new people, being sure to use the polite "Monsieur" and "Madame" appropriately.

We then moved on to our unit on the weather. We described all kinds of weather, including snow and wind, of which we all felt we had had enough this year! We were glad to finally be able to say that it was nice and warm out, a party for the snails as our little French rhyme goes, and a time for picnics! We shared which foods we liked and disliked in order to make super sandwiches. We played games and asked for certain foods, politely of course, to put together very creative sandwiches!

The instructional games I use in class guide the children through the beginning stages of learning new words in French. Since the children can recognize words and expressions before they can actually say them on their own, I concentrate on listening activities before I ask them to recall vocabulary. The children show comprehension with games such as Bingo, Lotto, or Swat the bug. Once adept at playing these, Memory, Tic Tac Toe, or Battleship are just a few of the games that encourage recall and oral production.

Every time we learn a new song, we record it on a class audiotape. I brought these to the last class and the children were able to listen to themselves singing all the songs we had learned since September. It turned into a glorious sing-along. We even composed new verses for some of the songs. It is exciting to witness your children's creativity with the language. A so-called "foreign" language at that!

All I can say is BRAVO! Do have a wonderful vacation. Bonnes vacances!
Madame Hobby

P.S. Do you want to keep French alive this summer? Visit our website! Start with www.falmouthschools.org click on the Lunt link, then click on First and Second Grade French. Voilà!