



Bonjour de la classe de Français-Transitional 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 learning about the farm. We played Animal mix-up, we colored different animals, and we even sang "Old MacDonald" in French!

We then followed Benoit and Caroline shopping with their Maman. We learned to ask for something politely, using phrases such as "S'il vous plaît" and "merci". We shopped for fruits, vegetables, flowers, French stamps, and went to the Boulangerie for baguettes and croissants.

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 visits at the zoo to see elephants, giraffes, monkeys, camels, dolphins, and lions. These animals were hungry and thirsty and your children kindly offered them to eat and drink, in French, of course!

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 coloring activities. Once adept at playing these, memory, Tic Tac Toe, or general board games are just a few of the activities 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!