

La Classe de Français

Grade Two

Chers parents, dear parents,

Bonjour! Ça va? Our classes begin with this familiar greeting, but we have added some other information to our daily routine. The children name the day, the date, and the weather at the beginning of each class. Then we begin our daily lesson.

We speak a lot of French during the twenty-minute lessons and your children are becoming increasingly comfortable with the questions and our sharing of information in French. We have studied the classroom and its objects, which led us to discuss French schools and learn some playground jingles to choose who is "it".

We also studied a unit on the family. We followed three families who speak French: Camille's family from Quebec in Canada, Daba's family from Senegal, and Gabriel's family from France. This allowed us to compare some aspects of daily life in those three countries. We played some games families might play together and learned songs, some traditional, to reinforce some of the vocabulary. We also learned how to describe the different family members using "il" and "elle" ("he" and "she" in French) and the appropriate forms of the adjective.

Now we are planning an imaginary trip to visit our families. To begin with we are making sure our passports are in order. This has entailed practicing gathering and giving information that relates to facts found on a passport: name, age, description, and nationality. When we actually leave for our trip, our first port of call will be the Quebec Winter Carnival. We will be experiencing the Carnival and Bonhomme Carnaval via video.

To pack our bags we will be learning the vocabulary for clothes. We will also be looking at weather maps from Senegal, Quebec, and France to note the different weather patterns in those countries. (Senegal will seem particularly enticing after the cold we have been having!!) And we will need to add to our lists of clothes to accommodate those differences. We will need rain gear for France, very warm clothes for Quebec, and bathing suits for Senegal.

While "visiting" our families we will get a sense of the similarities and differences we might find in people's homes in Quebec, Senegal, and France. We will learn to name the rooms, some furniture, and play lots of hide and seek using prepositions to help us find each other. And we will note what our families can see outside their windows and what they eat in their dining rooms.

I am certainly enjoying sharing this linguistic and cultural adventure with your children.

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NOTE: You can now practice at home!! Check out our web page at www.falmouthschools.org, go to Lunt School, Class sites and then first and second grade French.

