

September, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to welcome you and your child to the grade 5/6 MFI class. It's a new and exciting year and I would like to share some information on how the classroom will be managed.

Website

My website can be found at the following URL: <https://sites.google.com/ocdsb.ca/balint> Please check this site frequently for updates.

Newsletters

There will be a monthly newsletter that will keep you informed on the activities going on in the classroom for the given month. The newsletter will be available on my website at the beginning of each month. If you do not have access to a computer, please let me know and I will send you a hard copy version.

Homework (Reading)

For homework, students will be asked to focus on reading practice throughout the week. On my website, there will be a reading text that will be posted each week. Ideally, students should be practicing for 20 minutes every evening. Students may also choose to read a text of their choice as long as it is in French. The reasoning behind the home reading is that regular exposure to common French terms and syntax will help in developing competent communication skills in both reading, writing, and speaking.

On the first day of the week, students will also receive their vocabulary words for the given week. Students will be tested on their weekly vocabulary words through dictation on **Fridays**. During the week, students will use the word study block to practice their words for their "dictée". It is also encouraged that students practice at home. The purpose of the "dictée" is to practice letter and sound combinations in French.

Reward System:

To help encourage the students in practicing their French, I've created classroom certificates for speaking French consistently in class. Students will receive a "J'ai parlé en français!" certificate if they speak French consistently during learning time. From time to time, please ask your child to see if they have accumulated any certificates as this will also help encourage them to speak French in class. I will also encourage the students to show the certificates to their parents.

Once 5 certificates have been earned by a student, the child will have a chance to hand them in for a reward. We will brainstorm rewards with the students but rewards can range from wearing their favourite hat in class, selecting physical education activities or art activities, free time and anything else that is safe and reasonable that the students come up with. Please note that students will be accountable for their

certificates. If the student loses/misplaces their certificates, they are considered lost. I will encourage the students to place their certificates in their pencil cases for safe keeping. To try and avoid conflicts, the student's name will be written on the certificate in ink.

The class will also have a chance to earn 4 marbles in a day. Once the class has earned 150 marbles, the class will have a chance to watch a French movie. Marbles are earned when the class as a whole work diligently when completing their tasks.

BYOD - Bring Your Own Device

Students are encouraged (but not necessary) to bring a device for classroom work. If you are interested in purchasing a device for your child, a chromebook is recommended. For more details, please see the permission form that I have included with this letter. The letter can also be found on my website. Please note that due to issues in the past, cell phones are not allowed in the class.

I trust that you and your child will have a very positive experience this year and if you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, in person, or by email.

Sincerely,

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