



OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

Junior Kindergarten – Mrs. Michèle Gignac-Lamoureux

In October, fall took hold and we settled into a wonderful routine in Junior Kindergarten. We almost never cry any more, early in the morning or during the day. The students seem very happy and I can already see wonderful friendships taking shape.

Since the Thanksgiving holiday, I talk to the girls in French only. The majority understand me rather well. Each week, the students learn the new vocabulary with Mrs. Pham. They manage very well.

On October 14th, during Opera Lyra's performance, the students were very attentive, like big girls. On October 29th, to have fun, we made Halloween cookies. Many thanks to the parents who helped us. On October 30th, the grade 8 students organized a wonderful Halloween party. Congratulations!

In November, we will commemorate Remembrance Day and "La Sainte-Catherine". We will also go to the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

Senior Kindergarten – Mrs. Nicole Duguay

It is already November and the first term is almost over. The students work well and time passes very quickly. On November 25th, we will go on our first outing with the Junior Kindergarten, to the Canada Science and Technology Museum. Parents wishing to accompany us are most welcome. During this month, we will discuss the seasons and the passing of time. We will review the months of the year and will work on our temporal orientation. In class, we have begun the writing of small dictations and the reading of syllables. In December, we will prepare for Christmas. We will concentrate on this theme throughout the month. Together, we will write a letter to Santa Claus to ensure that he doesn't forget us.

Grade 1 – Mrs. Véronic Beauchamp

The girls of Grade One really work very hard. They master without difficulty the days of the week and the months of the year. Recently, they have been able to place more than six words in alphabetical order, even if Mrs. Beauchamp sometimes has fun setting traps -- which they outsmart! Carry on with your home reading. Most of the girls in the class are able to read complete sentences in the *Lexibul* book. I am very proud of their progress.

Don't forget the parent-teacher meetings which will take place at the end of November. I look forward to seeing you on November 26 or 27.

Grade 1 – Mrs. Donna Jones

October was a wonderful month in Grade One. The students learned many new poems about fall, Thanksgiving and Halloween. We are learning to identify rhyming words in poems and enjoy reciting them.

In November, we will continue to work on short vowel sounds and add to our list of sight words.

Grade 2 – Mrs. Véronic Beauchamp

What a busy month of October we had! The girls of Grade Two completed successfully a writing project in which they had to present three safety rules for Halloween night. They needed to compose their sentences according to a well-defined plan. Bravo for their fabulous work! Also, by using a book titled “*Zloukch*” as a starting point, the girls invented animals which they presented in class. They are so expressive and dynamic!!

Don't forget the parent-teacher meetings which will take place at the end of November. I look forward to seeing you on November 26 or 27.

Grade 2 – Mrs. Donna Jones

We are now well settled into our new routines and schedules. The girls work very hard and the mornings pass so quickly.

The girls did a great job helping others this month. They filled our box for the Ottawa Food Bank in a few days. They enjoyed watching our box fill and liked knowing that they were helping others in our community. Good work girls!

In November, we will begin our animal research project. The students will be working with a partner to research a favourite animal. We will invite the parents in to view our projects once they have been completed.

Grade 3 – Mrs. Annie Duchesne

October is a month during which poems and pumpkins are celebrated in grade three! The students composed splendid poems and decorated superb pumpkins which they proudly presented to parents and friends at school. Many thanks to Anne-Sophie for her help!

We invite you to read our poem titled *L'Halloween*. It is a collective creation of which we are very proud. Our dark, dark, dark story has, once again, enabled us become more proficient in the agreement of adjectives.

We loved our participation in the soccer tournament and the Pumpkin Race! I want to highlight the admirable gesture that two friends made when Caroline Parson fell. They stopped their race to come to her rescue! You impressed me!

We also enjoyed Opéra Lyra very much. The animals made us laugh!

L'Halloween

L'Halloween est notre fête préférée
Car nous pouvons nous déguiser

Fantômes, sorcières, vampires et chats noirs
Sortent le soir

À la recherche des bonbons sucrés
Les enfants ont si hâte de les manger

Les rues sont très bien décorées
On dirait des maisons hantées

N'oubliez pas les conseils de sécurité
Que votre professeur vous a enseignés

Poem composed by the grade three class

Grade 3 – Ms. Sabine Neubert

After receiving our successful Interim Report Cards, we are already heading towards the end of the first term. Writing our creative Halloween stories kept us busy in English. In Math, we are exploring neat patterns in addition and subtraction, and practicing some useful skills to speed up our mental math. The 'Mad Minute' has become a part of our afternoons that everybody is looking forward to.

In Science, we presented our Design Projects. They are very interesting and impressive, and show how much 'scientific thinking' has gone into them. They will be displayed outside our classroom during the parent-teacher meetings in November.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Elaine Bartlett

The grade 4 students have worked with great enthusiasm on their animal research projects and have produced interesting and informative reports. Congratulations to them all. Their written documents and dioramas (done in Madame Meurillion's art class) will be displayed in the upstairs hallway. Please take a moment to come and take a look at their spectacular work.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Anne Meurillon

With the arrival of November, the days are increasingly cold and short but your girls' enthusiasm is contagious as always! They enjoy listening to me read from our first novel, *La grenouille et la baleine*. We are also learning reading comprehension together! In grammar, we are learning the rules of noun gender and number. The girls appreciate the exercises that their grammar book offers them. Moreover, they have now also learned to conjugate verbs in the past tense.

Your girls have completed their splendid habitats in Art and, in Social Studies, we have enriched our vocabulary with a number of terms related to relief and water. In the weeks to come, I will have the pleasure of reading the stories your children will have written. I am sure that I will not be disappointed! I always thoroughly enjoy teaching such a brilliant and dynamic group!

Grade 5 – Mrs. Erin Elliott

October has been another very busy month in Grade 5! Our time together has certainly flown by, as the girls continue to get settled into routines. In Mathematics, we have been working very diligently on our second unit, Whole Numbers, and have learned many different strategies for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing six digit numbers. We have finished work in our first Language Arts reader and have begun our first novel study, Roald Dahl's humorous fantasy *Matilda*. Although many of the girls have read or seen the film version, we are all very much enjoying the story. After the holiday weekend, we had the opportunity to enjoy the Opera Lyra presentation of "The Breman Town Musicians" and, more recently, we participated in the Pumpkin Run. We were all very excited for our costume day, pumpkin decorating contest and other Halloween activities.

Grade 5 – Mrs. Anne Meurillon

We are reaching our cruising speed in grade 5. Your girls wrote splendid recipes and are now getting ready to write an adventure story. I can't wait to read them! We have worked very hard in grammar on the gender and number of nouns and adjectives, and the girls are now assimilating a new conjugation tense: the conditional. Also, they have already finished reading our first novel *Qui veut entrer dans la légende?* We will continue activities linked to this book in the coming weeks.

In Social Studies, we are discovering together geographical coordinates. Latitude and longitude, as well as time zones, are not concepts that are very easy to integrate. Therefore, we are taking our time and we are doing whole class and small group activities, in order to foster co-operative learning. As always, I thoroughly enjoy teaching your girls!

Grade 6 – Mrs. Sabine Neubert

In English, we are in the full swing of things. Soon we should have completed our novel study. The girls presented their book reports successfully and inspired each other to read some of the many interesting books that were introduced. Their creativity in our writing activities is truly impressive.

Our girls are learning fast about the challenges of grade 6 when it comes to organizing the workload and to working efficiently during preparation time. I am very confident that, by the end of the first term, they will have adjusted well.

During the last month, we also held our elections for class president and I am looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with Ambika, who has already shown great initiative in class-related matters. Congratulations, Ambika!

I would also like to thank Catherine Labelle Chambers, Sophia Didier, and Ambika Aggarwall for their initiative in organizing a bake sale with the goal of donating the earned money to CHEO. What a great idea and what a good cause. Thanks also to their parents for their support.

Grade 6 – Mrs. Catherine Pham

The girls have completed amazing projects in Social Studies. Their research and the information they gathered have exceeded anything I have read in the past! You have become specialists in Native Studies, girls!

Halloween rounded out October and we wrote scary stories, populated with witches, bats and other sinister screechings. November will immerse us into the universe of Van Gogh, as we follow Jo, the heroin of our novel *Vincent et moi*, in Amsterdam on the traces of a forger. As we are watching the movie at the same time as we are reading the novel, we are able to discuss the respective qualities of these two media and are learning how to write a biography. Also, every Thursday, we read a story to the Senior Kindergarten class. What a pleasant way of practicing expressive reading while developing a wonderful relationship with Mrs. Nicole's little students!

Grade 6 Math – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

Another month has already gone by and we have been very hard at work in our geometry unit. The girls have been able to make use of their geometry sets, while using their compasses and protractors and have had some fun drawing 3-dimensional pictures of objects on isometric dot paper. We are well on our way into our fourth unit on decimals, which has us practicing, once again, our multiplication and division skills. Keep up the good work girls, you're doing great!

Grade 7 Mathematics and Science – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

Our geometry and measurement unit ended with quite a fun project – Making Food for a Bake Sale. The girls not only calculated the cost of the baked goods, but also designed a three-dimensional box to store them in. Also, some of the girls baked their goodies so that, while presenting our projects to each other, we were able to enjoy one another's tasty treats. Currently, we are working on our fourth unit on fractions and decimals and we will end the term with data management. Very good work everyone!

In Science, the girls have now completed the first unit, which was all about interactions in our ecosystems. We completed our first really messy lab, where everyone wore goggles and lab coats. During this lab, we hypothesized about which materials would best clean up an oil spill. The girls then built a model ecosystem and created an oil spill, which they had to clean up. To end the unit, we calculated our ecological footprint and all made some decisions on how to decrease it over the school year. Now, we are studying structures. This unit will bring us more into the physics side of science, which I am looking forward to. Good job to everyone!

Grade 7 Language Arts – Mrs. Kristin Greenacre

This month, the students completed their novel study of *The Keeper of the Isis Light*. They performed very powerful and informative hypnotic speeches, preparing emigrants from Earth for life on a new planet. The girls have begun to work on the unit end project, creating a brochure for visitors to the planet Isis. This project offers a chance to work with formatting on the computer, graphic design and their many creative skills. They have continued their work in grammar and the writing process. We had a great month working together!

Grade 8 Mathematics and Science – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

The grade 8 girls have been very hard at work, as we have now completed the geometry unit, as well as the fractions unit. We are currently working on our data management unit, which everyone seems particularly strong in. During this unit, the girls will be designing a survey and will then survey others in class. They may even ask others outside of class, depending on the population that they choose to sample. So watch out, as you may be surveyed by one of the grade eight girls here at Joan of Arc Academy.

In Science, we have now completed the first of four units. Not only did the girls learn all about cells, but they also brought all their knowledge together to create their very own 'cell' theme parks. Ideas ranged from vacuoles acting as toilets, golgi apparatus being roller coasters and even cell membranes being the guarded gates. Everyone was very creative! We are now working on the second unit, which covers systems in action. I look forward to seeing what the girls come up with in this unit. Very good work to everyone!

Grade 8 Language Arts – Ms. Kristin Greenacre

The students continued to work on their novel study of *To Kill A Mockingbird* this month. They wrote personal accounts that related to aspects of the story and continued their comprehension and vocabulary exercises. We have been working diligently on the expectations and formatting of essays and reports, as the girls will be writing their first essay in Language Arts this upcoming month. The students are developing a strong sense of structure and of what will be expected at the high school level for written assignments. We had a great month working together!

Grades 7 and 8 – Mrs. Nadia Pasqua-Cooper

During October, the girls of the intermediate level kept themselves very busy. In grade 8, the organization and animation of a haunted house for the grade 5,6, and 7 classes on Halloween were a great success. Now that the auditions for *Cyrano de Bergerac* are completed, the actors are dedicating themselves to memorizing the verses and the deepening of their characters. We hope that you will join us during the performance in January 2010. In grade 7, the girls have studied the first chapters of their novel *Enfants de la Rébellion* and will undertake various comprehension and expression activities. It has been an exciting month!

Physical Education – Mrs. Isabelle Murray

Congratulations to all the girls of 3rd to 5th grades who participated in the Pumpkin Race which took place on October 20th. Our girls performed well during the race. Bravo! Congratulations to the girls of the intermediate level who are participating in the OISAA soccer league which is comprised of five schools: Turnbull, Hillel, Elmwood and Macdonald Cartier. After the end of the regular season, we have two wins, four losses and two tied games. All our losses were by scores of only 1 to 0.

We will take part in the finals at the end of October or the beginning of November. Good luck in the finals girls and congratulations for your wonderful performance during the regular season.

Good luck to the grade 4 to 6 soccer teams and to our intermediate volleyball team which will be involved in tournaments in November. Go Cyclones go!

Library News – Ms. Sabine Neubert

In November, we will be holding our popular Used Book Exchange again. The girls can bring up to seven (7) books in good condition, and will then be able to pick the same number of books from those that other girls have brought in. Dates to bring in books will be November 16 and 17, during lunch recess in the library. Dates for choosing books will be November 19 and 20, also during lunch recess, in the library. This will be an optional activity. A reminder will be sent in November.

Chess Club –Ms. Sabine Neubert

I am happy to announce that our traditional chess club for interested girls in grades 3 and up is back. About 18 students come to the library on Tuesdays during lunch recess in order to learn how to play chess or to improve their skills, under the supervision of their experienced teacher Mr. Pran Manga. Thank you once again, Mr. Manga, for giving them this great opportunity.

Opera Lyra - Ms. Sabine Neubert

On October 14 at 10:00, our girls were in for a treat. Opera Lyra came to our school to perform *The Bremen Town Musicians*. It was almost as interesting to study the girls' faces during the show and to see how captivated and involved they were, as it was to watch the excellent, humorous and very entertaining performance itself. What a great opportunity to experience culture and professionalism, and to learn about friendship and determination.

OTHER NEWS

Vehicles on the Property - A safety reminder as winter approaches

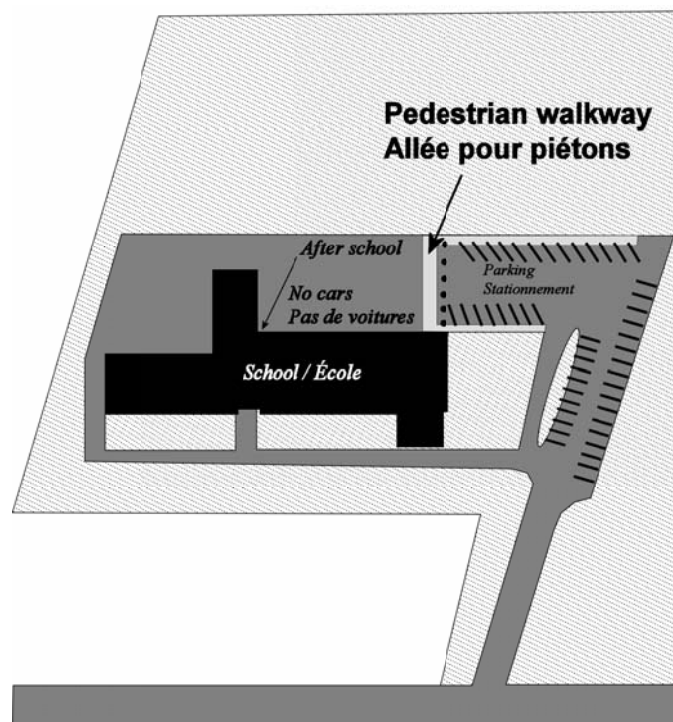
The safety of our children is a serious matter. Please respect the 5km/h speed limit as soon as you enter the Academy's property and exercise great caution when using our parking lot. We ask that you observe the parking regulations at all times and thank you for the extra care you take, for all the children's sake.

Regulations:

- At the end of the school day, for safety reasons, please wait for your children in the school yard, behind the fence or in the parents' lounge, and not in the parking lot. No children are allowed to cross the fence to meet their parents in the parking lot.
- The yard supervisors are there to ensure that every child leaving is accompanied by an adult.
- Be very attentive and careful when entering and leaving the lot and when parking. To reduce the chance of vehicles endangering the well-being of our girls, a pedestrian walkway has been marked from the school yard to the parking lot. If all use the walkway (forming a C shape, see diagram below), no one should be walking across the area of the parking lot indicated in dark gray, at any time.

Designated Parking Areas:

- Facing the Queensway, leaving the walkway clear
- Along the East side fence facing towards West End Villa
- Facing the garden fence, leaving the walkway clear
- The drop-off zone is a drop-off zone and not a parking lot.
- Never park in front of the green fence separating the schoolyard from the parking lot. Also, be careful to avoid hitting and damaging the fence. A damaged fence cannot protect the children as intended and it may even be rendered inoperable.
- Never block another vehicle that is using designated parking.
- Park with the front of the car into the parking space (to avoid backing up into the areas where children walk).
- Remember that the speed limit is 5 km/h and that children may appear unexpectedly in the parking lot, even during classes.
- We thank you for exercising constant vigilance when driving on our property.



Reminder Regarding Allergies to Scents

A number of students and staff members have severe allergies to perfumes. To prevent allergic reactions, it is therefore very important that students, personnel and visitors refrain from wearing any perfume or scented product at school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Feel Free to Contact Us

This is your school and your opinion counts. For any comments, questions or general inquiries, do not hesitate to call **613.728.6364** or to e-mail us at:

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