



SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CLASSROOMS

New Arrival in JK:

We are happy to announce that Mrs. Catherine Pham, a Grade 6 teacher having 14 years of experience, including nine at the Academy, has agreed to teach Junior Kindergarten on Mondays. Mrs. Pham is a member of the Ontario Teachers College and the mother of a six year old girl. Mrs. Michele Gignac-Lamoureux will be teaching Junior Kindergarten from Tuesday to Friday. Together, they form a dynamic teaching team.

Junior Kindergarten – Mme Michèle Gignac-Lamoureux

The Kindergarten class has eight charming students. Right from the start, they quickly became familiar with the routine. They work very well and get along superbly.

I am starting my eleventh year as a Kindergarten teacher. I have always enjoyed observing my students at play. At the age of three or four, role playing is very important. This year, I have noticed that there are several little girls who play “working at the office”. They drop off their babies (dolls) at the class daycare. It’s so funny!

There are also the card decks which formerly, at play time, became cookies or a piece of cake. Well, during September, I discovered with glee that these same decks had become *iPhones* or *Blackberries* -- or even credit cards. It’s a sign of the times!

Life is so wonderful in Kindergarten that I wouldn’t want to go elsewhere...

Senior Kindergarten – Mrs. Nicole Duguay

The girls of Senior Kindergarten were very happy to see each other again after the long summer holidays. They are in top form and ready to take on the new school year.

We have three new students in Senior Kindergarten: Alia Karam, Amina Kuki and Hayden Mahoney. Welcome to Joan of Arc Academy!

September is a very important and demanding month for the SK students. They must get accustomed to new routines and new rules.

We will be putting the emphasis on speaking French to recover what the girls lost during the holidays. September went by very quickly. We have already started working on

themes and our days are quite full. In October, we will prepare to celebrate Halloween. Welcome back to all the parents of the Academy!

Grade 1 – Mrs. Véronic Beauchamp

Welcome to Grade One. I am very happy to welcome your girls in my class. This year, we have five girls coming from other schools. Alessia, Isabel, Nika, Lia and Brittany. Welcome to Joan of Arc Academy. I would also like to welcome back Fiona Campbell, who rejoined us in mid-September. We had a wonderful beginning of the year. Our Grade One class is very dynamic and participative. In only a few weeks, the girls have added to their French vocabulary by working very hard in class. The students of Grade One work very well and I am already very proud of each one.

Grade 1 – Ms. Donna Jones

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year in Grade One. We welcomed four new students at the beginning of the year; Isabel Fogl, Brittany Nguyen, Lia Morton, and Nika Khossravi. On September 14, Fiona Campbell and Alessia Achihaei joined our class. Mme Beauchamp and I are very fortunate to be spending our days with these 15 girls.

The students have been working very hard on their reading skills. It seems that they are able to read new words on a daily basis. It is a very amazing and exciting time in our room. I think the students have even amazed themselves with all that they have accomplished since the start of the school year.

October is going to be another busy month in Grade One. We are learning to use the calendar to mark important events and dates. The students have already noticed that they have a four day weekend to look forward to in October. They are all very aware that Halloween is on the last day of October. We will be learning poems and songs to help us celebrate Thanksgiving and Halloween.

Grade 2 – Mrs. Véronic Beauchamp

What a joy to see your girls again! They really grew taller over the summer holidays. During the first days of school, the girls thought they had forgotten their French. Within a few days, they realized that they had not forgotten anything from what they had learned in Grade One in French. The school year has begun very well. The girls seem ready to tackle Grade Two with gusto. Several wonderful projects are coming up in the next few months. I am already very proud of the girls' progress during the first month of school.

Grade 2 – Ms. Donna Jones

I have enjoyed getting to know the Grade Two students. They are a dynamic group of girls. They easily settled into the new school year and new routines. We have been working hard since the first day of school and have accomplished a great deal in a short time.

The Grade Two girls read some interesting books throughout the summer. The students completed their book reports and I had the opportunity to read many of the books to the class.

In Science, we have been studying different groups of animals. The students will be starting an animal research project towards the end of October.

Grade 3 – Mrs. Annie Duchesne

It is with pleasure that I greet my 17 Grade Three students each morning! They have the gift of gab. Believe me, no one is bored! This is the ideal group for putting on a play! We will have to revise our course plan, dear parents! On this topic, we have become acquainted with Crayola, a basset hound that will spend the year with us and remind us to speak French in the morning! Come to see her, she loves company! Within the framework of the social sciences curriculum, we allotted a responsibility to each student and they all perform their task with joy! In arts, we are studying Piet Mondrian. Thank you my little friends for making our class so lively!

Grade 3 – Mrs. Sabine Neubert

Grade 3 girls had a successful start of the new school year. They have a lot of energy and take an interest in everything the program has to offer. In English, they are enthusiastic about writing their acrostic poems, gave an interesting talk on their favourite summer reading, and are already working on their first book report. Soon you will be able to see their posters on display outside the Grade 3 classroom. In Science, we started investigating the growth and change of plants, and in Math, we are excited about discovering surprising number patterns.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Elaine Bartlett

After a gentle start in Grade 4, we are now working at full speed. The girls have settled down really well and have adapted to all the new routines and expectations. They are keen to start serious work, including homework! In Math, we have completed our first unit on patterns and are starting our number unit. In Language Arts, they all did an excellent job drawing and presenting their cartoons from their summer reading. Please take a moment to come and look at their commendable work, which is on display in the upper hallway. The girls are now eagerly researching their animal projects which are linked to their Science unit on habitats.

Grade 4 – Mrs. Anne Meurillon

The return to school went very well for all the Grade Four girls. We had the pleasure of welcoming two new students: Alexa-Rose and Anne. They are already very well integrated into this extraordinary group! All the girls very quickly got back into the school routine and, already, it's fall! We started gently to dissipate the "fog" of the holidays. The girls produced wonderful posters to present their summer readings. Reading in French is so important for enriching one's vocabulary!

The girls are now working on their autobiography. This text will enable me to get to know them better! I really look forward to reading their productions. In social studies, we are starting to study the province of Ontario. In visual arts, the girls are building a diorama. It is of the habitat of the animal they have chosen to study in Mrs. Bartlett's science class. This is a wonderful means of linking two subjects that the students love!

I wish you all a wonderful fall!

Grade 5 – Mrs. Erin Elliott

The new school year is well underway! The Grade Five girls have been very busy getting reacquainted and settled back into school routines. Our first Language Arts activity was a creative response to a summer reading novel. The girls enjoyed choosing their response from such options as designing a book cover or writing an interview with a character and presenting it to the rest of the class. We have also been reading short stories and poems about memories and friendship in our Collections Reader, “Together Is Better”. In Mathematics, we have completed our first unit on Patterning and have learned how to identify, extend and create patterns as well as represent patterns by numbers, words, pictures and models. We have started our second unit where we will develop strategies for adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers.

Grade 5 – Mrs. Anne Meurillon

It is with pleasure that I saw once again the girls whom I had met while doing supply teaching at the end of last year. Approximately two weeks after the return to school, we had the pleasure of welcoming Cassidy, a new student in our wonderful class. She joined the fourteen other girls who know each other so well already!

The second week of school, I asked the girls to write the diary of one of the main characters of the novel they read this summer. I was quite impressed by the effort they put in! We are now starting to work on recipes and they will become “chefs” by developing their own recipes and presenting them on “television”. In social studies, we are starting to study Canada by learning the names of the provinces and territories that form our wonderful country, as well as the names of their respective capitals.

I wish you all a wonderful fall!

Grade 6 – Mrs. Sabine Neubert

The Grade 6 girls bring a lot of interest and creative ideas to their English classes. They like to read. Some of them found it quite difficult to decide on their favourite book from the summer reading list – there were just so many of them. We started our first novel study of the year. *The Giver* provides us with lots of interesting topics to reflect upon and discuss about.

Grade 6 – Mrs. Catherine Pham

The return to school is already old news! My 16 Grade 6 students got down to business quickly and they demonstrate their desire to work well by asking lots of questions -- so much so that I sometimes want to say: “Slow down girls, each thing in its own time!”

On September 25th, we accompanied the Grade 7 and 8 students to the Central Ottawa Library, where we discovered the richness of its French resources. We also learned how to conduct an effective research on their database. This will be invaluable for finding information for our great project on Aboriginal peoples.

Also, we are continuing to discover pre-Columbian civilizations through legends, including some that we invent. It is wonderful that some students have travelled to South America and that they can enrich our classes by sharing anecdotes or photographs of their trips.

Grade 6 Math – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

The Grade 6 girls have been very hard at work this past month. They have successfully completed Unit 1 on Number Patterns and are now working their way through Unit 2: Whole Numbers. They have been able to strengthen their skills while playing a game of Equation Baseball and I am eager to incorporate more games throughout the year. The girls have been working very hard and it shows. Keep it up!

Grade 7 Math and Science – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

The first two units of Math in Grade 7 are review for the girls. Unit 1: Patterns in Whole Numbers, and Unit 2: Ratios and Rates are now completed. The next unit is Unit 3: Geometry and Measurement. From this point forward lessons and new concepts will be taught in more detail, thus allowing the girls ample time for practice and consolidation. Congratulations girls on completing the first two units!

In Science, the girls have been studying Chapter 1: Ecosystems are communities where biotic and abiotic elements interact. There has been lots of discussion in class when discussing new topics, and the girls have been able to relate what we are learning to their everyday life, which is great! Chapters 2 and 3 continue to look at interactions in our ecosystem.

Grade 8 Math and Science – Mrs. Kathleen Forestell

Like in Grade 7, the first two units have been a review for the girls. We have now successfully completed Unit 1: Numbers, Variables and Equations and Unit 2: Applications of Rates, Ratios and Percents. The girls completed their first Unit Problem. This problem had them calculating which option would be better, to buy a car or live in residence. They applied their knowledge of rates, ratios and percents and it was discovered that 6 girls chose residence while 9 chose to buy a car! We are well on our way into Unit 3: Geometry and Measurement. This unit has a lot of hands-on applications, such as building objects and sketching them.

In Science, the girls have been working through Unit 1: Cells. Lots of great discussion has come up in class, which is wonderful to see. The girls have constructed either an animal or plant cell model, which are on display in the class. We have learned how to properly use a microscope and looked at different slides such as those of fleas, dust and blood. This unit on cells will continue for another two chapters, where we will continue to work on labs and create great discussions. Good job everyone!

Grades 7 and 8 – Mrs. Nadia Pasqua-Cooper

Here we are back at school for another year filled with activities and fun. September brought old friends together and gave us the opportunity to make new ones. We would like to welcome new students Pascale Basque-Giroux (in Grade 7) and Sarvie Golestaneh (in Grade 8). They are already well integrated into their groups, having been greeted with open arms by the other students. Thanks girls!

In Grade 8, the students have already started the study of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, in order to be able to present the play in January. The girls are very enthusiastic about this project and are looking forward to the October auditions.

In order to get to know each other better, the girls of Grade 7 are writing a series of friendship letters. This project is almost over, but the girls can continue to correspond if they wish.

Grade 7 Language Arts – Mrs. Kristin Greenacre

What a wonderful beginning to the new school year. I am very happy to be reunited with such a lovely and bright group of students. This month, we began by setting our personal and scholastic goals for the year and presenting creative book reports on a novel we read during the summer. We are currently continuing our studies in grammar with Language Works 7 and doing a novel study of *The Keeper of the Isis Light* by Monica Hughes. We began our novel study by researching the author and writing biographies of Ms. Hughes; what an interesting and prolific writer! Other engaging activities we have completed include writing personal journals on Mondays and the challenging task of summarizing a short story into precisely 100 words. I look forward to a great year together.

Grade 8 Language Arts – Ms. Kristin Greenacre

I am very happy to have the chance to work with such a motivated and strong group of students. This month, we began by setting our personal and scholastic goals for the year and presenting creative book reports on a novel we read during the summer. We are currently continuing our studies in grammar with Language Works 8 and doing a novel study of To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. We began our novel study by researching the historical background of the novel and presenting our findings to the class, discussing topics such as the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement and life in Alabama in the 1930's. Other engaging activities we have enjoyed include writing personal journals on Mondays and the challenging task of summarizing a short story into precisely 100 words. I look forward to a great year together as the girls prepare for the exciting transition to high school.

Physical Education – Mrs. Isabelle Murray

Welcome back to all. The after school sports resumed during the first week of school. Your daughter is invited to participate in one or more sport activities offered at Joan of Arc Academy.

There is soccer on Tuesday nights (16:00 to 17:00) for the girls of Grades 6 to 8 who will participate in the intermediate level league until the end of October. Good luck girls. Go Cyclones go! Also, there is soccer on Thursday nights (16:00 to 17:00) for the girls of Grades 4 to 6 who will participate in a tournament at the end of November. Thank you to Mr Thériault and Mr Brunas who coach our soccer teams. The schedule for basketball and volleyball will be announced in the next few weeks

Dance, Grades 1 to 6 – Mrs Nadia Pasqua-Cooper

I am thrilled to take over the elementary dance program from Mrs. Hannah. Please note a change to the course plan under the section "Appropriate Dress". Only two uniform options are allowed. They are: black clothing or the usual gym uniform (navy shorts and white sports shirt). Thank you for your cooperation!

Library News – Mrs. Sabine Neubert

After significant renovations over the summer, the library opened its doors to the students on September 28th. Visits on a weekly or bi-weekly basis have already become a routine in several classes. The opportunity to subscribe to a choice of Bayard published magazines in French or English has been taken by a number of families. In November, the library will hold another of our popular Used Book Exchanges. More information will be provided in our next newsletter.

OTHER NEWS

The *Glitterbug* and other anti-flu measures at school

We learned how to wash our hands well and then, an amusing character came to school. Indeed, the *Glitterbug*, which was lent to us by Ottawa Public health, visited all classes. With the help of an ultraviolet light, it showed the girls whether or not they had washed their hands properly.

This constituted another component of our anti-flu campaign at school. It also includes the installation of hand sanitizer dispensers in each classroom and of hand washing posters, followed soon by hands-free electronic soap and paper towel dispensers in washrooms. Moreover, we have installed four stainless steel water fountains which refrigerate and filter water and are designed to make it possible for the students to drink without touching the device with their mouths.

Workshops for Grades 6 to 8

The girls participated in a yoga session with Mrs. Georgia Morrisette, which also includes a discussion about co-operation, tolerance and respect.

October 2nd, they had the opportunity to learn how to play ultimate Frisbee through a workshop given by Mrs. Wadasinghe, the mother of twins Erika and Kira in Grade 2.

Do you have a particular talent? Do you wish to complete some volunteer work hours? Would you be interested in running a workshop? Send me an e-mail at nadiapc@hotmail.com

Elections for class presidents at school

Here is the list of class presidents from Grades 4 to 8 for the 2009-2010 school year:

Grade 4: Alida Caldwell
Grade 5: Milan Roberts
Grade 6: Ambika Aggarwal
Grade 7: Deeksha Srivastava
Grade 8: Isabel Shore

Opera Lyra at the Academy – Sabine Neubert

On October 14th, 2009, at 10:00, we will have the opportunity to welcome **Opera Lyra Ottawa** at our school for their performance of **The Bremen Town Musicians – an Opera for Kids**. I am sure our girls will be very excited to see and hear this well-known fairy tale performed as an opera. During a question and answer period after the show, our students

will be able to find out about all the aspects that need to be considered in order to put a performance like this together. They will be surprised about the complexity of this process. All classes from JK to Grade 8 are invited to attend.

Important Announcement Regarding Allergies to Scents

A number of students and staff members have severe allergies to perfumes. To prevent life-threatening 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: administration@joanofarcacademy.com