Un coup d’œil derrière le rideau - A Peek Behind the Scenes

Bonjour et bienvenu! - Hello and Welcome!

Here we are in October and the students are already finishing their fourth week of French classes at the Lincoln School! We were pleased to see so many returning students along with some new faces this fall. Learning a language is a life long endeavor, and it gives our kids such an advantage to start learning a second language while they are still in the elementary school. Our goal is to give them as much exposure to the language as we can in our 4 hours a week together. It is so rewarding to see how much French language the students retained over the summer, and to see their enthusiastic faces as they are able to answer questions and ask for their snacks in French.

During our first 9 week Theme in the curriculum (Roots and Identity), we are also striving to give them a sense for where French is spoken and to help them understand the culture and history of the French people before and after they came to North America. During this first 9 weeks of the curriculum, we are studying Franco-Americans and Acadians, where they came from, why, and what some of the occupations of those people were. While we do this we study the different flags that demonstrate some of the history, we work with the world map to learn directions and find countries where French is spoken, we learn songs, as well as integrate vocabulary to help students communicate and describe their needs in French.

This year is promising to be a very important one for the MFHLP Program. We have had some very fruitful talks with Bruce Chase, the Director of the Augusta Recreation Program and are looking toward integrating the program into the City of Augusta’s Recreation Program next year. Bruce is a very motivated, enthusiastic and supportive leader. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to showcase MFHLP as one of the City’s Recreation Programs. We have also hired a consultant to help us develop a 3-year plan for the MFHLP and as parents of students in the program, we would love to have your input! Our strategic planning session will take place on Wednesday, October 30th from 8:30-12. Refreshments and breakfast items will be served at 8:30 a.m. while we meet each other.
LE COIN DES ENSEIGNANTS - TEACHERS’ CORNER

Lincoln School - We have spent the first few weeks of class getting acquainted, learning the routine of the class, and reviewing numbers, colors, greetings and introductions as well learning about different countries where French is spoken. Although many students could count to 20 in French before they started this fall, what we are working on is an automatic recognition of numbers, letters and colors, so that they don’t have to think about them or how they are pronounced when they see them. This process allows us to play some fun games and integrate expressions into songs.

Please join your children and their teaching team for an Open House at the Lincoln School on November 7th from 4:45 to 5:15. We plan to have a short program that the students will present to show you some of the things that they have learned in the first 9 weeks of class. This will include a couple of songs, and a short sketch or two that the students will put on to tell the stories of the Franco-Americans and Acadians. The students are also keeping a portfolio of their work to show you, with their very own Passeport which includes a mini-assessment of the 1st theme in our curriculum - Roots and Identity. I will also be available for questions.

LES DEVOIRS SUGGÉRÉS - SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Alternative activities:
Some of the vocabulary that we are learning involves good manners: ask your child how to say please (s’il vous plaît), thank you (merci), and your welcome (de rien, pas de quoi, or bienvenue in Canada) and use them at home!

You could also label some of your furniture: la table, la chaise (chair), la poubelle (trash can), l’évier (sink), l’ordinateur (computer), etc. and use the words when you refer to them.

We are studying francophone countries (places where French is spoken) and I have been asking the students to choose a country from the Francophone world to learn more about it. There is a map in the room. Since they have been working on colors, if they can look up the flag (le drapeau) and describe the colors, as well as where the country is (à l’est, à l’ouest, au nord or au sud) in relation to Maine, that is also something they are learning to say in French. The goal through October is that every student will know at least 5 countries around the world where French is spoken, as well as directions and the 5 continents on which French is spoken. Ask them to name a francophone country for you and find photos of it online! This reinforces what we are learning in the classroom.

LE CALENDRIER DES ÉVÉNEMENTS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 30 - 8:30-12 :00 at the Buker Community Center, Strategic Planning Meeting for the MFHLP

November 7th - Open House and Student Presentation at Lincoln School - 4 :45 to 5 :15
First Day of Class at Lincoln

**EN PARTENARIAT AVEC - IN ASSOCIATION WITH:**

With the support of the Windover Foundation

*Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme à Augusta:* - For more information about the program in Augusta:
[http://www.uma.edu/mfhlp.html](http://www.uma.edu/mfhlp.html)

*Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme à Auburn:* - And the program in Auburn:
[http://www.francocenter.org/aboutmflhp/](http://www.francocenter.org/aboutmflhp/)