



L'ACTION FRANÇAISE!



A Publication of Collettsville & MSS French Immersion

January 7, 2026

Grade 3/4

The Grade 3/4 class had an amazing time participating in this year's Spirit Week! Students enthusiastically joined in each day with themed outfits and shared lots of laughter.

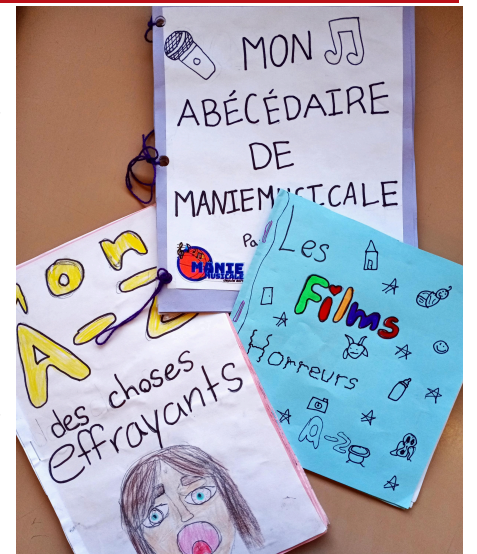


Alongside the excitement of Spirit Week, students also worked hard on their winter-themed art projects. These special creations were thoughtfully made and recently sent home as gifts for families—a reflection of the students' creativity, effort, and pride in their work.



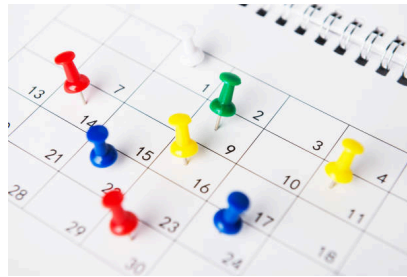
Grade 8

The class continues to work on developing their French communication skills. Their first big project was the creation of ABC books on a topic of their choice. We had books ranging from sports to phobias to horror films. They are now working on their second project which is a personal narrative. We have



spent the last few weeks learning how authors start a story and end a story, how authors show emotions instead of telling the emotions, and how to be descriptive. Students are now using this knowledge to write rough copies of a moment from their own lives.

F.I. Event Updates and Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

French Immersion Strong Start Visits

- Wednesday, Jan. 14 – Central Strong Start Classroom
- Thursday, Jan. 22 – Nicola Canford Strong Start Classroom

Carnaval Week

- January 26–30 - (Student Info Packages sent home Jan 8)

Kindergarten French Immersion Information Session

- Tuesday February 3 - 6:30-7:30 @ Collettsville

Pre-K French for a Day Events - Children 3-5 years old

- Thursday February 5 - 4:30 to 5:30 @ Collettsville
- Thursday February 12 - 9:30 to 10:30 @ Collettsville

Grade 7 French Immersion Information Session

- Wednesday, March 11 - 6:30-7:30 @ MSS

Merci for your continued support—together, we help our students thrive en français!

Grade 4/5/6



December sure was busy for Division 2. One of the many interesting activities we did last month was make lovely 3D reindeer portraits. The students had to follow instructions carefully, be very methodical, and patient in order to complete these cute little projects. In December we also worked very hard on our Winter Concert contribution. We hope you were there to enjoy it!

FRENCH IMMERSION ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Paige Asselstine

Graduated with bilingual diploma in 2023

Where are you now (location/career/using your French, etc)?

I am studying Psychology and French at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby and will be entering my third year in the fall of 2025. This summer I am away in Paris to expand upon my French language skills as well as explore the incredible city. I am really falling in love with Paris and having background with French in school helps a lot to get around and meet new people, and I am planning to return one day.

A favourite memory from French Immersion:

I loved the cultural integration in Collettsville during the week of Carnaval (the Québécois celebration) in February. In my first year in Collettsville, this was the first time I was ever able to experience and participate in a different culture and it meant the world to me. My favourite events in Carnaval were making and racing tacot cars, rolling sticks of maple syrup in the snow, and meeting Bonhomme.

What are you most proud of from your French Immersion experience?

French Immersion really can be a challenge, but what I am most proud of is sticking with it. In doing so, I developed a deep gratitude for French as a second language and decided to pursue it in university, a decision I may not have made had I not explored the domain to the extent I have from elementary school to high school.

How did French Immersion help you?

I found French Immersion difficult to begin, as I was learning so many new things in a language I was not familiar with. Over

the years in French Immersion, more and more students left every year because of the challenge, but I think every student who pushed through to the end achieved something great. Though I had many difficulties with acquiring French, I noticed that I kept improving every year and learned a valuable lesson that the sun shines brighter on the other side of every challenge and by persisting through, I saw everything around me become brighter as I did not give up. An example is that I found a love for writing and French music in my later years of high school.

A few accomplishments I have achieved:

- This year at SFU, I won third prize in a French Writing competition, which had a monetary benefit, and my writing will be published sometime this summer.
- My French played a large role in obtaining an Entrance Scholarship to cover my tuition fees for my undergrad degree.
- Bilingualism is impressive on the resumé and contributed to my success in various job applications and scholarship applications.
- I consider travelling solo to Paris an accomplishment, as I really had to dig deep within myself to come up with the bravery to do so. Knowing French, I have more confidence navigating the city and I have been meeting so many amazing people from all over the world.

What would be your advice to current French immersion students?

For most students, the beginning of French Immersion will be much more challenging than to begin in an English-speaking school. Some students acquire the language quickly, but for myself and many others, this is not the case and can even take until the later years high school to develop confidence with the language. Patience is a crucial quality here that eventually opens the horizon for incredible prospects that greet you with open arms. I have never heard anyone from French Immersion ever regretting to try to conquer the hurdle. However, I have heard many say they wish they had done French Immersion, for the common reason being that they felt like they missed out on something truly special. I believe French Immersion is unfortunately an underrated education opportunity, despite it being saturated with an incredible future-oriented advantage. You lose nothing in trying and the progress may not be easy, but it is possible and worth it. Let's go French!

FRENCH IMMERSION ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Natalie Ross

Graduated with bilingual diploma in 2018

Where are you now (location/career/using your French, etc)?

Living in Merritt, working at the Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly as a Senior Technical Coordinator. Currently I use my French with my family and when travelling.

A favourite memory from French Immersion:

Making la tire in Mme Vachon's class.

What are you most proud of from your French Immersion experience?

Being able to keep life long friends from school.

How did French Immersion help you?

Has made learning other languages more easy. Meet lots of interesting people when you can speak French!

What would be your advice to current French immersion students?

Listen to others when they tell you you will lose your French if you don't use it! Keep reading books or listening to music in French!

A few accomplishments I have achieved:

Graduated from university with a bachelor of science, and finding a job within that field.