

School News ~ December 2020 Edition

School Happenings and Adapting to the Covid 19 Pandemic

September 2020 saw students head back to school as usual, but it wasn't all usual! We decided to keep fewer than 15 students in each room, so we have 28 students in three Learning Centers this year. These classes don't mix and mingle and are only together for chapel assemblies and play outside. That's quite a difference from previous years when we all ate in the same lunchroom and worked in the same Learning Center, but both staff and students are adapting well and even enjoying the divisions.

Students saw a number of other minor changes as well on their first day back... no sharing of score keys or pens, distancing or plexiglass at score stations, masks in all hallways, washrooms, etc, and lots of hand sanitizer – everywhere! Entering an orange phase in November meant even more masking, but everyone seems to be coping quite well. Of course our individual offices (with dividers between each student) work perfectly to control the spread of germs during this pandemic. Thanks to some great seamstresses, we also have seat sacks on each chair where students keep masks, red pens, etc.

Many of our fall activities were cancelled or looked a bit different. We were still able to take students to pick crabapples for our jelly fundraiser. Those from Learning



Center "A", our youngest students, were the first to fill their buckets. Thanks to those who allowed us to pick from their trees, and to those who made jelly for us. We still have 1 cup bottles of apple jelly and crabapple jelly available for purchase at the school.



Our "Festival of Trees" was cancelled due to the pandemic and current recommendations in NB; however in early December, each Learning Center was excited to decorate a tree and their classroom.

Most of our staff attended Accelerated Christian Education's Canadian Educator's Convention virtually in October. The one afternoon live video session was streamed by over 60 schools across Canada, and was an encouragement for everyone.

Earlier this year, we heard the good news that one of our students, Anna Smith, placed first with her poem in

the Royal Canadian Legion's Literary Contest. Our school was recognized for this achievement when a representative from the local Legion visited the school and presented us with a plaque.



A local Tupperware dealer, Danette Fillier-Aubin, organized a community water bottle fundraiser to provide each of our students and staff members with a new water bottle. Although the masks may be hiding their smiles, the students were so pleased to receive their water bottle. HCS parent, Jacinda Brake-Heath added each student's name in vinyl to label their bottles.



French Instruction

HCS students start receiving French instruction in elementary school, depending on student ability, availability of resources, and the number of students. They work

individually, at their own level and pace, with the highly-rated online language training program Duolingo, and they participate in weekly one-on-one coaching and practice sessions. At the high school level, most students receive 180 hours of French language training thus meeting the requirements of the provincial Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Meet the Staff - Conrad Leclerc, BEd Second Language Instructor

HCS French language instructor since September, 2014, Mr. Leclerc, hails from Quebec, La Belle province. He and his wife attend Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, and have two adult children and three grandchildren. Two of their grandchildren have attended HCS in the past and continue with the ACE program in Alberta, their current province of residence.

When Mr. Leclerc was considering retirement from his job as Manager of Second Language Training and Evaluation for GNB, one of his daughters was quick to envision him as a valuable addition to the school where his skill set could be put to continuing good use. A small amount of convincing led him to take ACE's Supervisor's Training where he himself experienced the individualized system of learning. He knew that was what he wanted for the French program at HCS. He adjusted quickly from teaching adults to teaching children, and now oversees all French language learning at HCS. What a blessing he is!

Mr. Leclerc enjoys his work at the school, describing it as, "a good work environment, and a curriculum based on Biblical



principles, where students read and learn about the Word, and pray." In addition to overseeing the French, M. Leclerc often shows up before school to oversee some play time in the gym before the work day begins. The students love to see him arrive.

He describes himself as, "a part time fixer upper, not always successful".

A favourite place: "wherever I happen to be (most of the time)".

A favorite scripture: "This is difficult for at least two reasons: It's like laying out an assortment of chocolates in front of me and saying "Which one would you like?". I also find that most verses are better appreciated within a certain context: Who said it to whom? Believers? Unbelievers? Romans? Jews? Their life circumstances, etc. Our knowledge of the context may/will affect our understanding of it.

This makes me think of the man who had decided to randomly pick one verse a day to think about through the day. He opened his (King James) Bible and his finger landed on the end of Matthew 27:5 "(he) departed, and went and hanged himself". After he started breathing again, he thought maybe he should try to find another one. He found himself staring at the end of Deuteronomy 12:30 "So I will do likewise".

I would like to end by quoting Psalm 117: 1 "O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. 2 For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord."

Photo Gallery



Instead of students exchanging gifts amongst themselves, they packed five shoeboxes online. These boxes of gifts will be sent to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse shoebox program.

Students who made First Quarter Honour Roll enjoyed an activity day in December. A movie, snacks, and multiple crafts made for a full day of fun. One craft was making a greenery arrangement.



Each week students are involved in a fine arts lesson/project. One project for Learning Center J was a string art project.



Heard in the Hallway

Before Christmas, many students were able to finish their work a couple of days early and earn time off. Upon hearing that Mrs. Arndt would be without any students for an entire half day, one sweet young miss expressed her deep concern about her teacher's impending "loneliness." Mrs. Arndt assured her that she would be fine having an unusually quiet morning doing paperwork and classroom cleaning.