



Salut familles!

April arrived so fast – and it’s going to fly by even faster with Easter and Spring break (April 12-18), so let’s make the most of these happy days! We started off this month with a jokey *Poisson d’avril* (April Fool’s) and hopefully our mood will stay jolly every day onwards.

We thank you for continuing to complete a daily covid-19 screening before sending your children to school ([COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://www.ontario.ca/covid-19-school-screening)). I hope everyone is keeping happy and healthy, let us pray for those families who are facing difficulties during these challenging times.

Please continue to check our Brightspace page, where you can find pictures of the children’s creative work and announcements/important dates. Before Easter break, we had two important virtual visits, that enhanced our learning and growing in faith. We met with our parish’s seminarian Jonathan, who shared some precious messages about the amazing power of spreading our love for Jesus to everyone God sends into our lives. We also had a virtual class with the Toronto Zoo, with whom we were proud to share our poster on endangered species of our Great Lakes; Michelle, our French and English guide, was very impressed by the kids’ work and shared some interesting stories on the Redside Dace and other endangered species.

We are excited to begin together as a community the celebration of the Easter season: our Change of Heart Tree is full of green leaves now, that reminds us of the beauty of spring, a new beginning. Together, as a team, we are happy to continue to share our faith that grows alongside our learning, and it is astonishing to notice the positive effects on our well-being of sharing messages of hope, kindness, and respect. This month in particular, we are looking at practicing justice and citizenship: during inspiring class discussions, we all agreed on the importance of playing fair, as part of the team, and being in charge of ourselves.

As for Math, as you know the curriculum is organized as a spiral, so every month we try to touch on different strands that are explored through different topics – while last month was focused mainly on solving word problems and mental math strategies, this month we started with percentages, fractions, and decimals; we have now transitioned to a very loved topic among our students: number patterns. I appreciate your support with implementing technology alongside their learning, for example with accessing their personal *Knowledgehook* account and completing different missions. Please do ask your children about what they are currently working on: it can be a great opportunity to relate math to real-life examples also at home!

As for French, every month we focus on a different piece of writing and practice it in our own topics of interests. After writing some creative short stories from a picture prompt at the end of March, this month students started off with creating some amazing comic strips - *BD* (*bandes dessinées*), through which they showed great narrating and drawing skills! We are now working on the *article de journal* (newspaper article) ... Who will make it to the front page?

How can I support my child to reinforce their confidence with French? My number one suggestion is always working on *Je lis* ([Je lis, je lis, littérature ! ONLINE \(rkpublishing.com\)](http://Je_lis,_je_lis,_litt%C3%A9rati%C3%A9_!_ONLINE_(rkpublishing.com).)). 15 minutes every night will be so beneficial to your child, so that they can be confident in reading in French and have a much better understanding and mastering of all subjects learnt in French. Please don't hesitate to reach out for any literacy concern!

While last month we were engaged with watching daily news on *Newsround*, this month we are reading the news shared by young Canadians on *CBC kids news*. We noticed how keeping a booklet to take note of the most interesting news to us, helped us looking at issues from different perspectives and opening our eyes to events that happen around the world, near and far, and may have an impact on our future. I am very proud of our class' openness to new things and ideas!

This month in our class we are continuing to share a daily dedication to someone we love, whom we want to make proud, by living up to their values. This new routine reminds us explicitly that the classroom is a sacred space, that the opportunity to come together and learn alongside one another—even virtually—is something special and should not be taken for granted. It is amazing, as an educator, to see how these daily dedications allow us, not only to get to know each other better, but to take a moment to reflect on what is important to us in our lives and how it is therefore crucial to make time to practice gratitude.

Wishing all of you a safe Spring break - may warm, happy days spent with our families fill our hearts with hope, love, generosity, and gratefulness.

God bless our families,

Mlle Topino

