



Salut familles!

I can't believe it's March already – I am sorry for the delay, but here we are with our first Grade 5 FI newsletter! I hope everyone is keeping happy and healthy, let us pray for those families who are facing difficulties during these challenging times.

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 know families have received information about symptoms and procedures from our Director of Education, Mike McDonald; we appreciate your effort in following the guidance of our health experts and know that we will continue to walk together, in faith, supporting one another and the children.

Please continue to check our Brightspace page, where you can find pictures of the children's creative work and announcements/important dates. We are so thrilled to have explored BHM from different aspects: from researching the lives and actions of black saints, to getting to know achievements of remarkable black Canadians; from learning about human rights, to creating cool art, like our recent activity on Alma Thomas!

St. Leo came up with a few theme days to motivate us to stay positive – please check the calendar on Brightspace so that your children can take part in every Spirit Day! As a school, we are following daily inspirational messages from the Mindful March calendar, which is posted on Brightspace as well. Especially during these most challenging times, our children's wellbeing and mental health is our number one priority, and I think as a class we can strive to embrace every day with a different mindful approach.

Speaking of commitment, you may have heard that at the beginning of Lent everyone made a promise to give up an activity that keeps us from nurturing our relationship with God, or better, taking on a new healthy habit that will help us feel closer to God: every promise is on our Change of Heart Tree and every week children who were able to keep their promise are adding a green leaf to our tree in preparation of spring, a new beginning.

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 shapes, areas and angles, this month we will start with solving word problems and we will continue working on our mental math strategies. I appreciate your support with implementing technology alongside their learning, for example with accessing their personal *Knowledgehook* account and completing different missions. I know some parents accepted my invitation to link their e-mail to their children's account, please don't hesitate to ask me for instructions on how to do so. Do you want to enhance numeracy discussions at home? Try a simple activity with your child on [Math Before Bed – Nighttime or Anytime Numeracy](#). It's fun!

As for French, every month we focus on a different piece of writing and practice it in our own topics of interests. So far we've been learning how to write a *journal* in November (children

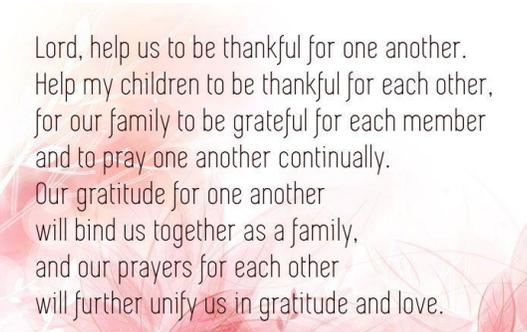
talked about their ideal day), a *recette* in December (everyone wrote a recipe for their favourite dish), a *texte argumentative* in January (children were given two choices in different scenarios and had to convince the reader that theirs was the best choice), a *poème* in February (everyone wrote a poem about something they love, while describing it under the perspective of the five senses), and finally we will write a *récit* in March (a short story inspired by a curious picture prompt).

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,_littérature!_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!

This month, just like the arrival of spring, is a month of new beginnings. In our class we are looking for something to help build community: every day we will share a 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. The class openly welcomed this idea today and quickly made a list of their names to share their dedication each day - I am looking forward to sparking up genuine interest in each other's lives and passions!

God bless our families,

Mlle Topino



Lord, help us to be thankful for one another.
Help my children to be thankful for each other,
for our family to be grateful for each member
and to pray one another continually.
Our gratitude for one another
will bind us together as a family,
and our prayers for each other
will further unify us in gratitude and love.