



Dear families,

Welcome back! I hope the everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break. We are back into the swing of things here as we approach the half-way mark of the school year!

Math

Our focus has been on time, money and now capacity and mass. Converting from cents to dollars, minutes to hours, days, weeks, years, from millilitres to cups and litres, and grams to kilograms are the main concepts. You can reinforce this easily at home by asking what time it is, what time it will be in half an hour or 15 minutes, how much change is due back and by cooking and baking with your children. Students who can explain how they came up with an answer, or can teach the concept to a sibling, tend to retain strategies and have a better overall understanding.

Language

Adjectives and word choice have been a focus, as well learning a systematic way to self-identify common mistakes in French grammar when writing. In my opinion, short story writing is one of the most difficult things for students to do as there is no real “formula” to produce a well-written story with a beginning, middle and end. Avid readers tend to be better at writing stories as they are exposed to more examples of well developed story lines. Reading and re-reading books, is the best way to assist your child to continue to develop these skills in both languages. Please ensure home readers are returned on Fridays. Students still have access to [Je Lis, Je Lis](#) and now also www.mazonecec.com username: stleo password: bravostl18

I have prepared personal dictionaries for each student to record their own commonly misspelled words, and I am drawing attention more regularly to spelling and sound patterns as they come up in class.

Social Studies and Science

We have begun our final project investigating living and working in Ontario. Students have been given an imaginary city to situate in Ontario and compare to Brantford. Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationship between the natural environment, land use, employment opportunities and the development of communities. Students have been making many of these connections already through our discussions in class and some of the work they have been doing in STEM regarding early settlers.

The arts, and religion continue to be integrated throughout the week as best suits the student’s attention spans and our timeframes.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, email is the best way to reach me. lvenne@bhncdsb.ca

Wishing you a happy and healthy start to the New Year!

Mme Venne