



Dora Kennedy French Immersion School

June 2018 e.Journal



From the entire DKFI staff!

As we see the school year come to an end, we find that there are not enough pages to cover all that there is to say. Our students have performed well on testing, academic achievement, music accomplishment, and athletics, having won several awards in these areas. Their lives have been further enriched by both domestic and international travels, as well as unique cultural and linguistic exposures. We have witnessed considerable growth in character and knowledge; we are very proud of our students.

We are very grateful to have had such an active and efficient PTA. We have benefited from its contributions to our school activities and needs.

We also appreciate our many parent volunteers who did not hesitate to roll up their sleeves to help out.

To avoid boredom and to help students retain what they have learned, there are several fun, enriching resources available. Please see the recommendations listed on p.2-3 in this issue. You can also visit www.dkfipta.org and look under "French Resources" for more suggestions.

The entire DKFI team wishes you a safe and happy summer.
See you back and refreshed on Tuesday, September 4, 2018!

A final note from Madame Jacob

Dear DKFI Families,

Well, this is it! The time has come for me to retire.
It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye. I have witnessed the physical, educational, and linguistic growth of many students. Some of them are now adults and have their own children attending our school. My years at the French Immersion School allowed me to meet people from all over the world. Their life experiences have enriched mine in many ways.
I have been fortunate to form wonderful friendships among staff members and parents. They will continue to be part of my life as I move on, as well as my memories.
I bid you "Au revoir" but not "Adieu."



END of YEAR MEDICATION PROCEDURES & REGULATIONS

- Parents, make sure to **pick up your child's medication** by the end of the school year.
- We are required to dispose of any medications left in the Health Suite.
- Also, **remember that new doctor orders** needed.
- **Medication Order Forms** (as well as all other school medical forms) are available by going to www1.pgcps.org
 - 1 - Click on the **Parents** tab.
 - 2 - Go to the bottom right of the page under **Offices**.
 - 3 - Click on **Health Services**.
 - 4 - Go to **Parent Information** on the left.

* Please provide an updated record of your child's immunizations whenever he/she receives new vaccines.



Seven Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss

By Barbara Dianis *edutopia* GEORGE LUCAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Summer is upon us once again, and parents are beginning to plan for their children's days without a school schedule. However, a nonacademic summer can cause students at every grade level to digress two to three months in their academic skills. Half an hour to an hour set aside daily can help students close learning gaps and perform at higher levels during the upcoming school year while still having plenty of time left over for summer activities.

1. Make Time for Learning

Set aside time for your student to read each day; 15 to 30 minutes per day is all it takes! During the summer, students have more time to read for enjoyment, which also offers a great opportunity to preserve and strengthen their reading skills. Your summer activities should include taking your children/teenagers to the public library to check out books of interest. Parents of students reading below grade level should read with their children in order to assist with sounding out words they might not be able to decode themselves. In addition, keep a dictionary or online source close by to help students figure out those words by using the phonetic spelling provided.

2. Learn and Practice Affixes

Children and teens of all grade levels can improve their reading and spelling skills by learning affixes. Most multi-syllable words include prefixes and suffixes added to a base word. You can find a list of affixes and their meanings in a dictionary or in many online sources. To make this practice appealing, turn it into a game! Students can create flashcards of prefixes and suffixes. On the reverse side of each affix flash card, they should write the meaning. All children love guessing games and can point out what they think the affix means. You can also use this game to help them learn new vocabulary words.

3. Develop Math Skills

Though it may not seem fun to them at the time, working on just three to four math problems per day during the summer can prevent students' mathematical skills from getting rusty. They can look at it as a daily challenge that they must complete. Parents can purchase a math workbook for their child's academic level at most bookstores. Working on just a few problems daily (or more, if your child enjoys math) can help students of all ages close the gaps in their math skills, preserve what they learned during the previous school year, and prepare for the next.

4. Improve Reading Comprehension

To help your children better understand what they're reading, consider offering them a reading comprehension workbook to work on several minutes daily. These can be found at teacher supply stores or many online outlets. Students of all grades and ability levels can benefit scholastically by working with material that offers self-quizzes and high-interest stories. This practice helps develop their fact-retaining and inference-making skills.

5. Review and Build Grammar Skills

Review the past grade level's grammar concepts, and begin to work on the next school year's concepts. Find workbooks geared to their grade or skill level and encourage them to check their work using the answer key provided.

6. Encourage Creative Writing

Creative writing is a great way to improve your children's written language skills while giving them a fun and imaginative activity! Have your student write a creative paragraph each week. Students can also benefit from using a thesaurus and changing several common words to more interesting words. This will make their writing more interesting while learning great new words at the same time.

7. Focus on Specific Skills

Pinpoint the subjects your child had the most trouble learning the previous school year, and make sure to fit in some practice in these areas. Use every resource available to you. Online resources and teacher supply stores offer a wide variety of learning materials, workbooks, computer games, and other types of games to reinforce and strengthen scholastic skills. Over the summer, students and parents who practice the above tips can see great strengthening and improvement in scholastic skills, and avoid digressing two to three months in learning. Summer learning can be fun and challenging at the same time. By igniting your child's passion for learning, he or she can enjoy a renewed sense of academic self-esteem and dignity.



The 2018 Kids for STEM Regional Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair Competition

Peter Mills, DKFIS Science Department

The 2018 Regional "Kids for STEM" Fair was held on May 19th at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. Dora Kennedy French Immersion was represented by the following students: *Karthik Dwivedi & Rena Enwesi, 4th grade, Sofina Davis & Johara Jenkins-Culver, 5th grade.*

Rena was awarded Honorable Mention prize in Physical aspects of noise perception.
Karthik received participatory certificate/award for his work on Resistance and Electric Circuit.
Sofina received participatory certificate/award for her work on Armonica,
Johara received a participatory certificate/award for her work on Magma Lamp.

We are pleased to report that all four students showed an outstanding preparation and participation. We are proud of all four of them for their hard work, dedication and commitment. A special thank you goes to all parents and teachers for their support and encouragement.



KUDOS for our Girls Soccer Team for winning the County Championship!

MAINTAIN YOUR FRENCH OVER THE SUMMER!



With the summer break fast approaching, parents become increasingly concerned that their children will have diminished French speaking ability by the time September rolls back around. Language practice is like a muscle, it needs consistent attention in order for it to strengthen and grow. But how do you help your child practice their French with no French teacher in sight? It's true that it is always more challenging for children who live in non-French speaking households, to maintain their French fluency over long summer months spent outside of the classroom. Below are recommendations that will have the best impact on your child's French fluency over the summer months.

Keep them reading!

Reading is, and always has been, one of the best ways for children to maintain their essential basic vocabulary skills. And with French, it is no different! Several libraries have French resources, as well as French programs for children during the summer. Check with your local one to see what they can offer.

For more variety, there are web sites where you can purchase interesting and exciting books for all age groups and reading levels.

<http://www.livrespourtous.com>, <http://www.kidslearnfrench.com/>,
<http://www.bayardjeunesse.ca/livres>, <http://www.archambault.com>

Promote French entertainment!

Do your kids like watching TV? Movies? Playing online? Of course they do! Watching TV shows, films, or use the Internet in French, or even watch English TV with French-language subtitles is a great way for your child to subconsciously practice and think about the French language. Choose movies or shows that your child loves and watch them in French with them! This way, they can learn as they watch. It could also be educational for you if you're interested in learning more French! It is a win/win! There are also several web-sites where your children can watch interactive videos, color, and listen to music, rhymes, and audio books. Some examples of good 'French Fun' web sites include:

www.jedessine.com, www.brainpop.fr, www.lasouris-web.org,
<http://portailjeunes.banq.qc.ca/p/index.html>, <http://www.clicksouris.com/>,

Invite friends over for 'French' play dates!

Another great way to help your child preserve their French-language speaking skills over the summer months is to encourage and organize 'French' play dates with other children who are learning the language.

From Jennifer Murray, Orchestra Director & Emily Wise, Band Director

The Band and the Orchestra have performed at many events this marking period! The Middle school band and orchestra students performed at Secondary PGCPs Assessment festival and State Assessment festival. In all judged events for elementary and middle school, the students performed at the top two grading levels (Superior and Excellent). Many middle school band and orchestra students auditioned and performed with the honor Band and orchestra groups where some of our students were first chair section leaders!

The music department went to Dorney Park where they competed in the Music in the Park events and came home with 1st and 2nd place trophies. If you are borrowing a school instrument and would like to continue with that instrument over the summer, please contact Ms. Murray or Ms. Wise by June 8, 2018. Do not let the music and practicing stop over the summer.



From Korey Cunningham, Vocal Music & Guitar Teacher

Congratulations to Talib Reddick who performed guitar at a Level III difficulty at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival and received a Superior rating!



This year we had so many students took part in fierce performances. Dora Kennedy Vocal Music was represented in the PGCPs Elementary and Middle School Honors Choruses. This fall we had three students audition and perform with the Washington Revels in a French-Canadian folklore-based show. We had 20 stellar performances at the talent show spanning from 1st grade to 8th with older students assisting with sound, lights, and stage crew. Le Chœur du Collège showed their grit in the sight reading room and on stage at the PGCPs Choir Assessment Festival while five of our guitar students tackled PGCPs Solo and Ensemble Festival. Our middle school Festival musicians had a blast performing and enjoying Dorney Park in early May. Congratulations to all of our performers!

We also welcomed new music faculty this year. Ms. Pamela Simonson joined us in late January and due to some shuffling left us in March, when we welcomed Mr. Edmond Saint-Jean. Both were fantastic about jumping right in to our routine and schedule and adding a piece of themselves to our music program this year.

Finally, I would like to take a moment and personally thank our school secretary Mme. Catherine Jacob-Robinson for her years of above-and-beyond assistance to the music program and who will be retiring this year. In many ways, she has enabled me to offer so many opportunities that otherwise I would not have time to offer by assisting with field trip arrangements, proof-reading letters, scheduling concerts, distributing information, translating songs into French, writing the lyrics to our school song "Ensemble", and providing direction and assistance with anything I bring her way. She is greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed.

News for next year: Rising 6th graders interested in joining Middle School Chorus- Chorus will be offered on B day for Semester 1 and A day for Semester 2 with a fall and spring concert. Because of this, if you are in band or orchestra and would like to do chorus you may be able to fit it in your schedule. Please contact Mr. Cunningham and Mme. Donohue for more information. For elementary students, we will continue to offer "Les Petites Voix", our Tuesday morning chorus for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. Sign-ups will start in early September, see Mr. Cunningham for more information.

Have a great summer!

Be Kind to Animals CONGRATULATIONS to : Poster Contest



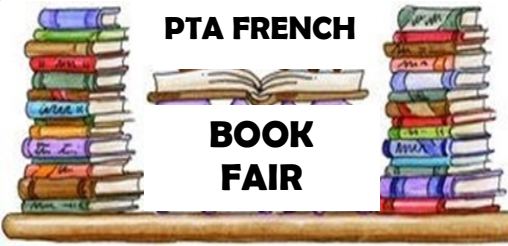
- ◇ **Evangeline Costen**, from the 3rd Grade class of Dr. Mills for winning the **Grand Prize**
- ◇ **Julianne Soriano**, from the 1st Grade class of Ms. Singhateh for winning **2nd Place**
- ◇ **Maya Gareri**, from the 2nd Grade class of Mme. Lahlou for winning **3rd Place**
- ◇ **Evey Kaseem**, from the 2nd Grade class of Mme. Kameni for winning **Honorable Mention**




BRAVO!

2018 PGCPs
Student Artist
Of the Year
Nominee
Jada Howard

PLEASE NOTE!
2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL (1:55 pm)
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 & Wednesday, June 20, 2018



PTA FRENCH
BOOK FAIR
 Wednesday, June 13, 2018 @ 6:30 pm



Middle School
SPRING CONCERT
 Tuesday, June 5, 2018
 7:00 - 9:00 PM

8th Grade Promotion
 Thursday, June 7, 2018
 9:45 AM - 12:00 PM



Monday, June 11, 2018
Kindergarten Promotion
 9:30 - 11:00 AM



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		2018			1	2
3	4	5 Middle School Spring Concert @ 7:00 pm	6	7	8 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 9:45 am-12:00 pm	9
10	11 Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony 9:30 am-11:00 am	12 Athletic Awards Ceremony 5:30 - 7:00 pm	13 BOOK FAIR @ 6:30 pm PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm & Final Election	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 <u>2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL</u>	21  <u>2-HR EARLY DISMISSAL</u>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 	