



# Dora Kennedy French Immersion School

## March 2017 e.Journal



### A few words from our Principal, Monsieur Awono.

Dear DKFI family,

Please join me in congratulating our Debate Club. The club participated in the Washington Urban Debate League spring classic tournament on Saturday, February 18. As the newest team to join, they won two 5th place trophies. Their sponsor, Mme Wutoh-Baylor, shared the teachable moment they witnessed at the tournament, our "8th grade girls perform at a varsity competitive level and were often deducted points in the novice category because of their original thinking. Varsity is usually reserved for high school teams." February is Black history month. Under the leadership of our Francophonie committee, our students are learning African kings and queens. The culminating activity will be a learning walk in March. As we transition to warmer weather, please advise your student to check in our lost-and-found bin for any coat or jacket that they may have misplaced. Bienvenue au printemps.

### From the Desk of Madame Auguste

*I can't believe it is March already! Thank you for all you are doing to help the administration, teachers, and students to feel supported and successful. Please extend a huge, "Thank you to the PTA" for all they are doing and have done. One of my favorite quotes by Henry Ford is "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."*

*Change is never easy, but with perseverance and the desire for a better tomorrow, we will always succeed. Thank you for being a great supporter of our school. Let's continue working on building and being the best of who we are.*

*Sincerely, Mme. Auguste*



### Important Reminder! When to keep kids home from school.

Source: Dr. Gwenn <http://www.pediatricsnow.com>

#### HEALTH ALERT

It never fails. One of your children gets sick when your spouse is away on business and you have a full schedule. The domino effect for a family with a sick child is enormous – home, work and school lives are all impacted and often at the least convenient times! To complicate matters, it can be difficult deciding when to keep a child home and when to forge ahead business as usual. Sickness is a part of childhood, whether it's a fever, sore throat, cough or just not feeling well. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the typical child has 6 to 12 illnesses a year ranging from mild to severe.

Illness can occur throughout the year, but tends to cluster in the winter due to flu season. These illnesses can seem to spread like wild fire affecting other students, teachers, and family members. Families and schools need to balance the child's school attendance with the risk of spreading the illness to others in the school. Sometimes even minor illnesses require the child to stay home just to prevent the further spread of a contagious disease.

In addition to consulting your pediatrician and school nurse, these tips can help you decide whether to keep your child at home:

1. If your child complains of not feeling well but otherwise has no definite symptoms, your child can likely attend school. The school nurse will typically call you if something more develops. Be sure to contact your pediatrician if the complaints persist or other more definite sick symptoms develop.
2. Fever is a symptom of illness and not an actual diagnosis. Fever usually indicates that the body is battling an infection. A child with a fever greater than 100.5 degrees Fahrenheit needs to stay home from school until the fever is gone for at least 24 hours. If the fever does not resolve in 2 to 3 days, or if your child appears sick with any fever, call your doctor to have your child evaluated.
3. Many rashes will resolve spontaneously and are not reason alone to keep a child home from school. Any rash associated with symptoms such as trouble breathing or swallowing, fever, or ill appearance, should be evaluated by your physician. Rashes that are itchy or scaly may be contagious and should be evaluated before sending a child back to school.
4. Cough alone may not prevent your child from attending school unless it is interfering with a child's sleep or ability to participate in school activities. If the cough is productive and has phlegm or is associated with fever or trouble breathing, keep your child home from school and arrange to have the child seen by their pediatrician.
5. Stool problems do sometimes require a child to stay home from school. This is especially true with diarrhea where the stool frequency is often many times an hour. Diarrhea that is bloody or associated with fever, abdominal pain, or vomiting should be evaluated by your doctor.
6. A child with vomiting, with or without diarrhea, needs to stay home from school. Your child can return to school when the symptoms have stopped and the child can tolerate a regular diet.
7. Children can attend school with mild sore throats if no other symptoms are occurring. Any child with a sore throat associated with fever, vomiting, abdominal pain, or difficulty swallowing should be evaluated by a doctor before returning to school. Call your child's school and ask if strep throat is going around; if so, have your child tested. A child with a diagnosis of strep throat needs to stay out of school until on antibiotics for 24 hours.
8. If your child appears really sick, keep your child home and arrange an evaluation by your doctor that day. If you can't get through to your doctor and you are really concerned, either call 911 or bring your child to the nearest emergency room for evaluation.
9. Call your doctor's office for advice if you are not sure about your child's condition or have questions about whether your child should stay home from school. Physicians have an answering service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. So, even after hours, you will be able to reach someone for assistance.

Many illnesses can be stopped before they spread by reminding everyone to practice frequent handwashing, blowing noses into tissues, covering mouths when coughing or sneezing, and asking other parents about sick symptoms in their kids before arranging playdates and carpools. If only it were so simple – even the best hygiene practices can't avoid the spread of all winter illnesses. Sometimes staying home is the only way to benefit our kids, ourselves and our communities.

## Bravo to our Debate Team! Mrs. Wutoh-Baylor

The DKFI team of six 8th grade girls faced nine debate competitions in total. They won 4 of them, which was pretty remarkable considering they are the newest team to join the league. We also earned two 5th Place trophies. However, we left with one incredible teachable moment; the girls perform at a varsity competitive level and were often deducted points in the novice category because of their original thinking. Varsity is usually reserved for high school teams. The coordinator of the Urban Debate League for Maryland/DC will join our next club meeting to advise us about the merits of junior varsity and varsity levels. All in all, the girls enjoyed the day and are excited about their next tournament. Ms. Ward was awesome for being there and helping me to keep our students safe and in the correct rooms for their competitions.

### Friendly reminders from the desk of Madame Boukabara

#### Canada Trips

The due date to register for the Montreal trip is **March 4, 2017** for **Grade 4** students.

The due date to register for the Quebec trip is **March 23, 2017** for **Grade 6** students.

For both grades, we do need additional students to enroll if we want to keep the cost per student down.

#### DELFL exams

The DELF exams for **Grade 2** and **Grade 4** students will take place the week of **May 8-12, 2017**. This is a unique opportunity for students to validate their language abilities in French with an official diploma from the French government. Parents are reminded to give their **\$15 child's fee** to their homeroom teacher as soon as possible. Our school has already absorbed the cost for all students. Kindly do not forget to reimburse your contribution to the school.

Kind Regards, Mme Boukabara



**Bus Rider?  
Or  
Car Rider?**



Parents,  
In an effort to keep Dismissal running as smoothly as possible, we ask parents to **please not make any changes to their child's dismissal routine unless there is an absolute emergency.**

Remember, any changes in your child's daily dismissal routine must be communicated to the teacher via email or a note early in the day.

Without one of these communications, the child will be dismissed on his/her regular bus.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		<b>1</b> Mr. Biaka's Class to Owens Science Center 11:00 am — 2:00 pm <hr/> Talent Show Dress Rehearsal 4:30— 7:30 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Mr. Adjallah's Class to Owens Science Center 11:00 am — 2:00 pm <hr/> Montreal Trip Meeting 6:00 —7:00 pm <hr/> "TALENT SHOW" @ 7:00 pm
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm	<b>9</b>
<b>13</b> <u>DEADLINE for SIBLING APPLICATION</u> Middle Sch. Boys/Girls Soccer Tryouts 4:15 - 6:15 pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Grade 4 classes trip to Historical St. Mary's 9:30 am - 6:00 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>27</b> SCHOOL CLOSED For STUDENTS Professional Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



#### ATTENTION PARENTS!

Due to a conflict with the testing schedule, Class Picture Day has been rescheduled to:

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

Please hold on to your child's order envelop and make sure that he/she brings it to school on the new class picture day.