

La gazette de 1^{ère} année

École Brooklin Village - Salle 202

Issue #1

Written by Mme Janice Witzel

September 2018

My Grade 1 Teacher

My name is **Janice Witzel** and I will be your child's Grade One French Immersion teacher this year. For those of you whose children I did not have the pleasure of teaching in previous years, please feel free to get to know me throughout this letter. I am originally from a small village near Ottawa. Following my post-secondary education at Brock University, I moved to the Durham Region with my husband and now have three young girls whose passions are dance, music, art, and swimming. I greatly enjoy the richness and diversity that this village has to offer and I am proud to contribute to the language opportunities of this region's little scholars.

I have studied French since elementary school and have had many enriching experiences throughout my academic career in a French Immersion program. In addition to applying my French knowledge in the Ottawa Valley, I have also travelled to Switzerland on a student exchange during high school. Since this experience, I have returned many times to visit my host family and have also taught lessons in Switzerland in a completely French school.

In 2003 I began teaching Grade 1 French Immersion for DDSB at Captain Michael VandenBos P.S. I enjoyed six wonderful years at VandenBos, but was excited to help build the French Immersion program at Brooklin Village when it began in 2009.

As a role model to children, I believe I have a responsibility to foster enjoyment and motivation towards learning. In my teaching approach, I use a balance between current teaching methods, hands-on activities, and cooperative learning techniques in order to support different learning styles and bring about feelings of success.

In addition to encouraging enthusiasm and achievement among my students, I also strive to develop a sense of confidence among the parents of children in the Immersion program. In order to support the language learning experience of students and parents alike, I have developed a website to aid all learners by offering yet another resource to assist those in the early years of the French Immersion program. Primarily created to support new Immersion students, this website offers support in response to the challenges of word pronunciation, thematic vocabulary, and new concepts introduced throughout the year. Please visit www.mmewitzel.ca for support with your French Immersion experience.

Vocal and instrumental music, reading, and traveling are some of my personal interests that influence my personality and teaching style. I encourage my students to share their individual talents and experiences in class, and to approach learning with interest and enthusiasm.

My work with children fills me with enthusiasm and dedication. As I continue to learn and grow myself, my philosophies and my program strongly encourage students to become life-long learners by following and nurturing their curiosity. I strive to help each student to feel capable of achieving a variety of challenges. I am excited to teach such a motivated and inquisitive group of students.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 905-655-8959.

Yours truly,
Janice Witzel



Important Information from Room 202:

Clothing/Shoes:

For safety and hygiene reasons, please ensure that your child has both indoor and outdoor running shoes - indoor shoes that can be worn for gym would be most effective. **Children will not be permitted to wear outdoor shoes indoors.** It would also be a good idea to label all of your child's clothing and personal belongings to help retrieve lost or misplaced items, especially in the winter months! In the unforeseen event of spills or accidents, a set of spare clothes (including socks and underwear) should be kept at school in a clearly labeled ZipLock bag.

Music (Mme Brimbecom):

While the majority of subjects are taught by the homeroom teacher, occasionally students will have lessons with other French speaking teachers as well. This year, Music (Days 1, 3 & 4) will be taught by Mme Brimbecom. A calendar is enclosed to inform you of gym days, our library schedule, and other school activities. Please be sure to visit our classroom website for monthly calendar updates.

Visual Arts (Mme Bassit):

Visual Arts will be taught on **Day 5. Please send an apron (or Dad's old shirt or t-shirt) for your child to wear when our class is working on masterpieces in order to protect daily clothes.** Paint shirts should be labelled with your child's name please and can be kept at school.

Gym (Mme Buie):

While we will participate in physical activities every day, our class is scheduled to use the gym on **Days 2, 3, & 5.** ****Please make sure that your child wears appropriate shoes and clothing**** - this means: *no restrictive skirts/dresses or jeans; no sandals/crocs.* Due to our Phys Ed periods occurring for only 30 minutes of the day, students will not have time to change their clothing. Please wear gym-appropriate attire to school on these days. Students who are not dressed appropriately may not be permitted to participate in the program due to safety reasons. As some of our gym classes and DPA may be outdoors, please make sure that your child is also dressed for the weather.

Lunch:

A lunch routine survey was included in the online updating of your child's Student Information Profile requesting you to indicate your child's daily lunch routines. **If your child is staying at school for lunch,** he/she will eat in the classroom from 11:45 to 12:05pm. A lunchroom supervisor will help your child if needed. We recommend that you put your child's lunch in either a lunch box/bag or in a plastic bag to prevent food from leaking on clothes and other school materials inside backpacks. **If you plan to take your child home for lunch on days not indicated in your lunch routine form,** please let us know in advance in writing, and please go to the office to call your child down to meet you and to sign them out.

We encourage parents to send nutritious and litter-less snacks and lunches to school with their children. Pop, chips, and chocolate are highly discouraged as they tend to interfere with positive learning and listening skills. Healthy foods will provide your child with the energy needed to go through the school day and will also help to build healthy eating habits.

To support a litter-less lunch, you do not have to buy special containers to send food in - commercial yoghurt, margarine, sour cream and cream cheese containers can be re-used for this purpose. Students are strongly encouraged to bring a *labeled, leak-proof water bottle* to be used in the classroom for quick drinks!

Brooklin Village P.S. has proudly achieved a Platinum Eco-School status in recent years. We will be *recycling* in our classroom; however ALL snack

and lunch garbage will be returned home as part of our school-wide "Boomerang" program. In order to support our litter-less program, you may wish to enclose a zip-lock bag, wet bag, or container so that your child can bring moist items home in a tidy fashion.

We have students with life-threatening nut allergies in many of our classrooms. All food brought to school must be **peanut-free & tree-nut-free.** Encouraging your child to refrain from sharing their food with their friends will also help to keep everyone safe.

Birthdays:

Birthdays are very special occasions for most children. When it is your child's birthday, you are welcome to send something to share with the class... but... please keep in mind **that we are not permitted to serve food to celebrate a child's birthday due to students with life-threatening allergies and dietary restrictions in our classrooms.** In an effort to respect food sensitivities, please instead send non-edible treasures to share with classmates or **consider dedicating a book to our classroom to celebrate your child's birthday.** If you wish to send \$5.00 on your child's birthday, a French Scholastic book will be added to our classroom library with a dedication sticker in honour of your child.

Library (Mme Mallory):

Our Library Book Exchange will commence soon. Students will be able to choose one book in French during each visit to take home for one week. They will also periodically enjoy sessions working with our new librarian on shared curriculum adventures.

La Pochette & Student Agenda:

Today you have received a student pouch (pochette) which your child will use to carry their vocabulary duotang, agenda, notices, school work and library books between school and home. This pouch should be returned daily to school and will be used to facilitate the communication between teacher and parents. **\$2.00 is requested in order to cover the cost of the Pochette.** In addition, your child has received a student agenda to be used as a means of ongoing communication between home and school. **\$5.00 is requested to cover the cost of the student agenda.** **SchoolCash Electronic Payments** are the preferred method of payment used by the school. Alternatively, a personal cheque can be submitted for money amounts greater than \$20 for any activity fees, food orders, and materials that may be offered by the school throughout the year. In order to keep fees organized, please clearly label payments for each item with your child's name. As deposits are made separately by account and by classroom, please do not mix fees into one lump sum.

I look forward to having a wonderful year together. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have either through the agenda or by phone.

Paper Towels and Kleenex:

We encourage students to develop positive hygiene habits by using Kleenex and washing their hands before snacks and before lunch. As a result, we are in need of Kleenex and many paper towels for drying your child's hands. Please send **two rolls of paper towel, a box of Kleenex** and a bottle of **liquid hand soap or sanitizer** with your child, if possible.

Classroom Incentives:

If you wish to send small prizes for our behaviour and language incentive program, your generosity would be greatly appreciated!

Classroom Website:

Our Grade One French Immersion Classroom has a website to assist you with vocabulary, our home reading program, homework activities, and pronunciation of vocabulary words. Please visit: www.mmewitzel.ca

