



GREAT TEACHERS

Good teaching comes not from following a recipe, but from consistently putting student needs first.

When I speak with people about teachers, they make it very clear that we need great teachers in every classroom. As I dig deeper into what qualities make a teacher great, I often get the same responses. People expect teachers to know their subject, explain it to kids, and maintain order in the classroom. As a principal I am very interested in supporting great teaching, and I insist that great teaching involves infinitely more than simply: know, tell and control.

Teaching is a complex activity. Teachers observe students, talk with them, explain material and facilitate activities, often simultaneously, adapting as they go. Knowing, telling and controlling does not even begin to summarize teaching, especially in our unique school setting.

Effective or inspired teaching is based on communication. Knowing, telling, and controlling are sending behaviors. The other half of communication is receiving, and it is just as important. Teachers are continually sending messages that we

hope students receive clearly, but we can't know if our students receive and comprehend these messages unless we look for reactions and ask for feedback. Great teachers need students' messages in order to formulate the customized lessons and experience that children deserve. Every student behavior sends a message. It is the teachers job to observe the behaviors of the child and mesh the lesson with the students needs. In addition to formal feedback, students send many other types of messages. Facial expressions, body language, attitudes and answers all reveal vital information that should impact teaching.

What a teacher perceives in terms of students' reactions is a powerful predictor of how well that teacher is able to teach—perhaps the most powerful. In fact, four of the 13 most important skill areas in teaching identified in a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards study center around gathering information from students and settings. These skills



include interpreting events in progress, being sensitive to context, testing hypotheses and improvising.

Desire, a curious mind and a thirst for continuous learning are essential to teaching in the French School. The final ingredient is a belief that two minds—or three or four—are better than one. Our teachers learn from everyone in their world. Every assistant teacher, parent volunteer, student teacher and intern brings new approaches and inspiration. Every conference, workshop and lecture is a chance to glean at least one new idea.

We are working hard planning the 2nd annual Fête d'Hiver. Please bring your family to celebrate with us at 6:00 on December 15th.

PEACE MUSEUM

The Gateway to Peace Museum is coming to SLLIS on Tuesday, Nov. 30. We need 20 volunteers in the morning and 20 in the afternoon or fewer if you can stay all day. The shifts are from 8:15-12:00 (Spanish School attends Museum) and 12:00-3:00 (French School attends Museum). Volunteers will be trained to run an activity and will work with small groups of 4-5 children at that activity for 2-3 hours (depends on shift). The children will rotate to each activity every 5 minutes or so.

If you can volunteer or would like more information, please contact Lisa Berman at lisaberman@rocketmail.com or 314-398-6839.

**Borders Book Fair
Saturday December 4th.**

Please make a point to visit Border's Books on Saturday December 4th for our SLLIS book fair. There will be teacher wish lists, guest story times in French, Spanish and English, and an opportunity to get a good start to your holiday shopping.

Not only will this event result in a lot of book donations for the school, but the funds we raise have been "earmarked" the funds to support the SLLIS libraries and literacy at our school. We receive 15% profit of all purchases made during this event. So it is the teachers, and of course our children, who will most benefit from the successful outcome.

There will be a table displaying all of the books that teachers have selected. The fair lasts all

day and families can shop at any time. We will need parent volunteers between 1 and 5pm. It is going to be a GREAT event.

School Advisory Committee

The Results are in. Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to participate on this vital committee. We had about 75% voter turnout, and the results were close indeed. Below are the three parents and three staff members who have been elected to the School Advisory Committee. We will have our first meeting before Winter Break.

Parents:

- Val Joyner - kindergarten
- Brad Morrow - grade 1
- Becky Pinnell - grade 2

Staff Members:

- Lorena Veresh grade 1
- François Crespin PE
- Jennifer Giovannoni kindergarten

MUSIC LESSONS

Kurt Baldwin from the department of music at UMSL is planning to begin a wonderful partnership with us. This will start with preparing his students to offer music lessons to interested students at our school. We will begin with viola, violin and cello lessons. This is a great age to begin to learn an instrument, and the Department of Music is excited to sponsor



our students. Lessons will cost \$25.00 per 45 minutes. Instruments can be rented for reasonable rates around town. Please let me know if you are interested in this wonderful opportunity. His Arianna String Quartet will be coming to play for us in January.

Fête d'Hiver

We are planning a special night of singing and celebration at the 2nd annual Fête d'Hiver. Please make plans to join us. Each class is planning to sing a song or two and there will be a few other special performances from the kids. I truly hope your family will join us. We also need food contributions from families. You will be receiving more information this week about how you can help.

Have a great week.

Conrad

IMPORTANT INFO

- Remember to get to school on time. We begin at 8:40.
- Formal days are Mondays in the French School.
- PLEASE put your child's name in all clothing. It all LOOKS the same.
- PLEASE no toys at school.
- The LOST and FOUND is not located in the front closet.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11-30 Forming our Futures Seession 3 at SLLIS
- 12-02 Parents' French Class 6:00 French 1
- 12-04 Borders Book Fair
- 12-11 New Family Open House 10:00
- 12-15 Fête d'hiver 6:00 - 8:00