

TFS NEWS



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A Great Audience

YOU SHOULD BE GETTING THIS VIA EMAIL.

If you do not get this newsletter in your email, please email me to be added to the list.

Back to School Skate Party

Don't forget about our Back to School Skating Party at Skatium this Saturday. It is going to be a great event. The money we raise at this event will be put toward the **Read, Right and Run Marathon**. The program's goal is to develop reading-proficient, community-minded and physically fit children by challenging them to READ 26 books, RIGHT the community with 26 good deeds and RUN 26.2 miles over a six-month period. All of that hard work culminates in when the K-3 students run their final 1.2 miles in Forest Park on April 14, 2012.

After School Bus Delay

We are sorry to report that 5p.m. bus service after Amigos y Amis will not be available this week. If you requested bus service after Amigos y Amis and CAN pick

your child up at 5pm, please let your classroom teacher know. If we do not hear confirmation that you can come at 5pm, we will put your child on the bus at 3:30pm, to ensure every child's safety.

Sorry for the inconvenience. Please contact Sonia at sonia@sllis.org with any questions.

Back to School Night Sept 15th

This year TFS is hosting a **Parents Only** back to School Night. This is an event where you will learn about our expectations for the school year. You will have a chance to visit your child's classroom and learn, in depth, about the academic and social curriculum. You will also have a chance to meet other parents and learn how you can support our vibrant school community. This is an event not to be missed. We will begin promptly at 6:00



This is Aurelie, one of our interns working in grade 1

and end at 8:00. Back to School Night is one of very few TFS events where children are not permitted. Our goal is for every family to be represented. Please contact the school if we can assist you in attending.

IT IS SMART TO BE BILINGUAL.

Why Its Smart to be Bilingual

Why do you send your child to the French School? Parents cite many different reasons for choosing our school. Among the most voiced reasons is valuing the idea that our children will grow up able to read and write in both French and English. There is a growing body of research that provides strong rationale for this feeling: the regular, high-level use of more than one language actually improves early brain development.

According to several recent studies, command of two or more languages bolsters the ability to focus in the face of distraction, decide between competing alternatives and disregard irrelevant information. These essential skills are grouped together, known in brain terms as “executive function”.

While no one has yet identified the exact mechanism by which bilingualism boosts brain development, the advantage likely stems from the bilingual’s need to continually select the right language for a given situation. According to Ellen Bialystok, a professor at York University in Toronto and a leading researcher in the field, this constant selecting process is strenuous exercise for the brain and involves processes beyond those required for monolingual speech, resulting in an

extra stash of mental acuity, or, in Bialystok’s terms, a “cognitive reserve.”

Bilingual education, commonplace in many countries, is a growing trend across the United States, with 440 elementary schools (up from virtually none in 1970) offering immersion study in Spanish, Mandarin, and French.

YOU CAN HELP

One of the factors that makes immersion education successful is having native speaking role models throughout the building. Children need to see and hear people speaking French in all areas of the school. Our Amity Interns increase this immersion experience for your children. There is an added benefit of having people from countries other than France that speak French.

We need Host families!! We have 5 interns right now and are hoping to attract more. These young adult interns stay with families in our school. They make profound contributions to our school, as well as our families, through sharing their culture and language. Please consider supporting our school by hosting an intern.



NWEA TESTING

Our school has three computer-based testing windows each school year. These are English standardized tests in Language and Mathematics. The first round of testing begins next week. It is essential to our students that we monitor their development in these areas. It is important to remember that these tests will provide a snapshot of your child’s ability on the day of testing. The tests are administered on individual computers with headphones. We will communicate the precise testing schedule and more information about these tests by Friday.

Have a great week!
-Conrad

IMPORTANT INFO

- **Mondays are formal days in The French School.**
- **School begins at 8:40. The doors open at 8:25.**
- **Parents must make changes in the dismissal plans of their students prior to 3:00.**
- **Each student has been issued a student ID. This should go to school with your student.**
- **Please do NOT park on Papin during dismissal.**
- **Please remember that dismissal begins at 3:30. We value every minute of instruction.**

IMPORTANT DATES

- 9-15 **Parents Only Back to School Night 6:00 PM**
- 9-16 **No School - Teacher Work Day**
- 9/17 **TFS Back to School Skate Party**
- 9-20 **NWEA Standardized Testing Begins**
- 9-21 **SLLIS Board Meeting**
- 10-14 **First Quarter Ends**