**Shannon Park Early French Immersion Facts**

Early French Immersion students follow the same curriculum and outcomes as students in English Programs.

In September, it is common for children to speak to each other and to their teacher in English. Teachers will speak to students in French. The emphasis in Primary FI is on oral language development. It is important to remember that language develops at different rates; progress is as individual as is each child.

**ENGLISH INSTRUCTION**

Formal English Instruction begins in Grade 3. English reading abilities may not develop at the same rate as P-3 students in the English Program, however, research shows that over time, immersion students do as well, if not better, than their English counterparts. (Bournot-Trites et Tellowitz, 2002). Research also shows that second-language learning does not negatively affect the first language, that students rapidly catch up once English is introduced and, that some students surpass their peers by Grades 5 or 6, and that skills in French can and do transfer to English.(Renée Bourgoin)

**LITERACY in FRENCH PROGRAM INSTRUCTION**

►Uses teaching strategies that foster a positive classroom environment

►Helps the students achieve success in French while learning the core subject matter

►Permits students to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue

►Fosters effective communication in French in the areas of listening, speaking, viewing, reading, writing as well as other ways of representing

**MATHEMATICS in Grade Primary**

►Students develop problem-solving strategies

►Students develop visualization skills and make connections to their everyday experiences

►Students develop number sense

►Students use technologies and hands-on materials as tools for learning and solving problems

**LEARNING THROUGH PLAY**

►As children enter school they continue to learn through play

►An early elementary experience infused with play helps students learn in the way that is best suited to their stages of development

►Allows time to explore, to create, to manipulate, and actively participate in their own learning

**PROGRAM SUPPORT**

►Grades one and two students are eligible for Early Literacy Support in French.

►As is the case for all students, the Program Planning Team (PPT) explores support and makes decisions about student services and student programming including Individual Program Plans (IPP) and Adaptations.

**When deciding which program your child will enter please consider:**

How well developed are my child's home language skills?

How might my child respond if understanding the teacher is challenging at the onset? How might learning, perceptual or auditory challenges play a role in my child's experience?

Should families decide to switch their child from the French Immersion Program to the English Program, please note that students go back to their home school for the English Program. If you have any more questions regarding French Immersion, please feel free to contact the school at 902 464-2084.