



L'ACTION FRANÇAISE!



A Publication of Colletville & MSS French Immersion

February 13, 2026

Kindergarten

The past few months have been busy and productive in Kindergarten. Students continue to build their skills with letter sounds and sight words, and we have recently begun our writing program. At this stage, the focus is less on correctness and more on what each child is trying to communicate. The class is given many opportunities to draw, label, and write freely as they develop confidence and expression in their work.

At the end of January, we celebrated our annual Winter Carnival, a long-standing fan favourite. A big thank you to our wonderful volunteers who helped tie skates and set up for the pancake breakfast, as well as to our regular morning readers. We truly appreciate the time and support you give to our students.



Grade 10/11

We have started a new semester which will have student studying Sciences humaines and Leadership, first time being offered in French. As part of Sciences humaines, we will be watching the news in English and French on a regular basis. I encourage all families to talk about what is currently happening around the world. Our first unit is about verifying an online source and the statement it is declaring. Nowadays, we get our news more from social media than from traditional news media, and these skills are essential to help in identifying what we hear and see as true or false. In Leadership, students are encouraged to practice their leadership skills at MSS and CV. They are currently focusing on teaching others in class. The picture shows an art project that was taught by a few students and is being displayed within MSS.



Carnaval!



Staff and students enjoyed a truly fabulous Carnaval week filled with fun, laughter, and winter spirit! Throughout the week, our school community embraced the season with a variety of exciting winter-themed activities that brought everyone together in celebration.

From skating & curling to delicious treats & cultural traditions, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The joy on students' faces and the energy throughout the school made this year's Carnaval one to remember.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible families for their support. Whether you were tying skates, joining us on the ice, making & serving pancakes, helping prepare tacots, or lending a hand in countless other ways, your involvement made all the difference.

Carnaval week was not only a time for fun and connection, but also a wonderful opportunity for students to engage in a rich French cultural experience. Together, we created great memories that will last long after the winter season!

Un grand merci to everyone who helped make our Carnaval celebration such a success!

February 13, 2026

F.I. Event Updates and Upcoming Events



Upcoming Events

Pre-K French for a Day Events - Children 3-5 years old
•Tuesday February 17 - 9:00-10:30 @ Collettsville

Parent Voice Meeting
•Thursday February 19 - 7:30-8:30pm @ Collettsville

Grade 7 French Immersion Information Session
• Wednesday, March 11 - 6:30-7:30pm @ MSS
(We encourage students and their families to attend!)

Merci for your continued support—together, we help our students thrive en français!

Basketball

Both of our teams had an incredible showing at their respective tournaments. We are so proud of the way our athletes represented our school. They competed with heart, supported one another, and represented our school community with pride.



A HUGE thank you to our amazing parent volunteer coaches: Jenn, Wes, and Blake. Your time, energy, and dedication to our students make such a difference. We are so grateful for the countless hours you've invested in helping our athletes grow in both skill and confidence.



We'd also like to recognize our staff sponsors who supported the teams throughout the season. Your encouragement behind the scenes helps make opportunities like this possible.

It was also extra special to welcome back two of our youth referees who are Collettsville alumni, Johanna & Elaina. Thank you for volunteering your time; it was wonderful to have you back on the court giving back to the next generation!

Pre-K Events

We were thrilled to visit the Central & Nicola Canford Strong Start, where we had the opportunity to connect with families and introduce children to the joy of learning in French. We also proudly hosted two Pre-K events at Collettsville Elementary School. These visits were filled with smiles, curiosity, and excitement as the children explored early learning activities in a warm and welcoming environment.



A special highlight was the incredible leadership shown by our Grade 4, 5, 6, and 7 students. They did a fantastic job running the learning stations with confidence, patience, and enthusiasm. Our older students truly shone as role models, guiding the younger children through each activity and helping them feel comfortable and included. The learning stations were designed to be interactive and fun, giving our Pre-K participants the chance to explore numbers, letters, and colours in French.



If you missed these events, there's still an opportunity to join us! Ready, Set, Learn will be visiting Collettsville on February 17 from 9:00–10:30 a.m. We would love to see families come out and be part of this engaging early learning experience.



These events are a wonderful example of community, leadership, and joyful learning in action. We are so proud of our students and grateful to the families who joined us. We look forward to continuing to build these meaningful connections with our future learners!

FRENCH IMMERSION ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Rory Arduini

Graduated with bilingual diploma in 2022

Where are you now (location/career/using your French, etc)?

I live in Edmonton AB, attending the University of Alberta Speech-Language pathology undergraduate pathway.

A favourite memory from French Immersion:

Carnaval - my favorite part was always going skating and the community that the French Immersion Program provided for me. I now have lifelong friends and supporters that I otherwise wouldn't have.

What are you most proud of from your French Immersion experience?

The part I am most proud of about French immersion is the fact that I am able to help even more people and have a larger impact on my communities in Merritt and Edmonton! Being bilingual allows me to help French speaking kids alongside English speaking kids achieve success and growth.

How did French Immersion help you?

The French immersion program is very near and dear to my heart it has given me many opportunities for jobs, events, community

and friends that I think other people aren't as fortunate to have. - if it weren't for my experience in French immersion I would never have fallen in love with Linguistics and helping children. It has also allowed me to travel and connect with other cultures with a deeper appreciation for their language and culture than otherwise I would have.

A few accomplishments I have achieved:

My French immersion education has allowed me to further my education in ways I didn't think it would and achieve many accomplishments like:
An undergraduate honours degree in psycholinguistic research; Becoming a Holt Renfrew Scholar; A certificate of speech science and speech disorders; Allowing me to work in a bilingual acquisition lab at the university of Alberta and the psycholinguistics Lab

What would be your advice to current French immersion students?

My advice to French immersion students is to really find ways to connect with French and make it YOURS! Make it fun and incorporate it into your day in ways you enjoy, podcasts and music are great for this! All the things you like to do in English can absolutely be done in French! Not only will your French improve but your enjoyment of the language will too!

My advice for families or students considering French immersion education is to go for it! It has only allowed me opportunities and opened doors for my future not to mention it exposed me to my passion for learning and language. The French immersion community is an engaging community that needs to be nourished in the Nicola Valley. It is an incredible resource!



FRENCH IMMERSION ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Ajhmair Lali

Graduated with bilingual diploma in 2009

Where are you now (location/career/using your French, etc)?

Merritt, BC / Doctor

A favourite memory from French Immersion:

Festival du Bois, making ice sculptures!

What are you most proud of from your French Immersion experience?

I once mc'd an assembly in high school in French when a class of students from Québec was visiting for a week, and they had believed my French accent was genuine Québécois!

How did French Immersion help you?

Learning French as a third language so early in life enabled me to learn any language easily! Plus I can read the wrong side of a product label and still understand the ingredients/ instructions !

A few accomplishments I have achieved:

I have travelled the world and I became a doctor in my own hometown.

What would be your advice to current French immersion students?

It may seem difficult now but stay the course and you'll never regret it!

