



## Collège Garden City Collegiate Report to the Community

### French Immersion - November 2019

The French Immersion department has seen a flurry of activity this fall. We began the year with our third annual French Immersion assembly in which students had a chance to gather together to meet the staff, and to promote a sense of unity and identity among our students. At our assembly, we launched the department theme of 'sustainability' for the 2019-20 school year. This theme factors into our classroom and advocacy lesson plans, our visuals in the French corridor and our overall goals for the community that we are seeking to build.

Here are just a few highlights of exciting things happening both in and out of the classroom in French immersion this fall:

Students were able to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills and discuss themes relating to Canada's colonial history, while viewing the Kent Monkman exhibit at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

In September, about thirty of our students participated in the Mahatma Gandhi 150 Essay Competition on the theme of "being the change one wishes to see in the world". Each of the candidates should be proud of their thoughtful submissions. Kennah Co (Gr.12) was one of three recipients to be awarded a scholarship for her essay at the gala event at the CMHR, in celebration of the 150 year anniversary of Gandhi's birth.

In the form of an ethics bowl, students discussed the concept of cultural appropriation and censorship in the context of Halloween costumes. Students shared their views and listened with respect, using examples from popular culture and our local community to support their ideas.

Students practiced collaborative storytelling, integrating and hybridizing dramatic structure and indigenous pedagogies of learning, knowing and doing.

Students visited the Théâtre Cercle Molière to view a performance of the production « Dis Merci ».

Students learned to plan for a monthly budget, as though they would be moving from their family home to live independently. Students explored starting wages for various jobs and professions and the cost of living and personal expenses. In their budgets, they had to prioritize expenses and also look at where sacrifices may be sometimes necessary.

Students wrote poems and argumentative essays. Students learned about grammar and conjugating verbs. Students learned about the environment.

Students learned how to identify themes in literature and how to write their own short stories.

Students went on an excursion to the authentic French bakery, "A l'épi de blé".

Students explored the theme of mental health through the artwork and life story of Vincent Van Gogh, not only through viewing a one-of-a kind biographic film that tells his story through the animation of his paintings, but also in recreating his iconic "Starry Night" themselves as a means to better understand his challenges and his source of light in dark times.



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On 'take your kids outside day' students walked to the Forks for a scavenger hunt, after a visit to the Manitoba Museum. Along the way, they examined the way in which the railway, the river and architectural decisions have shaped this part of our city's centre.

Students explored concepts of Canadian identity, geography and demographics through art and cultural projects.

Students learned about Canadian government through the lens of the recent elections and were able to participate in a student vote.

Students produced a short bi-lingual film for the grade 5 student leadership conference at James Nisbet school, to encourage students to let their voice be heard and to be inclusive of the voices of others.

On all-period days, students in pre-calculus math were given opportunities for brain breaks in between their hard work. They received funny challenges upon obtaining correct answers in their math review questions, for example inventing a product and pitching the idea to Mr. Kreml, with the goal of making him choose the best idea (and making him laugh).

Students learned about solutions and calculating concentrations. Students learned about equilibrium, atomic structure and kinematic analysis.

Students wrote notes of affirmation for recipients of Winnipeg Harvest's Breakfast to Go program.

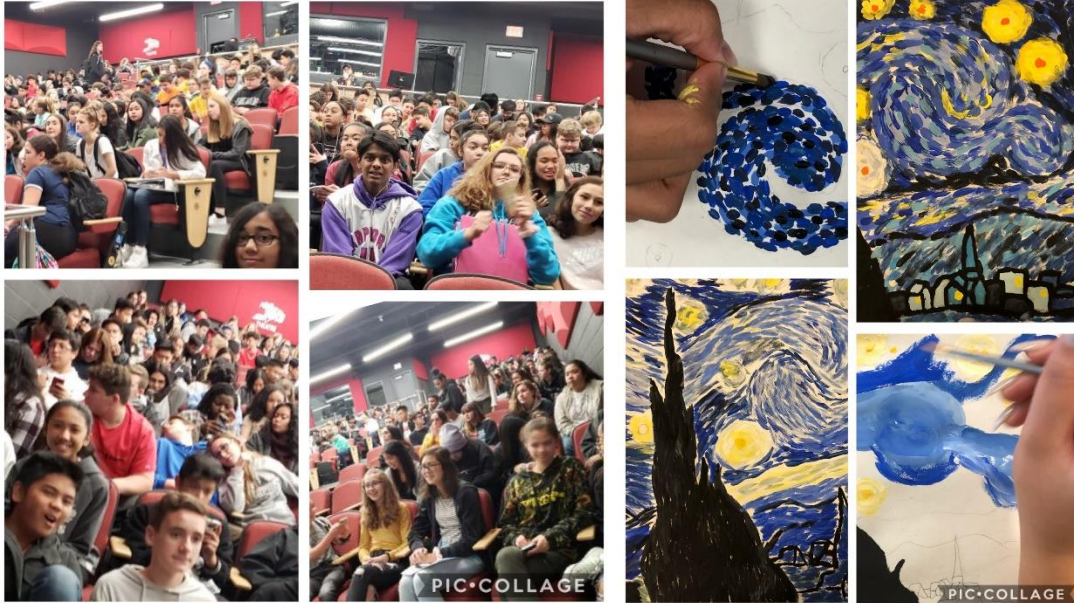
Through a presentation from the community engagement director at Siloam Mission, students learned about the complex challenges and needs of the homeless in Winnipeg and also about the services that organizations like Siloam provide to help build a more sustainable community for all.

Students learned about biodiversity, working with microscopes to observe organisms in pond water and in dissecting diverse organisms, such as mushrooms, flowers and squids. Students visited the Assiniboine Park Zoo to learn about endangered species.

Students learned about climate change and the role of humans in ecosystems. Students created children's books about the carbon cycle, how humans have disrupted it and how each person can help to live more sustainably in their daily life.



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French Immersion assembly -fall 2019

Students painting Van Gogh's "Starry Night"



Gandhi 150 Essay Competition







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Visiting the Kent Monkman exhibit and 'salon style' permanent collection at the WAG



Assiniboine Park Zoo



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Manitoba Museum



Winnipeg Harvest Breakfast to Go Program - notes of affirmation