



# Steffie Woima French Immersion Program

# Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to Steffie Woima

Principal -Angela Eadie-Gyori

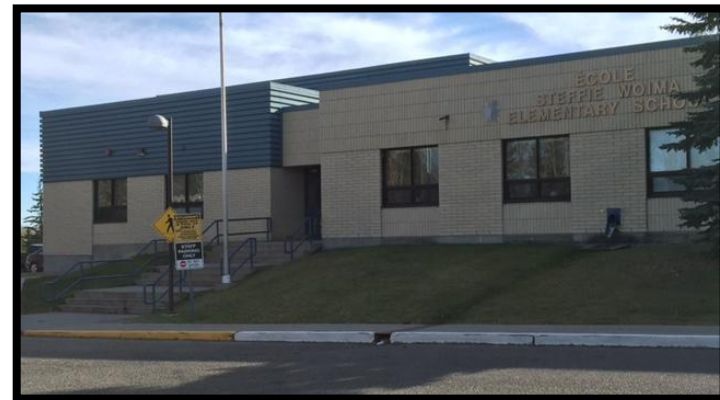
Vice-principal -Dawn Normoyle

French Immersion Coordinator -Marie Astrid Detharet

Teacher -Mme Magas

# Welcome to our School

- ★ Dual track school: French Immersion and English programming
- ★ Safe and caring place where relationships matter most
- ★ Excellent teaching and learning: research supported teaching practices
- ★ Literacy skills are foundational for all future learning and the world of work
  - High levels of reading success: 94%-97% of our students reading at or above grade level in a typical year.
- ★ Mathematics is area of focus in our school



## Vision and Mission

- ★ **Mission:** École Steffie Woima Elementary School will engage every student in meaningful learning by challenging, encouraging and believing in them.
  
- ★ **Vision:** Students will become creative, confident and collaborative learners who strive towards lifelong achievement and involvement in our global community.

# Supporting the Development of the Whole Child

- ★ High quality instruction in all classrooms
- ★ Student Success Program: social, emotional, sensory, and behavioral needs
- ★ Pre-Kindergarten Program -early intervention
- ★ Speech and Language and Occupational Therapy Services
- ★ School-wide social and emotional development program
- ★ Family School Wellness
- ★ Yes Program
- ★ Early Literacy Supports: both French and English
- ★ Individualized programming for diverse learners
- ★ Targeted supports and small group instruction within the classroom setting

# Supporting the development of the whole child

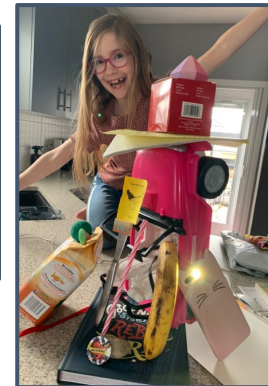
- ★ Excellent music program
- ★ Amazing Choir for grades 3-6
- ★ Vibrant library with an excellent collection
- ★ Regular Physical Education classes
- ★ Sports teams: grade 5 & 6 -basketball, volleyball, running club, badminton
- ★ Leadership opportunities: reading buddies, school patrol, snack shack, lunch monitors
- ★ Growth Mindset: when we make mistakes we grow our brains!!
- ★ Art Club and traveling art exhibits on display throughout the year
- ★ Artist in Residency programs

# Indigenous Learning and Supporting our Students

- ★ Grandfather's Teachings were done every Celebration Assembly & in classrooms
- ★ Orange Shirt Day
- ★ Staff Learning- local indigenous plants, dance, residential schooling, protocol
- ★ Visible symbols of inclusivity: a school for everyone



# We are incredibly proud of our ÉSWS Students and Staff!!





# Steffie Woima French Immersion Staff

At Steffie...

Our staff and who they are....

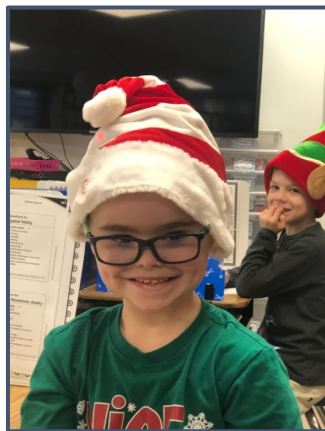
- Maridee Magas -Kindergarten
- Anessa Klessen -Grade one
- Wendy Purdie -Grade two
- Val Pare -Grade three
- Julie Smetaniuk -Grade four
- Becky Beagan -Grade five
- Jess McCoy -Grade six

Early Literacy Support -Nathalie Arnusch

EA Supports: Mme Richards, Mme Labelle, and Mme Nicole

# To Conclude

- ★ Our goal is success for every student.
- ★ Parents are valued as our partners in the education of children
- ★ Kindness, compassion, and positive relationships really matter
- ★ Excellent academic learning: continually improving and learning



# French Immersion in Sylvan Lake

French Immersion in Chinook's Edge school division started in 2000. Since then, the program has expanded to include the communities in Innisfail and Olds.

## French Immersion in Sylvan Lake:

- École Steffie Woima School K-6
- École Fox Run School 7-8
- École HJ Cody High School 9-12



# Benefits of Learning a Second Language

- Cognitive benefits
- Encourages travel
- Employment opportunities / Career advancement
- Builds appreciation of other cultures
- It is easier to learn a 3rd language
- Ability to connect to the cultures around them
- Unique opportunity to communicate with a wider range of people.
- Advanced critical thinking skills
- Promotes leadership skills



## Do I need to know French to enrol my child?

French Immersion is designed for students whose first language is not French, and whose parents do not typically speak French. Parent-teacher conferences, report cards, and correspondence between school and home is conducted in English. Teachers anticipate that most parents don't speak French and they tailor homework assignments accordingly.



## How can I help my child be successful in the French Immersion Program?



Our French Immersion parents in Chinook's Edge are highly engaged in their child's learning. Reading to their child in English, visiting the public library, enjoying community outings together and providing encouragement and support is all your child needs!

The school and community will offer opportunities for students to take their learning outside of the classroom, encouraging your child to participate in these events will help to promote their learning.

# Is French harder to learn than English?

No, French is not harder to learn than English.

In fact, there are reasons to believe that English is harder to learn, especially when it comes to reading and writing. There are many irregularities in English spelling and grammar that make reading English especially difficult. But for young learners, there is little difference between learning oral English or oral French; each language has relatively easy and relatively difficult aspects.



# When will my child learn English?

French Immersion students will begin their English Language Arts curriculum in grade 3.

Research shows that students in French immersion programs achieve the same levels of competence in English as students in English-only programs. This has been found for reading, writing, speaking and listening. Sometimes students in total immersion programs will have less English skills during the primary grades when all instruction is in French than students in the English program.

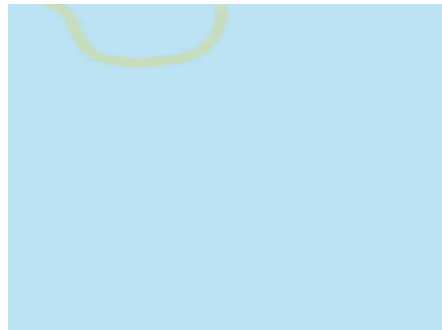
However, these differences usually disappear within one year of getting English language instruction. Immersion students usually catch up to their peers in the English program quickly because:

- The skills acquired when learning to read and write French transfer to English.
- They may have some experience reading and writing in English at home
- Children have to learn to read and write only once and then they can figure out how to read and write in another language, with support from their teachers.



# Our Students and Parents

Why I love French Immersion at Steffie Woima



Why we think other kids should come to Steffie Woima for French Immersion

# Welcome to the Kindergarten Classroom

## Mme Magas

- ★ Direct instruction balanced with play based programming
- ★ Gentle immersion to avoid frustration and stress (lots of visuals, routines, predictability...)
- ★ Centers meant to help children explore and discover through play
- ★ Role of music and song is critical when learning a second language
- ★ Relationships matter: student and parents
- ★ Kindness matters
- ★ Regular communication and individual conversations/texts/emails as needed
- ★ Laughter and fun set children up for a love of learning through exploration
- ★ Support and encouragement helps foster success and confidence which leads to further learning

PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING. BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY IS SERIOUS LEARNING. PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD.  
-FRED ROGERS

# Question and Answer

# Tour

Visiting spaces in our school:

1. Library
2. Student Success Room
3. Gymnasium

# Thank you!

