


Question Corner

Q – “I don’t speak French! How can I help my child with French as Second Language homework?” 

A –Parents of FSL students are not expected to know French. Although French is the language of the FSL class, communication between school and home is in English. Parents may use opportunities such as orientation to school, meet-the-staff night, and parent-teacher conferences to find out about the French program, homework expectations, and how to support children’s success. Homework completion can be monitored by checking home-school communications. Parents can help by providing a regular time and place for children to complete work at home. Making homework a routine part of after-school activity will help ensure that children do their homework assignments. Parents can also help to make homework a pleasurable experience by applauding their children’s efforts – for example, when they listen to their children read or practice oral French. Resources designed to assist parents can be found on-line. One example of an online resource is the *FSL Toolbox* (www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca/), which has a wealth of information for parents and offers practical tools for learning French, including videos and audio files. As well, the ministry (at www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc/) provides tips in several languages on a variety of ways to support children’s learning at home. 😊

Did you know??

Half of the world's population is now bilingual. In Europe, 19% are bilingual, 25% are tri-lingual and 10% speak 4 or more languages. It's time for us to look to the future and keep up with global trends!