

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 19 (REVELSTOKE)

TO: All Trustees

FROM: Mike Hooker, Superintendent of Schools

DATE: January 16th, 2013

INFORMATION: Early French Immersion Survey Results



In November, 2012, we began a process to determine the level of interest in an Early French Immersion program for students entering Kindergarten in September of 2013, September of 2014, and September of 2015. In addition, surveys were distributed to parents of students currently in Kindergarten, who will be entering grade one in September, 2013.

To ensure we were able to reach all those interested, the survey was posted on the district website; surveys were distributed to each mailing address (provided there was no restriction on “flyer” mail); online ads were placed with the Revelstoke Times Review and the Revelstoke Current; and parent contacts, Stephanie Melynyk and Vanessa Morrow distributed the survey throughout the community. A copy of each of the surveys is attached for reference.

The table below summarizes the information gathered to date.

Birth Year (Entry Year)	Fully knowledgeable about French Immersion and committed to enrolling my child in whatever school would be selected.	Fully knowledgeable about French Immersion and committed to enrolling my child as long as it is in my neighbourhood school which is:			Some information regarding French Immersion but wish more information. I am not fully committed at this point.	Surveys Returned
		AHE	BVE	CPE		
2008 (K 2013)	9		2		4	15
2009 (K 2014)*	13	1	6	1	4	25
2010 (K 2015)	11	1		2	8	22
Grade 1 (2013)	7		6	2	5	20

* For 2014, one parent indicated a preference for two schools, Begbie View Elementary and Arrow Heights Elementary. The preference was recorded on the chart above as Begbie View Elementary School.

Trustees will note that in 2008 a comprehensive French Immersion Program work plan was completed and remains available on the school district website. At that time, an initial cohort group of 19 students beginning Kindergarten in year 1 and 17 students in year 2 were identified. It was determined at that time that there were not sufficient numbers to implement an Early French Immersion Program.

The current surveys of children entering Kindergarten in 2013 have identified 15 respondents with a potential cohort of 11 students. At this time, it is not feasible to implement Kindergarten French Immersion in the fall of 2013. We will maintain the database and continue to work with Stephanie Melynyk and Vanessa Morrow to assess future possibilities.



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

School District No. 19 (Revelstoke)

Early French Immersion Survey

School District 19 (Revelstoke) is exploring the potential of offering Early French Immersion in the school district.

We are compiling a list of parents who have an interest in Early French Immersion. We wish to ensure that parents register their interest by completing the short information form on the back of this page.

Completed forms can be returned to Jeanette Magarian by email at jmagarian@sd19.bc.ca,
by fax at 250-837-9335
or dropped off at the School Board Office at 501 11th Street.

Please return this form by November 30th, 2012.

French Immersion Quick Facts:

- The French Immersion curriculum is exactly the same as the English curriculum. The only difference between the two programs is the language of instruction.
- Parents of children in French Immersion are not expected to understand or speak any French.
- Research has shown that French second-language education does not diminish math or English-language skills. In fact, studies suggest learning a second language can enhance cognitive and intellectual abilities.
- Currently, over 275,000 B.C. students are enrolled in French Immersion and this school year marks the 13th straight increase in French Immersion enrollment across the province.

What is French Immersion?

French Immersion is a Canadian educational program in which children study in French even though their first language is not French. Research shows that this is the most effective way for a child to become bilingual. It is offered through the public school system but only when parents express enough interest. In BC, Early Immersion starts in Kindergarten or Grade 1. In French Immersion all activities and learning during elementary grades are in French, except for English arts. Students who complete the program graduate with two secondary school diplomas.

Is French Immersion related to the new Francophone School?

No, French Immersion in Revelstoke should not be confused with the new “École des Glaciers” which is the Francophone school located at Arrow Heights Elementary. École des Glaciers is a separate school operated by a different school board called the Conseil Scolaire Francophone and available only to children with at least one Francophone parent.

Why should I choose French Immersion for my child?

Graduates of a full Immersion Program can expect increased appreciation of other languages and cultures, enhanced career potential, a greater facility for learning other languages as well as a more global view of Canada and the world.

More information is available on the Canadian Parents for French website at <http://www.cpf.bc.ca>.

French Immersion Interest Survey



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

School District 19 (Revelstoke) is currently exploring the viability of offering French Immersion within the district. If you have an interest in Early French Immersion for your child, please provide us with information that best describes your current situation.

- I am fully knowledgeable about French Immersion and committed to enrolling my child in whatever school would be selected.
- I am fully knowledgeable about French Immersion and committed to enrolling my child as long as it is in my neighbourhood school, which is _____.
- I have some information regarding French Immersion but wish more information. I am not fully committed at this point. The information that I would like is: _____.

My children would be entering Kindergarten in:

- 2013 (born in 2008) Child's Name: _____
- 2014 (born in 2009) Child's Name: _____
- 2015 (born in 2010) Child's Name: _____

This information will be critical in determining potential enrolment. Please return this information to the School District Office (address and fax number provided below) by November 30th.

I want to thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Anne Cooper
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Early French Immersion File



School District 19
(Revelstoke)

School District No. 19 (Revelstoke)

Early French Immersion Survey Parents of Kindergarten Students

School District 19 (Revelstoke) is exploring the potential of offering Early French Immersion in the school district.

Consideration may be given for a Grade 1 entry, in addition to a Kindergarten entry, if the Board proceeds in September, 2013

We are compiling a list of parents who have an interest in Early French Immersion. We wish to ensure that parents register their interest by completing the short information form on the back of this page.

Completed forms can be returned in the report card envelope or dropped off at the School Board Office at 501 11th Street or faxed to 250-837-9335 or emailed to jmagarian@sd19.bc.ca

Please return this form by December 14th, 2012.

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**French Immersion Interest Survey
Parents of Kindergarten Students**



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(Revelstoke)

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- I am fully knowledgeable about French Immersion and committed to enrolling my child as long as it is in my neighbourhood school, which is _____.
- I have some information regarding French Immersion but wish more information. I am not fully committed at this point. The information that I would like is: _____.

My child/children would be in Grade 1 in 2013:

- 2013 (born in 2007) Child's Name: _____

My children would be entering Kindergarten in:

- 2013 (born in 2008) Child's Name: _____
- 2014 (born in 2009) Child's Name: _____
- 2015 (born in 2010) Child's Name: _____

This information will be critical in determining potential enrolment. Please return this information to the School District Office (address and fax number provided below) by December 14th.

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Sincerely,



Anne Cooper
Superintendent of Schools

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