#### COMMON QUESTIONS ASKED BY PARENTS

#### Do parents need to be able to speak at home?

No, although parents should be willing to learn at home alongside their children. French Immersion is specifically designed for families whose first language is <u>not French</u>.

## How will the teacher communicate with my child in the early months of the program?

Your child's teacher will use visual aids, gestures, slower speech, and modeling to aid in language acquisition.

### What about achievement in mathematics and other subjects?

Years of testing indicate that an immersion student's performance in other subjects is equal to the performance of students not in an immersion program.

#### How will my child's English skills progress?

Studies have shown by Grade 7 most immersion students are equal to their peers in English Language Arts. English reading and spelling skills may briefly lag in the early intermediate grades, but parents can help by encouraging and valuing reading in English at home.



WHY FRENCH IMMERSION?

#### Benefits of French Immersion

- ✓ Instill a lifelong ability to communicate with French speaking people across Canada and around the globe
- ✓ Encourage an interest and foster an ability for learning other languages
- ✓ Enhance creativity and problem-solving ability
- ✓ Increase your child's understanding of and respect for other cultures
- ✓ Give your child access to a larger pool of information and to more educational and career opportunities

#### School District 52

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## French Immersion

AND YOUR CHILD

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS** 



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MR. MIKE MCDOWALL

(250) 624-6126

### ABOUT FRENCH IMMERSION

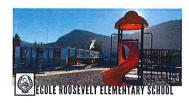
The French Immersion program has been in existence in School District No. 52 (Prince Rupert) since 1985. This vibrant alternative program offers students the opportunity to begin French language acquisition through immersion beginning in kindergarten or grade 1 (space permitting).

The program is available to School District No. 52 students who will be entering kindergarten or grade 1 (providing space is available). To enter kindergarten, children must be five (5) years of age or older on or before December 31. Registrations begin on February 1<sup>st</sup> each year for the following September.

It should be noted that there is no academic requirement or qualification to enroll a student in the French Immersion program. ANY student is eligible. In addition, the Ministry of Education's policy on French Immersion emphasizes that: "The major goal of French Immersion is to provide the opportunity for non-francophone students to become bilingual in English and French.

# WHERE DO MY CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL?

The French Immersion program begins with kindergarten at École Roosevelt Park Community School and goes through the end of Grade 5.



In Grade 6, like all other elementary students in School District 52, French Immersion students continue to Prince Rupert Middle School until the end of Grade 8.



To finish the French Immersion program, students attend Charles Hays Secondary.



# HOW MUCH INSTRUCTION IS IN FRENCH?

K: Phase into 100% Grade 1-Grade 4: 100% Grades 5: 90% **Grades 6-8**: 60% Grade 9: 3 Courses Grade 10-12: 2 Courses

When students graduate, students receive a "Double Dogwood"

(Bilingual Graduation Certificate)