

# Welcome to Maternelle!

2020-2021



Maple Grove Elementary School  
Lester B. Pearson School Board

# Dear Families,

We hope that this message reaches you well & healthy. Welcome to maternelle, Maple Grove's French Immersion Program for 5 year old children. We are very happy to welcome you and your child to our school, and we are looking forward to a year filled with play, learning, and discovery!

Given the current pandemic, we are waiting for more information regarding how the 2020-2021 school year will unfold. Please rest assured that no matter the situation, when the time comes, we will take every precaution to welcome your little ones into a safe and welcoming environment.

*\*In August\** the school will be sending you specific details about your child's progressive entry to school. In the meanwhile, the information in this document is designed to provide an early overview of the maternelle program. We're looking very forward to meeting you all!

*Mme Stéphanie, Mme Véronique, Mme Athena, Mme Erica, and Mme Laurelle*



# Progressive Entry

## What is a progressive entry?

For the first week of school, your child will follow a “progressive entry” schedule. This means that they will not attend full days of school right away. Rather, they will slowly be introduced to the routines of maternelle over the course of multiple days.

Progressive entry is designed to help ease children into school. “Big school” can be overwhelming, especially in the beginning. There are a lot of new routines to learn, new people to meet, and new rules to follow.

Breaking the transition to school into smaller amounts of time, over multiple days, helps to lighten the emotional and cognitive load on our young students.

This also means that for the first week of school, less maternelle students will be attending school at the same time. Teachers can therefore give more attention to individual students, easing the “back to school jitters” as they arise.

**\*You will receive your child’s progressive entry schedule in the August welcome letter\***

# French Immersion

## Maternelle French Immersion Program

In kindergarten, your child will follow a French Immersion program: 85% of instruction will be delivered in French. This means that throughout the day, lessons, activities, and projects will be done in French. Teaching during physical education classes and library periods will be done in English.

The kindergarten teachers use a variety of tools to help your child develop an understanding of the French language: Songs, stories, vocabulary lessons, and exposure to the French language help young students to develop early comprehension and communication skills.

If your child enters kindergarten without knowing how to speak in French, don't worry. We're here to help! In September, we take a bilingual approach to ease your child into school life. Making students feel comfortable and at ease during this important transition is our top priority during the first weeks of school. As time progresses, we gradually introduce more French into the program, focusing on helping students build comprehension skills and the ability to repeat common phrases in French (such as "Est-ce que je peux aller à la toilette?").

# August Letter

## What information can I expect to receive in August?

In August, the school will be mailing out more specific information regarding the 2020-2021 school year. In the August information, you will receive:

- Possible updates regarding the ever-unfolding COVID-19 situation.
- Your child's progressive entry schedule. The students will be divided into groups and will come to school on their specific days, at their specific times.
- Transportation information and a form for you to fill out about your child's regular after school routines (will your child be attending daycare after school, will they take the bus home at the end of the school day, or will they be picked up at the gate by a family member or guardian?). Please keep your child's after school routine as regular as possible. For example, if they attend daycare after school, it is best that they do so every day of the week.
- Ready Confetti Package!





# Ready Confetti!

“Ready Confetti” is a fun way to help calm your child’s jitters the night before their

*First Day of School.*

In August you will receive a package of confetti with instructions on how to use it.

Pro tip\* Keep the confetti in the baggie (or, enjoy confetti around your house for weeks!)

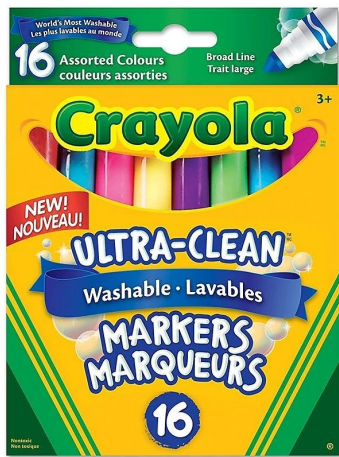


# School Supplies

What will my child need for maternelle?

The supply list will be posted on the Maple Grove website under "Information for parents" when it becomes available (<http://maplegrove.lbpsb.qc.ca/index.htm>).

- Please do not label your child's supplies (we will take care of it!)
- Some items are not obligatory but are highly recommended (such as a set of extra clothes and indoor shoes)



# The First Weeks of School

What will my child's first weeks of school entail?

During your child's first week of school, they will follow their progressive entry schedule.

- Your child will not be assigned a specific teacher before arriving in August. Throughout the first two weeks, they will be introduced to the different classrooms and the different kindergarten teachers.
- Your child will learn the routines of class.
- Your child will socialize with the other children in maternelle.
- Your child will work on simple craft projects.
- After the first two weeks of school, your child will be assigned a homeroom teacher and will remain in that class for the 2020-2021 school year. You will be officially notified of your child's placement.





# Maternelle Program



In maternelle, learning  
occurs through

# Play



# Maternelle Curriculum

In maternelle, children will develop the ability:



To perform sensorimotor  
actions  
(social development)



To affirm their personality  
(social development)



To communicate  
(language development)

# Maternelle Curriculum

In maternelle, children will develop the ability:



To complete a project  
(development of work  
habits)



To interact harmoniously  
with others  
(social development)



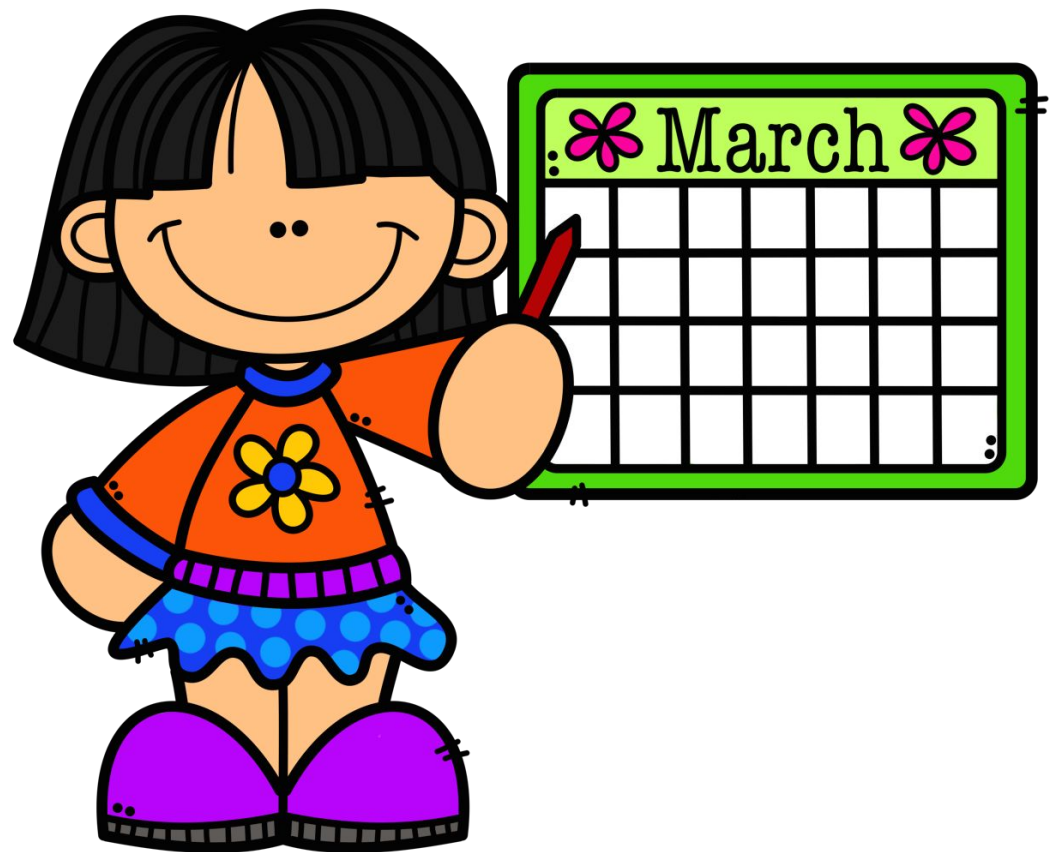
To construct their  
understanding of  
the world  
(cognitive development)



# Maternelle Curriculum

Children will develop these competencies through:

- Calendar activities
- Physical education
- Block and puzzle play
- Painting
- Writing
- Play-dough activities
- Pre-reading activities
- Early numeracy activities
- Music and singing
- Story time
- Science activities
- Free play
- Outdoor play



# I am in Kindergarten

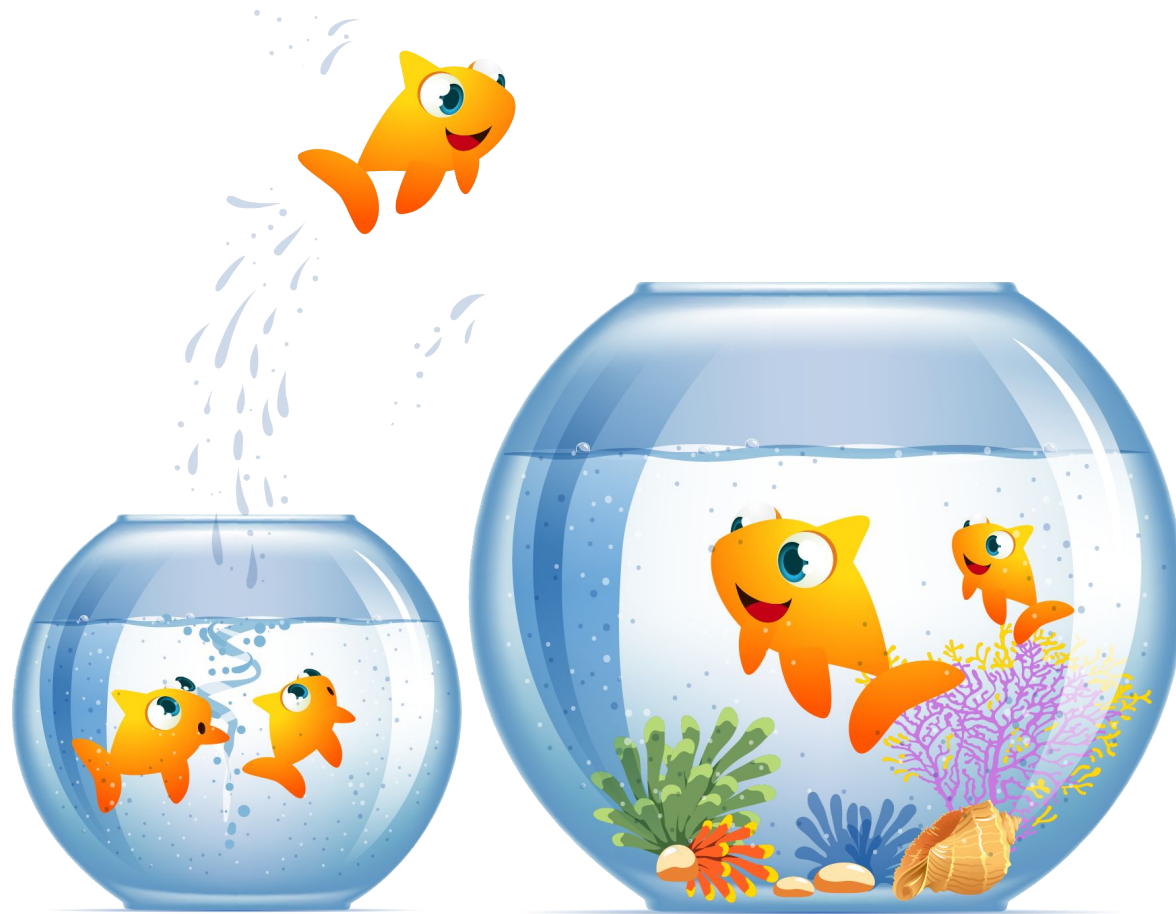
I am a risk taker and a mess maker.  
I am a confident doer of exciting things.  
I am not built for desk sitting.  
My busy brain craves action and novelty.

I am not as grown up as some people think.  
I am an observant seeker of attention.  
I need to play, move, and explore.  
Please don't rush my childhood.  
I am only 5.



# Smooth Transition

Helping your child transition to maternelle





# Smooth Transition

Is your child feeling ready? Anxious? Scared?  
Here are some tips before your child starts school

- Talk about school in a positive way; share your happy memories with your child.
- Read books about kindergarten.
- Foster your child's independence (for example, let them practice getting dressed).
- Start a regular routine in the week before school starts (move towards a "school year" routine, earlier bedtime, routine lunch and snack time).
- Access the online resources from the Lester B. Pearson School board:  
<https://sites.google.com/lbpearson.ca/esdresources/k4-k5>
- Have your child's hearing and sight checked before starting school.

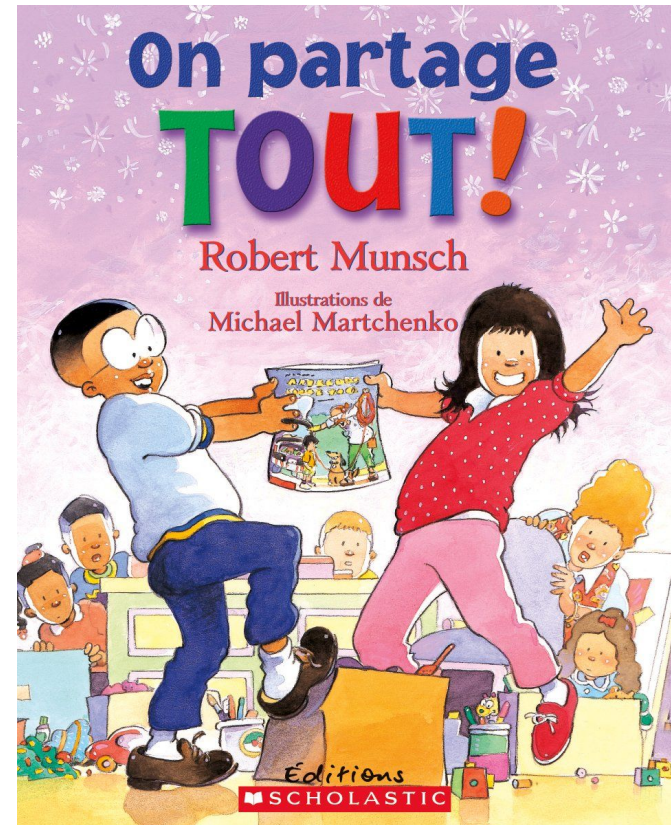
Don't worry... children come to school at different levels and learn in due time. We are here to help them, and you, through this transition.



# Reading about School!

French titles that address the transition to school

- La grande école : ton album de la rentrée, Josée Rochefort
- On partage tout! Robert Munsch
- Pas facile la rentrée, Manon Flibotte
- La rentrée de papa, Mike Wohnoutka
- La maternelle, Catherine Dolto



# Reading about School!

English titles that address the transition to school

- Monkey Not Ready for Kindergarten, Marc Brown
- Countdown to Kindergarten, Alison McGhee
- Kindergarten Rocks! Katie Davis
- Wemberly Worried, Kevin Henkes
- The Night Before Kindergarten, Julie Durrell

