



## Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada

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Greetings from Yaounde, Cameroon, where life is busy and God is good! As I sit down to write this, we have one week of school left before our March break. That means we just celebrated pi day! (As in,  $\pi = 3.14$ ). In grade 6, we celebrated by practicing calculating the circumference of circles from the radius or diameter... and then we ate pie, of course! It was oreo and it was delicious.

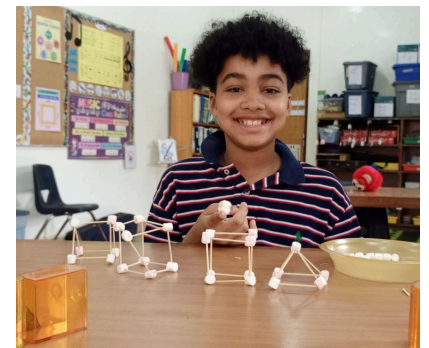


I'm a big believer in making learning hands-on and multisensory whenever possible, which in my classroom means we sing a lot of songs and eat candy. Case in point: the other day we listened to the parody "half it, baby" of *Call Me Maybe* to remember the formula for calculating the area of a triangle. The first time I played it, the kids all cringed and groaned. But then they asked me to play it on repeat while they did their worksheets and sang along! They can sing all the countries of the Middle East, the former USSR, Central America, or any other region of the world you might ask of them. We love social studies!

One of my happy childhood education memories was constructing geometric solids out of toothpicks and marshmallows, so I wanted to do that with my class, too. It turns out most of them had never done the activity before, and they had a great time! Especially since I let them eat a few of the marshmallows afterwards (and sent the rest home to avoid a sugar rush lol).

We've used candy strings to model how chromatins form into chromosomes for mitosis, sugar gummies to model how to sequence a missing half of a DNA strand using corresponding base pairs, and M&Ms to learn about data collecting, mean, median, mode, range, and various types of graphs. STEAM subjects don't have to be scary—they can be fun and delicious!

We also do a lot of reading and notetaking to prepare for middle school, but that's way less interesting to take pictures of to show you here.



Kayla Falkenholt March 2025

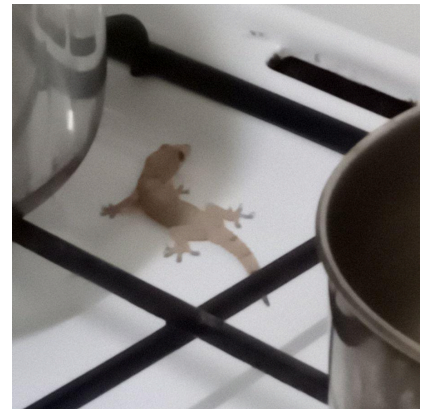


The big project I'm currently working on is preparing for the spring musical! That's right; I got permission to lead a school-wide musical for all students K-6. We're doing *It's Cool in the Furnace* by Buryl Red and Grace Hawthorne. The musical covers the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; their captivity from Judah up to their miraculous time in the fiery furnace.

We've been using music classes to learn the songs, and we're making good progress! My next task is to rewrite the script to expand it from 6 parts to at least 15. I also need to figure out whether I can recruit live music for the performance, or if I need to learn and record all of the accompaniment tracks myself. It's a lot of work, but the kids' excitement makes it all worth it!

I have a life outside of work, too! I continue to study French every day, and it's paying off. I no longer think twice about walking into a pharmacy, grocery store, print shop, or phone credit kiosk and communicating what I need.

Pictured to the side is one of my house geckos, Jarvis. I also have a smaller one which I named Friday. They're wild, but these geckos will sometimes choose a house to live in. It's actually a good thing! They eat various creepy crawlies that get into the house. Plus, they're pretty cute. The couple times a week they scurry across my path, I enjoy greeting them and knowing they're still alive and well.



I attend a single missionary ladies' dinner every Sunday, and have movie nights with friends on the compound.



Another recent development is that I've co-started a women's exercise group here on the missionary compound! It can be difficult to get out and exercise here when the sun sets at 6pm, and it's not a good idea to leave the compound alone after dark. So twice a week a few of us ladies have been gathering in living rooms to follow along to zumba videos and hold each other mutually accountable to take care of ourselves by moving our bodies. I'm already beginning to reap the physical and mental benefits of regular exercise.

Thank you to all of those who support me through prayer and finances. I couldn't possibly be here, doing this work, nurturing these children, without a whole team of you across the ocean, so thank you from me and the families of the 39 children from 5 countries that our school is supporting this year!