

CPF *Canadian Parents for French*

Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 2 - Spring 2005

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

Le Concours/Festival d'Art Oratoire

CPF congratulates the students and teachers who participated in the two French language Public Speaking Contests this year. The Separate School Board held its contest at St. Joseph Elementary School on February 17, 2005. The Public School Board held its contest at Dalewood Elementary School on March 24, 2005. Both events featured terrific speeches and made parents and teachers proud. CPF Hamilton-Wentworth was pleased to award book prizes to the following winners:

Separate School Competition

GRADE 4 IMMERSION

Stefan Cotoi - Sts. Peter & Paul

GRADE 5 IMMERSION

Bianca Soares - Sts. Peter & Paul

GRADE 6 IMMERSION

Emily Giacomelli - St. Eugene

GRADE 7 IMMERSION

Andrea Vanderlaan - St. Joseph

GRADE 8 IMMERSION

Reuben Kanya - St. Joseph

Public School Competition

GRADES 4 to 6 IMMERSION

Robin Jones - Dalewood

Tyler Auty - Ryerson

Jessica Kawamoto - Norwood Park

GRADES 7 & 8 IMMERSION

Jessica Doody - Norwood Park

Adrianna Sasuccio - Norwood Park

GRADES 7 & 8 CORE

FRENCH

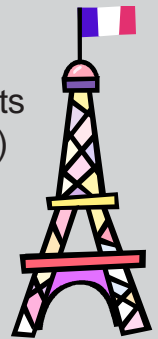
Sam Grolla - Green Acres

Sarah Wardrope - Green Acres

What's Next? Many of these winning students will go on to represent Hamilton at the Canadian Parents for French Provincial Level Concours which will be held at Glendon College in Toronto, on May 14, 2005. This friendly event is a chance for students to enjoy some French language entertainment, meet students from all parts of the province and polish their oral French skills. Bonne chance to everyone!

Curtain Call

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) and the Embassy of France are collaborating on a theatre contest which is open to Grade 11 & 12 students across Canada enrolled in French-second-language programs.



Teams of three students are asked to create an original theatrical play based on the theme "Cultural Differences and Tolerance", videotape their performance, and enter it for a chance to win a trip to France this summer. Visit www.cpf.ca/English/Parents/EmbassyContest.htm to find out more.

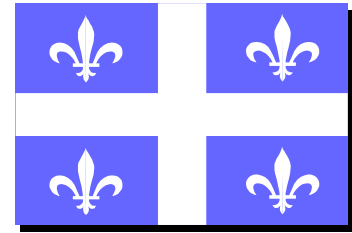
Esprit D'Ecole 2005

On February 25-27, CPF Ontario sponsored a leadership weekend for Grade 7 & 8 French immersion students, at the Lake St. George Conservation Area in Richmond Hill. The event, which was conducted entirely in French, featured snowshoeing, orienteering, winter survival skills, a scavenger hunt and a skit night.

According to surveys distributed to the over 60 students in attendance, a vast majority felt the program increased their interest in the French language. "Esprit d'école fulfilled an important objective, which was to significantly increase the number of students interested in attending a French immersion high school," said Elizabeth Verge, Executive Director of CPF Ontario. "If students have the opportunity to experience French in a fun and educational format, they are more likely to continue their French studies in the future."

Students from both Hamilton School Boards participated in the event – staying in cabins for two nights and meeting students from across the GTA. They enjoyed their weekend and had a great time in this scenic winter setting. We hope their interest in pursuing French studies in future years was increased.

Don't miss your chance for fun, travel and learning



SEVEC Update

This month CPF was delighted to hear that our Hamilton exchange group has been partnered with a SEVEC exchange group in the Beauce Region of Quebec.

Beauce is a scenic area bordering the Chaudière River and located about 15 kilometres south of Quebec City. SEVEC participants who want to know a little more about the area they will be visiting can tour the Beauce Region web site: www.destinationbeauce.com

The exchange will run between July 4 and July 15 when our Hamilton students will visit Beauce in time for the Quebec City Summer Festival, and between July 18 and July 29 when the Quebec students visit Hamilton. We have planned many exciting activities in both provinces.

CPF organizers have been busy since the new year. Over 100 fundraising letters have been sent to local businesses and service groups. We have submitted a request for a Provincial Trillium Grant and for a Federal Wage subsidy grant to help fund our

monitors and co-ordinators. Home interviews have begun to help with the matching process for each twin.

The four week program costs \$875. This works out to approximately \$220 per week a price similar to many residential summer camps. This includes all day trip activities and the cost of transportation to Quebec.

Information meetings will be held for interested students and their parents on **Tuesday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m.** at Glen Brae School gymnasium, 50 Secord Drive, Hamilton (near Queenston and Nash) and on **Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.** at St. Joseph's School gymnasium, 270 Locke St. S., Hamilton (near Aberdeen).

We still have some room for a few more SEVEC participants, so if you are interested, please contact Deborah Doody at 905-575-9687.

The exchange will not run again for at least three years, so don't miss your chance.



Public School Board Transportation Review Update

Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m.** to attend the next meeting of the HWDSB's Policy Review Committee. This Committee's members are considering bussing for French Immersion as well as other Programs of Choice.

The Sub-Committee will undertake the following process at its April 12th meeting:

- List all Board programs
- Describe the intent of each program
- Categorize or group the programs
- Discuss the provision of transportation to the program groups
- Discuss affordability and priority of transportation for various programs.

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth has prepared a formal submission to

the Policy Review Committee asking that French Immersion be considered for bussing. This March 3rd letter has been tabled by the Sub-Committee and the points raised in the letter



will be discussed during the debate on French Immersion.

During the question period at the March Sub-Committee meeting, CPF Hamilton-Wentworth requested clarification of the new Provincial funding formula as it relates to French Immersion

students. We noted that the Province had asked school boards for data on the distance from home to school for each student enrolled in the Board. We asked whether French Immersion students were therefore used in the calculation of the base transportation funding received by the Hamilton Board in 2004/2005. Board staff will research this question and report back at the April 12th meeting.

The meeting takes place at the School Board Offices on Main and Bay. There is free parking in the Board lot, if you explain to the attendant that you are going to this meeting. Please note that the Hamilton Wentworth Public School Board has some further information about the Transportation Review posted on their web site.

ARTFO Festival

The Hamilton French Centre is running its annual Arts Festival in April and the French Immersion community has been invited to join in and/or attend.

A Talent Show will be held on Friday April 29 at the Westdale High School Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. High School students can

register to take part in the show by visiting the Centre Français web site www.centrefrancais.ca under the categories of song, dance, and instrumental music. Admission to the show is as follows: 13 years and younger – free, 14 to 18 years - \$2.00 and adults - \$5.00

The Arts Festival continues on Saturday April 30, at 10 a.m. with

a French book show featuring various authors and storytellers, an art show and several visual art and writing workshops. This free event takes place at the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce: 555 Bay Street North. Everyone is welcome! For more information, you can call the Centre Français at 905-547-5702. Don't worry - they speak English too!



Étienne Concerts

On February 23 and 24, over 2,000 Hamilton French Immersion and Core French students rocked to the sounds of Étienne. The infectious music had the kids jumping and dancing in their seats. Several schools prepared dance routines which they performed with Étienne on stage. Teachers plugged their ears and grinned as the students shouted out the lyrics and rapped French grammar.

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth was happy to bring this show to Hamilton and pleased with the level of support shown for the event by both School Boards. A special thanks to Bishop Ryan High School for reducing our rental fees and allowing us to bring this show to students in the east end of the city.

French Opera in Hamilton

“Carmen” is coming to Hamilton Place. Presented by Opera Hamilton on April 16, 21 and 23. All performances start at 8 p.m. Sung in French with projected English subtitles. Indulge in the fiery rhythms of Georges Bizet’s *tour de force*.

Potluck Supper

A French Immersion family potluck supper will be held on Thurs., May 12 from 6 - 8 p.m. at Westdale High School. This is a chance for Public Board French Immersion families to socialize and enjoy student presentations. For more information, contact Glenna Noad at 905-648-8838.

Homework Tip: All About Becherelles

What is it?

A becherelle is a French verb book, published in various forms, and is a useful study tool in addition to your child’s French dictionary.

Why use it?

To identify the conjugations for various verbs so that you know the correct ending or form of the word to use in a sentence depending on the tense or the person performing the action.

How to use it?

At the front of the becherelle, the most commonly used French verbs are listed alphabetically, one verb per page, and conjugated in all persons and tenses. (eg: manger (to eat): je mange, tu manges, il mange, elle mange, nous mangeons, vous mangez, ils mangent.)

If the verb you are looking up is not among these common verbs, you will find it in the list of additional verbs at the back of the becherelle. The additional verb list will tell you which of the commonly used verbs is conjugated in the same way as the verb you are looking for. You then look up the common verb at the front of the becherelle and apply the same ending to your verb.

Where to get it:

You can purchase a becherelle at most French book stores, both in person or on the internet. Ask your child’s French teacher to recommend a publisher.