



CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

CPF Presents: French Immersion Survival Night

If you are thinking of enrolling your child in French Immersion or are a parent of a child in French Immersion, you will not want to miss this presentation! Tips and resources to help your child succeed in French Immersion will be presented by the Hamilton-Wentworth chapter of CPF at its Annual General Meeting.

This presentation will be most beneficial to parents of children in primary/ junior grades. Join us on:

**Wednesday May 14, 2008 at 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's School
270 Locke Street South, Hamilton**

Admission is free, Everyone welcome.

The following topics will be featured:

- Easy French Pronunciation
- Dealing with Dictée
- How to Help with Homework when you don't speak French
- French Resources and Activities outside of School
- French Materials at the Hamilton Public Library
- Summer fun and camps in French

Refreshments.

Draw Prizes for new and existing CPF members.

Supervised games in the gym for school-age children. (Please e-mail us to reserve a space for your child: cpfhamilton@hotmail.com)

'Gotta love that French' ... A SUCCESS!

Each year CPF Hamilton-Wentworth tries to provide an opportunity for a French activity outside of the classroom; and for the past 4 years it has been in the form of a French musical concert. This year we were able to present a show with a difference; 'Gotta love that French' took the form of a live TV show.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from Huntington Park School after their show in March:
"The show Gotta Love That French! Truly lived up to your mission statement, which is to "entertain, educate and inspire". All of our Grade 4, 5 and 6 students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. Even the students who were hesitant about coming to the show were totally engaged and willingly volunteered to participate in the various acts on stage. The themes of the show complement the language and cultural themes already taught in the FSL classrooms. We highly recommend this presentation to our colleagues in the Hamilton area. We hope to have you back again soon."

Hélène Nicole brought her performance to over 10 schools, and by the end of her Hamilton Tour will have helped 2200 students fall in love with French. Her show allowed student participation at all levels and at every age, and gave us a better understanding of 'Winter Carnival' in this the 400th anniversary of Quebec. Merci Hélène!



Some French Immersion Public School Sites Still Seeking Students

Parents in Ancaster are continuing to work for a French Immersion site at Fessenden School for September 2008. The Senior Kindergarten enrollment to-date has not yet reached the 30 to 40 students required by the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, but parents are hoping some additional promotion will put them over the top. Please contact Ying Chan at 905-304-6322 for more information about Ancaster Parents for French. Contact Fessenden school at 905-648-4115 for information about how to register your child.

An additional French Immersion information night will be held at Lawfield School (45 Berko Drive) on Tues., May 13th to promote the new French Immersion program. The session will run from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Parents in Upper Stoney Creek and the East Mountain can contact Lawfield to register for Senior Kindergarten at 905-387-0062.

News From the Catholic Board

At present the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic School Board is in the process of an Accommodation Review, which takes into consideration questions such as declining enrolments, overcrowding, facility needs and programming, financial realities, aging buildings and the need for new facilities. The Board was proposing to initiate a French Immersion Attendance Area Review, related to the appropriateness of the location of the existing programs. However, it has been reported that due a lack of Board personnel this part of the review has been put "on hold".

Welcome to Monsieur Crandall who has been appointed the Special French (Immersion) Resource teacher for the Board. Dan Crandall has replaced Maria Brenyo who held the position for 1 ½ years. It had been the intent of the Board to provide two ½ time Resource teachers, however the position for the Core French has not been filled to date.

Hamilton Reads in French!

On Saturday, January 26th, there was a "Hamilton Reads" event at the Westdale Public Library. The author at this event, Brigitte Cazabon, was sponsored by CPF. Ms. Cazabon, a French children's author, read four of her books to a group of kids from pre-school to grade four. The books were called, "Pour préparer un salad au fruits, il te faut...", "Je prépare une hamburger.", "Dans mon aquarium je vois...", and "En avion je rencontre..."

Brigitte got the kids involved in the books by offering hands-on pages with pictures on them. She also encouraged the kids to speak in French by asking them what was being said on each page. At the end of the session she handed out coloring books based on her "En avion je rencontre..." The session was enjoyable for both children and parents.

Article and photo by Christina More - Ryerson Middle FI Student



French Camp Comes to Stoney Creek!

Help your children to keep and use their French over the summer!

CPF is thrilled to be sponsoring a full French camp in Stoney Creek this year! Camp "En français s.v.p.!" offers children a mix of fun and educational activities. Located at the Lion's Hall off Sherwood Park, near Barton and Fruitland, the venue provides the space for active learning indoors and out. We will start every day with a structured time where we will review general spoken French (i.e.- the weather, the calendar, etc.) THEN we will all board an imaginary plane with homemade passports in hand and "visit" various French speaking provinces, and countries. This will allow the children to see the French language around the world and explore various cultures through music, special guests, games, crafts, sports, etc.

There will also be an outdoor component to the day where fun camp style cooperative games will be played. Wacky science activities (have you ever made your own rocket?) and arts and crafts will also be a part of the daily routine. **AND ALL IN FRENCH!!!**

The camp is organized and run by certified French Immersion teachers. It will be open to children entering SK to Grade 4 -French Immersion and Core French.

Need more information? Come to the OPEN HOUSE at the Camp Location on April 10th between 6-8pm and have your questions answered OR call 905-537-8586 for further details.

SESSION 1 Monday, July 21 to Friday July 25, 2008

SESSION 2 Monday, July 28 to Friday August 1, 2008

\$175.00/week (CPF members \$150.00/Week)

Camp Runs from 9a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Before and after Camp care NOT Provided)



SEVEC Exchange 2008

The excitement is building for the July 2008 trip to Quebec City. Comprehensive one-hour interviews were completed with each of the 45 participants in January and February. Students were asked about their likes, dislikes and social skills in order to obtain the best match possible with their Quebec counter-parts. Family references have been called, and police check forms are being submitted. The Beauport organizers are continuing to interview their students, and we expect the twinning will take place in April.

CPF exchange organizers have booked the buses for our excursions and have made deposits on our activities. At this point, our Ontario schedule is as follows:

Wednesday July 10 - travel back to Hamilton with the Quebec students

Thursday July 11 - beach day at Port Dover

Friday July 12 - Ontario Science Centre in Toronto

Saturday & Sunday - weekend with the host families

Monday July 14 - Niagara Falls Butterfly Conservatory, Maid of the Mist and Behind the Falls

Tuesday July 15 - Toronto Eaton Centre and Tall Ship Cruise

Wednesday July 16 - Wild Waterworks at Confederation Park

Thursday July 17 - Talent Show and Pot Luck with participating families

Once the twinning has been completed, we hope to get the Hamilton students together for a couple of social events so they can get to know one-another before the bus leaves for Quebec on June 30. If you have any questions, please visit our web site.

Hamilton Student Wins CPF Provincial Competition

Grade 10 Westdale Secondary School student, Helena Rakic was one of five successful winners in the Canadian Parents for French Encounters with Canada Contest. Helena prepared a this beautiful poster commemorating Quebec City's 400th anniversary. She has won an all-inclusive trip to Ottawa to attend a week-long Encounters with Canada Youth Forum.

The Encounters with Canada Forum sends 130 Canadian students to the Terry Fox Canadian Youth Centre in Ottawa for a week. While in Ottawa, the students will go on guided tours, visit local attractions and participate in group discussions and multimedia presentations.

Helena is excited to have won this CPF contest. Her poster contains symbols of Quebec City including the horse drawn carriage, buskers, bonhomme and the city wall and includes figures from the past and present which show the evolution of Quebec's people over time. "I definitely want to go on with my French studies" says Helena. She visited Quebec City in 2005 with the CPF Hamilton-Wentworth SEVEC exchange. She also plans to go on a three month exchange next year to France, and eventually wants to attend a French language university program and become a French teacher specializing in art. Congratulations Helena!



Rendez-vous de la Francophonie

2008 marks the 10th Anniversary of Les Rendez-vous de la Francophonie. This annual event is organized by the Federal Government so that francophones throughout the civil service can celebrate their culture and contributions. For those employees for whom French is a second language, the event introduces the many programs and educational opportunities available to facilitate becoming truly bilingual.

While essentially an 'in house' event, the local committee invites organizations in the community whose raison d'être is to promote French language skills and services to participate. As one of these, CPF Hamilton-Wentworth had a booth at the Hamilton

celebration on March 19th. During the course of the event, it was gratifying to speak to several young Anglophone civil servants who became bi-lingual through French Immersion programs in the schools and to others who were sending their children through French Immersion programs because they know the opportunities that fluency in French will open up for them as adults. All in all, the event made clear that la Francophonie is a vibrant part of the Hamilton and area scene.

Hamilton Participates in Espirit 2008

Maggie Sampson, Holly Laroche and Rebecca Butkevicius; are three Grade 7 students from St. Joseph Elementary School who participated in this year's CPF Espirit leadership camp at Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.

The three students and the designated 'Carpool mom No. 1' made the 2 hour drive to Barrie early on the Friday, so that they could take advantage of some skiing before they 'checked-in' at 7:45 pm.

Once at camp the three girls joined students from across the Province in a weekend of activities, ALL IN FRENCH! They watched movies, did team building games, performed skits, went snow shoeing; but it seemed to be agreed that the cross country skiing was the most fun.

"There was so much French, that I came home speaking it non-stop" .. When asked if they would do it again "Oh yeah, we want to go again next year!"

"Carpool mom No. 2" picked the girls up on the way home from her ski-trip Hmmm sounds like there was a parent ski camp in the neighbourhood.

CPF Ontario runs the camp each year in February, and it is open to students in Grades 7 & 8,



French Public Speaking Contests

On February 28th the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board held the Board Finals of the French Oral Communication Contest, Concours oratoire at Dalewood Middle School. The judges for the event were:

- M. Alexandre Sévigny - professor at McMaster University
- Mlle Mathilde Danet - intern at McMaster University
- Mme. Linda Morressi - retired HWDSB Teacher

In the morning speakers in the Core French category held forth before their friends and family as well as the judges and their teachers. The winners were:

- Junior:**
- 1st - Eric Lula
 - 2nd - Alex Drake
 - 3rd - Julia Bryson
- Intermediate:**
- 1st - Lucia Krivankova
 - 2nd - Alison Mitro
 - 3rd - Jane Masterman

In the afternoon, French Immersion students were featured. The moderator for the afternoon was teacher Ginette Bromhead who introduced each student and kept the competition moving forward. Before the judges' decisions were announced, Ms. Bromhead made a point of congratulating all the speakers on the quality of their grammar and sentence structure. The subjects researched had been varied and complex and all the speakers demonstrated a real facility in French. Similarly, the responses to M. Glenn Corriveau's questions were impressive. Lisa Robson, our new French Superintendent, commented that she was "extremely impressed" by the "high level of answers" all the students gave.

The winners in the Immersion category were:

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|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Junior: | 1st - Kristen Chindemi | Intermediate: | 1st - Stefan Cotoi |
| | 2nd - Harry Twyford | | 2nd - Ben Csiernik |
| | 3rd - Sarah McCall | | 3rd - Hannah Simpson |

The first place winners will represent Hamilton at the Provincial Festival to be held on May 10th at Glendon College in Toronto. Bonne chance des tous!

Next year the board will be adding a third category to the annual Concours oratoire at the Elementary level. The new category will be called "Extended French" and has been created for those students who have previous Immersion experience, but are now in Core French programmes.

Cathedral Secondary School will be sending 5 students to the provincial competition, which they entered for the first time last year - the High school level is competitive, so 'bon chance' to the following students:

- Michelle Leach
- Emily Gula
- Cynthia Laroque
- Natasha Laroque
- Rebecca Mukuma

Contact Us

Be sure to visit the CPF Hamilton-Wentworth website at www.hwcn.org/link/hwcpf for information about our upcoming events, resources for FI parents or to become a CPF member.