



CPF *Canadian Parents for French*

Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 4 - Fall 2006

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

Canadian Parents for French Book Sale and Trade Show back by popular demand

CPF's yearly book sale features a wide variety of French materials from the Librairie Champlain Bookstore in Toronto. French dictionaries, novels, videos, posters, bescherelles, greeting cards, non-fiction resource materials, music cassettes, magazines and games will be available for purchase. Start Christmas shopping early! Cash, MasterCard, or Visa. CPF Members will receive a 5% discount on all book sale purchases!

When:
Thursday, November 23rd - 3 to 7 p.m.

Where:
Norwood Park School Gym
165 Terrace Drive, Hamilton
(Upper James & Mohawk)

Have you ever wondered what Hamilton has to offer French Immersion students? Come to our 2nd annual French Trade Show and find out.

Representatives from French summer camps, student exchange programs, French language entertainment, work programs, francophone organizations, and even French post-secondary school

programs will be there to answer all your questions about the French services available in Hamilton.

Students, parents and teachers - take advantage of this opportunity to learn about the terrific opportunities French language learning creates!



Above: There will be plenty to choose from at the upcoming French book sale and trade show.



French Immersion parents have input

CPF is working hard at the national and provincial levels to increase parent input into French Second Language (FSL) education and decision making. At the local level, Hamilton parents have the opportunity to meet with board officials in the following forums:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board - French Immersion Advisory Committee (FIAC) meets four times a year to discuss French Immersion program and accommodation issues. Meetings take place at the Education Centre (100 Main Street West) and are open to the public. The next FIAC meeting is on November 22nd at 7 p.m.

Hamilton Wentworth Catholic School Board - CPF Hamilton-Wentworth has been working with the Catholic school board to create a mechanism for parent input on French Immersion.

The second Meeting for French Immersion Parents will take place on November 27th at 7 p.m. at the Nicholas Mancini Centre, 44 Hunt Street. Parents are encouraged to attend and show their support. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Us

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

2006 State of French Second Language Education in Canada Report Released

The State of French Second Language Education in Canada reports are annual assessments by CPF of how well French second language (FSL) programs are faring across Canada. The major focus of the 2006 report is evaluating progress toward the main goal of the Government of Canada's Action Plan for Official Languages, which is to double the proportion of functionally bilingual high school graduates by 2013.

The 2006 report provides a review of FSL support in each province. For Ontario, one of the most significant challenges is the shortage of qualified FSL teachers. Another challenge is the issue of access to French immersion programs. Not every board of education offers French immersion and transportation to the program is not always provided.

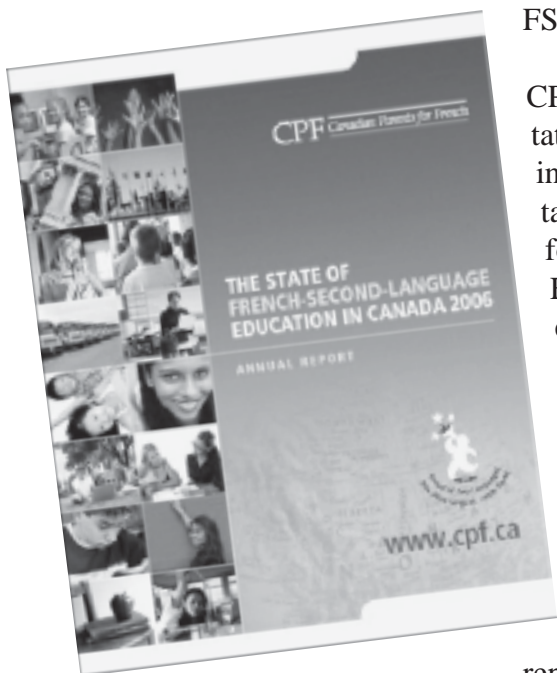
A third issue for Ontario involves program quality. Currently there are no guidelines on how to deliver French immersion and different boards have different standards for the number of hours of instruction and for the point of entry. The final issue identified for Ontario is the need for FSL programs to be sustained by a full spectrum of services, including special education and literacy supports.

Over the next year, Canadian Parents for French will be advocating at the national and provincial levels for stringent accountability measures:

- reporting on the end use of Official Languages funds;
- reporting on compliance with Ministry FSL policies and guidelines; and
- for the involvement of parents in FSL education decision-making.

CPF is also advocating for consultation with FSL stakeholder groups in the development and implementation of measures for student performance and participation in French Second Language education. CPF wishes to ensure that FSL education policies and practices reflect the views of the wider FSL stakeholder community.

The 2006 edition of the CPF State of French Second Language Education in Canada report can be downloaded from the CPF national website at www.cpf.ca.



Keys to French made available in student agendas

One of the major roles of Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth is the promotion of French language education in Hamilton. This fall, over 1500 students in the public and separate school boards have been part of a CPF funded initiative to include the Keys to French insert within student agendas in order to promote their use of the French language.

CPF Hamilton Wentworth has paid the copyright fee to the publisher, and students at Norwood Park, St. Eugene, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph schools are participating in this initiative. The Keys to French is an excellent reference and study guide, which when bound into the agenda, is readily accessible to students.

If your children attend one of the participating schools, look for the Keys to French in their agenda and encourage them to use it:

- as a classroom aid
- as a self-study guide at home
- to check and correct work
- to find useful ideas and vocabulary for compositions or projects
- as a ready-to-use study sheet when reviewing for tests.

Teachers and Students: mark your calendars for the return of Greg LeRock!

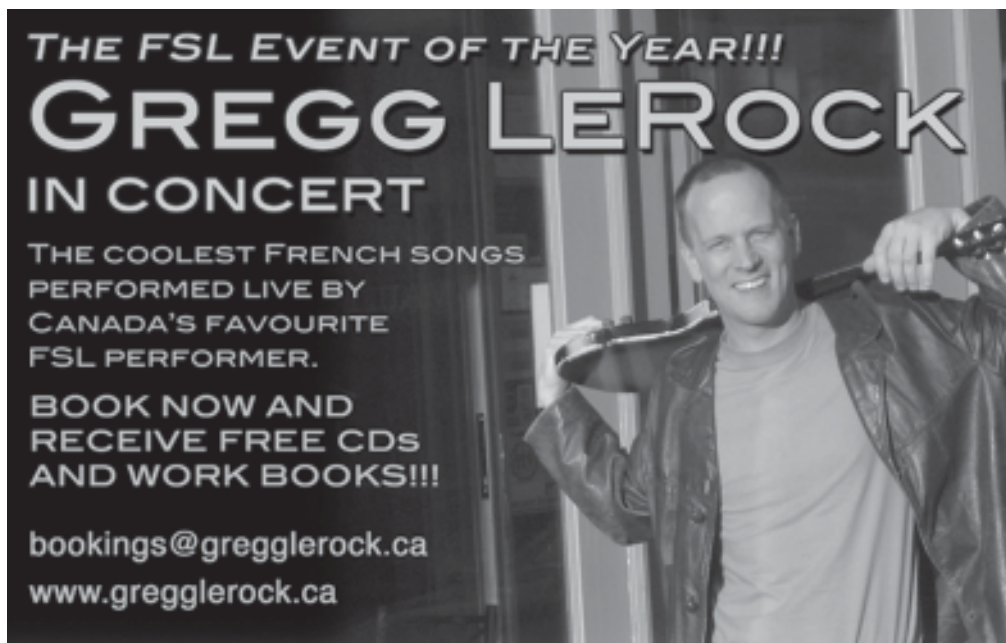
Gregg LeRock is coming back to Hamilton! Two locations, four great shows:

Bishop Ryan Secondary School,
50 Albright Road
Thursday, February 15, 2007
2 shows - 10 a.m and 1 p.m.

George P. Vanier Secondary School,
100 Macklin St. N.
Thursday, February 22, 2007
2 shows - 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Grade 1 to 6 French Immersion and Core French students. Tickets are \$6 with each school receiving a complimentary, curriculum-based CD study guide so that students will be able to learn the songs in advance. bookings@gregglerock.ca

Presented by CPF Hamilton-Wentworth.



THE FSL EVENT OF THE YEAR!!!
GREGG LEROCK
IN CONCERT
THE COOLEST FRENCH SONGS
PERFORMED LIVE BY
CANADA'S FAVOURITE
FSL PERFORMER.
BOOK NOW AND
RECEIVE FREE CDS
AND WORK BOOKS!!!
bookings@gregglerock.ca
www.gregglerock.ca

Shortcuts for typing common French Accents in Microsoft Word or Outlook

(Type the code and then the required vowel in either upper or lower case.)

Accent acute: type **CTRL " ' "** then type the vowel... **é á ý ó Ú Í**

Accent grave: type **CTRL `** then type the vowel... **è à Ò Ì ù**

Accent cedilla: type **CTRL ,** then type c... **ç Ç**

Accent circumflex: type **CTRL SHIFT 6** then type the vowel **ê î Ô Û**

More Funding for French Education!

In March 2006, Ontario school boards were invited to apply for \$7.8M in funding for French Second Language Programs. This funding was contributed by the Government of Canada to help achieve their Action Plan goal of doubling the proportion of secondary school graduates with a functional knowledge of their second official language. Both Hamilton-Wentworth school boards were successful in their applications for additional 2006 FSL funding which was used for the following initiatives:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board - 2006 Additional Funding Received: \$174,783 for elementary and secondary classroom and teacher resources and professional development, afterschool reading club books for FI and Core French, daily physical activity French flipchart

Hamilton-Wentworth Separate School Board - 2006 Additional Funding Received: \$105,627 for elementary FI teacher and classroom resources and professional development, secondary FI classroom resources, partial salary for French Resource consultant.

In June, the Ministry of Education invited Ontario school boards to apply for the remaining \$28M of funding to be allocated over the next three years. Applications were to be submitted by the end of September. The additional funds must result in the expansion or enhancement of FSL programs and be sustainable beyond the funding period. CPF-HW will continue to monitor the status of these funding applications.

French Immersion Accommodation Issues at the Public Board

There are over 300,000 children involved in French Immersion across Canada. Enrolment in FI has increased by 2.5% over the past 3 years. In Ontario, over 115,000 students are enrolled in French Immersion. Enrolment in FI has increased by 0.5% over the past two years. Interest in French Immersion is still strong and enrolment is growing.

At the Hamilton-Wentworth public board there are approximately 1,800 French Immersion students accommodated in 8 elementary schools and 1 secondary school. This number has increased from 1,300 in 2002 - an increase of 38% - compared with the 2.5% national figure.

A 38% increase in program participation is a real success story for the Hamilton-Wentworth Public

School Board. However, there are two issues that CPF believes should be addressed in the near future:

- accommodation pressure on existing French Immersion schools; and
- access to French Immersion for students in the former Wentworth Board.

On October 16, 2006, CPF Hamilton-Wentworth made a presentation to the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board requesting their consideration of the expansion of the French Immersion program in Hamilton. Presentations were also made by Waterdown and Dundas Parents for French Immersion who asked the Board to open new programs in the outlying areas of Hamilton-Wentworth.



These requests were directed to staff for a report back to the full Board of Trustees. Although there was no timing attached to the staff direction, several trustees verbally requested that the report on French Immersion Accommodation address all three of the delegations and that it be completed in a timely fashion to allow for the possible expansion of the FI program by September 2007.

All trustees supported the motion, and many of them professed their support for French Immersion.

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth will continue to advocate for an expansion to the French Immersion program in the public board and will keep parents advised.

Get ready for summer camp in French!

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth was happy to be able to promote two new French summer camps in 2006.

Camp Dove La Colombe was held over seven weeks in July and August at George P. Vanier secondary school. Participants enjoyed swimming, sports, language lessons and games in a full French environment.

Camp Creatif took place over one week in July. This camp was all

about arts and crafts in an expressive French environment. Painting, sculpting and print-making were all enjoyed by a lively group of enthusiastic children.

CPF plans to work with camp organizers over the winter to ensure that a quality French camp experience is offered in Hamilton in the summer of 2007.



Above: Children express themselves in French and through art!