



CPF Hamilton-Wentworth

Join us for a picnic in the park - en français!

The Centre Français Hamilton invites families of French Immersion students and students studying Core French to attend their annual Saint-Jean Festival picnic (Le festival de la Saint-Jean Baptiste.) The event features a wide range of French language family entertainment and it's all free!

Activities include:

- Kids arts and crafts
- La Chango Family Band
- Bingo (en français.)
- Junior Belzile (children's performer)
- Organized games and races

Come out and show your children that French is a living language –right here in Hamilton!

Sunday, June 26
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Gage Park, Hamilton

The event takes place in an informal picnic setting. Bring your own blankets or chairs. Come visit the Canadian Parents for French (CPF) booth -- free cotton candy for CPF members!



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.

Keys to French student agenda insert ready for September

One of the major roles of Canadian Parents for French Hamilton-Wentworth is the promotion of French language education in Hamilton.

For the 2006-2007 school year, we are encouraging the use of French language student agendas for French Immersion elementary and middle school students, so as to promote their familiarity and use of the French language.

As an incentive to French Immersion schools who use a French language agenda, CPF Hamilton-Wentworth is paying the copyright fee for the insertion of the "Keys to French" reference tool. The Keys to French is an 8 page comprehensive reference and study tool, which when bound into the agenda, will always be readily accessible to students.

At press time, we are happy to report that students at St. Eugene, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Joseph schools will benefit from this offer in the next school year.

Public School bussing update



A school bus to transport French Immersion students to school waits outside of Norwood Park.

History was made in January 2006, when bussing for public French Immersion (FI) schools was provided for the first time in the program's 30 year history. Five months later, Superintendent Krys Croxall is pleased to report that the preliminary budget for the 2006/2007 school year continues to include funds for FI transportation.

Superintendent Croxall cautions that the budget will not be final until provincial grants are announced later in June –but at this point, it looks as if FI transportation at central pick-up points will be offered again in September 2006.

The provision of bussing has already had a positive effect on FI enrolment for the coming school year. Schools such as GR Allen, Glen Echo and Norwood Park are experiencing record registration numbers as parents from outlying areas are able to access the program more easily. CPF Hamilton-Wentworth contacted the Ministry of Education in May and was disappointed to learn that the new Transportation Funding Formula is still not finalized. Parents are urged to contact their MPP to ensure that full funding of FI transportation is specified in the new transportation formula.

Discover French programs at the Hamilton Public Library

Books on-line

People can access the Hamilton Public Library's website at www.hpl.ca then click on "Kids" (left side navigation) and click on "Good Books". Tumble Books are on-line children's books that can be accessed with your library card and read on the computer. Users can read the instructions and book descriptions in English but click on "Language Learning" to view the books in French. The books are read aloud and the text is highlighted as the book is read so this is a great tool for children learning French.

French Rhyme Time

A weekly program for parents and young children focusing on sharing music and rhymes en français. Ages birth to 6 years Wednesdays from 2 to 3 p.m. July 5 to August 30 except for the week of August 9. Presented by the Hamilton West Ontario Early Years Centre in the Children's Department at the Central Branch of the Hamilton Public Library. To register or for more information call 905-521-0926.

Trip to France brings history to life

"A beach like no other" - those words accurately describe Juno Beach, the site of the WWII's infamous D-Day landing. The impact of seeing both the beach and the Canadian War Cemetery brought into focus the history and geography that senior French Immersion students at Westdale Secondary School had learned.

Part of a memorable trip to Paris, Normandy, and Brittany, the overseas excursion was a chance for FI students to put their language skills to good use.

Teacher, Graham Timms, says that experiences like the school trip to France often inspire students to revisit Europe. Some might even continue their education overseas, which is one sure way to become fluently bilingual.

Timms explains that Westdale runs the trip to France every second year, primarily for French Immersion students. "Students are obliged to speak French," he claims, "and they realize both how much they know and how much more they need to learn to become fluent."

The trip this year took place in December and January, and 36 students got the chance to spend a memorable New Year's Eve in Paris. Not a bad idea!



Grey skies cast a sombre mood on Juno Beach.

CPF Hamilton Wentworth Annual General Meeting

All CPF members are invited to the Annual General Meeting. Learn how your local Chapter is working to promote and enhance French language education in Hamilton. After the meeting, join us for refreshments and live music provided by L'Esprit de l'Escalier.

Our Chapter meeting will be highlighted by a presentation by chairperson, Kaywana Gargarello who will tell you about the lobbying efforts, events and other activities by CPF on behalf of the French Immersion programs in both the Hamilton-Wentworth Public and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Boards.

After the presentation, you are invited to meet chapter members and enjoy the music of L'Esprit de l'Escalier.

The band is made up of seven Hamilton parents with children in French Immersion. The band members are enthusiastic fans of rock and pop with a repertoire that spans four decades. But they are happiest playing anything that makes you clap your hands, get up and dance. They look forward to sharing their enthusiasm for music with you at the Staircase on June 8, 2006. For that night they will truly be L'Esprit de l'Escalier!

When:

Thursday, June 8, 2006

Agenda:

Business - 7 to 8 p.m.

Social with live entertainment -

8 - 10 p.m. at the Staircase Café
27 Dundurn Street North, Hamilton

St. Eugene's French Immersion teacher enjoys learning along with students

Dan Crandall's classroom hums with activity. A French Immersion teacher for 7 years, Dan Crandall switches easily from French to English as he chats about his teaching experience, keeping one eye on his busy grade 5 and 6 students.

Crandall teaches at St. Eugene School in east-Hamilton. He is a graduate of McMaster and Western Universities and enjoys seeing his students "stretch their brains" as they formulate sentences in French. "Learning to speak French gives kids confidence," he explains, "It's evident especially when students are doing presentations."

Mr. Crandall enjoys having the opportunity to speak French every day,



it also gives him an opportunity to use vocabulary specific to certain subject areas he's teaching. "This way," he explains, "I'm learning too. You don't often converse about Ancient civilizations outside of the classroom!"

Funding announced by Province

Exciting news from the Ministry of Education! Under a Canada-Ontario Agreement, the Province will receive approximately \$28.7 million in additional French Second Language (FSL) funding over the next four years. This funding is to be used to significantly improve elementary and secondary school FSL programs.

The new funding will favour long-term initiatives to:

- engage boards, parents, students, post secondary institutions and communities in the renewal of FSL programs
- increase student retention and participation in FSL programs
- increase the number of courses/programs in French, particularly at the high school level
- improve student level of proficiency in French
- enhance teacher capacity in FSL
- recognize and value the learning of French
- contribute to research on Ontario specific teaching and assessment practices for FSL
- inform FSL policy and program development
- improve student level of proficiency in French

Our local school boards are currently preparing plans and applications for this federal FSL funding.

Unfortunately the new funds may not be used for student transportation, however, this money will provide a welcome boost to our Core French and French Immersion programs across Hamilton-Wentworth.

CPF Congratulates Concours Winners

CPF congratulates the students 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 May 12, 2006. The Public School Board held its contest at Dalewood Elementary School on March 2, 2006. Both events featured terrific speeches and made parents and teachers proud. CPF Hamilton-Wentworth was pleased to provide Québécois candy to all participants, and to award book prizes to the top two winners in each category.

Top Three Winners - Public Board: Grades 4 to 6 Immersion

1st Ben Csiernik -Norwood Park
2nd Danielle Wood - Norwood Park
3rd Ellen Connelly - Dalewood

Grades 7 and 8 Immersion

1st - Ceilidh Barlow-Cash - Ryerson
2nd - Greg Lariviere - Dalewood
3rd - Jason Campbell - Norwood Park

Grades 4 to 6 Core French:

1st - Lexi Ewing - Dr. J. Seaton
2nd - Alexandra Everingham - Dr. J. Seaton
3rd - John DeGuzman - Green Acres

Grades 7 and 8 Core French

1st - Margaret Sawatzky - Dundas Central
2nd - Rosie Hopkins - Dalewood
3rd - Allyssa Webb - Dundas Central

Top Three Winners - Catholic Board: Grade 4 Immersion:

1st - Marta Zuljevic - St. Eugene
2nd - Alyssa Herron - Sts. Peter & Paul
3rd - Miranda Daly - Sts. Peter & Paul

Grade 5 Immersion:

1st - Annette Szeliga - St. Eugene
2nd - Haley Matyjas - St. Eugene
3rd - Stefan Cotoi - Sts. Peter & Paul

Grade 6 Immersion:

1st - Basil Violin - St. Joseph
2nd - Anne-Sophie Rossiter - St. Joseph
3rd - Carly Billings - St. Eugene

Grade 7 Immersion:

1st - Emily Gula - St. Eugene
2nd - Emily Lukasik - St. Eugene
3rd - Olivia Petric - St. Joseph

Grade 8 Immersion:

1st - Andrea Vanderlaan - St. Joseph
2nd - Christina Sguazzin - St. Eugene
3rd - Chantelle Ormond - St. Joseph

French Summer Camp - Camp Dove La Colombe

Hamilton's first CPF French Summer Camp for kids ages 6 to 12 is accepting registrations. Camp Dove (Camp la Colombe) is a day camp program that encourages francophone kids and French immersion students to use and develop their French skills language during the summer.

Camp Dove is being held at George P. Vanier high school in the west end of Hamilton (100 Macklin Street North, near Princess Point). The Camp will run between July 3 and August 25, 2006, and will accept registrations ranging from one week to eight weeks duration. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and after care available for a weekly fee.

The camp will offer a variety of recreational and educational activities including: visual arts, sports (soccer, basketball, swimming), guided tours and trips, dance and songs from other cultures. The children will learn about other cultures through legends, music, historical and geographical activities. Weekly field trips will include: mini-golf, museums, library, fruit-picking and parks.

Registration fee: \$60 (non-refundable) or \$30 for CPF members

Camp cost: \$150 per week for the first child and \$140 for the second child of the same family.

For more information, please call Carole at 905-546-6495 or Marie-Georgette at 416-446-1993 or visit the Camp Dove Website at www.gardieriedlc.com

A camp information session will be held on Wednesday, June 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. at George P. Vanier Secondary School where you can meet the camp staff, tour the location and learn more about the camp activities.

