

# canadian parents for french

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER - VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 3 - FALL 2008

## French Immersion Survival Nights

Presented by CPF Hamilton-Wentworth French Immersion Survival Nights are information sessions filled with tips and resources to help your child succeed in French Immersion. These presentations will be most beneficial to parents of children in kindergarten and the primary grades

The following topics are featured in the sessions:

- 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

Four sessions are available. Come out for the one most convenient to you. All sessions begin at 7 p.m. sharp.

Tuesday, November 4 - Dundana School, 23 Dundana Avenue (Dundas)

Thursday, November 6 - Guy Brown School, 55 Braeheid Avenue (Waterdown)

Wednesday, November 12 - Lawfield School, 45 Berko Avenue, Hamilton (East Mountain)

Tuesday November 18 - St. Eugene School, 120 Parkdale Avenue S. (East Hamilton)

Everyone is welcome. No need to register. Admission is free.

*Below: Interested parents listen to a Survival Night presentation hosted at St. Joseph School in May, 2008.*



## Win a family weekend getaway to Mont-Tremblant, Québec

You can be a winner by joining or renewing your CPF membership for three years at \$60 BEFORE DECEMBER 1st, 2008 to be eligible to win a two-night stay for 2 adults and 2 children at Le Grand Lodge Mont-Tremblant in a lake view suite (valued at \$460).

Tucked into the Laurentian mountains, Mont-Tremblant is one of the most popular destinations in Québec with a charming, European-style pedestrian village. A great opportunity for your family to immerse in the ultimate French experience in La Belle Province. Winter, summer or in between - you pick the time, we have the perfect place. The winner will be announced and contacted on January 30th, 2009.

## Contact Us

Be sure to visit the CPF Hamilton-Wentworth website at [www.cpfhamilton.ca](http://www.cpfhamilton.ca) for information about our upcoming events, resources for FI parents or to become a CPF member.



## High School Student Transportation

The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board has started issuing bus passes for French Immersion students who live more than 2.4km from the school. This development is strongly endorsed by CPF Hamilton Wentworth since Westdale is the only public secondary school site offering French Immersion.

Students travelling from the Mountain, Dundas, east Hamilton, Waterdown, Ancaster and Stoney Creek should not have to face financial hardship in order to access the French Immersion program.

CPF will be monitoring further transportation developments this year, as the public and separate school boards work together to produce the joint transportation strategy required by the Ministry of Education.

The Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board supplies bussing to the Catholic French Immersion High School, Cathedral, from students' neighbourhood schools.

## Save this date for Esprit 2009

A weekend winter camp for Grade 7 and 8 French Immersion students will be held from February 27 to March 1, 2009 at the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area in Bradford Ontario.

Students will enjoy indoor and outdoor activities such as showshoeing, cross country skiing, skits and movies -all in French. To view the promotional video for this event, visit the CPF Ontario web site under Ontario Events at [www.cpfont.on.ca](http://www.cpfont.on.ca)

## How to Deal with ‘Les Devoirs’ when you don’t speak French

### Homework Tips for French Immersion Parents:

Homework is important to review and reinforce concepts taught at school. It also establishes life-long skills such as responsibility, concentration and self-discipline. As second-language abilities develop, children will transfer the skills learned in one language to the other. Give your children lots of opportunity to read, write and express thoughts and ideas and you will be encouraging them to develop their skills in both languages.

Set a fixed time and appropriate location for homework tasks. Eliminate distractions and prevent procrastination by making sure your child has been to the washroom, had a drink and is ready to start. Homework should take approximately 10 minutes per grade level assuming productive use of time.

Listen to your child read in French and then ask them to tell you what happened by using the pictures to ask questions about the story. This will encourage them to think about what they have read.

Help your child with Math using the same techniques you normally would in English (eg: adding and subtracting with coins or marbles). For written math problems, teach the child to concentrate on the precise meaning of each word and draw pictures to illustrate the problem and solution.

For social studies and science, your child can explain the topic and receive your help in English, even when the subject matter is in French.

Provide French reference materials especially a good French/English dictionary. In later years, books of French verbs and conjugations, grammar and spelling, and common French expressions and idioms will be very useful

When studying for dictee or spelling tests, have the child read the words into a tape recorder, then play them back so they can give themselves the test with the correct pronunciation.

Encourage your child to exchange phone numbers with one or two classmates, so that they have a homework buddy to potentially help them with questions and review.

Make French a part of your child’s life. Encourage French reading, rent French music and DVDs. Check your library for materials to borrow. Try French computer games and software to stir their interest. Take part in events and activities sponsored by CPF.

Send a note to your child’s teacher if a particular assignment is causing difficulties. The teacher can spend extra time with the child to reinforce the concept and repeat the instructions.

Don’t panic! Remember that parents are there to support and encourage their children –you are not expected to teach them the material. You are certainly not expected to do the homework for them!

Here are a few language hints to help you:

#### French Phonics:

- é is pronounced “ay” as in the word “hay”
- è is pronounced “e” as in the words “elf, elk”
- ê is also pronounced “e” as in the words “elf, elk”
- ch is pronounced “sh” as in the words “shout, shoe”
- ç used in front of the following vowels a, o, u and is pronounced “s” as in the words “sole, salmon”

#### Money:

English Format: \$1,343.57  
French Format: 1 343,57 \$  
A space replaces the comma and a comma replaces the period  
Put a space after the number followed by the dollar sign.

#### Time:

English Format: 3:30 p.m.  
French Format: 15 h 30  
Put a space on both sides of the “h”

# Family Tour of Whitehern Museum in French

This historic building was home to the prominent McQueston family from 1852 to 1968 and is located at 41 Jackson Street West in downtown Hamilton. Enjoy a Christmas tour of the museum, followed by a Christmas craft in the coach house. Holiday treats provided by CPF Hamilton-Wentworth. Register today. This session is limited to the first 20 children and 20 adults to sign up. Call Rosalind at 905-318-1646 and give your name, phone number and the number of adults and children in your party.

**When:** Sunday, December 7, 2008  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$5 per person



## Separate School Board Accommodation Review

In our April Newsletter CPF reported that the separate school board was carrying out an Accommodation Review to consider declining enrolments, facility needs and programming, aging buildings and the need for new facilities. The Board was also proposing to initiate a French Immersion Attendance Area Review related to the appropriateness of the location of existing FI program sites. CPF has now learned that Board staff have determined that the French Immersion Review is not necessary. Consideration for such a review is not planned for the near future.

## Help Wanted

CPF needs parent volunteers to help us plan for special events and advocacy efforts for the 2008/2009 school year. We need representatives from the following schools to join our Executive Committee: Glen Brae, Earl Kitchener, Dalewood and Cathedral.

Visit our web site for more details:  
[www.cpfhamilton.ca](http://www.cpfhamilton.ca)

## Étienne – Back in Hamilton by popular demand

It's been four years since CPF Hamilton-Wentworth brought Étienne to town and we decided it was time to rock Hamilton again! Étienne has been twice voted as "Canada's Favourite Children's Artist of the Year" (CMW Awards/MuchMusic/MTV Canada). This artist juggles a teaching career with sold-out concert tours throughout the world, annually presenting keynote addresses and workshops at major Foreign language conferences, as well as writing and producing new material.

Opening for Étienne this year will be songwriter Beebo. Beebo has 9 albums and entertains kids and families at concerts, festivals, schools and private engagements. Children's music by Beebo is family fun and entertainment for all.

Students and teachers....get ready for **Tuesday, February 24, 2009** when CPF Hamilton-Wentworth will be organizing morning and afternoon concerts with Étienne and Beebo at Mohawk College auditorium. Watch our web site and winter newsletter for further details.

## French book sale set for Thursday November 20

Mark your calendars for Thursday November 20!

CPF Hamilton-Wentworth's annual French book sale will take place at Earl Kitchener School, 300 Dundurn St. South (between Main and Aberdeen) from 3 to 7 p.m. Drop in and browse the great selection of French books.

This year our materials are being provided by Beaux Books from Richmond Hill. A large variety of fiction and non-fiction books (including French dictionaries and verb books) will be organized by grade level.

Stock up for Christmas!



# French Immersion Numbers Still Expanding at Public Board



If you build it, they will come. Hamilton Wentworth public school board staff report that French Immersion enrollment continues to grow as new programs open. Norwood Park - Hamilton's only single-track FI school - now has a school population of 530 students and just added a third portable. New FI sites, Dundana, Lawfield and Guy Brown are all showing healthy, growing populations of SK and Grade One students as they start their second year of offering the French Immersion program.

Parents in Ancaster are continuing to recruit French Immersion students for Fessenden School SK and Grade One classes in September 2009. 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.

## Internet Terminology: a helpful list for students

### English Term

@: at-sign  
 Attached file  
 Back-up  
 Bookmark  
 Browse/browser  
 Electronic service delivery  
 E-mail  
 Firewall  
 Home page  
 Icon  
 Internet, internet site  
 Link, hyperlink  
 Merge  
 Online  
 Reboot/restart  
 Scan/scanner  
 Search engine  
 Site map  
 Scroll bar  
 Upload and download  
 Web page  
 Website  
 Webmaster  
 Zip  
 Zip format

### French Term

@ : a commercial, arrobas  
 fichier joint  
 sauvegarder  
 signet  
 naviguer/navigateur  
 service de livraison électronique  
 courriel, courrier électronique  
 coupe-feu  
 page d'accueil  
 icône  
 internet, site internet  
 lien, hyperlien, passerelle  
 fusionner  
 en ligne  
 redémarrer/relancer  
 numériser/numériseur  
 moteur de recherche  
 plan du site  
 barre de défilement  
 télécharger et télécharger  
 page web  
 site internet  
 webmestre  
 comprimer, compresser  
 format co

## French Picnic in Waterdown

*Photo by Doug Tooley*

The 2nd Annual French Immersion Potluck Picnic, hosted by Waterdown Parents for French Immersion, was held at Christie Lake Conservation Area on Saturday, September 13, 2008. Despite the gray skies and rainy forecast, more than 70 people attended, including Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 French Immersion students and their families from Guy Brown School in Waterdown. The picnic provided a great opportunity for families to meet, to spend time with one another, and for those new to the school to make connections within the Guy Brown French Immersion community. With no one around but the picnic participants, the children had a huge grassy area to play on still within sight of their parents. Some of the children took advantage of the lake and went for a swim. The rain held off and a fun time was had by all. Hopefully next year there will be even more families participating!

