

Characteristics of Successful French Language Programs

The Edmonton Public School Division has set itself the objective of having the best FSL and French immersion programs in the country. Their criteria for good programs are listed below with slight modifications based on Saskatchewan's education system. If your programs do not measure up you should be asking questions of your principals and school division authorities. CPF Saskatchewan can help you ask the right ones.

- 1. Positive District Support:** The local school Board/Boards endorses the importance of learning French and has a policy that states its commitment to French language learning.
- 2. Positive Principal Support:** School principals play a key role in supporting and promoting French language programs in their schools.
- 3. Competent, Enthusiastic Teachers:** Teachers are encouraged to share teaching strategies and participate in a variety of professional development opportunities to ensure they are applying the most up-to-date knowledge and approaches to second language teaching.
- 4. Positive Community Support:** Parents, the school community, the business community and the community at large provide positive support to achieve truly world-class programs in French language learning.
- 5. Integral Part of Regular Program:** FSL must be given the same importance as other subjects – including sufficient instructional time and program stability.
- 6. Sufficient Instructional Time:** The recommended minimum instructional time for FSL is 150 minutes per week, over 10 months. Students are encouraged to complete their FSL program to the end of Grade 12. French immersion students receive at least 75% of their instruction in French in elementary, and at least 50% in secondary school.
- 7. Clear and relevant curricular expectations:** Expectations set out in the curriculum are easy to understand and help students develop a meaningful level of language proficiency and cultural understanding in French.
- 8. Students engage in interactive learning:** Students learn French through meaningful communication, including the use of games, skits and simulations, and contact with French speakers through interviews, telephone calls, letters or e-mail messages and meeting French-speaking people in the community.
- 9. Quality learning resources:** Learning resources are appropriate to students' interest and language level and include videos, computer software, CD-ROMs, films, music, television programs, dictionaries, novels, magazines and books for personal interest.
- 10. Well-articulated programs:** Students experience similar qualities of FSL and French immersion programming wherever these programs are offered in the province. These programs share similar program expectations, instructional time, learning resources and assessment. There are smooth and logical transitions between elementary, and senior high school levels.
- 11. Professional Development:** Teachers have access to a variety of second language professional development activities and principals encourage and support lifelong professional development.
- 12. Promotion and Marketing:** The district and its schools promote the benefits of learning French and other second languages through a variety of activities and materials.
- 13. Student Access, Support and Recognition:** The French language programs are available to all students, including gifted students and students with learning difficulties. Students are recognized for their achievement with appropriate certificates or other incentives.
- 14. Financial Support:** Schools have sufficient funds to buy learning resources and student assessment materials and to fund professional development needs, cultural activities and student and staff recognition.

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Carnavals a Success !!

Submitted by: Christie Drever, Core French Teacher, McLurg School, Regina, SK

On Friday February 28, 2003, about 275 students participated in a Quebec-style "Carnaval", at McLurg School in Regina. It was a balmy -9° C on the day of the event and the students had a great time participating in both indoor and outdoor activities.

Outside, the students had the opportunity to skate, snowshoe, race "canoes", dance to both traditional and contemporary music, make ice sculptures and do an obstacle course. Inside, students warmed up with hot chocolate, apple cider, and traditional "soupe au pois". As well, students attended sessions on weaving "la ceinture fléchée", dancing a French dance, and making "la tire". Bonhomme was present throughout the day and provided "warm-me-up" hugs to students.

Organized by Core French teachers, Marj Anderson and Christie Drever, the day would not have been a success without our parent volunteers: Marie Dmytrow, Deana Driver, Bonny Grainger, Twila Helfrick, Angela Phaneuf, and Mae Stohl. "Un gros merci" to shopping and cooking parentvolunteers:ChristineGiesinger, Laurie Rohatyn, Diane Toker, Dawn Johnson, and Kim Owsten. Our 'Carnaval' presentations and expertise were provided by the Dieppe School French Club who organized a Carnaval for their own school last year and came to share their talents with us. Special thanks to Stacey Wiens, Sammy Fiddler, Sarah Cozman, Kayla Carroll, Samantha Rope, Jessica Dunn, Morgan Forsyth, Krissy Harris, Darien Hunchuk, Abbey Walchuk, Rachel Simrose, and Robyn Desnomie. Also, our day would not have been possible without the support of Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan, who provided us with the funding to host this event.

Overall, the day was a great success with many positive comments from both teachers and students. Some student comments about the day were, "the food was the best! I enjoyed making the sash,"; "I never knew our icecastle was going to turn out like it did!"; and "I love the hot chocolate! [E]specially after a cold recess. We also went skating. The ice wasn't very good, but I did have fun!"



Submitted by: Aubrey Patterson, Principal, École St. Thomas Lorie Wourms, President, CPF - Lloydminster Lloydminster, SK

Carnaval at St. Thomas School in Lloydminster was a three day event at the beginning of February that was meant to replicate as much as possible the famous Carnaval in Québec City. Students from Holy Rosary High School helped to set the scene by assisting the elementary school students to build an ice castle in the playground prior to the beginning of the carnival so that it was ready for the opening ceremonies on Wednesday. That day the students were shown a presentation about the Québec Carnaval. They also crowned a king and queen and participated in a dance and "la tire". On Thursday the students and members of the community all had the chance to participate in sleigh rides while doing activities in their classes that were thematically related to the Carnaval. On Friday, these thematic activities were continued. However, after a lunch of "Poutine", the students took part in outdoor sporting events modelled after those of the Québec carnival. There was then a closing ceremony even though the event was extended to Monday when the francophone music and dance troupe from Edmonton, *Les Bûcherons*, presented a concert in the school.

We had a wonderful Carnaval! In all, over 300 people participated in our activities. We included all of our student body, all of the Holy Rosary High School's grade 10's St. Mary's grade 6 and 7 Core French students, parents and staff from all three schools, community members, and local television and newspaper reporters. We also had many students and parents from three preschool programs in Lloydminster take part in making crafts and going on sleighrides.

The smooth running of this event would not have been possible without the help of a very large number of volunteers and the support of Canadian Parents for French - Lloydminster Chapter who coordinated meals, drinks and many other activities.

These events were funded in part through the Grades 6 - 9 Grant Program. To see if your school or organization qualifies for funding, or for more information about this grant program, turn to page 7 of this newsletter.

Chapter Focus

Prince Albert

The Prince Albert Chapter of Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan has been busy this year. Here are some highlights!

A representative from the Mayor's office and FSL students raised the CPF Banner on Friday February 28, 2003 in Memorial Square to kick off **French Immersion/Core French week**. Students, parents, teachers and administrators from Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Prince Albert Catholic School Division, and L'École des Petits were present. Lee Atkinson represented the Mayor's office of the City of Prince Albert. Open houses and cultural events were held during the week along with fundraising activities.

Congratulations to Jeremy Gyoerick, a pupil in Grade 3 at Holy Cross school. His poster illustrating the theme for French Immersion and Core French week this year, "Fiers d'être bilingues/Proud to be bilingual" won the provincial competition and was displayed in schools across Saskatchewan.



Micro Rendez-vous was held on February 1, 2003 for parents considering enrolling their children in French Immersion in the fall of 2003. Parents were involved in a workshop with facilitator Ginelle Olson. Children were lead in workshops with facilitator Jarmila MacFarlane. "Thank you's" are extended to all who made this event a success.

- Dr Ayaz Ramje (pediatrician in PA Health District) as guest speaker.
- Sandra Williams/Kara Basaraba from Saskatchewan Rivers School Division
- Richard Rapin/Sharon Thornsrood from PA Roman Catholic School Division
- École St Anne for allowing CPF – PA to hold this event in their school.

Lire avec moi, a program that enhances French language learning is still reading strong.

A **Mini Rendez-vous** is in the planning stages for Sunday April 27 at Vickers School (a new French Immersion school for Saskatchewan Rivers School Division); facilitators will be French Language University students along with high school students and of course, support from the CPF – PA board.

The Prince Albert Chapter of Canadian Parents for French and the restaurant, Amy's on Second, hosted a **luncheon** on Thursday March 6, 2003 for French Second Language teachers and administrators. Guest speakers at the event were Mitchell Strom and Kathryn Kuchapski from St Mary's High School, students who travelled to Rivière du Loup in July for Les Jeux de la Francophonie.

Twenty-three PACI students left on February 27 for a nine-day **exchange** trip to Quebec. The trip is partly funded by SEVEC – the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada. Students from Ste. Martine, Quebec will visit Prince Albert in May.

La Francontre

Grade 8 students from Saskatoon Catholic Schools' seven French Immersion schools gathered on Tuesday, January 28, 2003 to take part in a variety of activities at Bishop James Mahoney High School. Students were encouraged to consider continuing their high school education in French. They learned that they are not alone in their choice of education and they were provided with concrete examples of how a second language can serve them in the future.

In the morning, groups were formed for sessions dealing with topics such as Christian living and vocations, French folkdance, music, art, sports and travel, and French exchange programs. Each session highlighted the richness of the language and culture as well as the value these bring to individuals in broadening cultural awareness and in understanding people.

After lunch, students took part in a Eucharistic celebration held in French at the adjoining St. Anne Parish. Father Marc Mireau presided, with a group of Grade 8 students providing the music ministry.

The day wrapped up with a dance featuring French contemporary music. DJs from *L'association jeunesse fransaskoise* were instrumental in supplying great music.

We were very fortunate to have generous sponsorship from associations such as CPF to help make the day a reality. We know the day served as an affirmation of the reasons why students were initially registered in the Immersion program by their parents. We know of one student who was certain she would not continue in Immersion prior to the day and came out with a strong conviction to remain in the program after La Francontre. Maybe this boost of encouragement is what students need to maintain sight of the very valuable and lofty goal of becoming bilingual.



Ron Sirois
Coordinator - French Language Education
Saskatoon Catholic Schools

Opportunities for Senior Students

The federal and provincial governments and a number of different non-profit organizations offer senior students many enriching experiences in French. Check out the following sites:

Experience Canada gives Canadians aged 18 - 29 work experience in a chosen field in a different part of the country. Register before May 30, 2003
www.experiencecanada.org
info@experiencecanada.com

Katimavik is a work experience program for those aged 17-21. Live with other young Canadians and discover other parts of the country through communal living and community work projects.
1-888-525-1503
www.katimavik.org

Young Canada Works aims to give young Canadians work experience in key cultural sectors - enabling them to earn money while preparing to make the transition from school to the labour force.
www.canadianheritage.gc.ca/ycw-jct

Calendar of Events

April

- 5 Mini Rendez-vous in Melville
- 8 French for the Future/*Le français pour l'avenir* in Saskatoon
- 27 Mini Rendez-vous in Prince Albert

May

- 3 Provincial finals for Concours d'art oratoire in Saskatoon
- 10 Mini Rendez-vous in North Battleford

June

- 6 - 7 CPF Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon
- 7 National Concours d'art oratoire

July

- 7 - 11 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Nipawin
- 7 - 11 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Moose Jaw
- 14 - 18 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Regina
- 21 - 25 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Lloydminster
- 28 - August 1 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Saskatoon

August

- 4 - 16 Residential summer camps at Arlington Beach
- 18 - 22 Fête de soleil summer day camp in North Battleford
- 18 - 22 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Yorkton
- 18 - 22 Fête de soleil summer day camp in Estevan

October

- 17 - 19 National AGM in Winnipeg

Donors

CPF - SK would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals or corporations for their generous donations.

Joyce Booth

Louise Bray

Joanne Illingworth

Lindsay Matheson

SaskTel

Karen Taylor-Browne

Miles Turnbull

CPF-SK is a registered charity

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All monetary donations will be issued a charitable receipt for taxation purposes.

Moving??

Please forward your new address to:

CPF National
176 Gloucester Street
Suite 310
Ottawa, ON
K2P 9Z9

Or call: (306) 244-6151,
toll-free within SK
1-800-561-6151

Congratulations !!

Congratulations to **Taras Matkovski**, from Saskatoon French School in Saskatoon, who took first place in the French Immersion category for Saskatchewan at La Dicteé P.G.L. Regional Final at l'École fransaskoise de Moose Jaw, on March 15. Taras' family have been members of CPF - SK for a number of years. He and his mother, Oksana Starchenko, will travel to Montreal where he will compete in the International finals along with students from the United States, Haiti, Senegal, and the whole of Canada.

Kara Pilon, who has contributed so much to CPF - Saskatchewan since she began working for us as a summer program monitor in 2000, will graduate from the Baccalaureate en éducation programme at the University of Regina this spring. However, she has already received a full-time contract from the Lloydminster Roman Catholic School Division to teach in their French Immersion program beginning on April 28th, 2003. Congratulations to Kara and congratulations to Lloydminster Catholic for "nabbing" such an outstanding young teacher.

Rendez-vous 2003



The University of Saskatchewan campus, in Saskatoon, was the setting for Rendez-vous 2003, an overnight French conference which was held on February 28 and March 1. Students in Grades 6 - 8 from Lloydminster, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Martensville, Estevan, and Prince Albert, participated in this event.

On Friday, after students arrived, registered, and were given wrist bands to wear, they went for a pizza supper at St. Thomas More College. The evening began with an ice-breaker (see photo on the left), and the *Association Jeunesse Fransaskoise* provided two hours of musical entertainment.

Saturday morning began with students, chaperones, and monitors enjoying a pancake breakfast before jumping into their workshops. Students were given the opportunity to attend four

workshops and had seven to choose from. Despite the freezing temperatures that began the weekend, the thermometer rose enough so that outdoor activities were not hindered. The workshops included:

Improvisational Games with Inouk Touzin from the professional Francophone theatre company *La Troupe du Jour*. Inouk gave an introduction to the different notions of improvisation followed by improvisational games.

Virtual Experience at Diefenbaker Centre with Leona Wiebe was an interactive and educational activity involving the historic Treaty Number 6. The students re-enacted the event and created a fictional treaty of their own along with a treaty bracelet.

Making a Didgeridoo with David Degan. The students made this Australian musical instrument and learned how to play it as well.

African Drumming with Dany Rousseau where the participants used a drum and were able to practice basic drumming techniques.

The Police at Work with Saskatoon Police Officer, Bernard Farbacher. The students learned about the specifics of his profession. Throughout the workshop, the students learned about the equipment which he uses as well as the related French vocabulary.

Treasure Hunt on Mini-Snowshoes with Jocelyn Baillargeon (see photo below). The students used their French vocabulary in order to find a hidden treasure.

Budding Engineers was a group activity with Christian Berard and Renée Perrault. It required students to build a specific structure with only the rudimentary material given.

The event was a great success with media from Global Television and CBC Radio in attendance. We would like to thank Rendez-vous 2003 Co-ordinator Nathalie Delmaire; the monitors - Christian Berard, Renée Perreault, Abigail Armstrong, Jérôme Leis, Kim Nisbet and Véronique Vallée; the chaperones/drivers and volunteers - Carol O'Hanlon, Naomi Clark, Ray Wourms, Marvin Hodgson, Nicole Dupuis and Jara MacFarlane.

We wish to extend a special "thank you" to Dr. Nancy Senior, Head, Department of Languages & Linguistics at the University of Saskatchewan for arranging for the use of facilities at the U of S.

The College of Arts and Sciences and the U of S were most generous in providing facilities at no cost. Of course, like all of our events this one would not have been possible without financial support from the Official Minority Language Office of Saskatchewan Learning and the Department of Canadian Heritage.



Organizations Can Also Receive Our Newsletters

Any organization - be it a school staff, school board, French Club or university class - may become an Associate Member Organisation (AMO) of Canadian Parents for French in order to endorse the goals and activities of CPF. On paying an annual fee of \$60.00, the AMO is entitled to receive, at a single address, up to 10 copies of newsletters and other designated reports or mailings. While AMO status confers no right to vote at any level of Canadian Parents for French, AMO's **do qualify** for some special programs of CPF - Saskatchewan: for example, the **Grade 6-9 Grant** program described below. Call CPF - SK to learn more!!

Please send _____ (up to 10) copies of each CPF newsletter to:

Organization/Group _____	School Board/Division _____
Mail attention to: _____	Local CPF Chapter: _____
Telephone: (_____) _____	\$60 to be paid by: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed
E.mail _____	<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa Card
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	Signature: _____

Return to: Canadian Parents for French
Suite 303, 115 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1

GRADES 6-9 GRANT PROGRAM

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan is accepting submissions from Associate Member Organizations and Chapters of CPF - Saskatchewan who are seeking funding to help them develop extracurricular or enrichment projects, taking place in Saskatchewan, for Grades 6-9 students. Projects will accomplish some or all of the following objectives:

- 1) enhance students French language skills,
- 2) make students more aware of French Canadian culture and history,
- 3) make students more aware of French as the day-to-day language of millions of Canadians,
- 4) spotlight and support French-speaking residents of local communities and their language,
- 5) encourage students to study French at the secondary school level,
- 6) sensitize students to the career and personal enrichment opportunities available to Canadians who have a good knowledge of French,
- 7) foster a sense of belonging to a bilingual Canada, and
- 8) provide a meeting place where Francophone and Anglophone young people can communicate in French.

Applications for amounts up to \$1,500.00 will be considered.

For further information please contact us

By telephone in Saskatoon or outside Saskatchewan: (306) 244-6151

Toll Free in Saskatchewan (outside of Saskatoon): 1-800-561-6151

E-mail: cpfsask@sk.sympatico.ca

www.cpfsask.com

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Local Chapters

Battlefords
Estevan
Lloydminster
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Moose Jaw
Nipawin
Prince Albert
Regina
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Chapter Updates for Website

Please forward your Chapter updates for publication on our website to:
joanneillingworth@sk.sympatico.ca

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CPF - SK Office Information

Suite 303, 115 2nd Avenue North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1
Phone: (306) 244-6151 Fax: (306) 244-8872
Or toll free within Saskatchewan at 1-800-561-6151
e-mail: cpfsask@sk.sympatico.ca

Office Staff

Karen Taylor-Browne, Executive Director
karentaylor.browne@sk.sympatico.ca

Joanne Illingworth, Executive Administrative Assistant
joanneillingworth@sk.sympatico.ca

Lindsay Matheson, Chapter Development Officer
lindsaymatheson@sk.sympatico.ca

www.cpfsask.com

Membership Application Form

CPF allows one or two adults (over 18) per family as voting members.

New Membership: Individual Family

Renewal: Membership # _____

Change of Information below:

Name _____

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Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

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School Board _____

School(s) _____

Local CPF Chapter/Section _____

Membership: One Year (\$25) _____
Three Year (\$60) _____
Donation _____
Total _____

Donations to CPF - SK are welcomed and appreciated. Thank you for your support. (CPF - Saskatchewan Charitable Tax # 106865231RR0001)

For payment by: Visa Mastercard Cheque enclosed

Name on Card: _____

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Return to: Canadian Parents for French
Suite 303, 115 - 2nd Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K 2B1

Occasionally the CPF membership list will be made available to other groups/agencies to offer members benefits or education-related information. Use of the list will be carefully regulated and only permitted under a contract specifying confidentiality and one-time authorization. **If you do not wish to receive mailings other than directly from CPF, please check this box.**