

Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan

# Chapter Chat

November 2007



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Ready, Set, Go!

**There is still time to book your Multimedia Kit. Don't miss the chance to do it**



These kits are available for a six-week loan period per Associate Member school each year. The Multimedia Kits consist of French-language videos, CD'S, CD-ROM's, cassettes, books and games for the use of students in kindergarten to grade 8. It's a wonderful resource that really deserves attention.

Contact CPF-SK as soon as possible to see a sample inventory or book a kit for your school today.

**Learning French made easy? Keys to French selling like hotcakes**



We sold out our stock of the Level I and Level II of the "Keys to French" and had to order more! Students are finding these convenient quick reference guides to French grammar, vocabulary and verb conjugations an extremely handy reference tool and they fit neatly into a 3 ring binder.

Contact us to order your copy today. Chapters can purchase these guides at cost which is \$3.00 each. The guides can be sold for \$4.00 to members and \$5.00 to non-members.

**Your children's teachers are your partners**

(Article by Sherry Taylor)

The number one indicator for children's success in school is the depth of their parents' involvement in their education. French immersion parents – CPF parents – are nationally recognized as some of the most involved parents in the country. This can cut both ways — our greatest strength is seen by some as our greatest weakness. We make good friends, but bad enemies! Creating a supportive and energized environment for our children helps them succeed. We want to work together with the educational professionals in our children's lives. Even when problems occur, all interactions with our children's teachers should be seen as opportunities to develop a stronger working relationship for the benefit of our children. Here are a few key points to keep in mind:

1. Begin each New Year with a new relationship.

Meet informally with the teacher as early as you comfortably can, just to (re)-connect and have a pleasant, general conversation. It may take only a few minutes, but it establishes a working relationship. Meet the administrator or other teachers your children are involved with as well (coaches, PE teachers, English Language Arts, etc).

Attend all parent-appropriate functions you can. This may include teacher nights, parent-teacher interviews, school concerts or sporting events, as well as PAC and/or SPC meetings.

Don't stop doing this when your children reach high school. If a problem does come up, an existing relationship with key professionals in your children's school life will go along way to helping you work together to find solutions.

2. Make sure that teachers and administrators are regularly invited to CPF meetings.

3. Try not to "drop in" on a teacher. It creates unnecessary stress for the students in the class as well as the teacher. Make an appointment for a mutually convenient time. What are seen as convenient times for teachers, immediately before or after school and lunchtime, are often their busiest times as they do last minute preparations or deal with students who need some extra assistance.

4. If you have a complicated issue to discuss, it is a good idea to send a written message outlining your concerns and asking for a meeting time. This gives the teacher a chance to consider your issue and prepare for the meeting. This is especially useful for teachers communicating in their second language.

5. Talk to the teacher about using email for simple communication— some will prefer the flexibility of answering your questions at a more convenient time; others will prefer face- to-face meetings.

6. Some teachers have had bad experiences with parents. Try not to be concerned or insulted if the teacher asks that another teacher or administrator be present at a meeting. View it as an opportunity to share your concerns with a team of professionals who may have valuable advice.

7. Whenever possible, follow your district's "chain of command" policy. Almost all districts require you follow a specified path: teacher first; then school administrator; then district staff; finally the superintendent or school board trustee. Most issues can be resolved by speaking to the teacher in a co-operative spirit. You all have the same goal – the success of your children.

8. If you are able to volunteer in your child's school, act professionally. Never discuss children or adults in a public space – everyone has a right to privacy.

9. A teacher once told me, "If you promise to believe only half of what your son tells you about the classroom, I promise to believe only half of what he tells me about your family!" Remember that children see only a small part of a situation, and may miss-read or misunderstand what they do see. It is always a good idea to clarify the information you are given.

10. Finally, support your children's education by reinforcing behaviours and habits established in the classroom.

- If the teacher sends a journal or agenda home, read it with your children at the end of the school day. If no agenda is sent, check to make sure the children have some way of recording homework.
- Establish specific routines around doing homework: the same time every day in the same place.
- Have support material (pencils, erasers, rulers, dictionaries) easily accessible.
- Check to be sure your children have completed assignments and that they take finished homework to school the next day.
- If your children are confused about an assignment, and you aren't sure about it either, make an appointment to ask the teacher. It all comes down to involvement: be a proactive and co-operative partner in your children's education.

## Mini Rendez-vous 2008

If you haven't booked this event yet, now it is time to start doing it for the upcoming year. Give the CPF-SK office a call today.



## House of Commons Page Program-2008

Each year, 15 university students from across Canada are selected to participate in the Senate Page Program. The Senate Pages are responsible for a wide variety of activities associated with the legislative process. Moreover, they are given a direct opportunity to further their knowledge of parliamentary affairs by exposure to the rich tradition of Canada's Parliamentary system and the Senate of Canada.

Senate Pages are enrolled as full-time undergraduate students in one of the four universities in the National Capital Region. They are hired on a one-year contract with the possibility of renewal for a second year.

Pages also have the opportunity of remaining for a third year if chosen as Chief or Deputy Chief Page.

The Senate Page Program provides a diverse and talented group of students the grand opportunity to enhance their understanding of the Senate of Canada. Under the direction of the Usher of the Black Rod, these leaders of tomorrow are given a remarkable opportunity to be leaders of today.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.parl.gc.ca/information/about/programs/SenPages/selection-e.htm>

**Deadline to apply for the Page Program is December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.**

## Calendar of Events



### December 2007

- 1 Mini Rendez-vous (Swift Current)
- 5 International Day of Volunteers
- 7 Deadline for House of Commons Page Program 2008
- 15 French Christmas/ Franco Noël (Saskatoon-Association jeunesse fransaskoise)

### January 2008

- 3-6 Ski Trip to the Rockies/ *Voyage de ski dans les Rocheuses* (Association jeunesse fransaskoise)
- 4-6 PanCanadian Youth Parliament/Parlement jeunesse pancanadien (Association jeunesse fransaskoise)
- 27 National Family Literacy Day

## February 2008

- 4-8 French Second Language Education Week 2008
- 8-10 West Are We Going? / *Ouest qu'on va?* (Association jeunesse fransaskoise)
- 21 International Mother Language Day
- 28-29 Francophone Film Festival *Cinergie* - Broadway Theatre

## March 2008

- 1 Francophone Film Festival *Cinergie* - Broadway Theatre
- 15 Mini Rendez-vous (Lloydminster)
- 20 International Francophone Day / *Journée internationale de la Francophonie*
- 31 CPF-SK Institut Français Bursary application deadline

## April 2008

- 13 Mini Rendez-vous (Regina)
- 26 Concours d'art oratoire, CPF-SK (Saskatoon)

## May 2008

- 15 International Day of Families
- 16-17 Battle of the Bands / *RAMDAM*, (Association jeunesse fransaskoise)
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 31 National Concours d'art oratoire, CPF National (University of Ottawa)

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