

French Programs Needs Supportive Trustees It's time to make a difference!

Wednesday October 22, 2003 is Election Day in Saskatchewan when Municipal and School Division elections will be held across the province. This is your opportunity to get involved in your children's education. As a voter or as an elected trustee you have a responsibility to speak out in order to maintain access to quality French second language programs in Saskatchewan.

There are currently 96 school divisions in Saskatchewan. Each division is governed by a locally elected board of education. These people determine how more than half of your local property taxes are spent, in addition to the monies received from the provincial government for education. French program grants from the federal and provincial governments provide for only a minimal supplement to offset differential costs specific to French program delivery.

Trustees, as members of boards of education, represent the interests of the local community as they participate in decision-making regarding the use of funds in the operation of the local education system. Trustees responsibilities include:

- Establishing the vision, priorities and overall educational plans for the school division.
- Approving the educational program for the school division including special programming needs such as second language instruction.
- Overseeing and holding the division accountable for results.

- Determining financial priorities, adopting the annual budget, and ensuring accountability for school division expenditures.
- Hiring staff and negotiating collective agreements.
- Being an advocate for education, ensuring that the educational needs of children are always considered first.

It is crucial for the future of French second language instruction in Saskatchewan that we elect people who are interested in continued access to quality programs for the children of our communities. Consider running for one of these positions. The deadline for nomination for trustees in most of the province is Wednesday September 24. Contact your local City Clerk's office for information about the process for being nominated. Take a look at the website of the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association www.ssta.sk.ca for more information about being a trustee.

Voters also have a critical task. Voter turnout for municipal elections is often quite small, as low as 35%. This provides an opportunity for a small group of people to make a very large difference. Municipal elections and the issues they engender often overshadow the election of trustees. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that each candidate's position on French second language education is clear.

Voting is important. Mobilizing your community to get to the polls is vital. This is indeed an opportunity to make changes in the priorities of your local school board. We all need to act now.

Le Camp Ultime - 2003

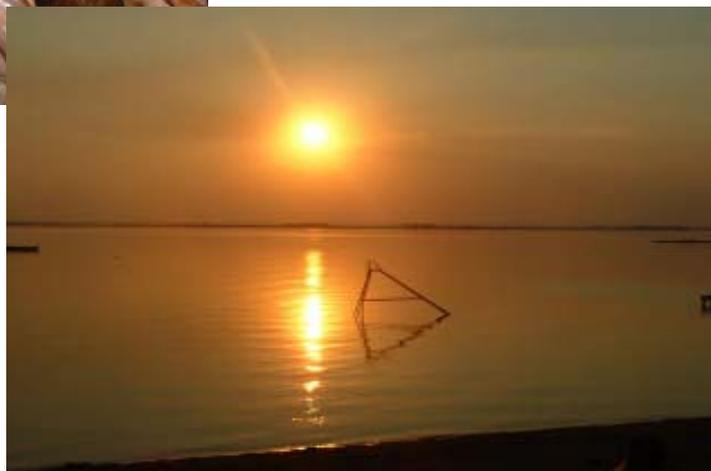


CPF Saskatchewan's Summer Camp - Le Camp Ultime was held this summer at Arlington Beach from Aug. 4-16. As usual, it was a huge hit. This camp offers both French immersion and core French students entering grades 4-10 an opportunity to learn, have fun and use their French in a non-classroom setting. Many students

associate French with school. An opportunity like this to change that association so they see that French is fun and a real living language. As in previous years, the kids got a chance to participate in activities such as horse back riding, wall climbing, zip-line, archery, canoeing, mini-golf and of course swimming (the lake was looking great this year). They also got a chance to try numerous arts and

crafts, such as nature bandannas, papier-mâché masks, bridge building, solar-powered barbecues and tie-dye. There were many camp-wide active games, sports, improvisation and music, in addition to several social activities, such as a campfire night, an air band night, a talent show, and a beach party to finish it all off. A CPF Camp original activity and camper favourite this year was

gak-launching. We are sure to think up plenty more fun things to do for next year, so make sure to come out and bring your friends to join the fun on the shores of Last Mountain Lake.



Fête du Soleil - 2003

Fête du Soleil was a success yet again. Fête du Soleil is a program that runs a week of day camps during the summer for children entering kindergarten through grade seven. These camps run across Saskatchewan, and the cities involved this year include Nipaw, Moose Jaw, Regina, Lloydminster, Saskatoon, North Battleford, Estevan and Yorkton. The kids partake in a variety of activities, ranging from arts and crafts to sports, from drama and music to science, and everything in between. All of these activities are, of course, run in French. This gives the kids a chance to have fun while learning, as well as to practice their existing French during the summer months, when it might otherwise go unused. What a great way to prepare for the return to school this fall! All of the Fête du Soleils included an excursion, which always proved to be a fun-filled and informative day. Some of the excursions this year included mini-golfing in Nipawin, a day on the Ferme Champêtre in Saskatoon, and touring the R.C.M.P. barracks in Regina and the new R.C.M.P. station in North Battleford. The kids also got the chance to meet some very interesting guest speakers, such as a member of the R.C.M.P., the pilot of a fighter jet, and a team of firefighters with their truck and all of their equipment. Another highlight this year was water day (each day of the week has a theme), which included some very wet activities out in the sun (this year's favourite was duck, duck, splash! - which is pretty self-explanatory), and lots of smiles from the kids. If you missed out on all the fun this year, don't worry, but make sure to keep your eyes open for registration next spring, and your chance to have a blast next summer!



Concours d'art oratoire

On Saturday May 3, the excitement was visible as 65 students, their parents, siblings, grandparents and teachers arrived at the University of Saskatchewan for the Provincial Final of Concours d'art oratoire. This was the culmination of months of preparation. Twenty-five hundred students from forty schools had prepared and presented speeches on everything from dinosaurs to the internet. The competition was open to French Immersion and Core French students across the province. School winners proceeded to school division finals. The grade 6-12 winners from the divisional finals came to Saskatoon for the provincial competition. Monetary awards were presented to first, second and third place winners from grades 9-12. Laura Hoffman, the winner of the grade 11-12 Core French category, and Kristina Hallwas, the winner of the Grade 11-12 French Immersion category, travelled to Toronto for the national finals on June 7, 2003. They were joined by Omayra Issa, who represented Saskatchewan Francophones at the National final. Omayra was the winner of the Grade 11-12 Concours final operated by the Francophone school division. CPF – Saskatchewan would like to thank the chapter representatives, judges and timekeepers, and local volunteers who made this year's Concours d'art oratoire such a success.

Provincial Winners

Grade 6 French Immersion

First Place – Craig White, École Elsie Mironuck, Regina
Second Place – Micah McQuaid, École Monseigneur
Blaise Morand, North Battleford
Third Place – Portia Crowe, École St Paul, Saskatoon

Grade 7 French Immersion

First Place - Katrina Murray, École St Matthew,
Saskatoon
Second Place – Brennan Jelinski, École Holy Cross,
Prince Albert
Third Place – Jane Hawryliw, École Monseigneur
Blaise Morand, North Battleford

Grade 8 French Immersion

First Place – Jenn Dorr, École Wascana, Regina
Second Place – Kelsey Lespérance, École St Thomas,
Saskatoon
Third Place – Elyse Stewart, École St Pius X, Regina

Grade 9 – 10 French Immersion

First Place – Vanessa Peterson, Campbell Collegiate,
Regina
Second Place – Cara Sander, École Holy Cross,
Prince Albert
Third Place – Dawnelle McDougall, Thom Collegiate,
Regina

Grade 11-12 French Immersion

First Place - Kristina Hallwas, Thom Collegiate, Regina
Second Place - Sarah Parent, Estevan Comprehensive
High School, Estevan
Third Place - Joseph Blais, École Holy Rosary,
Lloydminster

Grade 9-10 Core French

First Place – Daniel Detillieux, Bruno School
Second Place – Rachel Renneberg, Bruno School
Third Place – Amanda Kirtzinger, Bruno School

Grade 11-12 Core French

First Place - Laura Hoffman, Bruno School
Second Place – Megan Weyland, Bruno School
Third Place - Colin Olchowski, Bruno School

Calendar of Events

September

- 18 - 19 Le Parlement jeunesse fransaskois in Regina
24 Deadline for school trustee nominations

October

- 15 - 16 French Language Career Faire in Saskatoon
18 Mini Rendez-vous in Estevan
22 Municipal Elections

November

- 7 - 9 National AGM in Winnipeg

2004

January

- 17 Chapter Planning Meeting in Saskatoon (tentative)

February

- 9 - 13 French Immersion and Core French Week
13 - 14 Rendez-vous in Regina (tentative)

April

- 20 French for the Future in Saskatoon

May

- 1 Concours d'art oratoire Provincial Finals in Saskatoon
29 Concours d'art oratoire National Finals in Edmonton

August

- 8 CPF Saskatchewan Annual General Meeting
2 - 14 Le Camp Ultime - CPF Residential Summer Camp

Watch our website for Mini Rendez-vous dates to be announced in the near future.

Application Deadlines

Encounters with Canada

Seven day seminars for students aged 15-17 based on a variety of themes - held during the school year. Call 1-800-361-0419 or see www.encounters-recontres.ca

House of Commons Page Program

Application deadline for 2004-05 is December 2. For more information see www.parl.gc.ca/common/AboutParl_Youth.asp

Katimavik

For those 17-21 years of age who want to discover Canada, learn new skills through volunteering, and develop their potential. Call 1-888-525-1503 or see www.katimavik.org

E-mail Addresses

To keep our files updated and to cut down on paper, please forward your new e-mail address to us. Send to cpfsask@sasktel.net
Thank you!

Camp Committee

CPF – Saskatchewan is looking for volunteers to serve on a camp committee. This committee will advise the provincial board of directors on future directions for summer residential camp. Parents and other concerned individuals are invited to call the CPF – SK office as soon as possible with their questions or expressions of interest. Please call (306) 244-6151 or 1-800-561-6151.

Intensive Core Pilot Project

French Language Pilot Project Results Exceed Expectations (News Release)

Reprinted with Permission

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, June 19, 2003

Students enrolled in the pilot project of the Intensive core French program at St. Augustine School, have exceeded expectations in both the French oral and written skills they have developed during the program.

None of the 38 students, who come from various areas of the city, studied French prior to enrolling in the program. Students were recently tested on oral and written language skills using an oral proficiency interview developed in New Brunswick and a writing assessment analyzed by the department of linguistics at the University of Quebec in Montreal.

"Oral evaluation indicates our students are able to sustain a conversation in French using short phrases and sentences," explained Ron Sirois, Coordinator of French Language Education for Saskatoon Catholic Schools. "They also demonstrated emerging spontaneity and some ability to create with the language. This is really an amazing accomplishment given that they've only been studying the language for a short time."

In the written evaluation, the students scored at a francophone level of between Grade 4 and 5 for fluency and accuracy. The expectation had been for students to achieve the equivalent of a francophone Grade 3 level.

Parents are excited by both the results and the opportunity their children have had to be involved in the Intensive core French program.

"This experience has had a positive impact on the whole family. My daughter in Grade 3 wants to know everything her brother learns every day so she can teach her classmates and my daughter in Grade 9 core French comes to her brother to get help! You can imagine the effect this has had on his self-esteem," said Marcy Wrishko.

For parents sending their children out of their home area the experience was also worth the extra effort. "I was concerned about my daughter leaving her neighbourhood school to attend this program, but it has been a wonderful experience for her. Everyone in the school has been so welcoming and she is loving the program and is learning so much," said Andrea Kelly.

The Intensive core French program at St. Augustine is the only program of its type west of the

Maritimes. The program was originally developed in Newfoundland and has expanded to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This Canadian model of intensive language instruction is also being used in Wales to teach Welsh and in Belgium to teach Dutch.

Intensive core French offers students a unique opportunity to learn the French language beginning in Grade 6. The regular core program is enriched through intensive exposure to the language, enabling students to receive three to four times the hours normally devoted to French. The program is available at St. Augustine for students citywide and is made possible with the support of Heritage Canada and Saskatchewan Learning.

St. Augustine is a Kindergarten to Grade 8 school with more than 260 students and with 33 full-time and part-time teachers, service and support staff and is located in the East College Park area.

A Day in Intensive Core

Ron Sirois, Coordinator of French Language Education for Saskatoon Catholic Schools, outlines a typical day in the Intensive Core program. 65% of the day is devoted to French, compared with 10 percent of the time in core French. This routine begins in September and continues until January.

Students would begin studying French at 9 am and continue until about a half an hour after lunch. The rest of the day would be taught in English in subjects such as math, physical education and religion. Subjects such as Social Studies, Science and Language Arts are put on hold for the first five months of the program. However, the thematic content from these subjects is used in teaching French at which time a maintenance program is put into place. This would consist of approximately half an hour a day of French.

Mr. Sirois notes that these students are not giving up anything to be in the program. Students still have access to band and other regular programs. If you would like more information about this program, contact Ron Sirois at 668-7074 or e-mail rsirois@scs.sk.ca.

People interested in having more information about intensive core programs in Saskatchewan should contact CPF - SK or Bev Anderson, Core French Consultant, Saskatchewan Learning, (306) 787-2595

New Programs for Associate Member Schools

Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan is developing a new program for schools that are Associate Members. These schools will have access to the following:

- ♦ A new multi-media kit designed for French immersion students from Kindergarten to grade 8 and their families. The kit will be loaned to each school for a period of 6 weeks and will contain French language tapes, CD's, CD-rom's books, and games. Students will borrow these items for use at home.
- ♦ Preschools which have an AMO membership will have access to a Paul et Suzanne kit on a rotating basis.
- ♦ French Club materials developed by our Nova Scotia Branch are now available in Saskatchewan for groups and individuals to provide Core French Clubs.
- ♦ Grade 6 - 9 Grant Program for AMO's seeking funding to help them develop extracurricular or enrichment projects taking place in Saskatchewan.

It is hoped that these programs will enrich the French immersion and core French experience for many students in Saskatchewan. Schools can contact the CPF – SK office at (306) 244 - 6151, or toll-free 1-800-561-6151 (outside of Saskatoon) for more information.

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 above. 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
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	Signature: _____

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

Provincial Board of Directors

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Local Chapters

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Nipawin
Prince Albert
Regina
Yorkton

Chapter Updates for Website

Please forward your Chapter updates for publication on our website to:
joanneillingworth@sasktel.net

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CPF - SK Office Information

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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 _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov _____ Postal Code _____

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

Fax: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

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)

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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.**