

Rendez-vous 2008: The Triple Effect Expérience extrême du nord



On March 7-9, CPF-SK held the second event of **The Triple Effect - Rendez-vous 2008**, titled **Extreme Northern Experience**. What a blast! Located at the Land of the Loon Resort, Anglin Lake, just north of Prince Albert, kids got to participate in a number of outdoor activities. The weather, with its mild temperatures, couldn't have been better for this Rendez-vous weekend.

Sunday morning they had a choice of cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice-fishing (for those who couldn't get enough), and a watercolour workshop where they could paint landscapes from right on the lake. Activities were held in rotations so that all could participate in their two favorites. The weather was so mild that extra bundling was unnecessary. The farewell lunch had a few kids partaking in silly performances in a quest to have the last of those extra-delicious, melt in your mouth, chocolate, chocolate chip cookies.

With gear all packed and parents waiting, phone numbers and email addresses were exchanged before heading home. There was such a great sense of camaraderie amongst the group and everyone really enjoyed themselves. All of this combined with awesome activities and the weather to go with it made for an incredible fun-filled weekend.

The event kicked off Friday at 5pm, dining in the rustic log-constructed chalet bordering the lake. After settling into their respective log cottages, the 16 participants in grades 6 to 8 viewed the starry night through a telescope, learning about constellations. Fortunately, the skies were clear which provided optimum viewing of the stars.

Kids were shuttled out to Sundogs Sled Excursions Saturday morning after a hearty pancake breakfast for a fun-filled day with the dogs and participated in a series of activities learning all about the art of dog-sledding. Then it was back out to the lake, where an ice-auger was used to reopen the frozen ice-fishing holes. Out came the poles! Lines, jigs and minnows sunk down below the ice and the fishing began. As the sun set all settled around for a campfire and marshmallow roast. Later, the group participated in a slideshow of the stars, learning more of what they were seeing in the night sky. Then it happened! The sky began to dance; those beautiful lights in the sky known as the Aurora Borealis. The kids gathered on an open area on the lake, viewing the display in awe.



CPF-SK Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

Bonjour! My name is Kelli Timmerman and I am really excited to be a part of Canadian Parents for French (CPF). I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Administrative Assistant for the Saskatchewan provincial office and look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

I was educated in a small town school where French was first to go after budget cuts. It wasn't until after I graduated high school that I realized how unfortunate the cut-back really was. I recognized the value of French – our nation's "other" official language and decided to pursue it on my own.

I studied French in university, making sure to participate in as many "immersion" programs as I could. They were always so much fun! I was awarded a bursary to study French in Chicoutimi, Quebec for five weeks and enjoyed it so much, I stayed for six months. After returning, I graduated from the University of Calgary with my Bachelor of General Studies with a minor in French.

I am very proud of my progress with the French language and culture, even though it was difficult to plow through. I feel that learning a new language is much easier as a child, rather than an adult. Children are sponges when it comes to learning! A parent can give their child the gift of being bilingual just by the school they choose to enrol their child in. Who wouldn't want to give that gift to their child? It seems straightforward to me! I fully support French second language programs and will, one day, welcome the opportunity to enrol my children in French immersion.

What excites me about CPF is that there is an entire network of people out there who support French, as I do. Please feel free to contact me if you need anything. I am eager to dive in and be a part of the voice that says "Proud of Two Languages!"

Sincerely,
Kelli Timmerman
Administrative Assistant,
CPF-SK



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Meadow Lake	Swift Current
Melville	Yorkton
Moose Jaw	

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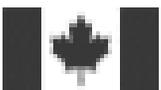
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A Message from the President

Spread the word about the benefits of French language education! As parents, we have a strong voice. There are more than 9,000 Saskatchewan students enrolled in 65 schools offering French immersion. It is the time of year when parents are registering their children for kindergarten, and may not be aware of the French learning opportunities in their area whether it be core French, immersion, or intensive French. I encourage parents to share their experiences and testimonials with others. When I registered my oldest daughter in French immersion nine years ago I had many questions, such as: is a multi-graded classroom a benefit? will the quality of programming be there? will my daughter's English skills be as good as those in the English stream? Well, nine years later, I am able to answer these questions...yes, yes and thank goodness! There are numerous benefits to second-language learning.

For benefits of a second language, check out the website for Bonjour Saskatchewan, a campaign to promote linguistic duality. Canadian Parent for French - Saskatchewan (CPF-SK) is a partner in this initiative. There are many studies that support enhanced academic achievement and job opportunities, to name a few. As a parent and teacher, I have experienced these benefits first hand.

I remind you of the network of support that CPF-SK provides. We work hard to support chapters with resources for parents and teachers (pamphlets, newsletter, French for Parents classes). We hire monitors to travel to various communities for Mini Rendez-vous throughout the year. We are excited about our Triple Effect Rendez-vous (please see the details in this issue of our newsletter) geared towards grades 6 to 8 students. There are many more opportunities for members to access. Our website, www.cpfask.com, has details or you can contact our Saskatoon-based office for general information.

Thank you to the many volunteers in the local CPF chapters who generously contribute their time promoting French as a second language, organizing events and fundraising. We are seeking individuals interested in working with us at the board level in a volunteer capacity. If you have an interest in being a part of the organization at the provincial level, please contact me at cpfsk_president@hotmail.com. We welcome new ideas and energy.

À la prochaine,
Gerri Ann Riehl



CPF-SK Inspiring Teacher Award

Nomination deadline: April 30th

The Inspiring Teacher Award is presented in recognition of the contribution of a teacher who:

- Promotes French-second-language education in their school or community.
- Inspires students of all abilities and backgrounds to learn French.

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On the AJEFS website you will find a wide variety of legal documents pertaining to consumer rights, health issues, agriculture, family matters, babysitting, housing, youth justice and much, much more!

For more information, visit our website: www.ajefts.ca or contact us at:

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AJEFS, 3850 rue Hillside, bureau 120, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 7J5 Tel : 1 800 991-1912

La justice en français :
MON CHOIX!

CHAPTER

ESTEVAN

Sacred Heart School in Estevan celebrated French immersion and core French during the week of Feb. 4-8. Staff and students participated in many activities throughout the week.

Each morning a French song was played over the intercom for all students to enjoy. There was also an introduction about the group that recorded the song. Each morning we also made a draw for prizes. Many companies in Estevan and in Saskatchewan donated prizes that we could give away to the children. The children always look forward to this!

Concours d'art oratoire for the grades 7 and 8 French students was held on a Monday evening. It was a great way for our French immersion students to express, in French, their ideas and opinions on a subject of their choice. This was presented in front of a group of about 40 people.

We also had a cross-graded Journée de bingo. Classrooms were partnered up to play French bingo together. A good time was enjoyed by all!

We also had French fashion shows. Grade 1 and 2 students were partnered with grade 7 and 8 students. The older students had to describe in French what their younger partner was wearing.

The kindergarten French students partnered up with the grade 5/6 French class to do "La Raquette" (snowshoeing). The older students helped the little ones get their snowshoes on and guided them through the snow. Fun was had by all.

Our school celebrates French Immersion and Core French Week every year. It is a great way to celebrate the learning of the two official languages. We look forward to it again next year!

MEADOW LAKE

We have had much to celebrate this past year in Meadow Lake!

The inaugural French immersion class in Meadow Lake started this past September with 17 children enrolled in a kindergarten/grade 1 classroom. We are very fortunate to have an enthusiastic, dedicated and experienced French immersion teacher to lead us all on our way!

We have had two successful fundraisers this past year including our first annual "Nuts for French!" campaign. We've also worked with our local college to provide a beginner French class for people in our community.

We will continue to work on recruitment of CPF members and French immersion students.

We are looking forward to another very interesting and busy year!

MOOSE JAW

September 2007 saw an increase in the number of kindergarten students registered in French immersion in Moose Jaw - a total of 63. We provided a folder of information to the parents, which included the CPF Early Childhood Activity book.

Besides hosting a Fête du soleil and a fall Mini Rendez-vous, we developed an exciting new project – French Reading/Reward Program. Our objective was to increase French reading at home and includes students in grades 2 to 5 in both separate and public schools – approximately 175. For every book/reading entry a student records, they earn a point and then trade in points for items when we bring the 'store' to the schools each month. We approached many organizations and received considerable support receiving items large and small. We also collaborated with the public library for a Read French Promotion. Their French books circulation had a very significant increase over the period of the contest. In addition, we did a fundraiser and sold over 100 Keys to French reference guides.

NIPAWIN

Bonjour! "Wow!" sums up our Fête de soleil 2007. We had an attendance of 20 children. Everyone enjoyed all the activities planned and led by our awesome monitors. We played in the water, enjoyed the beautiful summer weather and made some great crafts. For our children in Nipawin, this Fête was even more special due to the cancellation of all French immersion grades. Fête provided our children the chance to use and showcase their French language skills and to connect with their friends.

This fall was a time for us, as a chapter, to consider "How? Why? What? and Where do we go from here?" The Nipawin chapter of CPF will continue to become more visible and more vocal within our community as we promote and encourage French as a gift for our children. We will continue and are committed to providing support to parents, children and community members in pursuing their French language opportunities.

We held a pizza sale at the elementary school in November with great success. We also hosted our first 'French Story Time.' We invited a high school FI student to read a French story to some of our younger children. We had a great turnout and plan on offering this on a weekly basis with different activities for the children in our community.

REPORTS

We have joined up with SEFFA and the community of Zenon Park to offer a French for Parents course, which was offered in January.

Many children have experienced a new school, a new community and new language learning opportunities but with events such as Fête, Mini-rendez-vous and 'French Story Time' we can be the connection for families within our community of Nipawin. Until next time...au revoir!

PRINCE ALBERT

Hello! Bonjour tout le monde! Canadian Parents for French – Prince Albert chapter has been active in hosting events and initiating new programs to promote learning a second language and to provide support to families.

Some of the activities already undertaken by CPF – Prince Albert since the fall include:

Our first Mini Rendez-vous of the year, with kindergarten to grade 5 students, was a great success with 46 children in attendance. The Mini Rendez-vous and AGM were held at St. Anne School, a new venue for us.

Fundraising is always an issue when trying to provide more opportunities for students and adults. We worked two bingos for the Kinsmen Club of Prince Albert and four coat checks at the E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Arts.

CPF members sat at tables during parent – teacher interviews to provide information to families and to sell CPF items.

Concours d'art oratoire (public speaking contest) is also coming up for students in grades 1 to 12. This is a great opportunity to develop oral French language skills beginning at an early age. Parents are strongly urged to support their child in participating in this activity.

High school students may also win monetary prizes when competing in the Concours d'art oratoire at the provincial level. Grade 11 and 12 students who place first provincially may also go on to compete at the national level in Ottawa, Ontario. As an added incentive \$20,000 scholarships can be won in a variety of categories.

Students are asked to seriously consider participating in this enriching program. See your teacher for details or visit: <http://www.cpfask.com/concours.htm>.

Also coming up in the new year is our second Micro/Mini Rendez-vous. This event is for children in preschool with some bilingual experience and French immersion students in kindergarten to grade 5. All children in French immersion are welcome to attend. The Mini Rendez-vous will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at Vickers School from 9am to 3pm. The cost is a CPF family membership plus \$15. Please contact Jara at 922-9199 to register.

Another way CPF - Prince Albert supports and encourages students in French immersion is to offer awards which include bursaries. All grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 students are eligible for the awards through the French immersion programs in the Prince Albert Separate School Division and Saskatchewan Rivers School Division. Eligibility for these awards is based on:

- Proficiency in French and willingness to speak French
- Volunteering or participating outside school in French personal growth opportunities

Applications can be obtained from your French immersion teacher. The deadline for applications is the first week of May. Please contact Jara at 922-9199 for more information.

A one week French summer camp will be held in August, 2008 at Holy Cross School. Dates to be confirmed.

Coming in the fall of 2008 is a Canadian Parents for French Travel Club for students in grades 8 and 9.

*Ensemble on peut créer une différence...
Together we can make a difference...*

SASKATOON CATHOLIC

Our Chapter organized a Mini Rendez-vous at École St. Paul School for students in kindergarten to grade 5. We also offered two Fête du soleil camps, one in early July and the other at the end of August. Both were well attended. Chapter representatives also attended kindergarten information nights to promote CPF in Saskatoon.

SWIFT CURRENT

CPF - Swift Current enjoyed an active year in 2007. We continued to increase our membership and were able to offer several programs over the course of the year. Last winter, parents of our younger students had the opportunity to increase their knowledge of French by taking adult French classes. Our middle years and high school students had a blast at Francofièvre as did the 30 kindergarten to grade 5 students at our spring Mini Rendez-vous. We also put on our first Fête du soleil in early July. So far this year we have had a fall Mini Rendez-vous and look forward to offering another one in the spring. We have tentative plans for another series of adult French classes this winter and a Fête du soleil next summer. Thanks to our increased membership, we were able to double the bursary we offer to one of our graduating students. We look forward to continued growth in 2008.

OOPS!

In the fall 2007 issue of the newsletter, there was an article about Foire des carrières. In the article, a list of partners appeared and unfortunately, l'institut français was omitted in this list. Our apologies to the Institute for this omission. The event was a great success and we want to thank ALL partners for their contribution.



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Membership Application Form

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

- New Membership
 Renewal: Membership # _____
 Change of Address

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

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

Fax: (____) _____ Email: _____

School Board: _____

School(s): _____

Local CPF Chapter: _____

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Please fill out and return this form along with payment to:

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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 here.

ADIEU À CAMP ULTIME

It's time to say farewell to Camp ultime. After 25 years, our residential camp, held each summer at Arlington Beach, Last Mountain Lake, has been officially put to rest. Many warm memories of great summer fun in French have been instilled in both our campers and monitors since the camp's debut in 1982. However, due to a decline in the number of campers in the past few years, it is no longer feasible to host the camp and new programming for our youth will be put in its place. We wish to thank all supporters for their interest and the staff at Arlington Beach for their dedication in helping CPF-SK host Camp ultime over the past two and a half decades.

Nous voudrions remercier toute l'équipe des organisateurs, le personnel du Camp ultime pour leur travail et leur bonne humeur. Sans vous ce programme n'aurait pas existé.

Bravo à tous qui ont fait possible toutes ces expériences fantastiques, avec les plus beaux souvenirs.

Un grand merci aux campeurs, les moniteurs et monitrices. Vous êtes formidables!

Bises à vous tous...

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2008

- 5 : Mini Rendez-vous (Prince Albert)
- 12 : Mini Rendez-vous (Swift Current)
- 13 : Mini Rendez-vous (Regina)
- 25 : Registration deadline for Ultimate Urban Adventure
- 26 : Concours d'art oratoire, CPF-SK (Saskatoon)
- 26-27 : Branch Board Meeting

May 2008

- 2-4 : ULTIMATE URBAN ADVENTURE, Rendez-vous 2008 (Regina)
- 8 : Francofière (Saskatoon)
- 15 : International Day of Families
- 19 : Victoria Day (CPF-SK office closed)
- 21 : World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
- 31 : National Concours d'art oratoire, CPF-National (University of Ottawa, Ottawa)

June 2008

- 13 : President's Reception (Radisson, Saskatoon)
- 14 : AGM/Chapter Planning Meeting (Radisson, Saskatoon)
- 15 : Branch Board Meeting
- 24 : St. Jean Baptiste Day

July 2008

- 1 : Canada Day (CPF-SK office closed)
- 7 : Fête du soleil begins

August 2008

- 4 : Civic Holiday (CPF-SK office closed)
- 12 : World Youth Day
- 22 : Fête du soleil ends

La fête du soleil

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CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE – 2008

The provincial final of *Concours d'art oratoire* will take place on Saturday, April 26. Information packages have been sent to all schools requesting them. Some of the parent packages are already out in the schools and others will be delivered as requested. Coordinators should be aware of the following dates:

- April 4** All Divisional finals should be complete and winners' names sent to CPF-SK.
- April 26** Provincial finals for grades 6-12 at E. D. Feehan High School in Saskatoon.
- May 31** National finals for winners of grade 11-12 competitions to be held in Ottawa.

An added incentive for students in grades 11-12 is that winners of the provincial final in each category will be offered an expense paid trip to Ottawa to compete in the national final on the weekend of May 31, 2008. We would like to send representatives in both French immersion and core French categories. We would also like to send a student in the "core special" category which is designed for students currently in a core French program who have had additional experience using the French-language.

In Ottawa the winner of the national final in each category will be offered a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Ottawa for French studies. Last year, Kyle Gamble of Thom Collegiate in Regina made our province proud by winning first prize in the national final in the category of Core Extended and took home the \$20,000 scholarship!

Please encourage your local students in both French immersion and core French to participate. For more information about this event, please visit our website at www.cpfask.com or contact our office. All parents whose child will participate in the provincial finals will need to submit the confirmation form to our office at the date indicated in the package they receive from their local Concours coordinators.

We are grateful for all the teachers, administrators and parents for the support they provide for this worthwhile program.

Rendez-vous 2008: The Triple Effect

There's something new about something old! This year CPF-SK is hosting **three** Rendez-vous in **three** different regions instead of just one provincial gathering as we have done in the past. Locations for these exciting weekend getaways have been carefully selected to incorporate our chapter sites and French immersion schools throughout the province, as well as resources and facilities able to accommodate our needs. The concept of "The Triple Effect" for Rendez-vous 2008 is very exciting as it has opened up a broad range of new venues.

We have designed three very different settings for each of these events, offering a variety of experiences for our youth.

1. **Blue Mountain Snow Blast**, winter fun in North Battleford
2. **Extreme Northern Experience**, a true outdoorsy adventure, located 45 minutes north of Prince Albert at Anglin Lake
3. **Ultimate Urban Adventure**, cultural escapades in Regina

Though all Rendez-vous are being offered in a different district, they are each open to youth fitting the eligibility criteria. Rendez-vous is designed for students in grades 6 to 8 who are enrolled in French immersion and intensive French programs anywhere in Saskatchewan. The three Rendez-vous have entirely different settings so that your child can attend all three and gain unique experiences from each, with French language being the focal point! We want these kids to have an adventure they will cherish. They will have a blast being there, meeting new kids and knowing that French isn't just about school - it's fun and it's cool!



Thursday, May 8th
Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

The Coalition for the Promotion of the French Language and the Francophone Culture in Saskatchewan would like youth to feel proud of their knowledge of French and encourage them to participate in this exciting event. For further information or to register, please contact the CPF-SK office.

ONLY ONE LEFT: ULTIMATE URBAN ADVENTURE
Activities include stage performances, a tour of Regina's film studios, a culinary experience, a storytelling workshop & other cool stuff!

Regina: May 2-4, 2008 \$80 plus CPF Membership
Registration Deadline is April 25th!

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41206512

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