



Media Release

2011 Concours d'art oratoire a resounding success

Saskatoon, May 13, 2011 – A record number of contestants gathered in Saskatoon on Saturday, May 7 to participate in Concours d'art oratoire, hosted by Canadian Parents for French – Saskatchewan (CPF-SK).

A total of 70 students came from locations across Saskatchewan to participate in the French-language oratory contest. Participants from grade six to 12 took part in the competition, bringing along their family and friends to encourage them. Each participant competed at the regional level to qualify for the provincial final.

"You should be proud of the work that you've done," said Suzanne Rollo, President of Canadian Parents for French - Saskatchewan, who was Mistress of Ceremonies for the event.

"It's the combination of hard work, research and preparation that has gotten you all to this level."

Winners in each category were as follows:

Grade 6

French Immersion:

- 1st – Lauren Desilets, École Cardinal Léger, Saskatoon – *Les anniversaires italiens*
- 2nd – Sophie Chatlain, École St. Matthew, Saskatoon – *La vie sans hauteur*
- 3rd – Simone Ma, École St. Mary, Regina – *Pourquoi on ne devrait pas célébrer les fêtes anniversaires?*

Francophone:

- 1st – Marco Quesnel, École Zenon Park, Zenon Park – *Le français*

Grade 7

French Immersion:

- 1st – Ty Gitzel, École Cardinal Léger, Saskatoon – *Le manque de français en Saskatchewan*
- 2nd – Asia Libke, École St. Pius, Regina – *La fumée secondaire : Savez-vous vraiment les conséquences?*
- 3rd – Robyn Miller, École St. Andrew, Regina – *Discrimination*

Francophone:

- 1st – Anne-Sophie Fortier, École Zenon Park, Zenon Park – *Les inventions créées par accidents*

Grade 8

French Immersion:

1st – Natalie Bennett, École St. Matthew, Saskatoon – *Les prédateurs à l'internet*

2nd – Jessica Scott, École St. Pius, Regina – *La science : une ressource essentielle pour la survie des cultures*

3rd – Haley Tonita, École St. Mary, Regina – Adam et Eve: *Le fruit interdit*

Francophone:

1st – Jean-Elie Fortier – École Zenon Park, Zenon Park – *La pauvreté et les richesses non-utilisées*

2nd – Véronique Poirier – École Sacré Cœur, Estevan – *Pépé le Pieu*

Grades 9 and 10

French Immersion:

1st – Desiree Naude – Holy Rosary High School, Lloydminster (Grade 9) – *Christelle et le monde magique*

2nd – Calvin Yee – Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 9) – *Google*

3rd – Joy Petrowsky – Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 10) – *Les tueurs en série*

Francophone:

1st – Rachèle Paquet, Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 10) – *Le bien contre le mal*

2nd – Melody Findlay – Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 10) – *Les jeunes délinquants*

Grades 11 and 12

Core French:

1st – Jamie Kim, Luther College, Regina (Grade 11) – *Ma mère m'a influence*

2nd – Garrett Lillie, Luther College, Regina (Grade 11) – *La mort devrait essayer plus fort*

Core Special:

1st – M Fearghus Vincent, Luther College, Regina (Grade 11) – *Mon ami Liam*

2nd – Jamie Anderson, Luther College, Regina (Grade 11) – *Le Christianisme et Harry Potter*

French Immersion:

1st – Avnee Paranjape, Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 12) – *La détresse des Romanichels*

2nd – Hurria Gondal, Walter Murray Collegiate, Saskatoon (Grade 12) – *La belle petite fille*

3rd – Kelsey Stewart, École St. Mary, Prince Albert (Grade 12) – *L'harcèlement chez les adolescents*

Francophone:

1st – Elisabeth Fortier, École Zenon Park, Zenon Park (Grade 12) – *Ce qu'être grande signifie pour moi*

2nd – Jihane Henri, Campbell Collegiate, Regina (Grade 11) – *L'effet domino – démocratie ou chaos?*

3rd – Yves Tumba Bukassa, École Martin Leboldus, Regina (Grade 12) – *Facebook: un outil d'autodestruction ou un outil indispensable?*

Grade 11 and 12 winners from each category will be heading to the CPF National Concours d'art oratoire at the University of Ottawa to compete for a \$20,000 scholarship.

Avnee Paranjape is one of the four Saskatchewan students who will be heading to the National competition. She has been participating in the Concours since grade six, and in her graduating year, she will be attending the finals at the national level. She will be representing the province in the French Immersion category.

"Any speaking competition can help students improve their public speaking skills, but when you pair that with French, it bumps the challenge up to a whole new level," she said. "With Concours, you learn how pronunciation and tone are important when speaking in French, things that are difficult to learn in the classroom. Concours challenges students to not only speak well from a prepared text, but also be able to formulate questions on the spot."

Avnee said that French has become an important tool in her life, and she hopes to continue her journey with the language.

"French is very important to me," she said. "I've grown up learning French, and it's a part of my life. It's a terrific feeling to be able to have conversation with a native French speaker, be it in Quebec, France, or even here in Saskatchewan. I hope very much that I can continue studying and becoming increasingly fluent in French at university next year."

She said she is happy to be representing Saskatchewan at the National Concours after having participated at the provincial level for so many years.

"Winning this title is wonderful, especially because this is my last year of participating," said Avnee. "It feels like I've ended off this seven-year streak with a bang! I'm honoured to have been selected as the best speaker, and I'm very excited to be attending the national final."

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is the national network of volunteers who value French as an integral part of Canada and are dedicated to the promotion, creation and support of effective French-Second-Language (FSL) learning opportunities for youth in Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Kathy Gallant
Communications Officer
Phone: 306.244.6151
Email: cpf.sk.comm@sasktel.net
Website: www.cpfask.com