



CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON

Who are we?

Co-Chair: Sandra Arthur/Christine Malmberg

Treasurer: Nicole Lee

Secretary: Cedar Payne

Ecole Bayside Rep: Rachelle Hill

Ecole Keating Rep: Cedar Payne

Ecole Deep Cove: Marc Leperriere

Ecole Stelly's: Sandra Arthur/
Christine Malmberg

Members at Large: Isabella Ghiurea, Caryl Schrack.

Past President: Andrea Calder

Our Contacts

**Canadian Parents for French
Saanich Chapter**

Website: www.cpf.bc.ca/saanich

Email: CPF.Saanich@gmail.com

Join our conversations:
[facebook.com/CPF.Saanich](https://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich)



Our Vision Statement:

“CPF-Saanich Chapter is the resource to parents and students for continued French language learning in an engaged community”



What do we do?

Welcome to our new information packed newsletter! **Canadian Parents for French – Saanich** is a group of dedicated parent volunteers covering four schools within Saanich SD63 - Deep Cove Elementary, Keating Elementary, Bayside Middle School, and Stelly's Secondary. We come together once a month, to coordinate and fund French cultural activities for our children, raise funds for our programs, communicate with teachers and administrators on ways to foster our children's French language experience, and provide access and resources for parents of children in French Immersion and core French programs.



Please join CPF!

Help support FSL students in your community by joining or renewing your CPF membership online at bc-yk.cpf.ca/

Why

CPF offers tools, help, and exclusive members-only privileges (i.e. discounted French book purchases, summer camps at our annual Resource Book Fair etc). Join the conversations on our website and connect with like-minded people to support your children's education. **80% of your funds are used 100% to finance events, special activities and French books at local FI Saanich schools.** Without your funds we will be unable to offer the great additional support to our local schools that are much needed. At only \$25 per year to receive a year's membership, it will greatly add to our ability to deliver MORE to your students' French study experience.

Join Canadian Parents for French at: www.cpf.ca

Don't forget to apply to join the Saanich Chapter.

Merci!

Reading Matters:

"... the first step to literacy is simply being immersed, through conversation and storytelling, in a reading environment; the second is to read a lot and often." Susan Engel, senior lecturer in psychology and the director of the teaching program at Williams College.

Are you looking for ways to keep your children engaged in reading throughout the year? Or perhaps you are looking for that perfect Christmas, or birthday gift? Purchase or renew your magazine subscriptions directly online, and in turn support **CPF's annual fundraiser.**

To those of you who have already ordered - THANK YOU! Our campaign continues until December 31, 2017.

Use your child's name, grade, teacher, and school to receive credit towards some great prizes!

Visit **www.QSP.ca** and make your purchases using your school's online ID Number.



Deep Cove = #4677746

Keating = #4677761

Bayside Middle = #4677399

Stelly's = #4737680

***Some French magazine suggestions for FI students:**

- Grades 1 & 2 and 1,2,3 - Pomme d'api, Youpi
- Grades 2 & 3 - Les Belle Histoires
- Grades 3, 4 & 5 - Les Explorateurs
- Grades 4 & 5 - J'aime Lire, Images Doc
- Grades 5 & 6 - Je Bouquine, Youpi
- Grades 6-8 Filoteo, Astrapi, Image docs.
- Grade 8-10 Curicum and 9-12 GeoAdo.

***Tell us about your favourite magazines and why!**

Events & activities supported so far this fall

FRENCH IMPROV

A 3-hour packed creative workshop for budding actors for grade 8-10 was presented by local actress Madeleine Humeny.

FRENCH DEBATE

Grade 9 students were introduced to the skill of French debate by Prof Teale Phelps Bondaroff during a 5 week workshop event.

FRENCH CAFE

Our Middle School students will be hosting a special fundraising French Cafe during their busy Xmas Band Concert evening.

BONJOUR, BONNE NUIT

The popular French bedtime reading by Middle School FI students to K and Grade 1 children took place once again!

FRENCH BOOK APPEAL

Many parents have kindly donated their good conditioned French books and magazines to local schools.

WELCOME NIGHTS

All our CPF French school representatives attended various School Welcome/Meet the teacher evenings. If you missed out to speak with us - do get in contact!



Our school representatives have been busy discussing ideas with teachers, students and parents. Here is a glimpse of some of the activities delivered and funded by CPF. AND there is more to come!!

Canadian Parents for French - Saanich Chapter supports and funds a variety of cultural programs intended to enrich the students' classroom instruction, such as:

- Provincial Concours d'Art Oratoire (finals May 5, 2018)
- Kindergarten-Grade 12 Celebration (April 2018)
- French books and magazines supplied to local schools
- Bonjour/Bonne Nuit (storytelling by Grade 8 students to our younger students)
- French Book and Resource Fair
- Past deliverable: Ca Roule Radio Show for teens by teens. Pilot on CILS FM 107.9
(You can find the pilot, four teen French programmes, on dropbox link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/99uypd4wye44xm1/AACeUuyViPsDQ-OU9ijKq54a?dl=0>



CPF - Saanich 2018 plans: Our representatives are busy planning new exciting events for 2018 such as the “Verbathon”, Indoor Football (in French), French Film/theatre evenings and much more.

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in being a part of this dynamic group of volunteers.

What	Where	Date	Time
French Cafe	Ecole Bayside	December, 13 2017	5.00-7.00 pm
K-12 Celebration	Ecole Stelly's	18 April (tbc)	5.30-7.00 pm
Concours Finals	Vancouver	May 5, 2017	https://bc-yk.cpf.ca
More Bonne Nuits	Deep Cove/Keating	Nov 2017	Spring events tbc
French Improv	CPF sponsored	to be advised	Stay tuned!
French Debate	CPF sponsored	to be advised	Stay tuned!
French Soccer	CPF sponsored	to be advised	Stay tuned!
Books/Magazines	All schools	Please drop off	On-going
Maple Syrup Festival	Elementary	Under discussion	Stay tuned!
French cooking classes	All schools	Under discussion	Stay tuned!
Karate workshops	Bayside Grade 6	Dates tbc	Stay tuned!
French theatre	Elementary	Under discussion	Stay tuned!
Verbathon	Elementary/Middle	Awaiting game kits	Dates to be advised!

HELP swell the choice of FRENCH books at our local schools. Do you have any unwanted (good condition) French books or magazines? We are seeking donations for our schools in Saanich (Elementary, Middle School and High School). Please contact your CPF school rep and they will be happy to collect and deliver to your local FI school.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Whether your child is enrolled in the English Language Program (with daily French instruction) or French Immersion, Canadian Parents for French - Saanich Chapter is here to support and enrich your child's educational experience.

Saanich School District 63 (SD63) recognizes the benefits students can acquire from learning French as a second language (FSL). It is the only district within British Columbia where French language instruction begins in Kindergarten regardless of whether parents choose English or French Immersion. The SD63 does not have a late entry French Immersion Program, as in some other districts, and students enter the French Immersion Program in either Kindergarten or Grade 1.

Membership Draw update:

The Membership draw for the national and local prizes closed on October 31, 2017.

All renewing or new memberships are entered into a provincial draw to win some great prizes! Example: of local prizes: Thrifty's gift card, Fraser Creek Cottage, Prospect Lake Gas, Brentwood Spa to name a few!

We will draw the winners in early December 2017.

Visit our Facebook page for results!

If you did NOT renew or join, we'd still love your support. 80% of all fees will come back to the Saanich Chapter to help us provide more resources and support.

Learn more and Join Canadian Parents for French at:
www.cpf.ca

Let's hear from one of our wonderful volunteers, **Keating's school representative: Cedar Payne**, who has written this thought-provoking article:

Growing up in French Immersion class - what it has meant to me!

When I was in elementary school, I dreaded January. Inevitably, one day the teacher would announce that it was time for the "**Concours d'Art Oratoire**" (an annual French public-speaking competition). We would have to memorize a speech and perform it in front of the class. If we were chosen as the winner, we would have to speak in front of the entire school... and if we won THAT, we would have to speak in front of the entire district! I knew this, because it happened to me in grade two. I unknowingly wrote a winning speech about my pet snails. Friends remember me crying into my



lunch box the day my teacher announced that I had won. Far from being happy about my success, I cried myself to sleep every night that month, scared to death of speaking in front of a larger and larger crowd (I won at our school assembly, then again at the district level). Shy little me went as far as a grade two could go, not being old enough to participate in provincials. The following year, I played sick on Speech Day. The year after that, I wrote the most boring speech I could think of: "Les Crayons" (Pencils), so that I wouldn't win. It worked! I never won another Concours.

Eventually, as an adult, I worked through my fear of public speaking and became a scientist, presenting my findings at international conferences around the world. It still makes me nervous, but I have a better handle on it. Maybe all the early practice helped? I'm not sure, but I do know that it was a

very significant part of my childhood, and one that was not very pleasant. With my daughter in kindergarten this year, I wanted to become involved in Canadian Parents for French so I could help shape her elementary-school experience. Maybe grade two is a bit young to start Concours? Maybe it should be a voluntary exercise that children can work towards over time? Maybe it should not be a competition, but more of a participatory celebration of ideas, like Ted Talks? I think that many children, especially those struggling with innate shyness, may need a slightly different approach when it comes to learning public-speaking skills.

Merci and "Bonne Chance"!

We are so very proud of Andrea Calder, who has been our Chapter President for the past 4 years. She is now the Treasurer for CPF at Provincial level but still finds time to participate and volunteer locally!

We could not let this amazing achievement pass without acknowledging her contributions in Saanich.

Merci Beaucoup Andrea!

Don't get me wrong--I loved growing up in French Immersion! It felt like I was part of a big diverse family, travelling together to a different land each day. I had the same teacher for grade two, three, six, and seven. She came from Québec, and we loved hearing her stories and learning about her culture. My favourite memories were the festivals she took us to: Festival du Bois (Maillardville/Coquitlam), la Fête Colombienne des Enfants (Surrey), and French movie festivals at the local cinema. I also remember assemblies in our school gymnasium when our whole school sat spellbound, watching French theatre "spectacles" or Québécois films projected

onto a huge screen. Looking back, CPF likely played an integral role in these events and my childhood as a whole. Without CPF, many Canadians would not have had the opportunity of being in French Immersion at all.

"As the École Keating CPF representative, I want to give Saanich's elementary school students great memories to last a lifetime. In addition to the annual Bonjour/Bonne Nuit events (library evenings where middle school students read French "bedtime stories" to elementary school students), Concours d'Art Oratoire, and Théâtre La Seizième (travelling French theatres), we have brainstormed many new event ideas and would like to hear from you about what you would like to see!

Some of our ideas include taking the children to French movies at the Sidney's Star Cinema, hosting French cooking workshops for students and parents, and trekking to the Maple Sugar Festival in Nanaimo. What about the French language or culture(s) gives you a joie de vivre? What would you like your child to experience?"

Drop me a line at cedarpayne@gmail.com!

On October 13th, 2017, Canadian Parents for French introduced the 2017 issue of its' widely popular research series *The State of French Second Language Education in Canada*.

Download your free copy here

<http://bit.ly/2ksRMUC>



VOLUNTEER!

We are all busy - all our volunteers work and run busy lives, like you! We are always seeking support at the many events we roll out during the year. It could be helping us find a great supplier, offering to shop for food items for a given event, making a few phone calls, attending a meeting, helping to prepare fundraising material, researching local events, offer your support for a few hours or sharing feedback on what you believe could be helpful - whatever time you can spare, whatever ideas you may have, we'd love to meet you.

You do not need to speak French to support CPF - we really look forward to hearing from you.



BENEFITS FOR VOLUNTEERS! *“Did you know volunteering is associated with reductions in symptoms of depression, better overall health, fewer functional limitations and greater longevity!”*

“Did you know feeling appreciated or needed as a volunteer appears to amplify the relationship between volunteering and psychosocial wellbeing.”

Source: Rotman Research Institute.

Feeling motivated? Volunteer and help our chapter! Gain confidence. Make a difference. Meet people. Volunteering can help you meet different kinds of people and make new friends. Be part of a community. Learn new skills. Take on a challenge. Add to your resume. Have fun! Bring your passion, energy and ideas and help us enhance the learning experiences for your children!

SAVE THE DATE!

**Join us at our next
meeting!**

January 24, 2017 6.30 - 8.00 pm

Ecole Keating

French as a Second Language Teacher Shortage

French Immersion enrolment has been steadily increasing throughout Canada and in particular British Columbia. Saanich district student population had decreased since 2002/2003, however, the number of students enrolled in French Immersion has increased.

A success story!

With the continued success of French Immersion there have been some challenges and one in particular that is now labelled a crisis : finding French teachers to fill the classrooms. School districts across the country find themselves struggling to maintain a sufficient supply of French as a second language (FSL) teachers to respond to continually increasing demand for French Immersion programs as well as more core French and intensive French program options.

There are numerous reasons why there is a shortage of French teachers ranging from not enough spaces in educational faculties to meet to FSL teacher burnout. The Canadian Parents for French has been working diligently over the years to address this situation on a national, provincial and district level and have met with federal and provincial ministers, professors, teachers and parents. There is not going to be one solution to the teacher shortage, but many. One such solution is encouraging high school graduates who are thinking of education as a career to consider becoming a FSL teacher. The newly minted FSL teacher would have a his/her choice of teaching opportunities. Another success story!

Benchmarking The French Immersion Course Offerings at the High School Level

Canadian Parents for French - Saanich recently conducted a survey of French Immersion course offerings and the results are shown in the table below. Most schools tend to concentrate the courses at the beginning of the high school years leaving the later years more free for students to pursue specialized course to meet post-secondary requirements. However, we have noticed some significant differences between the high schools. For example, all schools surveyed (except Stelly's) offer Science, Social Studies and French in Grade 9 and 10. We wondered why the kids in our District could not also benefit from having Science in French at the Grade 9 and 10 level (before it gets specialized). We also note, some exciting elective options offered at other schools such as Espagnol (Spanish taught in French to Immersion students), Cinema Studies, Art dramatique, Études en Cinema and Justice Sociale. In light of these findings, we have been advocating on your behalf for Stelly's to consider its' course offerings.

We believe that French Immersion kids in this School District should be offered an equally rich and diverse curriculum as other BC students. Let us know what you think!

School	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Stelly's	Français langue Sciences humaines Éducation Physique	Français langue Sciences humaines Education Physique	Français langue Sciences humaines New course*	Français langue
Oak Bay	Français langue Sciences humaines Sciences naturelles	Français langue. Sciences humaines. Sciences naturelles.	Français langue. Sciences humaines.	Français langue
Reynolds	Français langue. Sciences humaines Sciences naturelles	Français langue Sciences humaines Sciences naturelles Espagnol	Français langue Géographie Humaines	Français langue Espagnol
Esquimalt	Français Langue Sciences Humaines Études en Cinéma	Français Langue Sciences Humaines Espagnol	Français Langue Espagnol Études en Cinéma	Français Langue Justice Sociale
Vancouver Technical	Français langue Sciences humaines Sciences naturelles Art dramatique**	Français langue Sciences humaines Sciences naturelles Planification	Français langue Sciences humaines	Français langue Sciences humaines

*As communicated during the Stellys Open House October 2017. This course has not yet been determined.

**Drama course- focusing on oral french skills through drama, presentations, improve speaking etc.)

École Reynolds Secondary Course Handbook 2017-18. Available at:

<https://reynolds.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2017/02/Course-Handbook-2017-18.pdf>. Accessed on November 29, 2017.

École Secondaire Esquimalt High School Course Guide 2017-2018. Available at:

<https://esquimalt.sd61.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/34/2013/03/2017-2018-Course-Guide-5.pdf>

Accessed on November 29, 2017.

École Secondaire OAK BAY High School Course Planning. Available at:

<https://oakbay.sd61.bc.ca/programs-courses/course-planning-information-2/> Accessed on: Accessed on November 29, 2017.

Vancouver Technical Course Planning Guide. Available at: <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/vantech/Students/Documents/Course%20Planning%20Guide%202017-2018.pdf>. Accessed on: Accessed on November 29, 2017.



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