



# CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON

## Who are we?

Our new line up for 2018/19

**President:** Sandra Arthur

**Vice President:** Christine Malmberg

**Treasurer:** Vacant\*

**Secretary:** Cedar Payne

**Ecole Bayside Rep:** Rachelle Hill

**Ecole Keating Rep:** Vacant\*

**Ecole Deep Cove:** Vacant\*

**Ecole Stelly's:** Vacant\*

**Members at Large:** Andrea Calder,



**Communications:** Cait Espinoza/Sandra Arthur

## Our Contacts

**Canadian Parents for French  
Saanich Chapter**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich/](http://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich/)

Email [CPF.Saanich@gmail.com](mailto: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 summer 2018 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.

## From Seeds to Trees “Lecture en Cadeau” supported in Saanich

The annual *Lecture en Cadeau* took place at Ecole Keating. This is a perfect opportunity for our older French Immersion Students to share their knowledge and aid younger children at elementary school to practice their French reading skills. This year we were happy to receive student volunteers from Ecole





## Please join CPF!

Help support FSL students in your community by joining or renewing your CPF membership online at [bc-yk.cpf.ca/](http://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](http://www.cpf.ca)**

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

***Merci!***

## FRENCH BOOK APPEAL

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

Please contact us if you can help supply more.

Stelly's Grade 11 and Grade 9 plus additional volunteers from Bayside Middle School Grade 8.

## “Kids mentoring kids is a great way to get everyone excited about learning skills”

This is the fourth year of the **Lecture en cadeau** programme at Keating Elementary. This programme is designed to create a unique opportunity both to inspire the love of reading in our young French immersion students, and to forge a connection between the French immersion communities at our French Immersion schools in Saanich.

Thank you to all the students who volunteered and to Mrs Gartrell Yeo and Mrs Cindy Lister for coordinating and supporting this program at Keating.

Each volunteer was given a special CPF “seed” so that they may plant and grow their own tree!

Photo: Students who supported the Lecture en Cadeau program



## CPF - LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR



This has been a great year with much achieved by our small team, there has been a huge injection of energy and great connections have been made between our group and the Saanich French Immersion schools. However, it has also been a challenging year due to operating with a very small Executive team, a reduced budget, a small membership and thus having less hands-on support and less funds achieved during our annual fundraising efforts.

As we reflect back at the past school year, we are nevertheless, truly amazed at the group of dedicated individuals that have developed and delivered a variety of additional French learning events and programs to our schools in Saanich. Our current CPF team is second to none and we feel honoured to have worked with such a group of dedicated parents.

The commitment of the CPF – Saanich Chapter team members goes beyond attending a monthly meeting. Their dedication to ensuring that our Saanich school families have a “voice” is often overlooked. The preparation for the meetings, special events that our French students enjoy, and for the fundraising initiatives that allow us to provide better French learning experiences for our children means countless hours of time given. Round of applause, please!

**DID YOU KNOW?** There has been an issue with the central CPF website that has rendered our normal local website unusable. We have been able to set up this page on this link, until the glitches can be fixed: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/chapter/saanich/>

+Meanwhile, we have improved and added content on our **Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich/>

*We trust you have bookmarked, liked and joined or will join our conversations!*

+We’ve re-launched our **quarterly newsletters** after a four year gap. *We hope you enjoy them!*

+You can also follow the **CPF BC & Yukon blog** and their social media channels for additional information on:

+Sponsored youth events and opportunities +Resources, research, and tools for students, parents, educators, and French Second Language advocates +French-language exchanges and excursions in Canada and abroad +Local, regional, and national networking opportunities +Volunteer leadership and training such as board and committee positions, informational webinars, skills-building workshops, etc. +Awards, bursaries, and recognition for youth, educators and volunteers. **AND MUCH MORE!**

## Do your kids study French? SEEKING YOUR HELP!



We are seeking new school representatives for Ecole: Keating, Deep Cove and Stelly's.

These are interesting roles as it allows you the opportunity to liaise with the French teachers and also have a role on school's PAC - where you get to regularly meet the school admin and learn more about things that are going on.

Depending on which activities might be taking place, volunteer time is around 5-10 hours per month. These roles can also be shared and some of most successful reps have been via a partnership arrangement.

We are also urgently seeking someone to head up our fundraiser activity for September. This is very much an ad hoc volunteer role, with a number of hours at the start of the school year and then ramping down by December. Do let us know if you can help?

Remember, all funds received are given back to assisting French learning in our community. Without fundraising we operate with a very small membership and those funds alone are not sufficient to help us make any meaningful impact. So please encourage your friends to join and get more active!

To complete our volunteer search, if there is anyone interested to help us get our succession filing up to speed, we'd love to hear from you. This could be a talented teen who is seeking more hands-on pc experience. There would be no need to attend any meetings. **You do not need to speak French for any of these volunteer roles.** Email [CPF.Saanich@gmail.com](mailto:CPF.Saanich@gmail.com)

**Coffee Break Conversation:** Let's hear from our President, Sandra Arthur: "WHAT we all love about **Canadian Parents for French** is seeing advances in or benefits for our students and really making a difference, no matter how small.

It brings a smile to all our faces when we see the younger kids receiving reading guidance from our older students. We appreciate the excitement that our book, magazine and DVD donations create. And best of all, we love the chance to offer additional French learning opportunities be it via a French speaking visitor to the school, French market or Cafe themed events, Karate workshop, Improv workshop, watching a film or watching a live French theatre production.



This is what inspires, excites and satisfies our volunteers to keep giving back. We'd love to have more people involved - even ad hoc volunteer hours would be much appreciated. Please make plans to attend our meeting on June 7th at Ecole Keating or drop us a note on our Facebook page."



## Bonjour Kindergarten, Au Revoir Grade Twelve!

On April 12, 2018, 110 kindergarten and 56 grade twelve French Immersion students (together with their families and teachers) were invited to attend the 24th annual CPF Saanich K-12 Gift Exchange Celebration.

Kindergarten students received scrolls of wisdom from those departing Stelly's this year.

Written in French (*bien sûr*), these scrolls gave them advice for the future: believe in yourself, work hard, and stay in French because it pays off.

CPF acknowledges the support of the parents, the dedicated teachers, support teachers, staff and administrators for their commitment to French Language programming and cultural events for students in the district.

This year we were honoured to have Mr. David Eberwein, the new CEO/Superintendent SD63 attend and address the audience. CPF Co-Chair also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Pierre Mackenzie for his many years of devotion to Stelly's students and to the teaching profession and to wish him all the best in retirement, later this year.

Everyone was treated to live French music care of Stelly's grade 12 students; limited edition CPF "*Je parle français*" water bottles were presented to the graduating grade 12 students; *Je Parle Français* buttons were distributed to all the kindergarten students; a celebratory cake was enjoyed by all, and flowers bouquets were presented to the dedicated French teachers from Ecole Deep Cove, Ecole Keating and Ecole Stelly's. The children all joined in for a singalong to "*Je suis une pizza*" and a wonderful time was had by all.

Pierre Mackenzie, head of French Immersion at Stelly's thanked CPF profusely, stating:

"As head of the French Immersion Program at Stelly's I wish to extend our heart-felt gratitude for all your efforts in the planning of one of the most successful exchanges ever, here at Stelly's. It was heartwarming welcome to the *débutants*; it was an important sendoff for the *finissants*, it was also, for many of the parents, an intriguing opening glimpse into this enriching educational program in Saanich. It went very well, no, that is not true, it was magnificent!! *Encore une fois, un grand merci.*"

David Eberwein, Superintendent for SD63 agreed, adding:

"It was a wonderful evening in so many ways. Thank you to



all for the opportunity to attend and enjoy the evening, and thank you especially for everything you do to support our French Immersion students and program.



Sally Hansen, École Stelly's Principal joined in the congratulations:

“I know events such as this can be quite stressful to facilitate, particularly when you do not work in the building and you're facilitating multiple schools, staff and students. You all did an exemplary job pulling this evening together. Thank you again for all the effort, energy and enthusiasm you bring in support of French Immersion.”

A big thank you to our various sponsors:

*Flowers: Eurosa Farms: Coffee: Starbucks: Soft drinks: Fairway Markets.*

**MERCI:** All teachers/staff and students who participated at this unique event. Monika at Stelly's Catering for cake storage and Stelly's students for their volunteering support. Of special note we'd like to recognize Norbert Ziegler who worked with Grade 12 students to offer a wonderful 30 minute live music entertainment and the amazing support we received from Brad Hart for AV/lighting/photography and photo printing. Cindy Lister, the Event MC and CPF volunteer, Sandra Arthur, event organiser.

## FAREWELL

CPF took the opportunity to offer a small gift and bid Stelly's, **P i e r r e Mackenzie** an early “bonne chance” as he approaches his retirement date, later this year.

Merci for your service to our students!



### What is K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration?

Just over 30 years , back in 1988, a French Immersion teacher at Ecole Stelly's High School and volunteer with Canadian Parents for French (CPF) came up with an idea to celebrate the achievement of her Double Dogwood Grade 12 graduating students. At the same time, she thought it would be an excellent idea to also provide some motivation to the new French Immersion Kindergarten students.



It's a long educational journey to study in two languages and hence the creation of the K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration was launched by Canadian Parents for French - Saanich.

It costs quite a lot of money and even more volunteer time to arrange what has now become a popular event in the graduating French Immersion students' calendar. Funds for the event are raised by the local chapter via its' own membership and fundraising efforts.

The K12 Gift Exchange which has become a tradition in our district and has even been a model for many other districts who now engage in a similar event.

### Dear Graduating French Immersion Students,

The French language in our province is richer for having you speak it so well! Many past students have gone on to do post-secondary programs in French. Others have used their language skills in careers such as journalism, athletics, travel industry, tourism roles, musicians, Federal Government Ministers, and so much more. Wishing you the best of luck, wherever your future may take you. May you continue using and enjoying speaking French in your life!



**Bonne chance et felicitations!**



## What have we done this year?

**Programs we have supported in 2017-18 :** We've had a busy year, despite having our budget cut by around 50%. This is due to lower support during our annual fundraising. We are though, very grateful to those that supported our two fundraisers as well as those who purchased membership.

+ Annual K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration (for over 164 students).

+ French Improv Workshop – private CPF events for Grade 8, 9 and 10

+ French Debate workshops for Grade 9 (5 weeks)



+ French magazine subscriptions

+ French Café experience (for Middle School students)

+ Winter Carnival Celebrations

+ French karate lessons!

+ French “Buddy” Reading activities: Bonjour:bonne Nuit.

+ x 4 weeks supporting : Lecture en Cadeau.

+ \$250 “gift” to each FI Saanich school to support French learning.

+ Welcome back/Welcome Grade 5: CPF information desks

+ Semi-finals Concours d’art oratoire (snacks/prizes/medals/travel support for winners)

+ French live theatre for Grade 9-12.

+ French Film Fest (for K-Grade 8) + French DVD’s supplied to Saanich Elementary Schools.

+ Supplied private French books and magazines to all of our Saanich schools.

And other French cultural activities.

+ Fundraising ... membership, magazine drive and maple syrup

+ Sent member to the CPF BC & Yukon regional conference



### Advocating for:

+ Continuous French (S1 and S2) at high school

+ More spoken French activities

+ Lobbying for more French courses/online course at high school+

+ Lobbying for more French during PE!

+ Lobbying for French football coaching

**To continue this great work we need volunteers and members. Please join CPF at \$25 p.a. Your funds will be used to support similar activities as listed above. We are also urgently seeking volunteers to support different roles - let us know if you can help.**



## CPF - Saanich 2018 Autumn/Winter plans:

Our CPF school representatives are busy planning new exciting events for 2018 such as the “Verbathon”, Career talks in French, Bonjour/bonne nuit, 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.

**Concours d’art oratoire** is a pan-Canadian French public speaking competition—an estimated 85,000 students participate annually across Canada and 10,000 in BC.

During the month of February and March, the students in French Immersion at Ecole Bayside begin to prepare for their public speaking presentations. They spend many hours researching their subject, perfecting their work and memorizing their 3-5 minute speeches. They present their topic in front of their class and the winners advance to District finals in the library with judges and parents watching. The winners from Districts go on to Provincials in Vancouver where they compete with the top speakers of regions throughout British Columbia. Also, top students in grade



12 move on to the national competition. Different categories are set out for students in French Immersion, Core French, and Francophone students. The speeches are judged by French-speaking volunteers: from university and college professors, to teachers and native Francophones, and even French immersion graduates, many of whom have themselves competed in Concours.

This event is one of the biggest events the Canadian Parents for French support and we are very proud to represent Saanich in the Concours d’Oratoire.



We want to congratulate all of the students who worked hard on their speeches and for their courage to stand in front of others presenting in French. We would like to recognize the winners that continued onto Vancouver to represent Bayside Middle School in the Provincials. Bravo!

## WHAT'S NEXT?

With less than one month remaining in the school year, we still have a number of exciting events that we are sponsoring or helping to deliver for our French students:

**Lecture en Cadeau:** A great group of students from Ecole Stelly's and Bayside are helping their younger Keating buddies with French reading practice for the next 4 weeks!

**LIVE French Theatre:** All French students at Ecole Stelly's are being treated to an amazing LIVE theatre show called *Avant l'Archipel* by Théâtre la Seizième, the only French production in BC. What a treat!

**French Film Fest.** One of our School Representatives from Montreal suggested that we launch a new French Film Fest as a year end treat for our students. We are delighted to sponsor and assist with some of the expenses to allow students at Bayside, Keating and Deep Cove to enjoy a fun morning watching popular French films. We also supplied each of the schools with a batch of bilingual films to enjoy over the coming year.

**Photo distribution from K:12 Gift Exchange:** Following the very successful K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration last month, we will be distributing photo gifts to Stelly's, Keating and Deep Cove, so that photographs may be delivered to individual students as a souvenir of that magical evening.

**SOCIAL:** Monday, June 25th between 3.00 - 5.30 pm we invite everyone to come and join us at the Brentwood Bay Village Emporium to celebrate St Jean Baptiste Day. Members from our Executive team will be in attendance and your very welcome to come and say hi and join us for a coffee and chat. As you collect your kids from school or drive home from work, do please pop into this lovely venue and discover the delicious drinks and snacks plus gifts available.

We'd love to hear YOUR suggestions and discuss our plans for the upcoming year. If you could do us a favour and also share with your friends, that would be great. With more members and we could so much more!

Meanwhile, do check out our Facebook page where we post lots of helpful links, ideas and updates from our Chapter.

Enjoy the summer with your family and we look forward to working with you, once again for a new exciting school year. *Amuse-toi bien!*



**I WANT MY CHILD TO BE A CREATIVE  
THINKER, AN EXCELLENT  
COMMUNICATOR, A SUCCESS IN  
TOMORROW'S WORLD**

[LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO IN SAANICH](#)

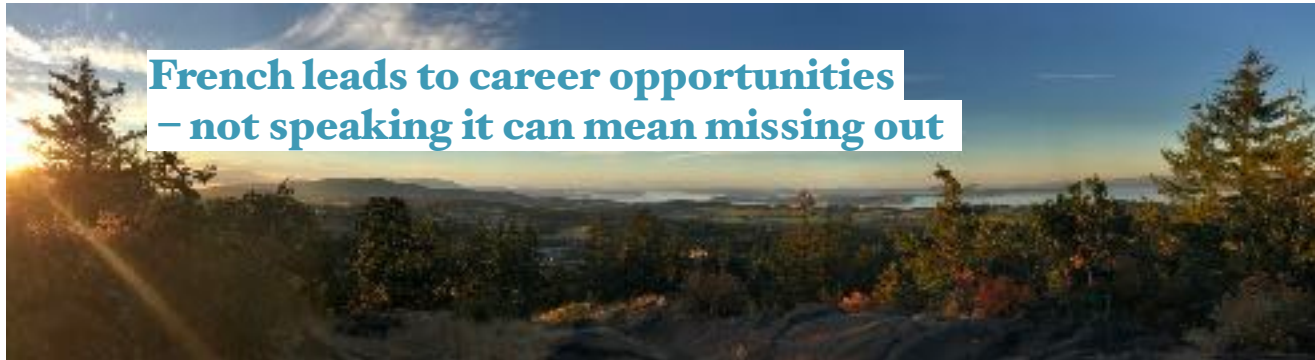
**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS  
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CPF.SAANICH/](https://www.facebook.com/cpf.saanich/)**



**CANADIAN  
PARENTS  
FOR FRENCH  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
& YUKON**



**Two CPF members tell us how fluency in French, or lack thereof, affected their career paths.**



**Cait Espinoza:** There's a freedom that comes when you graduate university, the idea that you can do anything and be anyone. Your entire future is out there waiting for you, and all you have to do is collect it. Hyped up on possibility, I decided to move to London, England – shortly after the financial crisis of 2008. I immediately found myself in a very competitive job market with little experience.

London's price tag is unforgiving, but it is a global business hub, hosting foreign-owned companies from across Europe and beyond. My fluency in French enabled me to take advantage of this fact. I was hired by a consultancy with offices and clients in both France and the UK, and my chief qualification for the role was the fact that I was bilingual. I knew nothing about their industry, but they admired my chutzpah at moving abroad, were impressed with my level of fluency in both languages, and gave me a shot above other (potentially better qualified) candidates. I spent two wonderful years with that consultancy and continued my career in the UK before returning to Canada. Languages open doors to new experiences, and can make the difference when it comes to career opportunities. I'm confident that my daughter's French will do the same for her.

**Christine Malmberg:** I grew up in a suburb of Vancouver in the 1980s, when the French Immersion program at our local school included only a handful of kids with names like Chantal, Odette and Pierre. My parents didn't think to enroll me in French Immersion, as they had recently emigrated and thought their kids should focus on learning English.

Despite this, I took core French all the way through to grade 12. I loved the intricacy of the grammar and found it easy to learn the basics of a third language. My first job after university was in Moncton, New Brunswick where there are two hospitals, one French and one English, to serve the two distinct language groups of the officially bilingual province. I was unfortunately not qualified to work at the French hospital because my language skills were not adequate. And even in the English hospital, I found it frustrating not to be able to care for my Francophone patients in their mother tongue.

Later, I worked for a large biomedical consulting firm in Toronto. Bilingual colleagues with the same qualifications received higher pay. I was often passed over when there came opportunities to work with our Montreal-based clients. Today, I work on technical documents that are submitted to government decision makers in Quebec. My French reading comprehension is reasonable but I cannot correspond in French by email and all my written documents have to be formally translated. While I'm grateful for the abilities core French gave me, my lack of fluency cost me opportunities to fully engage in the Canadian workforce. Maybe it's time for me to start taking some French courses again – *nous ne sommes jamais trop vieux pour apprendre!*



**YOU ARE INVITED!** Save this date: Monday, June 25th 3.00 - 5.30 pm

Before we all disappear for the summer, we'd like to offer you the opportunity to come and meet the volunteers of Canadian Parents for French - Saanich for an informal chat and get together at the **Brentwood Bay Village Emporium** (it is licensed, has great coffee, snacks and event gifts) on **Monday 25 June between 3.00 - 5.30pm.**

Traditionally, we celebrate the St Jean-Baptiste/Fete Nationale Quebec on this day, but we don't need any reason to party!

We've had a fabulous year with our team of volunteers and we hope to build on the great work achieved by our group to help French learning in Saanich. We hope some of our French teachers will join and it will wonderful to meet as many of you as possible.

We appreciate everyone is running to get home etc but if you could pop by for 20 minutes to say hi and share your ideas, we'd love to meet you.

See you on June 25th!



## **Merci to our wonderful Saanich CPF VOLUNTEERS!**

**We have to say, everyone of our volunteers has been amazing. We are sorry to see some of our special people depart but we are grateful for the hours of work you have contributed to CPF Saanich, over the past year.**

**In particular, Treasurer: Nicole Andrew Lee. We want to thank Nicole, who has been our Treasurer for the past five years. Bucket loads of gratitude are sent to you for attending to our financial matters. There are lots of moving parts to this task, and we thank you for getting those deposits to the bank and making sure everyone gets paid in a timely manner! Nicolle is stepping down as the Treasurer but we hope she will still be involved somehow! We wish you continued success.**



**Photo: CPF Saanich 2017/18 Left to right: Nicole, Rachelle, Christine, Sandra, Isabelle, Cedar, Cait. Missing: Andrea, Marc, Caryl.**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Join us at our next  
meeting!**

**June 7, 2018 6.30 - 8.00 pm**

**Ecole Keating**