

CPF British Columbia & Yukon

September 2003

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Artists Response Team, CPF-BC & Yukon and RadioCanada — a new exciting program in French for BC students

Canadian Parents for French-BC & Yukon, along with the Artists Response Team and Radio-Canada, is preparing an exciting new program for elementary schools in the current school year.

The program will bring Holly Arntzen and Stephen Foster, two internationally respected artists, to French immersion elementary schools for a week of creative work with students. At the end of the week, students will record songs in French to be broadcast as part of CPF's partnership with Radio-Canada.

A CD of French songs involving students from many British Columbia school districts will also be produced to celebrate this initiative.

Holly Arntzen and her partner Stephen Foster are artists who have a passion for environmental education. Their primary objective is to heighten our young citizen's awareness about protecting our environment right here on the West Coast through music.



Holly Arntzen, an internationally respected artist, is working with CPF-BC & Yukon to develop an exciting new program for French immersion students in elementary school.

Together with the support of a number of agencies, including Parks Canada and the BC Ministry of

Education, the Artists Response Team has developed curriculum resources that support prescribed learning outcomes related to the environment across a variety of school subjects.

In 2002, for the first time thanks to Parks Canada with support from CPF-BC & Yukon, this material was translated into French and a successful pilot project was launched at École Pauline Johnson in West Vancouver.

Together Holly, Stephen, teachers and students of Pauline Johnson produced a CD of songs in French, *La Mer des Salish*, and held a successful concert. As well students learned a great deal about the marine environment — in French.

According to Jennifer Anderson, Principal of Pauline Johnson, the program was an enormous success, "We are absolutely thrilled to be involved with this project which we believe will be a legacy for our school and a resource for other French immersion schools in the province."

Marie Payette Falls, former CPF Chapter representative and a West Vancouver parent, worked closely with Holly on the translation of the songs and says, "I am sure this educational model will succeed across British Columbia. I recommend this program highly."

If your Chapter or school are interested in taking part in the CPF/ Artist Response Team/ Radio-Canada program, call Laurelle Keashly or Adrian Dix at the CPF Branch office in New Westminster.

Look
inside

**Whitehorse hosts
CPF-BC & Yukon
AGM and conference**

October 17-19, 2003

See page 6 for information, registration form enclosed.

CPF-BC & Yukon sponsors event at Vancouver Writers Festival

At the Vancouver International Writers Festival in October 2003, Canadian Parents for French-BC & Yukon will sponsor an event that reflects many of CPF's and the Festival's goals.

De l'est à l'ouest du Canada (From east to western Canada) will feature authors from three Canadian provinces who write in French: David Baudemont from Saskatchewan; Bertrand Nayet, Manitoba; and Marie-Danielle Croteau, Québec. This event is aimed at students in Grades 4 to 8. As with all Festival events, it invites interaction between the writers and members of the audience.

La Joie de Lire (The Joy of Reading), the French program within the overall Writers Festival, offers school events for students in Grades K-3 and in secondary school. While the primary focus for these events are students, adults are also welcome to attend.

In addition to the writers listed above, *Joie de Lire* writers include Monique Proulx, Gil Courtemanche, and David Homel from Québec, plus Christophe Claro and Olivier Rolin from France.

Festival dates are October 21-26, 2003, with the French program set for the first three days, October 21 to 23.

French programmer Brenda Berck, known to CPF members for her work with *French for the Future*, describes



her Festival experience as an "accumulation of joys: the joy of reading, the joy of writing, the joy of meeting students from other schools, and the joy of mingling with other people who love the written word."

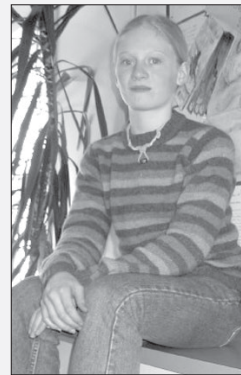
With rare exception, all events take place on Granville Island. The Festival is looking forward to welcoming people from Quesnel, Nanaimo and Powell River who have attended in other years, in addition to other attendees from outside the Lower Mainland.

This year for the first time, thanks to sponsorship by Weyerhaeuser, the Festival will pilot a Writers in the Classroom program (in English) in the Nelson/Kootenay Lake District. The program model is a combination of writer-in-residence and readings.

Check the Festival website, www.writersfest.bc.ca, for up-to-date information about the more than 70 authors appearing in 56 Festival events.

Those who used the website for the *Joie de Lire* program last year will notice a change, thanks to feedback from CPF members. The *Joie de Lire* program is now listed in English as well as in French to aid parents who do not themselves speak or read French but who want to make informed decisions about events for their children.

Hazelton's champ



Wow, can she spell! Veronica Ross is a BC winner in PGL Geurin's *La Dictée* contest. She also went to Montréal and competed in the televised event, *La Finale*.

Hazelton's Veronica Ross was one of B.C.'s French immersion regional winners in PGL Geurin's *La Dictée* contest. In June, the grade six John Field Elementary student traveled to Montréal to represent British Columbia in a televised spelling bee.

The *La Dictée* program is held each year in schools across Canada, Senegal and Haiti. CPF-Hazelton President Suzanne Wernli-Roy says, "We have encouraged classes to participate in *La Dictée* for a long time. Students in grades 2 and up take part.

"Our school also uses *La Dictée* as a fundraiser. Students find people in the community to sponsor them by donating so many cents for each correctly spelled word. Half the funds raised then go to schools in Senegal and Haiti and the rest stay in our school.

"We raised more than \$2,000 which is a miracle in Hazelton!"

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

Help us grow! From now until November 30, sign up new members and your Chapter may win prizes and resources. See www.cpf.bc.ca for more information.

Volunteer of the Quarter

The following CPF members have been nominated for the CPF-BC & Yukon Volunteer of the Quarter.

- **Monique Ducios**, Maple Ridge, January to March 2003.
- **Julia Moore**, Terrace, January to March 2003
- **Susan Asaph**, Abbotsford, April to June 2003

- **Darcie Annesley**, Terrace, April to June 2003
- **Lisa Cartwright**, North Vancouver, April to June 2003

Each Chapter may name one outstanding volunteer per quarter. The names of all of the Volunteers of the Quarters nominated through the year will be placed in a draw at the Provincial/Territorial Conference. The winner will receive \$100 of French resources for the school of their choice.

Report of the Nominations Committee CPF BC & Yukon Board

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the names of four candidates for Nomination and Election to the Board at the Annual General Meeting on October 18, 2003, to be held in Whitehorse:

Mary Ann Annable (Whitehorse)
Heather Newman (Dawson Creek)
Marie Reed (Kamloops)
Laurin Shadforth (Burnaby)

Mary Ann Annable has been active in CPF-Yukon for several years. The Chapter has supported the introduction of Late French Immersion and is hosting this year's CPF-BC & Yukon AGM in Whitehorse. Mary Ann is taking on the role of Chapter Secretary for this school year.

Heather Newman has served in a variety of roles in CPF-Dawson Creek, including a current position as Chapter President. The Chapter has worked with its school district on both Late French Immersion and Intensive Core French proposals.

Marie Reed has coordinated *Concours* as well as field trips and bingo activities in Kamloops. She was a long-standing member of the former District French Advisory Committee and has served as Chapter President in Kamloops.

Laurin Shadforth has served as Co-President of the Burnaby Chapter, School Resource Coordinator, and French Summer Day Camp Coordinator – a program in which the Chapter partners with Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Culture Services.

Melanie Tighe-Lovsin (President) and **Sherry Taylor** (Vice-President) will be beginning the second year of their two-year terms.

The Nominations Committee this year was a committee of the whole of the Board, chaired by Margaret Davidson. After the Call for Nominations last spring, the Committee developed criteria, interviewed candidates and made a selection of Nominees.

President's message

BC sees largest increase in access to French immersion since 1980s

Dear Friends:

It has been a long, hot summer in every sense here in the Okanagan. The fires, the resultant smoke and high temperatures have been a reminder of the need to be thankful for what we have and the need for strong communities to assist one another in times of need.

Happily, BC Family French Camp and other CPF camps sponsored by Chapters across the province were again an enormous success.

The start of the 2003-04 year will be a welcome relief from the news of the fires. For CPF-BC & Yukon, it will also be a moment of real satisfaction and celebration. Five new French Immersion programs are starting in September. All were initiatives launched by Canadian Parents for French Chapters in Vernon, Salmon Arm, New Westminster, Quesnel and Prince Rupert. This represents the largest one-year increase in access to French-second-language programs since the growth years of the 1980s.

As a result of these changes, some 21 communities in BC have both Early and Late French Immersion programs. One of our main advocacy goals this year is to continue the momentum with campaigns to add new Early or Late French Immersion programs in communities such as Kamloops, Whitehorse, Kelowna, Cranbrook, Dawson Creek, Williams Lake, Terrace, Kitimat, 100 Mile House, Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Mission and Mackenzie.

A focused effort by our office and local Chapters will ensure that we take the necessary steps to expand French-second-language education access throughout BC and the Yukon.

The coming AGM and Conference

in Whitehorse will be a first for our organization. It represents a remarkable opportunity to celebrate and expand Core French and French Immersion in the Yukon. I expect the weekend will be an unforgettable one for all of us 'from the south.' (That includes, in this case, even the folks in Smithers and Fort St. John.)

Finally, this is an important year for negotiations with the federal and provincial governments. CPF will be renewing its own funding agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage.

And we will be playing a central role in ensuring that the new money in the Dion Plan is directed to BC and Yukon classrooms with increased accountability for its expenditures.

See you in Whitehorse!

—Melanie Tighe-Lovsin

CPF-BC & Yukon receives award



CPF-BC & Yukon was awarded the Canadian Club's Baldwin-Lafontaine Award along with Éducacentre and Francophone Parents Association. Seen above CPF-BC & Yukon President Melanie Tighe-Lovsin accepts the award from Andrew Winstanley of the Canadian Club.

We are grateful to all the candidates who expressed interest in Board positions, and to the four who have accepted the nominations for two-year positions.

From across the huge geographical

area we represent, they reflect the dedication, enthusiasm and organizational talents of our growing membership in the Branch.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Davidson
Chair, Nominations Committee 2003

Twenty Years of Fun

Another successful summer at BC Family Family French Camp



These young ladies and their families travelled from Langley, Vernon and Hinton, Alberta to spend a week at the Okanagan BC Family French camp. One week was all it took for them to become good friends.

By Melaine Tighe-Lovsin

This summer marked the 20th anniversary of the successful BC Family French Camp.

Six hundred campers, ages 4 to 17 years old, spent one week or more at French Camp in the Okanagan, at Gwillam Lake near Chetwyn, or south of Campbell River on Vancouver Island. The camps are offered over a six week period.

At BC Family French Camp, children are divided up into groups according to ages and placed with counsellors for the week. The energetic counsellors are primarily from Quebec, although some are from other French-speaking communities across Canada. Most counselors are university students with limited English skills. This is clearly a bonus for our children because they hear French for most of the day and evening. Children can only speak French to the counsellors.

This camp is truly an immersion experience. Children spend the day

with their counsellors and return to their families for lunch and at 4:00 pm.

The program then resumes at 7:00 pm for *Le Show*. This is a time of laughter for everyone – children, parents and counsellors. *Le Show* is a skit produced and performed on a theme by the counsellors in French wearing a mélange of clothes from the local dress-up bin. The ‘Show’ is also the famous *Soiree Quebeçoise* where children and parents learn the history of Quebec – from the Plains of Abraham, to *les bucheron*, to the influence of the Catholic religion on education, to Renée Levesque.

Then there is the annual volleyball game – counsellors against parents. Frequently the team with the most outrageous costumes wins by way of distraction. The fun begins at dawn and does not end until quite late.

BC Family French Camp is an opportunity for French immersion students to speak French outside the classroom, in a fun environment. In the Okanagan, the lake is the focus of the programming with lots of swimming, tubing, kayaking, canoeing and snorkeling. At Gwillam, the focus is on the wilderness and the serene experience of the North. On Vancouver Island, marine and forest life is highlighted. There is a lot of beachcombing, kayaking, snorkeling, and tubing down the Oyster River with salmon swimming upstream.

All three camps offer hikes, crafts, cycling and singing. Children can be heard walking through camp singing French songs at the top of their lungs.

Many people bring their guitars, violins, drums, spoons and singing voices. Singing around the campfire (faux- fires because of the fire ban) and meeting French immersion families from all over the province and beyond is a nice way to spend a summer evening.

If you have not been to BC Family French Camp and given your child

Book Review



Failing our kids — how we are ruining our public schools

“Our public schools are in danger of collapse, and if they do, we will all pay the price.” This is the premise of a new book by Charles Ungerleider, former Associate Dean for Teacher Education at the University of British Columbia 1993-1998, Deputy Minister of Education for BC 1998 to 2001, and currently Professor of Sociology of Education, Department of Educational Studies, UBC.

Ungerleider argues healthy public schools are essential for a healthy economy and creating informed citizens.

He feels we are neglecting our schools by making impossible demands, strangling them financially, creating trivial changes for the sake of ideology, avoiding necessary changes and just plain ignoring them.

Drawing on the latest research and using examples from across the country, Ungerleider describes what is right and what is wrong about our public school system and provides solutions for making them a lot better.

Failing Our Kids is published by McClelland & Stewart.

the opportunity to have fun with some zany counsellors, *en français*, consider coming next year.

Come prepared to participate and to go home tired. Registration forms will be available in early January and all camps fill up quickly. There are also some openings on the organizing committees. For more information on these positions and benefits, please contact me at lovsin_tighe@mix105.net.

CPF-BC & Yukon launches three point plan for post-secondary

CPF-BC & Yukon is aggressively pursuing a three-point plan to expand French language post-secondary education opportunities for French immersion and Francophone students in BC.

Currently, BC is one of three provinces without a bilingual or French-language multidisciplinary program at the post-secondary levels. For French immersion students in particular, this means they must leave British Columbia to continue to pursue their education in French after Grade 12.

CPF-BC & Yukon Vice President Sherry Taylor, who represents CPF on post-secondary issues, is determined to change this situation. "Working with partner groups, we intend to help push through three major initiatives to be launched in 2004," she explains. "The first is the proposal to start a bilingual faculty at SFU; the second to create with Éducacentre the first French-language community college; and third, to sponsor a new partnership between CPF-BC & Yukon and the University of Ottawa."

The SFU initiative is well on its way but still requires funding approval from the federal and provincial government. The community college proposal by Éducacentre (CPF-BC & Yukon is on the Advisory Committee) is presently at the consultation stage but a pilot project will be launched in the spring of 2004. CPF-BC & Yukon staff and board members are meeting with federal and provincial officials and are strongly advocating for these efforts. Our support has been identified as central to the success of both the SFU and community college proposals.

Canadian Parents for French-BC & Yukon is also preparing to sign a new partnership with the University of Ottawa to offer scholarships to graduating French immersion students. The University is positioning itself as Canada's bilingual university.

In May, University of Ottawa President Gilles Patry and Vice

President David Mitchell came to BC to meet with CPF and other community representatives. CPF organized a meeting at Vancouver Technical High School involving Van Tech French immersion students, Patry, Mitchell, CPF-BC & Yukon President Melanie Tighe-Lovsin (a University of Ottawa graduate), Sherry Taylor and National Board member Margaret O'Brien to discuss the university and its appeal to French immersion graduates.

Following the meeting, CPF-BC & Yukon and university officials have met to discuss a partnership to offer scholarships to French immersion graduates from BC and the Yukon to attend the University of Ottawa in

English and French. The scholarship proposal will assist students by making this financially possible. The final details will be discussed in a meeting in Ottawa in September and a formal announcement will occur at the Provincial AGM and Conference in October. Stay tuned.

Sherry Taylor concludes: "These opportunities will meet a need for BC and Yukon French immersion graduates. In a comprehensive survey in 2000 conducted by Ipsos-Reid, 80% of FI graduates said they planned to attend a post-secondary institution in BC. The CPF plan, if successful, will give them the choice to pursue their dreams in French or English."

Amis pour toujours Victoria – Montréal



Lydia Wiet of Sir James Elementary school in Victoria undertook an exchange for her grade 6/7 late French immersion class through SEVEC (Society of Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada).

The class from Mont Royale

arrived for a week of fun, food and French in early April.

They were treated to dragon boat racing, sailing on the Pacific Swift tall ship and sightseeing in Vancouver. Students took a tour of Victoria on a double decker bus, visited the Royal BC museum and the Legislature Building. The day of hiking and enjoying a wiener roast near the beach was memorable for all.

The return to Montreal took place in mid-May. Everyone agreed it was a wonderful way for late French immersion students to see French as a working language outside of the classroom. They lived with host families, toured Montréal, Ottawa and Quebec City and took in the culture at such events as the *sucré cabana*. Many of the students are continuing the exchange with their new e-pals.

For information on SEVEC sponsored exchanges see their website: www.sevec.ca.

BC continues to lead the nation with the most CPF members!

CPF-BC & Yukon's AGM and Conference *October 17-19, 2003* **French North of 60°**

Now is the time to register for the event of the year — the CPF-BC & Yukon AGM and Conference. Travel to Whitehorse, the capital of the stunning Yukon Territory, attend information-packed workshops, listen to inspiring keynote speakers, and network with other parents, education professionals and government officials at French North of 60°.

Sponsored delegates

Mark October 17-19, 2003 on your calendar and start packing your bags. We will see you at the High Country Inn in Whitehorse.

Each Chapter is eligible to send at least one sponsored delegate. Sponsored delegates' accommodation, meals and airfare are paid by CPF-BC & Yukon.

A chance to see the Yukon

We know that for many of our members, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, so we are pleased to offer a low rate of \$69 per night for hotel accommodation if you would like to add on a day or two to your trip.

For those bringing spouses, family members or friends, airfare should be arranged through Kennedy Travel (1-800-840-4404 or 604-522-0606). Airfare is \$390 + taxes return from Vancouver, Calgary or Edmonton.

Adding two extra days before or after the conference will allow you to travel to Dawson City, the heart of the Klondike. Adding three or four days will allow you to travel the 'Golden Circle' and visit Kluane National

Park, Haines, Skagway, and Alaska.

For more information on the AGM and Conference or extending your stay contact Nancy Taylor at CPF-BC & Yukon at ntaylor@cpf.bc.ca, or call 1-

866-655-6559. Check our website, www.cpf.bc.ca, for updates and information on local activities ranging from hiking to dogsledding and snowshoeing.

WORKSHOPS

A. Making your voice heard – an advocacy training experience

Sponsored by CPF-National

Experienced workshop presenter and communications expert Alan Preyde and CPF-National Executive Director Jim Shea offer an interactive advocacy training workshop for Chapters.

If you are working with school boards, presenting proposals, building a network for success, promoting positive change or protecting programs – this session is for you!

This workshop is part of a Canada-wide advocacy training initiative for CPF and all sponsored delegates are encouraged to take part in either the morning or afternoon session.

B. Developmental stages of reading

Mr. Pat Berrel, Principal of Whitehorse Elementary leads a workshop on how parents and teachers can develop excellent reading skills in their children. A dynamic, interactive workshop, this will appeal to all parents interested in the learning process.

C. Fundraising 101

Yes, a workshop about the f-word. This workshop reviews fundraising plans at a local level. Participants are invited to bring fundraising successes and horror stories for the discussion portion of the presentation. There will be many new ideas discussed.

D. Developments in federal and provincial education policies

Senior officials from the federal, provincial and territorial governments discuss the Dion Plan, graduation requirements, French-second-language funding and legislative changes.

E. Dancing your way through language concepts

Who ever thought that you could teach language concepts through dance, music and movement? Whitehorse arts instructor Mary Anne Annable takes what could be a dry subject: "How is a sentence structured?" and makes it a blast! Get ready for a very hands-and feet-on learning experience.

F. Putting words into action

Whether you want to save school bus-ing, start a new immersion program or recruit more members, leave the conference with something really useful – an action plan specifically designed for your Chapter.

After spending two days networking with others and sharing your Chapter's strengths and weaknesses, this is your opportunity to take all the valuable information you've learned to a panel who will give you the ABC's of creating a realistic action plan you can implement once you return home.

Help your child read successfully

Each year, there are informative workshops to attend at the CPF-BC & Yukon's Provincial Conference. Last year Catherine Berron, Surrey French Immersion Coordinator, presented a popular workshop on helping your child read successfully. Some highlights are reprinted below.

Research has consistently shown that the more correlation there is between home and school, the higher a student's achievement will be. This finding certainly applies to reading.

The modern definition of reading is "to read is to comprehend written texts." In other words, readers must be able to construct meaning from a text rather than merely reproducing words on a page.

To help your child succeed at reading here are some steps parents can take to help the teacher help your child read successfully.

Students should read a mixture of fiction and non-fiction from Kindergarten to grade 12. It takes different skills to read both genres. Also, have your children read easier and more challenging books. This is how teachers build background knowledge and vocabulary.

To ensure your youngsters are comprehending what they are reading try some of the following strategies.

- Predicting - can they foresee a possible outcome of the story or the results of an action that is taking place.
- Connecting with prior knowledge – relate events in the book back to

Best Predictors of Reading Achievement

- hours of lap reading
- hours parents spend reading
- number of books in the home
- number of books child owns
- amount of oral language in the home

experiences in their lives or to other books they have read.

- Determine the importance of what you have been reading in context of the story.
- Summarize – have your child recap what he has been reading in his own words.
- Reread a difficult passage.
- Use the context of the story to figure out new vocabulary
- Ask questions before, after and during reading.
- Encourage children to take notes.

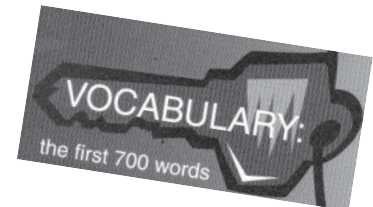
Teachers will often point out similarities between English and French. For example, French words ending in 'ant' often correspond to English words ending in 'ing' such as *amusant* – amusing. French words ending in 'ment' correspond to English words ending in 'ly' such as *certainement* – certainly.

To encourage your children to read on a regular basis, try some of the following ideas.

- If they read (alone or with you) for 20 minutes, you then read 10 minutes to them (ask them to follow with their finger so they can see the word-sound relations). Have your children read out loud from time to time to let you check on their progress. If many mistakes are made, choose only a few to correct.
- Have them fill up a sheet of paper with titles of books and minutes read every day. After so many minutes, give them a little prize. The books can be in English or French. If the book is in French ask them what it was about, what their favorite part was, which character they would like to be, or ask them to draw their favorite part.
- Have them read to other members of the family — dogs, dollies, stuffed animals, fish...
- Most importantly, make it fun!
- Provide children with printed materials (French, English and other) to read and to show them that reading is something you do not only at school but in the car, the bus, in bed.

At the early level, use books with few and simple words. Let your child

keys to French



Looking for an outstanding French resource to make the back to school transition easier? Then look no further than CPF. We have an invaluable reference tool for you, *The Keys to French*.

The Keys to French are two fold out publications of seven pages each, packed with quick reference guides to French grammar, vocabulary and verb conjugations.

Level I is in French and English and is suitable for French immersion students in Grades 1-12 and core French students.

Level II is in French only and is suitable for French immersion students in Grades 4-12 and core French students in grades 8-12.

A BARGAIN AT \$4.00 EACH FOR CPF MEMBERS. To order your copy, contact your local Chapter or the Branch office.

read them over and over. It is important for youngsters to develop confidence and success. To introduce students too early to more complex books might lead to frustration.

As they become more fluent readers, find a balance between easy and more challenging books.

French + Spring = a busy time for FSL students

CPF-BC & Yukon sponsors many activities each spring including the provincial Concours finals, the Begbie Award, Rencontre français, French Youth Parliament, Francophone Games, and Bilingual Debates. Here is a look at a few of these events. Make plans to participate in 2004!

DEBATING: A tool for intellectual development

—By Oscar Miklos,
Moscrop Secondary School, Burnaby

Incorporating analytical, reasoning, reading, writing and public speaking skills, debating is the ultimate tool for any high school/college student hoping to succeed in school. Whether it opens one's mind to geopolitical issues facing third world countries or gives a student the upper hand in an argument with their parents, there are numerous advantages associated with being able to debate well.

Few parents realize that the skills taught by humanities teachers are all encompassed in and fortified by debate. In fact, debate leads to the application of knowledge, a progression which is invaluable in the learning process—although sadly often left out of classroom experiences. The truth is that although a student may be asked to read about a significant historical event, it is far more likely that the student will retain the knowledge if he/she makes reference to that event in a later debate tournament.

For those unfamiliar with the concept of formal debate, it can be summed up in a few words: a dignified way of presenting one's stance concerning a contentious issue, while casting doubt on the opposing arguments. In competitive debate, two debaters pair up to form a team arguing one side of an issue, while another pair opposes them. Debaters do not get to choose which side they argue, although they routinely end up arguing both sides. Debaters take turns speaking, while a moderator, a timekeeper and a few judges in the room listen to the argumentation.

Bilingual students are presented with a unique advantage, in that they will not only be able to compete in



Oscar Miklos, seen center, attended the national bilingual debating finals in Newfoundland last spring.

English debate tournaments, but bilingual ones as well. Bilingual debating is unique as it requires impromptu verbalization and fluency in both official languages. Furthermore, as the number of bilingual debaters in Canada is relatively small, being a bilingual debater immensely increases a student's chance at ad-

vancing to the National Debate Seminar, held annually at different locations across the country. This past year, it was held in the hospitable city of St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador, a seminar in which I had the pleasure of partaking.

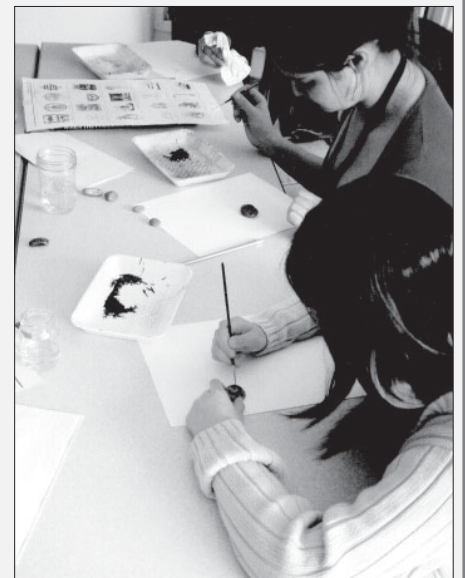
Many parents may view debating as simply a path leading to a career in politics. Although true, looking at debate through this lens would mean ignoring many other advantages. The skills learned in debating apply themselves in a student's everyday class work. For example, many language teachers require students to be able to write an in-class essay about a given subject in a certain amount of time. Presented with a time restriction, the student has to use incisive reasoning and quick thinking

Continued on page 9

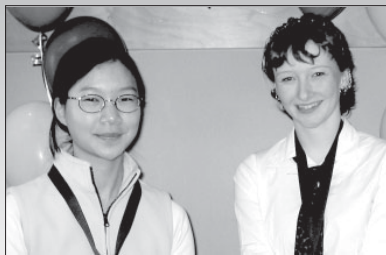
Popular RENCONTRE FRANÇAISE brings students to SFU every spring

It is no surprise Rencontre française fills up quickly every year – the kids really do have fun! Each year, CPF-BC & Yukon sponsors this French Youth Conference for French immersion students in grades 7 and 8. This year more than 150 students from around BC and Yukon travelled to Simon Fraser University in May for a weekend of French activities that included workshops, sports and meeting new friends.

At right, students painted designs on stones and learned some new French vocabulary. A special thanks goes to the Grades 11 and 12 student volunteers. They gave up a weekend to help with activities and use their French.



NATIONAL CONCOURS



Congratulations to our CPF-BC & Yukon *Concours* finalists!

Two of our Grade 12 winners went on to compete at the CPF sponsored National *Concours* held at York University's Glendon College in Toronto on June 7.

Port Coquitlam's Tamara Slade, seen at right, placed second in the French immersion category and Vancouver's Rebecca Soquier, left, placed second in the Francophone category.

Each year CPF-BC & Yukon sponsor *Concour* events in schools in BC and the Yukon. Winners then compete at the provincial and territorial finals.

The 2004 *National Concours* will be held at Faculté Saint-Jean in Edmonton, Alberta. Our senior winners will once again have the opportunity to compete with other winners from across the country.

From page 8

Debating

in order to write an effective essay - the very skills that the debater uses on a regular basis.

I had the opportunity to talk to a former debater - now a university graduate who applied for med school. He told me that his med school examiner asked him to take a stance about a hypothetical situation involving a member of a certain religion refusing a medical procedure and state his reasons supporting his decision. What the examiner saw very soon was that she was dealing with a

LES JEUX sont merveilleux

— By Andrew Young, Delta

Springtime came this year with added excitement; I participated in my first Francophone Games or "Les Jeux" as they are fondly called.

I previously attended the Francophone Youth Parliament, which I found to be extremely enjoyable but heard reports *Les Jeux* would be even more fun. I decided to apply to attend and I am very glad that I did!

Just as the name implies, *Les Jeux* are the provincial francophone track and field games. Being a province-wide competition, I was expecting a high level of athletic intensity. When I got there, however, all I found was a high level of joviality and camaraderie, everywhere and in everything that I did.

The weekend was filled with athletics of all sorts. Each participant selected at least one running, one jumping and one throwing event. There were also open badminton and volleyball tournaments going on all weekend. Even during breaks from the track competitions there were a variety of other activities including soccer, basketball as well as a dance.

The coordinators of this event were great. Many of them were former participants and really knew how to create a fun atmosphere for teenagers. They did an excellent job of planning

former World's Debate delegate, who was able to support a position with clarity, logic and persuasive skills.

If you have any questions about how you can get your son or daughter involved in debate, or if you are a teacher - how you can initiate a formal debate in the classroom, please feel free to contact me at delahoya86@yahoo.ca.

CPF-BC & Yukon is a proud partner in sponsoring the bilingual debates. For more information on this event, contact the Branch office.

and organizing an extremely enjoyable event.

Besides the fun of the games, *Les Jeux* also offered an excellent opportunity for me to interact with French Canadians as a Francophile. I found it extremely easy to fit in with this amiable group of people.

I had no trouble communicating with them in French and they seemed to have no trouble understanding me. It was a nice casual setting in which I could practise my French skills and develop new vocabulary. Although I was an outsider to this Francophone community I didn't feel that way at all. Everyone was ready to include everyone else and I was able to meet many new people from all over BC.

I still keep in contact with people I met at *Les Jeux* and I believe many will become life-long friends.

Les Jeux francophones de la Colombie-Britannique was an experience that I will never forget. I had a great time, I met great people and I'm already looking forward to attending again next year.

More than 35 French immersion students attend this year's Les Jeux in Coquitlam. CPF-BC & Yukon works in partnership with Conseil Jeunesse Franco-Colombien to offer this event to French immersion students.

BEBBIE Award

Senior students in French immersion, French-first-language and core French have the opportunity to see just how much they know about Canadian history when they compete in the French-language category of the annual Begbie contest.

CPF-BC & Yukon is proud to be a partner supporting this event. Students compete for a first prize of \$500. Call the Branch office for more information.

Bursary winners are CPF fans

"We had a record number of applicants for the CPF-BC & Yukon bursary this year," says Vice President Sherry Taylor. "It was a very difficult choice for our panel, but we are delighted to announce that **Nadine Evans** and **Annamarie Sember** are the 2003 recipients. Each receives \$2,000.

"Nadine is a Late French immersion graduate who attended the Faculté de St. Jean in Alberta. She has done an amazing amount of volunteer work around the world. As a BC Francophone with lots of experience in both teaching and language, Nadine will be a very positive role model.

"Annamarie is a FSL graduate. She is a mature student and mother of three immersion students! Annamarie has been actively involved in CPF since her children entered school," said Taylor.

"Annamarie has worked hard to acquire her post-secondary education while living in Merritt and bringing up her children. She has very strong organizational abilities and a strong commitment to her community of Merritt.

In a letter to CPF BC & Yukon,

Annamarie commented, "I feel delighted and honoured to be the recipient of this award. I have volunteered with CPF for many years in my home town of Merritt.

"As an immersion parent, I appreciate the wealth of information contained in the provincial and national newsletters and I feel that CPF's work in supporting French immersion programs throughout the country is very important.

"I think I am especially proud to receive this bursary because of my respect for Canadian Parents for French."

She adds, "I am very excited to embark on a new career as a teacher. I have just accepted a position teaching grade 5 and 6 French immersion in Merritt, starting this September!"

The CPF-BC & Yukon Bursary is awarded each year. Candidates must be CPF members in their final year of a Professional Development Program at an accredited university and intend to teach in BC or the Yukon. For more information see www.cpf.bc.ca

Théâtre la seizième

CPF-BC & Yukon is pleased to continue our partnership with *Théâtre la seizième* this school year.

Last year, *La Seizième* toured the interior of BC to perform in French immersion schools. Look for further arrangements later this year. Below is a listing of selected events by *Théâtre la seizième* for the upcoming season.

Saison 2003-2004

30 octobre - 8 novembre, 20h00

Émilie ne sera plus jamais cueillie par l'anémone.

Atelier des abonnés: une carrière au théâtre avec Christiane Raymond et Suzanne Champagne

4 - 14 février 2004, 20h00

Les voisins

Atelier des abonnés : Comprendre la comédie avec le comédien Joey Lespérance

10 - 13 mars 2004, 20h00

Le rire de la mer

Une production des Éternels pigistes (Montréal)

5 - 8 mai 2004, 20h00

Épinal

Une production du Théâtre de la Vieille 17 en coproduction avec le Théâtre français du Centre national des Arts et la Caisse populaire Notre-Dame (Ottawa)

For more information, call 604-736-2616, or visit www.seizieme.ca

Top marks for West Vancouver's bilingual graduates

—By Marie Payette-Falls

At its recent commencement ceremony, West Vancouver's Sentinel Secondary School's French immersion graduating class once again took a significant proportion of scholarships and awards.

Accounting for only 10% of the total student population, they received over 30% of the school's top prizes in recognition of their academic, athletic and community involvement and achievements.

For some, their achievements have

not only been recognized by their school but also by major Canadian and American universities.

As one of the original seven districts in the province to offer the French immersion program, West Vancouver School District 45 continues to experience tremendous growth with highly successful early and late immersion programs at both Sentinel Secondary and École Pauline Johnson.

In the last three years, École Pauline Johnson, a single track elementary school, has experienced a significant increase in its elementary

student population, from 333 students to 400, with a projected increase of 70 more students for the 2003-2004 school year. Kindergarten registrations for the 2004-2005 school year are now at 29.

Because of the success of the Late immersion program established in West Vancouver in 1999, Sentinel Secondary will welcome its first full bilingual grade 8 class since the early 1990s and has high hopes for the future given increased numbers at the elementary level and tremendous interest in the program.

THÉÂTRE LA SEIZIÈME

EN BONNE COMPAGNIE

SAISON 2003/2004 SEASON



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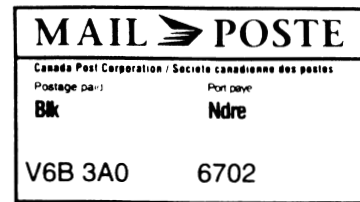
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information@seizieme.ca
www.seizieme.ca



LOOK

Is it time to renew?



This form is your proof of CPF membership which expires on the date shown above your name.

This list for the networking of CPF members only. Use by other organizations must be authorized by the CPF-BC & Yukon Board of Directors.

CPF BC & Yukon 2002-2003

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**Inside –
 information and
 REGISTRATION form
 for CPF-BC & Yukon
 AGM and Conference
 Whitehorse, Yukon
 October 17-19**

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 3

CPF-BC & Yukon
 sponsors French
 events at Vancouver
 Writers Festival,
 October 21-23.
 See story on page 3.

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CPF allows one or two adults per family as voting members.

New membership Renewal: membership # _____ Change of Address

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Best Value! 3 year – \$60 \$ _____
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 90% of the membership fee
 is returned to your Chapter.
 80% of your membership fee supports
 the activities of your local Chapter,
 10% supports CPF's work at the Branch
 level and 10% goes to CPF National
 to partially cover processing costs.

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.

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