

Canadian Parents for French Vancouver East Chapter  
Meeting Notes -Thursday, October 23, 2008

**Location:** Strathcona Elementary School, Rm: 105 -Parents Room, Building "D"

**Attendance:**

Lord Selkirk Parents: Stefanie Gajdecki, Martha Casey-Knight, Maria Dabiri, Lee Bang, Susie Ly, Diane Macqueen, Lynne Mieland

Laura Secord Parents: Megan Zandstra, Brenda Miller

Hastings Parents: Francis Pollock

Strathcona Parents: Patrick Byrne, Ericka McCuaig

CPF North Rep: Wendy Massing

Stefanie Gajdecki called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Review and acceptance of minutes from April 3, 2008 passed: motion by Stefanie Gajdecki and seconded by Diane Maqueen.

**1. Cirque du Française Update:**

Stefanie Gajdecki informed the group that our first CPF Vancouver East Chapter event "Cirque Du Français" will be held on Saturday, November 8th from 12pm - 3pm at Lord Selkirk School.

- Stefanie updated the group on the events progress to date and outlined tasks still to be accomplished. Vendors who have agreed to set up stalls/information booths at our event include: Sofia Books; Usborne Books; Alliance Française; and CPF. Sale proceeds from the Sophia and Usborne books will be split to the five schools of our chapter. This will be a great for parents and children to review resources available to them.
- There will also be an arts and craft table; facepainting; popcorn and water booth for revenue raising near the registration desk. Stefanie will be following up with the French Immersion program at Kits/Churchill and Van Tech to recruit the volunteers needed on the day. Parent volunteers will also be requested at 45 minute intervals so they can also enjoy the event with their children.
- Our featured performer is, Sand Northrup, who will give an all ages French performance of her *One Woman Circus Show* which has delighted children for years. The cost for the show is \$2 for members per family and for non members the cost is \$5 per child 5 years old and up (parents and siblings 4 and under are free.) This show will begin at 12:30pm and run for 30 minutes. After the show Sand will set up a "Circus Experience" for children ages 6 and up where they can experience circus acts on their own (with guidance) and the cost for the experience will be \$6 and will run for about 30 minutes.
- In addition Creperie La Boheme, a mobile Crepe truck will be providing food at the event and they are creating a kid friendly menu.
- Posters and emails will be used to spread the word and all in attendance where asked to distribute flyers at their schools. All French Immersion, Francophone and Core French students are invited to attend. You need not be a CPF member to attend but all attendees that are will get a discount. Renewals and new memberships will be accepted at this event.

**2. Upcoming Social Events (2009)**

**Parent Night (Information Night)**

This would be a parent social activity to be held in January, 2009 and requires research into what parents need, some current thoughts include:

- A Question and Answer night with Principals, Teachers, and CPF staff.
- Lessons in French and survival skills for parents -overview of basic pronunciation, connecting with teaching aids, other parents, and resources.

### Spring Carnival

Martha Casey-Knight briefly outlined the current plans for the event:

- This event would be held in March, 2009 and currently the idea is to hold the event at an ice rink –rinks cannot be booked for 2009 until January, 2009.
- This carnival is also known as the Bonhomme Carnaval (festival of the snowmen) and has been part of Quebec tradition since 1955 -*Quebec Winter Carnival* tradition which is a masquerade theme. In Quebec this festival runs from January 30<sup>th</sup> thru to February 15, but we will hold ours in March. Traditionally this festival is a snow /ice festival so we thought we would hold it at a ice rink and fill it with fun events like skating; ice carving; singing; art shows; face painting and games combining activity and creativity.
- We could incorporate an art exhibition encouraging all the French Immersion students at our various chapters –we would need to enlist the help of the teachers and schools. Maybe even have a singing competition.
- Also this carnival would not be complete without a guest appearance (or ask someone to dress up) as the key character of this event **Bonhomme** (called i. bonhomme de sucre “sugar baby” or ii. bonhomme de neige “snowman”.) – this could be the theme for our craft stand where children can create their own Bonhomme or winter lantern (incorporate into the art competition).

### May Movie Night

- Megan Zandstra mentioned that Laura Secord would like to host this movie night. Stefanie Gajdecki will explore movie rental choices and processes and report back at the next meeting and via email to the group.
- Movie night for the children would be age appropriate with popcorn; snacks and drinks as revenue raising for the chapter.

### 3. CPF National Conference

- Stefanie Gajdecki attended the meeting and managed to meet the presidents from all the CPF chapters, Canada-wide. There were thirty attendee’s from BC which allowed Stefanie to connect with other members of the CPF chapters and exchange ideas; problem solve methods for dealing with various issues that are associated with French immersion and came back recharged with a wealth of information and resources to use to relief parents concerns and ideas to use for fund raising and helping to organise our chapter.
- There is a shortage of resource teacher’s province wide! Request for more French support teachers has been requested to help with teaching the children the principles of reading. A study at McGill showed that regardless of whether it is French or English being learnt that the process of reading is the same. We can work with the principal and Vancouver School Board to coach both English and French resource teachers the steps/process of reading to use when helping the students.
- Stefanie brought in some of the resources collected at the meeting that will aid understanding on the process of learning while in French Immersion and also suggested the book “100 Steps to Reading” for a greater understanding of the process.

### 4. General Updates

- New CPF chapter began in North Vancouver two weeks ago! Kate Gregory is the new President.
- French Immersion curriculum is the same as the English classes except that it is taught in French. For more information on the curriculum you can visit the VSB website which outlines the curriculum in more detail.
- Modern Language Advisory Committee: Enrollment concerns and defines vision for the school board. Helps decide if it is a social or advocacy role. Currently

three zones Van Tech (South); Kitsilano (North); Churchill (East). They will address enrollment concerns and define vision for French immersion. Need a DEPAC and CPF representative.

Stefanie Gajdecki thanked everyone for coming and welcomed members to socialize after the meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.