### Maine French Heritage Language Program at the Franco Center

**BULLETIN de l’Automne 2014 ~ Fall 2014 NEWSLETTER**

Through the generosity of the French American Cultural Exchange and the French Heritage Language Program, all of these classes are offered for **FREE to all participants**.

All classes are taught by integrating the 4 Francophone themes in MFHLP’s curriculum:
1) Roots and Identity  2) Celebrations  3) Foods  4) Stories, Games and Songs.

**Sherwood Heights - Unit 1 highlights:** We started ‘traveling’ back in time to France to learn why there are French-speakers all over the world.

We went from France to North America by ship with explorer Jacques Cartier in 1534. We learned about his wife Marie and Roi François (King Francis) who sent him exploring. The children have been participating in this by taking on some of the roles of the people in the story.

We also learned numbers and colors through games and introduced the members of a family and North American animals. We also talked about basic body part such as eyes, arms, nose and mouth.

**Preview:** We will continue on the subject of exploration and travel in January with the story of Samuel de Champlain, a cartographer and the founder of Quebec in the 1600s.

**Specials:**
**Field Trip December 15th:** Caroling at Bolster Heights Health Care with CLC.
**Last day of Unit 1:** Monday, December 15th 2014
**Start of Unit 2:** Monday, January 5th 2015

**Fun in French** – We experimented with two groups of Fun in French this session – with much success! We meet with the different groups every other week and do similar but adapted activities for each age-group. The participants have been diverse in backgrounds, which has greatly enriched the program.

**Group 1** is for children ages 4 to 8 with their adult caregivers. We have explored colors, numbers, body parts and foods we like and don’t like through games, videos and songs.

**Group 2** is for 9 to 12 years old who are more independent learners. We have used a new technique of storytelling to engage this group. They have enjoyed the experience. We have made comic strips of some of the stories we created in class, learned songs and played movement games.

**The favorite video of the session:** Une Patate – [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCNqKG2SdCo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCNqKG2SdCo)

The fall session of Fun in French ends on December 13th with a celebration that will assemble both age-groups, with their families, in a traditional dance session, some festive singing and traditional food sharing and merriment.

**The winter session will start January 10th 2015.**

**French for Teens** – This brand-new program for teens consists in a once a month get-together with local teens to exchange French culture through music, short films, storytelling and games. We have also created a closed social networking page to keep in touch between sessions and might add a movie night to the mix so we can meet more often. The French for Teens program is ongoing until May of 2015.
In the works – Some of our plans for 2015 include French movie nights for teens, adults and families; themed events, and partnerships with a local drop-in center and adult education program.

Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme à Lewiston/Auburn: – For more information about the program in Lewiston/Auburn: http://www.francocenter.org/aboutmfihp/

Et notre programme-sœur à Augusta: - And our sister-program in Augusta: http://www.uma.edu/mfhlp.html

UN MOT DES COORDONNATRICES – A WORD FROM THE COORDINATORS

Un coup d’œil derrière le rideau - A Peek Behind the Scenes

Bonjour!

The year seems to be flying by: it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving has come and gone, and with it we plunge into the holiday season!

In mid-October, along with the teaching team from Augusta, we attended a 2-day seminar on Total Comprehensible Input (TCI) and this technique changed the way we looked at teaching French. The focus of the approach is on language acquisition and the natural way that we tend to learn our first language: listening/hearing, speaking, reading and then writing. Our goal with the Maine French Heritage Language Program has always been to teach the French culture, particularly the North American French story while teaching the language. With TCI the goal is to keep the classes in French and use various techniques, including story-telling, word walls and props, images, videos, etc. to help the students understand the language and start to put together the written word with the oral. While we have always strived to keep the primary language spoken in class to French, learning about this technique has made it much more possible to attain.

Students are presented with some statements that are the basis for a story and are asked questions about the statements. The questions are phrased and rephrased to elicit responses, giving students the opportunity not only to repeat words and phrases in French, but also to start piecing together their thought processes in French if they are inclined. It is amazing how quickly students are able to start putting words together and how well they understand the stories through this teaching method. It is engaging, and the students truly enjoy themselves, which is what we aim for.

Merci beaucoup,

Jacynthe Jacques & Diane Pelletier

EN PARTENARIAT AVEC – IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

FRENCH HERITAGE LANGUAGE PROGRAM

EN COLLABORATION AVEC - IN COLLABORATION WITH:

AUBURN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT