Bonjour tout le monde! Hello everyone! We were so pleased to see many of you attend our open house for families, where you got a chance to see your child’s progress in the portfolios this year. The portfolio features an assessment check sheet for each theme, where we can chart milestones in your child’s language progression and show them how proud we are! We will have three additional open houses throughout the course of the year, so that you can get a better sense of your child’s progress. We have designed a rigorous, academically challenging curriculum this year, which is also infused with lots of engaging and hands-on activities! We want to show your child that learning can be fun! Praise your child every day and encourage this vital progress in class.

I can’t believe that it is time again for registration. We have broken the 36-weeks of instruction this year into two 18-week sessions. **You must sign your child up and make payment in order to secure a spot for your child in the Spring 2013 session.** Priority enrollment is during the month of November, so that continuing families have the chance to re-enroll their child before spots open up to new families. We hope that you will choose to continue in the program! As you know, we are rolling out our brand new curriculum this year, with the following themes coming in Spring 2013:

**LET’S SHARE FOOD IN FRENCH**
Students will create and taste some traditional seasonal and/or holiday dishes from Franco-American and other Francophone regions, and we will talk about table manners in various countries. This theme will also include snowshoeing, a maple syrup party, and an introduction to Mardi Gras!

**LET’S SING, PLAY, AND READ IN FRENCH**
Although we are introducing written French throughout the academic year, this theme specifically targets reading skills in French. Students will learn new songs in French, play Franco-American games, and learn more about Canada and its tradition of hockey. We will also do some theater and act out a mini play as our final project!

In order to make the registration process go smoothly, I will be at Lincoln School on Wednesday, November 14th, starting at 4:30 p.m. to answer questions and to take payment for the next session. Gabi Howard, volunteer assistant, will be at Hussey School on Thursday, November 15th, starting at 4:00 p.m. to do the same. Some basic reminders and information about the registration process:

- Please make out your check to UMA and be sure to attach your registration form to the check with a paper clip, in case we have questions.
- If your child currently is on a scholarship (because he or she is enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program), you are eligible to re-enroll with a scholarship for Spring 2013. We need a $20 non-refundable registration fee from you at the time of re-enrollment.
Our cancellation policy is outlined on the brochure (your teachers have copies to give you). It is as follows: Cancellations before the start of the program (which is on January 14th at Lincoln School and January 15th at Hussey School) are entitled to a 50% refund of the total; cancellations after the start of the program are entitled to 25% refund for the remaining classes.

Please do not hand payment to the teaching teams! You have two options:
- give your check to me on November 14th at Lincoln or to Gabi on November 15th at Hussey
- mail the check to me (sent no later than Nov. 23rd): Chelsea Ray/French at UMA/46 University Drive/Augusta, ME

THEME 2: We are now starting theme 2 in November. The purpose of the theme on Festivals and Traditions is to create an awareness of different cultures, religious (Hanukkah, Christmas), quasi-secular (Thanksgiving), or secular (Carnival) festivals and their traditions as expressed in French around the globe. In this section, we will navigate the calendar and seasons and explore ways of celebrating around the francophone world.

If you have any questions about enrollment or our curriculum this year, don’t hesitate to ask!

Finally, be sure to check out the calendar of events below! Cindy LaRock will be teaching traditional Franco-American dances, and families are invited, and we have our first fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Augusta on Tuesday, November 27th!

Dr. Chelsea Ray
UMA, Asst. Professor of French and Comparative Literature

LE COIN DES ENSEIGNANTS – TEACHERS’ CORNER

This month we are highlighting Sandy Arbour, Cultural Associate and volunteer at Lincoln School, who has been with the program since its inception. We are also highlighting the vital help of Suzanne Fournier-Le Bel Hedrick, Cultural Associate at Hussey School.

When I first got involved I not only wanted to help the Maine French Heritage start-up program succeed, I wanted to bring the French language back to the elementary schools. I strongly believe that children should be introduced to language at an early age. My Franco-American family spoke French at home, with friends and extended family. My uncle, who had a vast collection of music from all over the world, helped me appreciate the value of language and other cultures. I became fascinated with the idea of travelling and spent 38 years working for the Dept. of Defense teaching in Germany, Japan and Turkey. I truly believe that learning languages gives us “a key to the world” and I wanted to help bring that passion back to the students in Augusta. – Sandy Arbour

My ancestry goes back on both sides of my family to Normandy and Brittany. My ancestors came to the new world from France in the mid 1600’s and brought their language with them. They settled in what is now the Quebec province of Canada. French was and remains the principal language of Quebec and some of the words that are still spoken are expressions that were used long ago. It is part of the “patois” or “dialect” of the region that was brought to the states by the immigrants from Canada. I am proud of my language and the ability to pass it on to a new generation of children. – Suzanne Fournier-Le Bel Hedrick

LES DEVOIRS SUGGÉRÉS – SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Following is this month’s suggestion for work at home for the month. Please remember, these are not required, but can be used to supplement learning in class. Some parents enjoy learning (or re-awakening) their French alongside their children! If any exercise is particularly helpful or engaging, please let us know!

Just like last year, we are asking that you play the Michael Parent CD regularly (in the car, before bed, etc). For those of you who are new this year, your teacher should have provided you with a copy. For returning families who may have misplaced their copy, you can get an additional CD in the bookstore at UMA.

For those who have purchased the Usborne French Dictionary for Beginners, there are a few pages that would be
perfect for reviewing and expanding the vocabulary that we worked on. Suggestions for this month would be:

Celebrations (pages 78-79) For the next 8 weeks we will be learning about several holidays, celebrations and festivals so the vocabulary on these pages ties in perfectly with the class work. 

Days and Dates (pages 80-81) We have been learning the days of the week and the months of the year and these pages give some more words to describe parts of the day and week.

**LE CALENDRIER DES ÉVÉNEMENTS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Lincoln School - Monday, November 19th, 3:30 - 4:45 - workshop and traditional Franco-American dancing with Cindy LaRock. Families are welcome to attend alongside their child! We will be in the classroom at 3:30 p.m. and in the gym starting at 4:00 p.m.

Hussey School - Thursday, November 29th, 3:30 - 4:45 - workshop and traditional Franco-American dancing with Cindy LaRock. Families are welcome to attend alongside their child! We will be in the classroom at 3:30 p.m. and in the gym starting at 4:00 p.m.

**FUNDRAISER!** November 27th Fundraising Event at Texas Roadhouse - Please save the date! We are holding a fundraiser for the Maine French Heritage Language Program and French at UMA at the Texas Roadhouse in Augusta. All you need to do to participate is go out to eat at the Texas Roadhouse between 3 and 9 p.m. on Tuesday the 27th of November, attach your receipt to the flyer that we will hand out and give them to the person at the counter when you check out. 10% of the proceeds will be donated from Texas Roadhouse shared between the Maine French Language Heritage Program and French at UMA. We will have representatives (teachers, coordinators) from the program dining there between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. *Please come join us, enjoy some good food and help our program!*

**ACTIVITÉS RÉCENTES - RECENT ACTIVITIES**

*Halloween Parade at Lincoln School*

*Effrayant ou joli (scary or pretty) ?*
The Maine French Heritage Language Program is an afterschool elementary French program that meets twice a week for about two hours in four schools (2 in Augusta and 2 in Auburn). Our teaching teams are made up of a Teacher, a Cultural Associate, and an Apprentice from UMA or Bates College. French is the primary language of instruction. We provide rigorous exposure to language education in a curriculum that emphasizes local Franco-American culture and the diversity of French-speaking cultures around the world.

Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme à Augusta: - For more information about the program in Augusta:  
http://www.uma.edu/mfhlp.html

Pour plus de renseignements sur le programme à Auburn: - And the program in Auburn:  
http://www.francocenter.org/aboutmflhp/