UN MOT DE LA COORDONNATRICE -
A WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR

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

Bonjour et Bienvenu

Recent discussions that we have had with Benoît Le Dévédec of the French Heritage Language Program (FHLP) have been very optimistic. The FHLP in New York, an educational program of Face Foundation, has pledged to continue their financial help to our program through the next year. This partnership helped form the Maine French Heritage Language Program 4 years ago, and we are very pleased to have their confidence, support and vision into the future. Together with the City of Augusta’s Bureau of Recreation, the FHLP support, the greater Augusta community and all of you, we are well poised for continuing our quest to bring French language education and an awareness of Francophone culture to elementary students in the area.

Publicity for the Maine French Heritage Program in the Kennebec Journal could not have been better placed than the front page! Keith Edwards of the Kennebec Journal spoke with several people about the history, mission, future of and experience with the MFHLP. The timing of the article, particularly in the lead up to the Springtime in Paris fundraising event, was impeccable. Having the children singing at Chateau Cushnoc also highlighted one of the many ways in which the program benefits the community. A big thank you to Chelsea Ray for contacting Keith about the possibility of writing an article and for talking with him, and to Staci Fortunato and Roger Pomerleau for agreeing to be interviewed for the article.

Although the weather for the “Springtime in Paris” event was more indicative of typical springtime in Maine, the turnout for this fund-raising event was spectacular. Fabien Fieschi, the Consul Général de France in Boston, Emmanuelle Marchand also from the Boston Consulate and Benoît Le Dévédec from the FHLP in New York all attended, as well as many dignitaries from the City of Augusta (Mayor Rollins and Senator Katz), and School Board members Kim Martin and Nicole Desjardins. A big thank you to the Fundraising committee: Nicole Stein, Roger Pomerleau, Chelsea Ray, Dennis Thoet, Sandy Arbour and Priscille Michaud, to all who donated items to the auction and those who attended this event and helped make it a success.
Our singing event at the Chateau Cushnoc went very well. The kids all seemed to enjoy being able to share their French songs with the residents and many members of families who attended. Thank you to all of the parents and grand-parents who attended. The kids sang particularly well and were really excited to have their pictures in the paper! The publicity led to our class being invited to sing at Granite Hill Estates in May, so we will be learning some more seasonally appropriate songs for our next venture. We have 9 more weeks of class to build our repertoire!

Merci beaucoup,
Karen Foust

LE COIN DES ENSEIGNANTS - TEACHERS’ CORNER

Lincoln School - Singing at Chateau Cushnoc was the highlight of the month for classroom activities. We have been working on expressions that use the verb “avoir” (to have), which include being hungry, thirsty, scared, hot, cold and having a pain somewhere on the body. Next time your child has a small cut, ask them how they would say that in French! (J’ai mal…) We have also been working on being able to politely say “Donnez-moi….s’il vous plaît” or “Give me….please”.

We are visiting Louisiana in class and learning about where “Cajuns” came from, the flag that they use, Cajun music and food. I made a big pot of Gumbo to share, and will pretend to put all of our ingredients into a big pot, stir them up and let them cook while we do some activities. The children have been learning some common foods that they might see around your kitchens too.

The students will be learning some vocabulary that could be used when going to a restaurant and/or a store, so we will have more activities that include skits and play acting in the coming weeks.

LES DEVOIRS SUGGÉRÉS - SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Alternative activities: Since we are working with foods and other products that students might purchase, I have asked them to look around in the stores for items that have labels in both French and English. I brought in an example of a pineapple label “l’ananas” that I found at the grocery store. You would be amazed at how many items have bi-lingual labels.

LE CALENDRIER DES ÉVÉNEMENTS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 21st - Class to Sing at Granite Hill Estates - 4:00 pm
ACTIVITÉS RÉCENTES - RECENT ACTIVITIES

Masked Mardi Gras celebrators

Bradyn Eating Crêpes for Mardi Gras

Singing at Château Cushnoc
PROGRAMME OFFERT PAR - PROGRAM OFFERED BY

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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/