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. Classes are taught by integrating the 4 Francophone themes in the MFHLP’s curriculum:

1) Roots and Identity  
2) Celebrations  
3) Foods  
4) Stories, Games and Songs.

Sherwood Heights

Unit 3 highlights: In this Unit, we learned about the Acadians and their Deportation from the original Acadian region of the Canadian Maritimes. Through the stories of Evangeline and Ernest & Onezine, the students reviewed colors in French and learned about the importance of family and how to say members of the family. In addition, they learned how to say types of transportation, seasons, weather, the words for small and big and some emotions. Students embellished the original Acadian legend of Ernest & Onezine, who are two friendly lobsters, homards, who decide to follow their Acadian friends from their Canadian homeland to their new home in Louisiana. From the grand adventure, the lobsters are transformed from lobsters to crayfish. These stories are desired to instill the importance of family, friendships, dedication and perseverance.

We also had a Q & A with all of the CLC students about the maple syrup-making process before their trip to Jillson’s Farm.

Preview: Our next Unit will be about the immigration of the Franco-Americans to the area and what the francophone world looks like today.

Specials

Last day of Unit 3: Monday April 13, 2015  
Start of Unit 4: Monday, April 27, 2015

Fun in French

Group 1 is for children ages 4 to 8 with their adult caregivers.

In studying the months and seasons, students learned how celebrations may differ between France, Canada and the USA. They also enjoyed being more engaged in some hands on learning with a field trip to the Cabane à Sucre Bergeron where we were treated to some tire sur la neige, taffy on snow, and a tour of the sugar house with simple but complete explanations of the process of making maple syrup.

Group 2 is for 9 to 12 years old who are more independent learners.

In this group, we created a story about an (person who can’t sleep) who drinks coffee and dances the tango at midnight with his rainbow-colored clock and has a cat named Java who likes to drink orange Pepsi. Their imagination is boundless. They also took part in the maple sugar house trip.

We finished the session by holding a workshop for both groups’ parents, grand-parents and caregivers on how to raise a bilingual child. Meanwhile, the children of both groups prepared a little skit to present after the workshop which adults enjoyed.

Start of the spring session: May 2nd.
French for Teens

A la demande générale – By popular demande, French for teens has increased its get-togethers to twice a month until the end of the school year. We have played games about the weather and the seasons and also created simple sentence structures with je suis, je veux, j’aime, and il y a in additions to creating stories and watching short films and music videos. An excellent film that we saw as a class was Le Tableau by Jean-François Laguionie.

Some of the students also shared their connection to the French language through some of their family’s traditions.

Finally, one of the French for Teens students is now volunteering with the Sherwood Heights afterschool program – which is very exciting because the program is designed to bring the generations together in the French language and culture.

Tree Street Youth French Club

The French Club led by Marie Emmons and volunteers from Tree Street was such a success that we have has added eight weeks of classes to the initial six weeks pilot project. Most of the participants are French speaking new Mainers. They get to partake in round-table conversations and games led in French.

We hope to help those youth with more academic endeavor in the future as well.

In the works – The Franco Center, in conjunction with community partners from the various new Mainers communities, is planning a 3-day cross-cultural festival focused on the performing arts. That festival will held in mid-July and will be designed for children of all ages to share in their own cultural art forms and those of other communities. Emphasis will be put on cultural pride and sharing.

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

Venez visiter notre nouveau site web MFHLP-Come and visit our new MFHLP web site: http://www.mfhlp.com

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

Bonjour!

In March, we had the pleasure of a visit from our partner, Benoit Le Devedec, who heads similar types of programs in New York and Miami. He participated in the French Club at Tree Street Youth on March 13th and in the Fun in French class on March 14th.

Benoit shared some of his insights on what is happening in New York, Miami and Boston to make French more alive and interesting for young people of all ages. He also shared his vision with us about what can be done with the existing programs that Maine French Heritage Language Program team has been developing at the Franco Center and in partnerships with the community.

We are looking forward to building stronger relationships with our community partners such as the Auburn School Department’s Community Learning Center and Tree Street Youth in the coming year.

Merci beaucoup,

Jacynthe Blais Jacques & Diane Pelletier
EN PARTENARIAT AVEC – IN ASSOCIATION WITH:

- French Heritage Language Program
- Franco-American Heritage Center
- Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques

EN COLLABORATION AVEC - IN COLLABORATION WITH:

- Tree Street Youth
  Uniting Diverse Youth Through Programs Rooted In Academics, Art, and Athletics