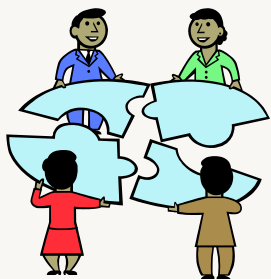


March 2016

FSLAC NEWS

French as a Second Language Advisory Committee



Working together for our students

Travaillons ensemble pour nos élèves

E-MAIL:

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Find us at:

www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac

FREE March Break Fun

Toronto Public Library will be hosting lots of entertaining events in French for children age 5-10 including puppet shows, magic shows, interactive theatre and musical performances at branches across the city. Some performances require registration. Details here:

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/search.jsp?N=20219&No=10&Ntt=march+break

Kids age 10-13 are invited to an 'Atelier d'écriture' (writing workshop) for budding historians at the Yorkville branch on Monday, March 14 at 2 pm. Registration is required at 416 395 5762 or email programmesenfrancais@torontopubliclibrary.ca

#mon20mars

March 20th is International Francophonie Day and United Nations (UN) French Language Day. The International Organization of La Francophonie (IOF) is comprised of 80 countries and/or regions where French has cultural and linguistic significance, representing 13% of the world's population. Michaëlle Jean, Canada's former Governor General, is the Secretary General of the IOF and Canada, Quebec and New Brunswick are members.

French has been an official language of the United Nations since 1946. Other official languages are: Arabic, Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish. Each official language is celebrated once/year and the UN News Centre posts the news in each official language:

www.un.org/french/newscentre/

Visiting Ottawa during March Break?

Ottawa offers lots of activities in French. Visit the only urban sugar shack at www.museoparc.ca/en/ in Vanier, the centre of French life in Ottawa. The Museum of History, the National Gallery, the Museum of Nature, the Currency Museum and many more are all fully bilingual and are ready with great exhibits www.ottawamuseums.com.

You can get tickets to tour Parliament Hill right across the street at 90 Wellington, www.parl.gc.ca and for touring the Supreme Court, you reserve on-line www.scc-csc.ca. A reservation is also needed to visit Rideau Hall, the home of the Governor General www.gg.ca

Parents as Partners Conference

Saturday, April 16th from 8 am to 4 pm, TDSB parents will be gathering at the Allstream Centre (at the CNE) to learn about improving student achievement and well-being at school and at home. The conference is free but registration is required.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Marie Wilson from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Dr. Ian Manion, a child and youth mental health expert.

There will be more than 80 workshops to choose from, including session B/D15 on FSL featuring information about the new Ministry document 'Including Students with Special Needs in FSL'. Conference info here:

www.parentsaspartners.ca

Enrolment Update

Applications for SK Immersion and Grade 4 Extended French are up this year. As a result, these schools will have new SK Immersion programs in September: Second St, Carleton Village, Dundas St, Birch Cliff and Pauline Johnson. For Grade 4 Extended, Cherokee will have a new program. The John English program is moving to Second St and the Cliffwood program is moving to Cresthaven to allow for growth.

All on-time applicants are given a spot although it may not be at the Immersion/Extended program that is closest to home. Transportation is provided according to TDSB policy. Full details will be in the Enrolment Report in May/June.

Awesome Parent Story

As a Polish immigrant, moving to Canada at age 8, I've always had an appreciation for other languages. French did not become a major part of my life until I joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) at 19 years of age, attending the Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC), in Kingston, ON. In the fulfillment of the RMCC bachelor's degree, an officer (my husband attended RMCC too) has to become "functionally" bilingual, which means that one can work in both official languages. After graduation, more than half of my career as a Public Affairs Officer (PAO) was spent in the west where my husband and I struggled to maintain our French capability.

Now, I'm back in the swing of things taking military on-line language training with a view to attain a level of proficiency such that I can instruct future PAOs. My biggest hurdle is overcoming being self-conscious about making mistakes as I learn, something I think many adults can relate to. My second challenge is finding time in my schedule. Just recently I deployed to Beirut, Lebanon along with 240 CAF members to assist with the resettlement of Syrian refugees back to Canada. CAF conducted medical examinations, data entry, provided airlifts, and performed a command, control and liaison function. It was interesting to be in a place that once was a French colony (1920-1943). Arabic is the official language of Lebanon, but French and English are prestige languages often used for business, diplomacy, and government.

Having learned French as adults (...and continuing to try to master it), my husband and I didn't think twice before enrolling our twins into early French immersion. Seeing the girls now at age 11 is simply remarkable. Unlike adults, they don't become focused on the mistakes, rather they correct and move-on and I'm excited about the doors (professionally and socially) French opens for them. The military lifestyle has us moving around every couple years, which adds extra pressure on the girls having to adjust to a new school with differences in curriculum, yet the moves certainly provide incredible opportunities to see the language in action.

We also have a unique view into the variances in education between provinces. My experience with TDSB FSLAC has been very positive. It's a welcoming team, with committed members who are fully dedicated to improving the delivery of French language learning.

-Lena Angell, Tumpane Parent

You are invited!

Parents, students, trustees, teachers and staff are invited to attend and participate in FSLAC meetings. Meetings start at 7 pm at the TDSB offices at 5050 Yonge St., ground floor.

Meeting notices, reports, newsletters and minutes are posted on the TDSB website: www.tdsb.on.ca/fslac.

Upcoming meetings: April 12, May 10, June 9, 2016.

TFO Education via IDÉLLO

IDÉLLO is Groupe Média TFO's new platform for French educational resources. These resources include TV series, websites, games, teaching guides, videos and apps for teaching Core, Extended and Immersion French. Every one of the more than 14 000 Ontario FSL teachers has full access to more than 8 000 resources as well as functions for sharing with their classes and for collaborating with colleagues. All teachers have to do to get started is to set up an account using their TDSB email address.

At home and via mobile devices, preschoolers to Grade 12 students have access to more than 1500 resources and videos. Parents who don't speak French and have younger children can navigate in English through the sign in to the resources and then the kids can take it from there in French. www.idello.org is part of Ontario's publicly funded French educational broadcaster, TFO.

You can also find TFO here:

www.youtube.com/user/TFOCanada/featured

Mini TFO is for younger students and for older ones, have them check out FLIP and BRBR.

TDSB Summer French

The TDSB offers French programs for elementary students during the summer at several locations. Secondary students can do credits in summer school. This includes EduTravel which offers Civics/Careers in French for Extended/Immersion students and French credits for Core/Extended/Immersion students.

Information is posted here as it becomes available:

tdsb.on.ca/AboutUs/Innovation/SummerPrograms.aspx

Looking for Summer Activities?

FRENCHSTREET.CA is the go to site for finding French summer camps, exchanges and all kinds of opportunities for kids to use their French outside of the classroom. This new internet database allows you to search for opportunities by region and by age group and then you can link right up with the organization providing the opportunity. The site is a project of the Ministry of Education and on.cpf.ca

The YMCA Summer Work Student Exchange is a unique national exchange program that gives 16 & 17 year olds the opportunity to live and work in a French community during the summer. The deadline is March 15, 2016.

Details here:

my.ymcagta.org/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=536

Join the FSLAC Email List

To receive this once/term newsletter and occasional FSL news or to get in touch, please email fslactoronto@gmail.com. Be sure to give us your first and last name and the name of your child's school.