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**Frenz is soon to have
its own web site:
www.frenzschoo.
org.nz**

**Homework Class,
T4, Monday or
Wednesday, you
choose !**

**8th November:
School fair !**

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CELEBRATIONS

Term 3 is nearly finished and the classrooms are buzzing with activity. Work in the morning happens as usual, and afternoons are devoted to this term theme study: "celebrations and speaking in colours". Through it, art is predominant. Juniors and Seniors have discovered various techniques to create magnificent portraits. One of them is collage ; children chose the colours they wanted in old magazines. An other one is more detailed and used chalks, crayons, and dyes. All the children's marvelous creations are displayed and you won't be able to recognize the classrooms. They are more beautiful than ever.

The best masterpieces of each class and age group are displayed in the school hall. Eighteen of them will be chosen to be exhibited by New World and judged in a month. Don't miss this op-

portunity to discover the talents of future artists.

The school is also busy preparing for the end of the



term show: Celebrating our school community. In our Roopu, children have chosen the music they will dance on and are now doing the choreography. We will soon need to tackle the costumes and parents will be trusted and asked to help. Book the 10 th September now on your agendas to make sure you don't miss this occasion to rejoice.

On Wednesday 3rd September, the school welcomed the French speech finalists. Our young orators had the

opportunity to show off their talents in front of an interested crowd. They were six students and their topics ranged from Barbe Noire the pirate to aliens, touching on cross country biking, Paris, damaged forests and the advantages of being bilingual. Adèle Dutilloy won the first prize, Louis Malloy and Muriel Kurtovich sharing the second one. We thank the judges, Monique Manders and Patrick Delhaye, for their kindness and wise recommendations. ■



LETS CELEBRATE THE "GALETTE DES ROIS"

Once again Frenz has organized an afternoon party to celebrate the Twelfth Night. Last year's experience was such a success that we wish to make this celebration an annual event. Of course we are not in January, but in January it is sum-

mer and the holidays.

Traditionally, in France, we celebrate *Epiphany* (or Twelfth Night) on the 6th of January. This according to my web search from the 4th century. This Catholic celebration commemorates the

visit of devotion of the Three Wise Men to baby Jesus.

There is nothing like savoring a warmed-up Twelfth Night cake (*galette*) made of puff pas- (see page 2)

LETS CELEBRATE THE "GALETTE DES ROIS" (cont from page 1)

try stuffed with almond paste (frangipane) in the heart of winter! Inside the cake, our bakers hide the *fève* (bean), a little figurine, which allows us to select the kings. Originally, the *fève* was indeed a bean and kept its name throughout the centuries. Later on, craftsmen emulated each other to create adorable little statues in porcelain or earthenware which are still sought after by collectors. The merry guest who finds the figurine in his or her cake is proclaimed Queen or King of the gathering



and chooses a partner. Both of them wear a crown: a golden one for the owner of the *fève* and a silver one for his/her accomplice.

Sunday 7th September, saw 120 of us, adults and children of all ages celebrating *la Galette des Rois* in the hall at Richmond Road School, where the French-English bilingual unit is housed. It was great to see the French community coming together to introduce

French festivities to our children, and those new to our culture. These times are not planned as money-making ventures, as more an opportunity to meet with others from France and continue the traditions that were part of our childhood. We would like to thank 'La Tropicézienne' for the delicious *galettes -fèves* were difficult to find this year, so we used real beans, but we will have a supply for next year. Thanks also to Elisabeth Le Quilliec from Areva, and L'Oréal for donating the products we were able to raffle. Finally, thanks to the Frenz committee for organising this enjoyable afternoon. ■

See you next year!

RICHMOND ROAD SCHOOL FAIR

Once again the staff and parents of Richmond Road School, are in the throes of organising the school fair. This has proved to be a great fundraiser in previous years as well as a superb and fun way for the community to come together. This year the school has managed to recruit Carol Hirshfield, TV3 news reader, as Master of Ceremony for the day as well as a number of other celebrities who will be participating in a celebrity karaoke.

There will be the usual stalls of clothing, *bric-à-brac*, books and toys and activities for all the children. Wine,



coffee, water and a selection of different food will be available, and of course a *Hungi* on site. Raffles and an auction are being prepared with some great prizes to win.

Come and have a great day while supporting the children of Richmond Road School on the **Saturday 8 November**. If anyone has any clothing/books/items they would like to donate please contact the school: 376 1091. ■

THE LIBRARY

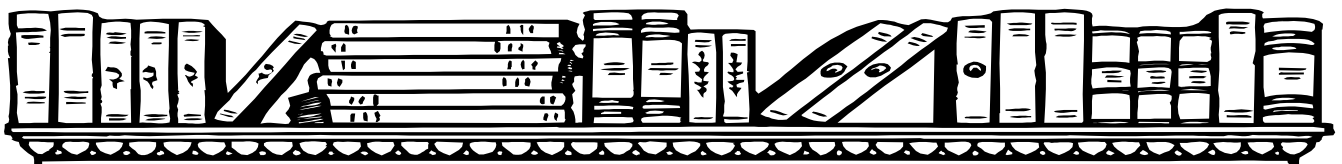
Are your children familiar with Gafi, Nina Cradibouille, Yakari, Babar, among so many others? Do they like reading mystery or documentary books? Whether your child is an advanced reader, starting to enjoy reading by him or herself or discovering books and their pictures, our library can fulfil your needs and give your child a lot of pleasure.

Do you wish to increase the French language exposure at home without giving up that little peaceful moment you enjoy when the children are sitting in front of the TV? Come and choose a few videos or DVDs from among the 122 available to you.

Do not hesitate to talk about our library to others around you, to your

friends and relatives. It is a great resource and it needs to be better known among the French speaking community.

Tuesday / Wednesday, 3 pm – 4 pm, Friday during school hours in the school library. ■



NEWS FROM ROOPU 5

At the end of last term, the Education Review Officers (E.R.O) visited our school. The general impression of the school seemed to be favorable. You can access the report on the official web site : www.ero.govt.nz

The Junior class lately welcomed new little ones : Estelle, Claire's little sister, Mokoheani who arrived from Tahiti like a ray of sunshine, Corrèze, Jack and Louis's little sister and Aliénor and Adrien who just arrived from Paris. They were warmly welcomed by their pairs and teacher.

The Senior class welcomed Aliénor and Adrien's older sister, Clarisse, and said good bye to two students: Jaz, with her earthy accent and Thi-

bault the big timid boy who went back to France. We wish them both to be successful in their new schools.

Recently we were informed by the Principal that we would no longer have a Teacher aide. This was precipitated by the fact that a number of French parents expressed the desire for more English tuition for their

children. In response, Hayley proposed that they could spend some time in the English Roopus. She also stressed that each case needed to be

presented to the teaching staff and the Principal on an individual basis.

As a consequence, Valérie will only spend one hour each morning in

Valérie will only spend one hour each morning in Roopu 5, and the rest of the week helping in other Roopus

Roopu 5, and the rest of the week helping in other Roopus. Frenz appreciates the willingness of the school to accommodate the needs of all children,

yet express disappointment at the loss of the extra support in Roopu 5.

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION

The new committee

At the association's last AGM in March, the committee was elected for another year. The same people are involved although some might have changed titles.

Valérie Levergne is president, Joanne Commarieu vice president, Susan Stewart secretary, Michèle Chaudesaigues treasurer, Cathy Carter and Peter Schwartz members.

Don't hesitate to contact us, we are here to make your wishes come true if we can.

The strategic plan

In a moment of efficiency and consultation, the committee has decided to formulate a strategic plan for the association. This plan will allow us to determine our priorities and decide upon a plan of action. You should have all received a questionnaire sent by Caroline Boot, who we have contracted to help us formulate this plan. Thank you to all those of you who have already replied.

Caroline Boot (BSc., Dip Teaching, Dip Math Ed., MBA (Hons),

MNZIM) is the founder and Managing Director of Plan A ltd, a small company that specialises in writing

Visit our new web site : www.frenzschooll.org.nz

corporate documentation - particularly strategic plans, annual reports, training manuals and tenders.

A former secondary teacher and school director, Caroline works with a range of different organizations to develop and document plans and manuals. She has particular skills in facilitating strategic planning, and has recently led planning sessions for a number of large organisations, including Infrastructure Auckland and Compac Sorting Equipment.

Caroline lived in France for several summers, visits Europe as often as time and funds permit, and keeps regular contact with her French-

speaking godmother in Geneva. She's looking forward to taking her two-year-old son to Europe for the first time some time in the next year. She's enthusiastic about the Frenz project for establishing a bilingual kindy, and is currently helping us with the planning for this."

Our Website

It's done! After many years of talking about the advantages of having one, it is finally ready to be launched! Setting up a quality website is not something easily achieved. After many hours of work, we believe that Vincent Commarieu has been able to achieve it for us, and for this we extend our heartfelt thanks.

We are open to suggestions for information that we could include, if you know of other sites that would be good to link to, or if you simply want to express your impressions.

We also have a new postal address: Private Bag MBE P109, Auckland, and a new email address:

contact@frenzschooll.org.nz



FAMILIES EXPERIENCES

A letter from Isabelle Billon

15 May 2003

Maryse,
Bravo and congratulations for teaching the children of RRS, so well. I have no doubt that I was one of the more demanding parents you had to deal with. It is true that we should listen better and have more faith in your knowledge of both the French and New Zealand education systems. Admittedly, it is the unknown that worries us with the memories of a very academic schooling in France, and the recognition of a very different style in New Zealand.

Cecile and Enzo have adapted very quickly. After 3 months, they are among the best students in their classes and their teachers are surprised at both their results and ability to adapt.

Thanks to you they are proud with themselves at having coped with the changes in their lives so successfully.

Once again thank you
Isabelle

End of August 2003

The Côte d'Azur Kiwis

Graham and I had spoken of leaving New Zealand to live in France for many years. So long in fact, that it had become a legend amongst our friends in Auckland!

Having never known the French rhythm of life labeled 'work, metro, sleep' (*boulot, metro, dodo*), we had

only good memories.

We took the leap in February 2003, finding ourselves in the village of Issambres, in the Côte d'Azur, thanks to a super couple who have lent us their house, perched on the coast, only a few metres from the water.

The highly unlikely scenario that we would not thoroughly enjoy living here, was well and truly dispelled, when through the long summer our fabulous house was transformed into a holiday camp (12 – 17 people). We've had visits from my close and distant relations, as well as friends that I haven't seen since leaving for the antipodes 14 years ago.

This exceptional summer in terms of climate (28 – 35c since June), has been full of parties too, even a disco outing until 3am. It did not change me into a disco fan, but it was great to be re-emersed in the festive and relaxed atmosphere of summer holidays.

We visited the regions of *Rocamadour*, *Bleu d'Auvergne*, *Bandol*, *Chinon*.....putting the world to right each night, surprisingly without tiring of it. And yes, all those smokers in France! I revel in the odour, and forget the obligatory guilt that befalls those in Auckland who belong to this group of renegades!

Between 2 mouthfuls of *foie gras* accompanied by a *St Emilion*, I must however face the reality of being French and living in France. It is at

this point that you discover the true face of French administration. A seductive unknown when *les Assedic* (unemployed) and the *Caisse d'Allocation Familiale* give us financial aid to assist reintegration, and look for a job, while still being able to feed the family. Or a nightmare equal to *Minotaure's* maze, when asked to define which services, when, and how, and which papers are required to obtain a telephone, electricity, gas, internet access, car registration..... As always, a balance between the minimal social cover in NZ and the huge administrative machine in France would be the ideal, but I know I'm only dreaming!

The children, Cécile, 9 years, Enzo, 7 years, and Marcus, 4 years, all attend the local school. It's very pleasing to see them taking to it like fish to water, after their only educational experience being Richmond Rd; they finished the school year in June with excellent reports.

From my point of view it's great not to have to rake my brain in the mornings thinking of something to put in their lunch-boxes!

It's surprising after having so much input into Ropu 5, that I now satisfy myself by waiting at home to receive the children's school notes and homework, reassuring us of their progress.

The only drawback: large classes of
(see page 6)

NOTICES

Drama Class
Friday 3.15 – 4.15pm
Teacher :
Michel Cassin

Age group : 7 +

Location:
Richmond Road
School hall

Fees: \$50 / term



Homework
Class

Wed-
nesday
3.15 – 4.15

Teacher : Patrick Miegerville
Age group : 5 +
Location : Richmond Road
School Ropu 5
Fees: \$50 / term

For children aged 11– 14 **who already speak French**...an after-school class to further enrich their French, with oral and written work on topics ranging from current affairs to literature and history.

Tuesday 3.45 – 5.15pm
Teacher: Patrick Miegerville

Qualified French Teacher
Location : Ponsonby Intermediate School Room 1,
Clarence Street, Ponsonby

Fees : \$120 / term



LE COIN DES ETUDIANTS



IT'S ALL ABOUT ART

Still life by Claudia Riley
Junior Class

Imaginary countries by Ewen Le Quilliec
and Felix Commarieu
Junior Class



14th of July celebrations around the Eiffel Tower
by Camille Rees
Senior Class



THE HOMEWORK CLASS

Patrick Miegville's class is proving very successful. So successful in fact that Patrick has suggested splitting the class in half. He proposes two afternoons for Term 4: Monday and Wednesday. Discuss with him which

day would suit you best or talk to Valérie.

The cost is \$50.00 per term regardless of attendance. Please pay to Susan Stewart for registration, on the

first week of each term. ■

FROM "A PARENTS' AND TEACHERS' GUIDE TO BILINGUALISM" BY COLIN BAKER (MULTILINGUAL MATTERS LTD 1995)

Learning difficulties due to bilingualism?

My bilingual child seems to be having difficulties learning at school. Could this be due to her bilingualism?

Research shows that bilingualism is rarely the problem. It is much more likely to be due to other factors such as poor teaching methods, a non-motivated classroom, low self-confidence in the child, social division rather than cohesion within the school, a dearth of teaching materials or a clash with the teacher.

However, while learning difficulties are not specifically aligned with bilingualism, the loosely associated problems of coming from a minority culture may create disadvantages. For example, Spanish speakers who are placed in an English-only classroom and who are marked in English, on the theory of 'sink or swim', may be labeled as requiring remedial education. In this situation it can be said that it is the monolingual school that is responsible for the learning failure.

The problem of the disappearing language

The balance between the two languages that my child speaks seems to be shifting. What can I do to make sure that his second language does not disappear entirely?

The first point to note is that a child's

strength in two languages often varies with time, often because the situations and contexts encountered by the child change. Sometimes the shift between languages can be quite large, even to the point of stopping to speak one language. While the child may continue to understand what is being said, the context or situation does not encourage the child to use that language. This may be more pronounced when the child becomes a teenager.

What can be done? Perhaps the most important point to remember is that

More effective than domination is skilful manipulation.

parents should not compel a child to speak a language. Suggesting that you do not understand what your child is saying if they speak a majority language (ie, not your native language), will be an imposition by authoritarian power.

More effective than domination is skilful manipulation. Perhaps your child has lost some interest in speaking the minority language. How can that interest be rekindled? What about using a wider range of language experiences, such as staying with grandparents or cousins, visits to cultural festivals, new language materials, different media (CDs, videos, games, etc). More time spent with the child will also help: maybe reading a story at bedtime, making more of an effort at mealtimes when everyone is at the table.

The analogy with a garden is a useful one – some watering, a bit of fertilizer, shielding tender plants, etc. Remember that pragmatism, with a reliance on fun and friendship, is better than rigid rules.

Sometimes such fertilisation may not work. If an adolescent rejects a language – the benefits of speaking two languages are not always evident to teenagers - the task is harder. Negative parental reaction is not the answer. Just as parents teach morals and values, they have to let go the reins slowly and have faith in the imbedded goodness in their child. For all teenagers, as they move towards independent adult life, there comes a time when parents can have little influence on language use.

To complete the gardening analogy, not all flowers bloom early. Sufficient growth in a sturdy young plant can still provide the grounds for passive bilingualism to become active bilingualism later in life. ■

FAMILIES EXPERIENCES (cont from page 4)

children, a school closed to parents, and a playground the size of a handkerchief, and not forgetting, having to get up on Saturday morning because the children have school! Again, each organisation has its advantages and disadvantages.

The three young kiwis appreciate being in France, seeing their cousins, grandparents, watching a medieval jousting tournament at *Carcassone*, the long holidays, but always the same question keeps being asked....."When are we returning to 19 Rose Rd?"

I'll finish with an example of our ambivalence towards our pleasure of being in France; going to the supermarket – **Ouah!!** What choice! **HEEEEEEEEEELP** – too many people!

(see page 7)

FAMILIES EXPERIENCES (cont from page 6)

We are here to discover; I recommend it to all those hesitating, and to all others from our two magnificent countries.

From the children

Cécile

The teachers aren't as strict as we had been told. I find that French children aren't as welcoming to new kids. At the canteen, we always eat hot food – it's like a restaurant, but watch out if you don't eat it all! Long live *Aquatica* – (an aquatic centre with slides of all types) and *Marineland* (orcas and dolphins). I go to a sailing club with the school; it's super, especially as the instructors are lots of fun. Hi to all the class. This year I'll be in *Cm2* with a teacher who speaks English, and teaches it each morning.

My last class was on the first floor of the Hall, where we can play if it rains, though it never rains here.

Enzo

What I don't like about France, is that the playground here at school is too small. What's good, is that we learn lots more things, and we don't change places during the class. I really like my teacher, because she makes us work all the time, and if we finish before the others, we can draw. We have sport twice a week. I like living beside the sea because

the water is warmer, and we can go swimming whenever we want and have been for ages. And I especially like all the great desserts in France – *crème brûlée*, floating islands, *crème caramel*

Marcus

I don't have many friends. I love French chocolate. I swim with flippers.

From the Stewart family

This year the Stewart family spent 2 months living in Tahiti. My husband was invited to work in the hospital there and so we took the opportunity to go as a family and enroll the children in a local school. Presently I have two children in the French Unit at RRS.

My children coped very well with the challenge, in fact the curriculum offered there was very similar to what we have in Roopu 5. We were also pleased to note that their French language skills were more than adequate and they grew in confidence every day, particularly their oral expression. My son, Hamish, also took the opportunity to learn Tahitian, mostly bad words but all said with a beautiful accent!

Probably the most difficult challenges we all faced were the climate, which was hot and humid, and the school

hours. School commenced at 7.30am and finished at 3.00pm with two half days. Even my four year old had to put in the hours. This was all made slightly easier by not having to make school lunches as all children ate in the canteen financed in part by the government. The teachers were fabulous, very welcoming and adept at easing foreign students into the school routine and environment. The school population was made up of mostly Tahitian children but also a growing ex-pat French community. Outside of school hours we filled in the time by mixing with the locals, going to the beach and swimming with tropical fish, turtles, sharks and rays.

All and all we found the adventure to be as rewarding as it was educational. It proved to be a great family experience, adapting to another culture, climate and country. The success of the adventure was certainly due in part to the education my children have received in Roopu 5. We would certainly love to repeat the experience sometime in the future.

A word from my son:- Un jour je suis allé à Tahiti et on aimait là-bas parce que on a trouvé des nouveaux copains Tahitiens. – Hamish (6yrs) ■

MAISON
VAURON

WINE MERCHANTS

www.mvauron.co.nz

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