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- **Parents' dona-
tion for 2004 re-
mains the same**
- **Happy new year
to you all !**

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FRENCH EMBASSADOR'S VISIT

Richmond Road School and Frenz Association had the honour and great pleasure to host a visit by the new French Ambassador to New Zealand, M. Marlaud.



He had been in the country only 3 weeks and didn't hesitate to come up to Auckland and make himself known to the French community and businesses, including our unit at Richmond Road School.

M. Marlaud's diplomatic career has included postings to Indonesia and Korea and appointment as France's ambassador to Rwanda then Bolivia. Most recently, he held the top position within the Human Resources De-

partment at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Paris.

To celebrate M. Marlaud's first visit to Richmond Road School, the school welcomed him in the traditional Maori way by performing a *powhiri*. The whole school was assembled in the hall to participate in the ceremony. We would like to thank and con-

gratulate Muriel and Franck Kurtovich, Madeleine Cassin and students from the French bilingual unit who sang before the group in a reply on behalf of the ambassador.

During his speech, M. Marlaud stressed the importance of respecting the differences between cultures and developing inter-cultural friendships.

After a light morning tea, during which M. Marlaud met the teachers, Frenz representatives and parents from Roopu 5, he visited, with much enthusiasm, the classroom. The children, slightly intimidated at first, felt more relaxed for the photos!

The Association would like to thank M. Marlaud for the attention and support he has given our unit and the school, and we wish him and his wife all



the best during their stay in our country. ■

"BEWARE BEWETA", THE RICHMOND ROAD SCHOOL PRODUCTION

"Beware Be-Weta" was the theme of this year's drama presentation held on 10th Sept 2003. The story, along the lines of "Harry Potter", was of a young boy who is being guided around his new school, one that caters for 'unearthly' creatures!

Each Roopu performed as a different class within this school for wizards, witches, goblins, fairies, and the like. Teachers chose their characters, appropriate music and choreographing with *thrilling* results!

In Roopu 5, the junior and senior classes were integrated, with the girls portrayed as angels while the boys imitated (very realistically) the role of devils and demons! The costumes and skilfully-applied (see page 2)

"BEWARE BEWETA" , THE RICHMOND ROAD SCHOOL PRODUCTION (cont from page 1)

make-up were dramatic, and the children performed competently their parts, with some showing definite talent.

Although the event took a lot of time to prepare and each act lasted only 3-4 minutes, all the children had the invaluable opportunity of performing on stage and experiencing new possibilities. At the same time, the parents delighted in seeing their offspring all dressed-up and



'living the moment'. We all felt very proud and appreciative of the amount of work that Maryse, Andy, Vesna and Valerie had contributed, all while maintaining the children's everyday activities of reading and writing!

The event was professional in its execution and the degree of enjoyment had by the children was evident on their faces. The school production is establishing itself as an event to look forward to, and each year sees the students gaining in confidence. Needless to say that we will all be there supporting next year's

effort. We'll see you there! ■



RICHMOND ROAD SCHOOL FAIR

November 2003 saw Richmond Road School hold their "Food and Lifestyle" fair. It was an amazing success, showing much flair and talent amongst the parents and will have pushed up the standard of school fairs.

Coffee in all flavours and sizes, a wine bar, massages, herbal remedies and natural cosmetics, hair-braiding, palm-reading and a stage featuring many well-known talents, from sportsmen to television and music identities such as 'Nesian Mystics', a gifted group of Samoan Hip-Hoppers and other rising New Zealand artists.

Auctioned off were some brilliant pieces of artwork by various parents, recognised as leaders in their fields. Many professional parents also offered their services for auction and local businesses were generous in their donations and support.

All this could be enjoyed whilst sitting under an umbrella sipping quantities of beer or wine and choosing be-

tween a huge variety of Polynesian or European foods – the gourmet burgers were fantastic, chop suey went down well, even the kiwi-style hotdogs proved very popular.

Well done, especially to the mothers of the French bilingual unit who made the yummiest crepes by the hundreds, French-style sandwiches, pralines and other French delicacies.

There were the old 'must-have' activities for the children, including 'Thomas the Tank Engine', Kid's Café – kindly sponsored by Baker's Delight in Richmond Road – and, of course, the opportunity to throw wet sponges at the teachers.

The fair raised about \$30,000 - a brilliant effort for such a small school.

The harsh reality is that the school's jump in its decile rating from 4 to 7 last year has meant a loss of around \$36,000 per year for the school. The loss has to be recuperated through fund-raising and this was a fantastic result.

Thanks to all the Roopu 5 parents who donated their time either before the day or on it. Special thanks to Susan Stewart who was on the fair organising committee and really worked all the hours God gave her to help make the fair a success.

The organising committee did an excellent job in getting all the parents behind this event. It was a well-organised and forward-thinking production and we look forward to being involved in future events. ■



NEWS FROM ROOPU 5

The year has ended, December is mild and hot, students and teachers will at last be able to relax and be lazy! Fourth terms are always busy : sports start again in the renewal of spring in between school trips and picnics, research on studied subjects (everyone enjoyed learning about space, planets and stars), tests, portfolios, end of year reports...

2003 went peacefully, everyone working hard. Children's efforts were rewarded by excellent results and teachers' efforts by the praises received from the ERO (Education Review Office) officers. The complete school report is available on internet at : <http://www.ero.govt.nz>.

Roopu 5 started the year with 48 chil-

dren, 17 in the Junior class and 31 in the Senior one, 7 of which were linked to the America's Cup and left at the end of Term 1. At the end of the year, the unit had 45 students, 23 Juniors and 22 Seniors.

It is always an emotional moment to farewell year 6 students at the end of the year, especially since last year, some of them will have done all their primary schooling in the bilingual unit of Richmond Road School. It is the case for Madeleine Elder-Colombié, Milos Ivanovic, Muriel Kurtovich. Campbell Reid and Clarisse de Thoisy are leaving too. We wish them luck, success and happiness!

In 2004, Maryse Varaine will keep

the Senior class, will remain the head of the unit and will apply her invaluable mathematical knowledge and skills to redesigning the way the maths curriculum is taught throughout the school. Vesna Nicolic-Ivanovic has received the status of permanent staff at the school and will keep teaching the Junior and FFL (French as a Foreign Language) classes. Valérie Levergne will assist them 1 ½ hour, four mornings a week. ■

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

The bilingual French unit at the school, Roopu 5, got together at the Grey Lynn library hall on Sunday 7th December to mark the end of the school year. This year we tried a new format of recognizing our childrens' accomplishments over the year and farewellling the year 6 students moving on to new schools.

Michel Cassin's French theatre group performed a piece which they had been practising all

year, loosely following the story of 'Le Petit Prince' by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The group of about a dozen children from the class displayed great confidence in front of their audience and delighted us all with their abilities and superb performances. The troupe were accompanied by Simone, the French-speaking puppeteer who, with her 'friend' Glip, added

interest and amusement for all, particularly the younger members of the audience. Thank you for a most enjoyable afternoon's entertainment. It was clear, and much appreciated, that a lot of work had been put into the production.

The Roopu 5 teachers, Vesna Nikolic-Ivanovic, Andrew Dwyer (Andy), and Valérie Levergne

thank our dedicated team of teachers who put so much work into helping our children achieve their potential.

Afternoon tea followed, giving parents the opportunity to talk and pass the time in a relaxed atmosphere, rather than the chaos associated with picking up children after school! They also had the occasion to talk with the teachers and the Principal, Hayley Read.

Thank you to all who attended. It was a very successful occasion and we look forward to repeating this event at the same time next year. ■



(unfortunately, Maryse Varaine had a prior engagement) then handed out certificates, acknowledging each student's individual contribution to the class. It was very pleasing for the parents to see their children's efforts and talents recognised, and rewarding to see that there had been a lot of thought gone into this process. We were all extremely proud and wish to



CONTRIBUTION 2004

We are pleased to announce that Frenz's donation to the school to help finance the teachers' salaries for the year 2004 will remain at \$20,800. Accordingly, parents' donations will remain at \$500 per child for the coming year.

Valérie's position as teacher aid in Roopu 5 will be retained at the rate of

one and a half hours per day, four days a week. The rest of her time will be spent throughout the school to help those teachers requiring assistance with their classes and those children who may benefit from some extra tuition.

I would like to remind you that your donation allows our unit to house two

classes. Without it, we would only have one class of 30 students and the remainder would be placed in the English Roopu - the Ministry of Education will not create a new class and appoint a new teacher until there are **26** students. ■

FLAM AND SCOP-BCLE GRANTS FOR 2003

Despite rumours of economic difficulties in France, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Agency for the French Language Abroad (AEFE), represented via the French Embassy, have continued to support our Association in 2003. We have been lucky enough to again benefit from the

FLAM and SCOP-BCLE grants. However, the amounts are less, as we received a third of the sum received from FLAM in 2002 and half of the sum received from SCOP-BCLE.

We wish to thank all those who supported our application, particularly

M. Philippeau, the Attaché de Coopération from the French Embassy in Wellington. ■

SCHOOL BURSARIES

We wish to thank the Bursary Board and its members: M. Gilles Stern, Jean Marc Philippeau, Hayley Read, Maryse Varaine, Nadine Plet, Valérie Levergne and Michèle Chaudesaignes.

Thanks to their hard work, four of our families received much appreciated financial grants this year to help cover the costs of educating their children. Access to school bursaries was set up in 2001.

Help to subscribe to correspondence courses in French (CNED) also exists.

All enquiries to Valérie. ■

WEB SITE

It is now two months since the site was launched. We have had 400 visits in October and 1100 in November.

There are a number of reasons why Frenz has a website:

- to inform people searching for information regarding bilingual education in NZ and who want to know more about the activities of the Association;

- to provide the latest news to Association members, and inform the public concerning all activities which Frenz is involved with;

- to give our benefactors and sponsors the opportunity to check out our activities and perhaps also to verify the



exposure we give them;

- to offer educational resources for children (and some parents!); and
- to supply our committee with statistical tools enabling them to better approach sponsors.

You will find loads of information on the site concerning all facets of the Association, information that complements the newsletters.

The latest news is posted in real time. Have you checked out the "Events" area?

Children love to see pictures of themselves and their friends on the Inter-

net.

Do not hesitate to recommend the site to your family, particularly those overseas. Grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins will have the opportunity to see your children in action!

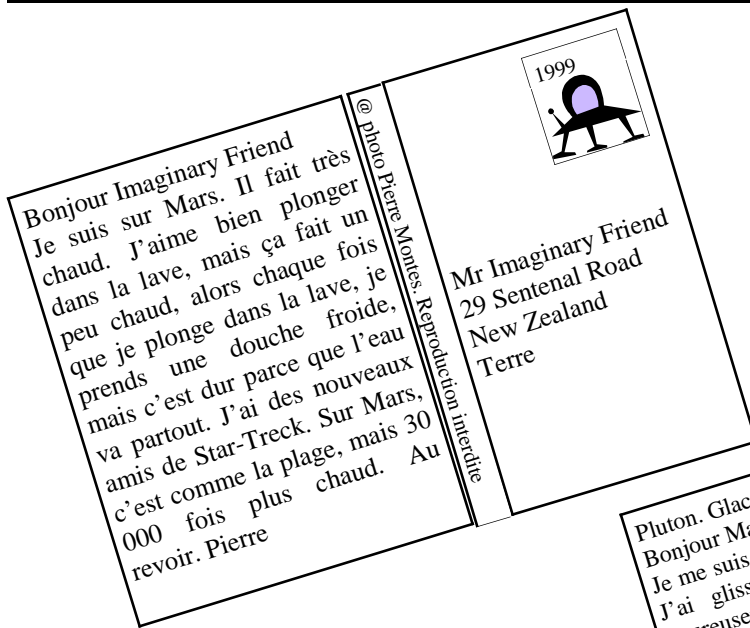
The "Games" area contains educational games, enjoyed by many if we believe the site statistics!

Before each holiday, more games will be added, less educational but still interesting, which should help for those rainy days!

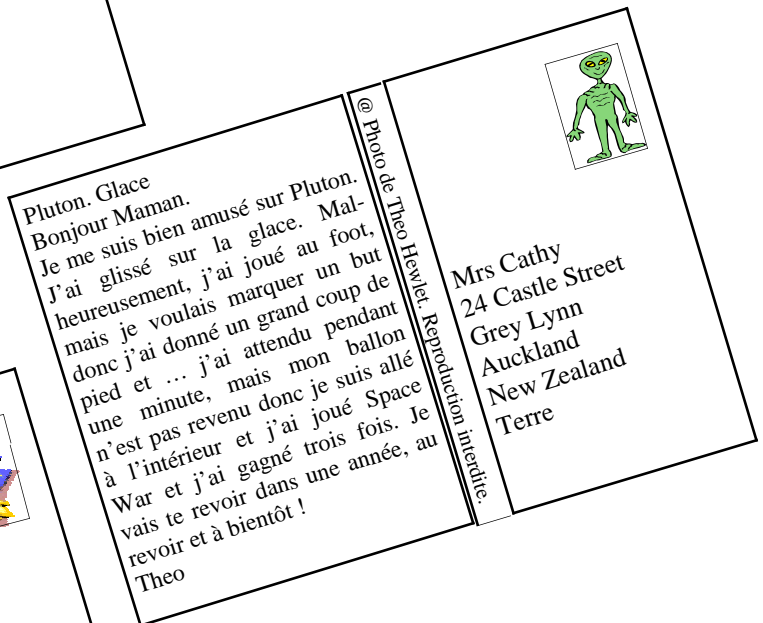
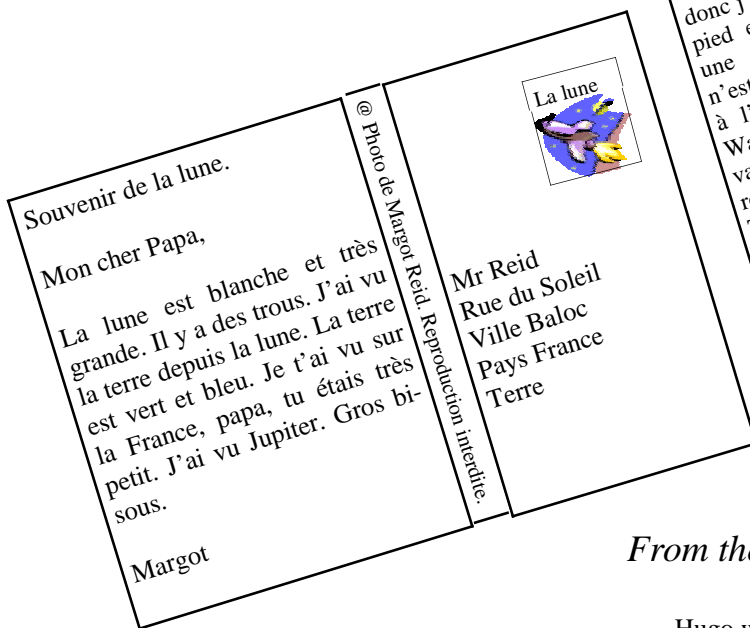
And for these coming holidays, you will find a selection of games about Christmas.

Happy Holidays! ■

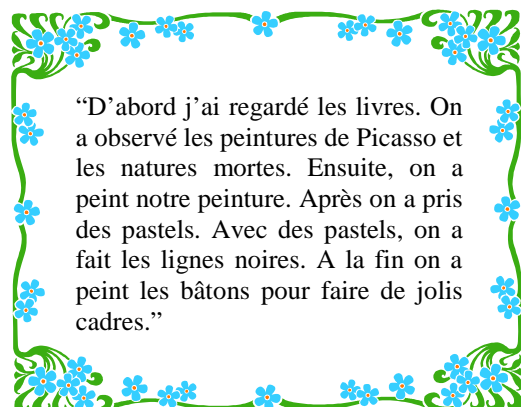
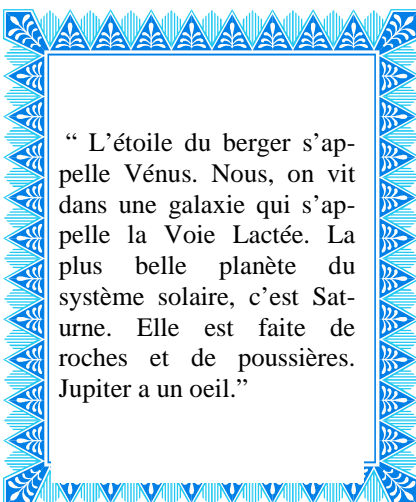
STUDENTS' CORNER

*From the Senior class*

Pierre, Theo and Margot are on holidays on planets or moons in our galaxy. They write postcards.

*From the Junior class*

- Hugo writes about Space and the solar system,
- Sophia tells how she proceeded to paint still life.



FROM "A PARENT'S AND TEACHER'S GUIDE TO BILINGUALISM" BY COLIN BAKER (MULTILINGUAL MATTERS LTD 1995)

Bilingual, not schizophrenic

Does bilingualism have any adverse effect on my child's personality?

The short answer is no. Research shows that language itself is not a cause of personality differences, ie, bilinguals and monolinguals do not differ in personality characteristics.

It may, however, be the surrounding circumstances that have some effect, such as being a migrant encountering hostility in a new country, racial abuse, etc. Similarly, it might be thought that the reason why bilinguals seem to be more confident or accepted is because they speak a second language. However, this is more likely to be due to the fact that the bilingual comes from a higher socio-economic family or from a home with a successful child-rearing practice.

Problems of cultural identity

My children speak both French and English, but will they know whether they are French or English?

An important issue associated with

bilingualism is the question of how closely the bilingual child identifies with one or other or both cultures.

A sense of dislocation is often experienced by migrants to a new country. Their reactions, in approximately the following order, range from an early honeymoon of optimism to periods of frustration, anger, isolation, leading to rejection of the old culture and assimilation of and integration with the new culture or conformance without

It is natural for people to have different identities in different contexts. What is important is that these sub-identities integrate into a satisfactory harmonized whole.

conviction. The level of final adjustment, whether happy integration, uncomfortable assimilation, isolation or rejection, will greatly affect the level of bilingualism.

While there are no ultimate solutions, there are positive strategies that parents can adopt to establish positive self-identity and self-esteem and minimize an identity crisis.

It is natural for people to have differ-

ent identities in different contexts. What is important is that these sub-identities integrate into a satisfactory harmonized whole.

As we are exposed to changing scenery, changing actors and a different play, the more harmonized with the role we become. Frequent and continuous participation is therefore required. The child needs plenty of exposure and experience of the cultures that go with the two languages, whether it be to television, videos, music, visits or stays, books, etc.

Parents should also be looking for opportunities for their child to integrate into the host culture while keeping their home culture. Similarly, because schools play large parts in children's lives, a school should be chosen that takes up the important responsibility of adding to pupils' cultural identities rather than subtracting from them.

From a repertoire which allows for a positive self-identity and self-esteem, a child will develop an optimistic outlook on the future and will have the potential to choose for himself or herself which culture to accent in the future. ■

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Patrick Miegerville's homework classes and Michel Cassin's drama classes will start again in 2004, beginning in the second week of the term. In the interests of efficiency, we would like payment to be made to Susan Stewart on the first day of the class. The \$50 fees are a set fee for the whole term, regardless of how many days your child attends.

To balance the two homework classes and make them more beneficial, we wish that the Monday session be for the Junior class students and the Wednesday one for the Seniors.

The three classes are an hour long and start at 3.15pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday respectively.

Thanks for your continued support.

The French class at Ponsonby Intermediate will not start again next year for lack of students. ■

NOTICES

- In 2004, Roopu 5 teachers would happily welcome parents who could donate a few hours of their time every week to do individual reading support with our students.
- Frenz's committee is looking for people to join in or help with precise tasks. ■



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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL !



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