

Frenz School Inc
Private Bag MBE P109
Auckland
Tél : (09) 636 48 60
Fax : (09) 636 48 01
E-mail : contact@frenzschoo.
org.nz
Web : www.frenzschoo.org.nz

- *Memberships are now due -\$60 / year*
- *The library will be open on BOT meeting nights from 5.15pm till 6.30pm.*

Table of content

The visit of senator Duvernois	1
Roopu 5 news	1
April fools'day	2
Frenz's Annual General Meeting 2004	3
Film festival 2004	3
The library	4
The Early Childhood Centre	4
Students' corner	5
Effects of bilingualism	6
Notices	7
After school classes	7

THE VISIT OF SENATOR DUVERNOIS

We were thrilled that Mr Louis Duvernois, a visiting Senator from France representing French people living abroad, asked to visit our school, and the bilingual unit; it was arranged for Thursday 18 March 2004.

The Senator is very supportive of multilingualism and was very positive of the experience he witnessed at Richmond Road School. He was warmly welcomed to the school with the traditional Maori *powhiri*, which he found very moving, and then met with teachers and

parents over morning tea and pastries from Paneton.

Mr Duvernois was pleased to remark on the excellent



relationship that exists between all participants of the

school -parents, teachers and roopu - and delighted to see the different cultures co-existing, working and playing in support of each other.

This was a great honour for our small school and class, and hopefully one which will put the good word out there for us, and bring exter-

nal support. ■

ROOPU 5 NEWS

Welcome back to our wonderful teaching team! There would be no unit or deserving students at prize giving without the talents, experience and dedication of both Maryse Varaine and Vesna Nikolic-Ivanovic. Vesna's appointment became permanent in November last year and FRENZ is grateful for the continuity that that has and will provide the students. Vesna is working as part of the Junior Language Team, as curriculum Team Leader for Social Studies and leader for the FFL. Maryse as head of the unit continues to give 110% to her students, the unit and the school as well as writing new programmes for the delivery of maths in the Jun-

ior classes. Frenz is delighted to welcome Parehuia Enari to deliver the English component in the senior group. Valérie Levergne is back as a teacher aid.

Vesna, teaching in the Junior class, started the year with 14 eager little minds, while Maryse in the Senior class had 24. Since then, two new entrants have joined in and at the end of the term the seniors will farewell Arthur who is going back to France. Arthur has been with us for three years and has been a delight to teach. We wish him and his family a fond farewell, and easy transition back into the French way of life.

Ruma 11, the Junior class, is receiving 80:20 French English language delivery respectively and Ruma 12, the Senior class, is receiving 60:40 respectively. Judging by the results in the Proficiency Aptitude national tests (PAT) presented later on in this newsletter, this arrangement is proving a success for our children.

The theme for the first part of the first term was a part of the Life Education Programme: "me and the others" for the Juniors and "Brainy bunch" for the Seniors. The focus here was on the relationship between feelings, emotions (see page 2)

ROOPU 5 NEWS (cont from page 1)

and the nervous system. During the second part of the term, children studied “birds and flight”. It was quite a sight crossing the courtyard: an aerial ballet, small white paper planes dancing in the wind one day or kids lying on their tummies, as quiet as wild cats on a hunt, observing small birds or noisy gulls.

The second term will be shared between ancient history and art. The children have already discovered ancient Egyptian, Roman and Greek numeracy. They will soon explore the Gallic culture. The art festival, highlight at the end of the term, will transform the school with everyone’s creativity and talent.

Roopu 5 also welcomed the children

of the French playgroup *les Petits Lascars* and their parents to celebrate Easter and discover the unit. An ex-



cellent opportunity for little ones to see their seniors at work and for mums and dads to talk with the teachers. The highlight was of course the

Easter eggs hunt!

Last but not least, thank you to Hayley Read, our principal, who always strives to help Frenz in supporting Roopu 5 and thereby provides the students with a high level of education. We would also like to give special mention to the parents of Roopu 5. Your ongoing financial contribution and physical support in the class is amazing and without which we would not be the very successful unit that we are.

Thank you. ■

APRIL'S FOOL DAY

The 1st of April through time and space

In France until 1564, the year started on the 1st of April. But on that particular year, King Charles IX decided to change the calendar. From that point the year would start on the 1st of January.

On the 1st of January 1565 everyone wished a “happy new year”, and gave presents, as they always do at the beginning of a new year. But, when the 1st of April arrived, some jokesters had the idea of continuing to give presents, as they had traditionally on that date. Being jesters, and it being no longer the “real” beginning of the year, gifts were fun presents, given to make people laugh, with no real value. From this date, so people say, each year on the 1st of April, everyone, adults and children, took up the habit of playing tricks.

In France, at the beginning of April, fishing is forbidden, as it is the period when fish reproduce, so someone had the idea of playing a trick on fishermen by throwing herring into the rivers. It is possible that when they did it, they said “Poisson d’Avril!” and the custom of “Poisson d’Avril” began then.

Today, herrings are not thrown into rivers anymore, but instead small fish made of paper are discreetly attached to people’s backs. They may walk all day with this “Poisson d’Avril” on their backs, which can amuse and delight those looking on.

Other people believe that the “Poisson d’Avril” became “fish” because at the beginning of April, the moon leaves the Zodiacal sign of Pisces. For myself, I prefer the first version, what about you?

In Belgium, This custom of “Poisson

d’Avril” is also still alive today.

“Young people in schools, attach a fish made of paper to the backs of their comrades, parents and teachers... False but credible information is broadcast in the newspapers, on the radio and TV. Sometimes even politicians are party to the hoaxes!”

In the US but also in England and New Zealand, people say “April Fool”, not “April Fish”!

April Fools Day:

An Unsolved History

The first of April, some do say,

Is set apart for All Fools' Day.

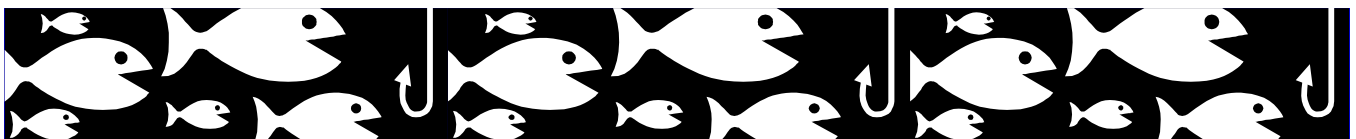
But why the people call it so,

Nor I, nor they themselves do know.

But on this day are people sent

On purpose for pure merriment.

Poor Robin's Almanac (1790)



FRENZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004

Frenz held their Annual General Meeting on the 29 March 2004 at Richmond Road School. We were again pleased to welcome John McCaffery, from the College of Education to speak to us on his speciality subject, 'bilingualism'. The meeting had been open to other interested parties to attend and we had a good-sized group to listen this sage.

As always, John reiterated the positives of bilingualism and the benefits to our children of expanding their abilities; how it is possible to learn skills in one language and easily transfer those learnt skills to a second language thus improving the overall capabilities.

We then moved on to the formalities of the evening with presentation by the committee members of various reports.

It was decided that the membership fee be retained at \$60/year, which is renewable now for those who paid before October of last year. The membership form is available on the website, and should be completed and forwarded with payment to our postal address if your details have changed, or for those at the school, you can pass it on to one of the committee members.

The committee from last year remains with the pleasing addition of Shona de Luen, and Vincent Commariou. We welcome both these new members – they are sure to inject a new spark into the experienced but weathered present committee. A call went out for members to consider a term on the Frenz committee, as some of the present members have been working for Frenz for up to 11 years!

As John McCaffery said, it's the parents who make and maintain bilingualism to the documented and undisputed benefit of their children – no one else will make it happen for us.

Vincent Commariou and Shona de Luen introduce themselves:

Vincent: I arrived in NZ 14 years ago and I am working in the computer industry. With a son in the bilingual unit and the second one joining soon, I have with pleasure been able to see the benefits of such an education. My wife is already part of the Frenz committee, and I realized the amount of work needed to run the association. Without members, there is no committee, without a committee there is no association, without an association there is no bilingual unit any more. The choice was easy....

Hi, my name is Shona de Luen. I have three children aged 21, 19 and 9 years of age. My youngest son Alex is in Maryse's class. My partner Andrew is a car buyer. Neither Andrew or I are French, but we wanted Alex to be bilingual. I am trying to improve my high school French to keep up with Alex but it is a slow process for me and seemingly a rapid one for him.

I have just completed three years on the board of Trustees at Richmond Road Primary School. I decided to go on to the Frenz committee because I want to support Frenz in anyway I can. I am also interested in trying to establish an intermediate level for the children so that they have the benefit of 6 years of bilingualism as recommended by John McCaffery.

I look forward to meeting more of the members of Frenz at the school library during the new extended opening hours as I will be there as the librarian. ■

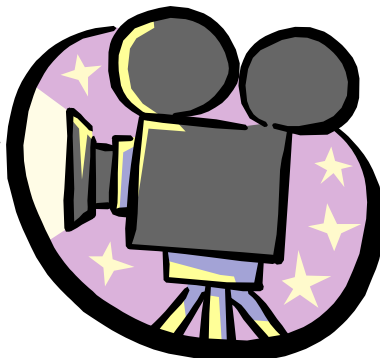
FILM FESTIVAL 2004

For the third year in a row Richmond Road School presented it's annual Short Film Festival. This fundraiser is a unique event for Auckland schools and provides the opportunity for the general public to see the original talent of New Zealand filmmakers.

The 27th of March was a beautiful clear night with just a hint of wind towards the end of the evening. The grass area was the setting for the large mobile screen and seating for the many who watched ten short films mostly directed and produced by New

Zealanders. It was an eclectic mix ranging from the macabre to the comedy each with its own unique style.

There was also a fine selection of beverages including wine, beer and delicious coffee and wonderful hot food.



Graham Brazzier

opened the event with a solo rendition of music from his new album, while organisers waited for darkness before commencing the movies. The MCs for the night were the bubbly Rebecca Hobbs and Robert Karete.

It proved to be another successful event for RRS, raising \$15,000 for school resources. If you were in any doubt as to which fundraisers you should attend throughout the year, doubt no more and make this a must see for next year. I certainly recommend it. ■

THE LIBRARY

A stock-take was held at the end of last year – many thanks to Michèle, Didier, Fiona, Susan, Joanne and Valérie for their work. We were pleased to see that we fared better than the school library, in losing only a small number of books.

Surprisingly, many books were retrieved from those donated to the school fair; it is good to have them back.

DVD's have been added to our collection, and they have proved popular. Our thanks to Olivier and Kate Wardecki for generously supplying these to us.

A complete list of the books, videos and DVD's available for loan is catalogued on our website – www.frenzschooll.org.nz - which is a handy resource if you are searching for something in particular.

Our resources are growing :

- late last year we received French readers from Canada, the GB+ collection, which corresponds to the PM readers in english. They

are beautiful, if not expensive books and a valuable tool for our students learning. Please ensure that they are respected and well looked after.

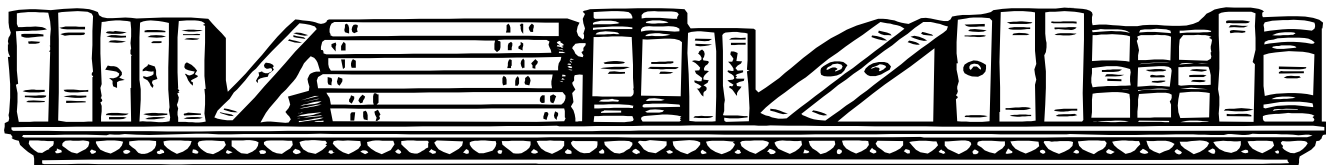
- School programmes in France are evolving and so are the manuals, therefore the teachers have recently updated the mathematics resources.
- A large order has arrived via 'Maison Vauron' and we extend our thanks to Jean-Christophe Poizat for generously lending us a corner of his container. The books mainly are class resources, theme books, intended to give the students the opportunity to research in French. A few novels have been thrown in: the five Harry Potter books, some *Grand Galop (Saddle club)*, some *Club des cinq*, some *fantomette*, some *Tomtom et Nana* and some *Titeuf*.

It is good to see this asset being used by members. There is a wide range for all ages; it has been known to see some of the Dad's loaning books for

themselves, which is heartedly supported! We do however feel that this is an excellent resource that is under utilised. It is recognised that books and reading are essential to developing our minds, and what better way to help our children learn good, French pronunciation, than letting them listen to a movie in french?

If you have ideas on how to improve 'la bibliothèque', don't hesitate to let us know.

The library hours are currently 3pm to 4pm on Tuesdays, and Valérie can be found in the Teacher's Resource room beside the library to check-out books, all day Friday. For those who work later, Shona will open the library from 5.15pm to 6.30pm on Board of Trustees meeting nights. Note the dates down, you can also find them in the school newsletter : May 3 and 31, June 28, August 2 and 30, October 18, November 15 and December 6. ■



THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

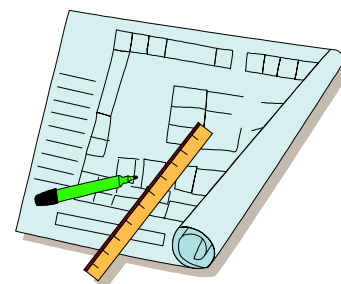
I think we all know how fundamental the pre-school is to the prosperity of the unit. With increased numbers we could hope for 60 children in Roopu 5 and three classes with two levels each. This would be ideal.

Last year, the committee with the help of Caroline Boot from Plan A drew-up a strategic plan for the project. The first step of this plan is to gather all interested parties, individuals, companies, groups etc...to invite them to join us and create a committee devoted to the pre-school.

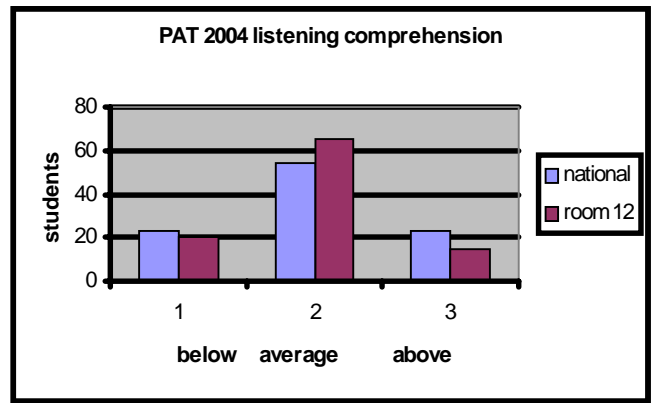
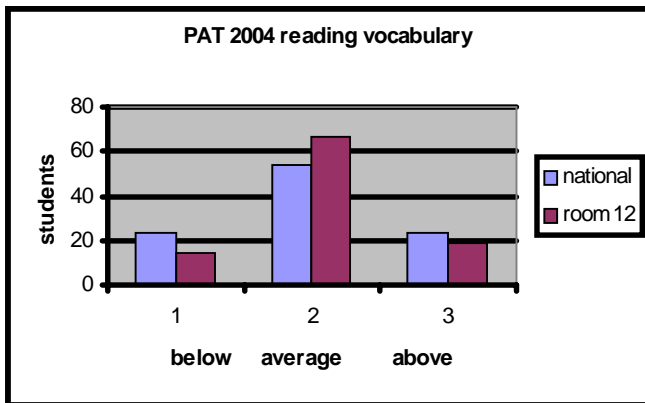
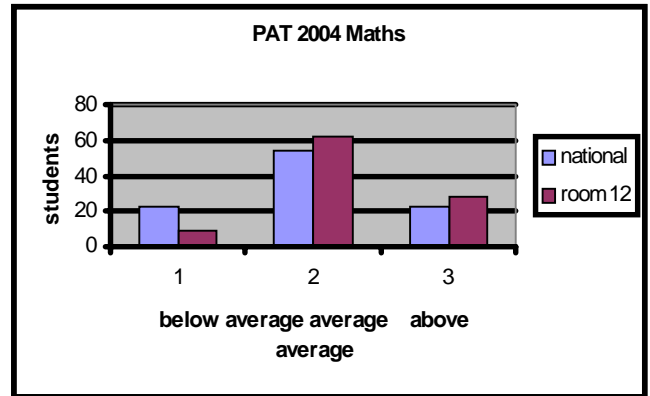
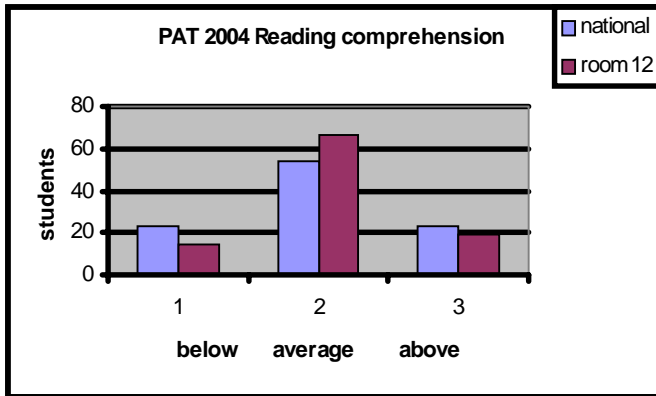
Having tried on many occasions to kick-start this project since our disap-

pointment in coming so close in 2002, our committee believes that the energies of our small group are concentrated on the day-to-day running of the association, and would like to see some of the parents interested in using this facility help in it's creation.

If you are interested and know of others who would like to participate in this challenging project, please come forward. ■



STUDENTS' CORNER : ROOPU 5'S PAT (Proficiency Aptitude Test) RESULTS



%	Maths			Listening comp			Reading comp			Reading vocab		
	below	average	above	below	average	above	below	average	above	below	average	above
National results	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23	23	54	23
Roopu 5 results	95	62	28.5	20	65	15	14.2	66.7	19.1	14.2	66.7	19.1

Here are the results of the Proficiency Aptitude Tests held at school at the beginning of March. These tests are done nation wide and conducted in English, testing maths, reading comprehension, listening comprehension and reading vocabulary. Year 4, 5, and 6 take part.

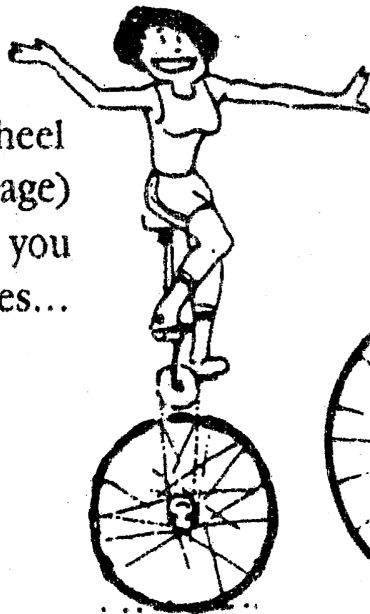
Keeping in mind that our Roopu 5 children are mainly taught in French, that 22% are English as a Second Language children and that year 4 students were never taught in English, these graphs highlight very positive results indeed.

They show that transfer of skills take place from one language to the other. The majority of our students scored average or above average in all four disciplines.

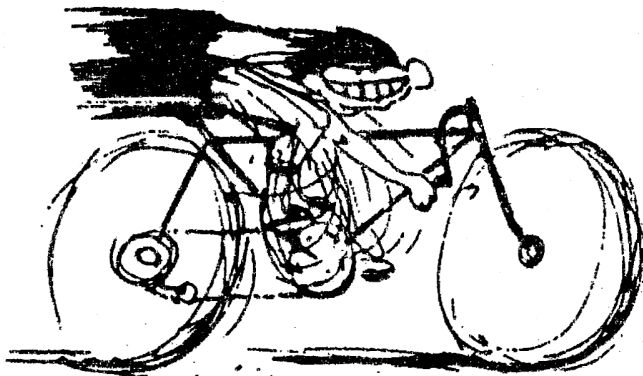
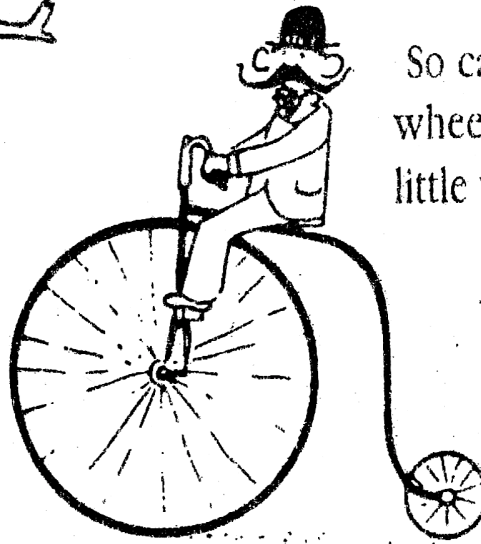


EFFECTS OF BILINGUALISM

One wheel
(one language)
can get you
places...

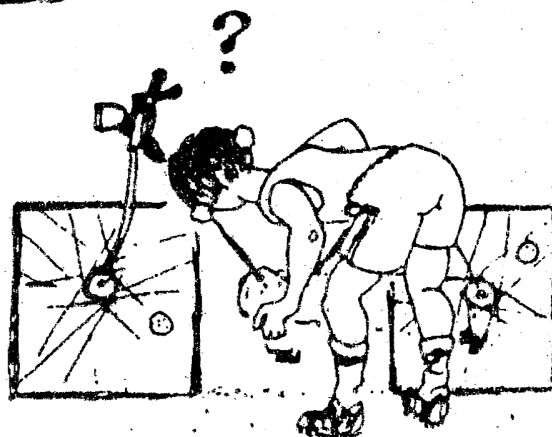


So can a big
wheel and a
little wheel...



However, when your
wheels are nicely
balanced and fully
inflated you'll go farther...

Provided, of course,
the people who made
the wheels knew what
they were doing.



We owe this marvelous humoristic approach of bilingualism to John McCaffery who presented it on the evening of the Annual General Meeting.

NOTICES

Website: having a website has opened the association to the world. According to the statistics, we now have an average of 1200 visits a month and are being approached by a considerable number of people seeking teaching positions with us.

This medium is essential if we are to be better known and understood. If you know of any interesting links or have ideas for the site, let Vincent Commarieu know at contact@frenzschoool.org.nz.

Bursaries: the Bursary Commission presided by the Consul, Mr. Stern, is held in March and enables our French parents who qualify to apply for a bursary. A second meeting could be called in September should the need arise.

BOT: Frenz would like to thank Shona de Luen who was fully committed to the Board of Trustees and Julie Cassin, Roopu 5 representative, for their participation to the Board.

We also thank Susan Stewart and Joanne Commarieu who regularly attended the Board meetings last year. Their commitment definitely improved our communications with the school. Joanne will be co-opted.

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. ■

AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES

Patrick Miegerville's homework classes and Michel Cassin's drama classes will start again in the second week of the term. In the interest 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. ■

MAISON
VAURON
WINE MERCHANTS
www.mvauron.co.nz

Edition :
Valérie Levergne

Auteurs :
Joanne Commarieu
Valérie Levergne
Susan Stewart

Traduction :
Valérie Levergne
Joanne Commarieu

Correction :
Véronique Guilloteau