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News from Röpü 5

A new year begins, and a term ends. This academic year promises many occasions, both rich and emotional. We welcome the new students in both Maryse and Vesna's classes, those who are joining us for the long term as well as those who will be spending only a short period with us. The unit currently has a total of nearly 50 children, a great success in terms of the growth of the class. We also wish to welcome Michael, he's assigned the role of english teacher on Thursdays and Fridays, for this years senior class, ruma 12. Michael has kindly accepted to write a small piece for this newsletter, which you will find on page 2. This year, Valerie, our bilingual unit's assistant, has doubled the amount of time she is spending

in our classes. You will understand how we have been able to do this by reading the article on 'donations'.

In achieving the objectives, activities and rhythm of Richmond Road School, this term, our 2 classes have been working around the theme of « Me, myself and others » and « Me, you and who else ? » We have chosen a few extracts from the children's work and present them on the following pages.

The senior class (years 5 and 6) prepared for and participated in the school camp, a biennial event organised by the school.

5 days with friends, far from home—what for? And how? The camp and the children's impressions of it, can be found on page 2.

I'm taking advantage of this opportunity to remind everyone that the teachers are always looking for help from francophone parents, to read, speak in french and aid the children in their work Don't hesitate to present yourself to them if you are able to assist in the class, either occasionally or on a regular basis. We are eternally thankful to those parents who this term, have been able to do just that, and we are very aware that professional obligations don't always enable these commitments to the class to continue the following term.

S.F./J.C



Donations

We wish to remind you that donations are due for the first school term of 2005, for the children in our bilingual unit. It is possible for you to set up an automatic payment if this is more convenient. Simply email us at contact@frenzschoool.org.nz, and we can give you the necessary Frenz account numbers. Equally, you can send a cheque to our postal address: Frenz School Inc. Private Bag MBE109 , Auckland or pass the payment to Valérie

Levergne, who is available at school each day.

What do your donations pay for? 50% of the total pays for the french/english assistant, 50% pays for the senior class english teacher.

The responsibility of payment for the teachers' salaries depends upon the number of students in the class.

This year, the number of children enrolled in our unit allows for an important increase in the amount the government

will contribute to teacher salaries. As a result of this, Frenz decided to double the time we employed our class assistant , Valérie, to 4 full mornings a week.

Her presence and the work she does, allows for individualised support for the different groups and each child.

This Frenz donation is over and above the school fees.

S.F./J.C.



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A word from Michael

Bonjour everyone!
My name is Michael Kerridge and I have started my first term at Richmond Road School teaching English, Thursdays and Fridays to the French senior class. It has been an amazing experience

working with such motivated and friendly children. This is my first year as a primary teacher. My previous background has been in the music and fashion industries. I also graduated from the a in Art History and Archaeology.

I really hope that my love and interest in these subjects can contribute to an enjoyable learning environment, especially during art and theme/ social studies lessons.

Michael Kerridge

School camp



« ... a lot of fun, new friendships, new experiences, team players, problems solvers... »

The Latest on the French/English Preschool



This project is very important for us. It is essential in maintaining the level of french language in röpü 5, and in time, to expand to a third class at Richmond Road School.

It is a large undertaking requiring much human and financial assistance. To make the process more efficient, the committee has decided to enlist specialist help, with key objectives being identified as set out below :

- The writing of a business plan and formation of a realistic budget,

- Establishment of a dossier with documentation required by the Ministry of Education in licensing and running an early childhood centre.

- Administration of the preschool once it is opened

The company that has been hired to help us is ECE Management Ltd (Early Childhood Education).

At our last committee meeting, it was evident that the priority is finding a suitable site. The Preschool committee are currently working on this task. Various sites have been

identified, with some being eliminated quickly and others still being explored.

Alongside this process, it is important for us to continue identifying the market for this project, in particular to help us complete the business plan. To this end, members of the preschool committee, manned a 'Frenz' stand at the MOTAT/Citreön 'French Day', held on Sun 20 March 2005, inviting people to fill-out a questionnaire.

S.F./V.C./J.C.

Project for continued French language education at Intermediate School.

1. Overview

This report summarises progress to date investigating options for FRENZ to create an extension programme beyond Richmond Road School to enable graduates of the Ropu 5 bilingual unit to continue their French language education.

The impetus to create such a programme came from interaction between FRENZ and bilingual education expert John McCaffery. In 2003 John spoke at the FRENZ AGM. Among many interesting points he discussed was evidence he presented that, in order to learn a language 'for life' a student needed seven to eight years to cement that language.

Since then, FRENZ has been exploring how it might extend the six years of French language at Richmond Road School to give students every chance of 'cementing' their French with another two

years of study. The immediate, logical extension is to create a programme that allows students to continue with their French language at intermediate school. This report covers work to date to create a French Intermediate Module.

2. Activity to date

Research into this project thus far has included discussions with intermediate schools and the Ministry of Education about possible funding. A summary of activity is as follows.

Two intermediate schools have been approached: Ponsonby intermediate; and Kowhai intermediate:

Ponsonby

Contact made by email, yet to follow up with a meeting with the school.

Kowhai

Contact made via email and telephone and subsequently have met with the principal Mr Paul Douglas. Our discussion

centred on the possibility of creating a full day French module at his school that could accommodate both students attending Kowhai full time (from Richmond Road Ropu 5) or day attendees visiting from other intermediate schools.

Mr Douglas is enthusiastic about this project and has offered us a classroom for our use and all the teaching tools ie computers projectors etc that we might want to use. Under this scenario, FRENZ would source and pay for the French teacher.

Ministry of Education

FRENZ has spoken to Chrissy Denison at the Ministry of Education who is based in Auckland but is inquiring of Wellington as to whether this project could attract government funding.

(Follow up p 5)

“in order to learn a language ‘for life’ a student needs seven to eight years to cement that language.”



Frenz Library's opening hours:

Every Tuesday (except during the school holidays) from 3:00 to 4:00 pm at the Richmond Road School library.

4 Tintin albums donated to the Frenz Library



The Library

Frenz is very proud of our french library.

At present there are close to 1500 works (books, DVD's and videos) available to all Frenz members, and a selection for all tastes, young, old, alphabetical, novels, cartoons, documentaries, moderns and classics.....

This library is also a very valuable resource for the teachers of the french/english bilingual unit.

Knowing how difficult it is for francophones to access french language resources in New Zealand (price, availability and delays), we would like to encourage you to visit this library with your children, on a regular basis, or arrange with Sue for them to visit while in

her After School Care.

At the end of last year, we enriched our collection with an extra 100 books, thanks to a number of donations and our annual order from France.

According to the stock-take done at the end of 2004, we have more or less verified the loss of 50 books, therefore we felt the need to reconsider the lending criteria for books, videos and DVDs. Unfortunately, the Association does not have the finances to convert to an electronic system around barcoding, nor can we continue to carry these losses. Therefore, each child can borrow 5 books and a maximum of 2 videos per family for a maximum duration of 1

month.

Those resources not returned within this time, will receive a reminder notice that these books are overdue, then the following week a fine of \$7 will be incurred for each resource still outstanding.

No further books or movies will be issued while there are late or unreturned books/videos or DVDs. These measures are not aimed at punishing a child, rather at looking after our treasured resources.

I remind you that the Frenz library is open every Tuesday afternoon between 3 and 4pm, at the Richmond Road School library, and is available to all Frenz members .

S.F/J.C.

TINTIN COMES TO NEW ZEALAND (& TO THE FRENZ SCHOOL) !!

Tintin, the international hero/reporter, and Francophone character, has come to New Zealand in the form of the Tintin Store (347 Remuera Road, Remuera, Auckland, PH : 09-524 6071; website : www.tintin.co.nz).

Although Tintin's books have been widely available for a long time, this is the first time that an official licensee of Moulinsart, the parent company in Belgium, has set up shop here, and made available a wide range of Tintin-related merchandise, such as puzzles, games, towels, stationery, figurines, posters, DVD's (French/Spanish/English), and more.

The store also carries the adventure books in the original French, and in other languages such as Italian, Spanish and Chinese. To demonstrate their acknowledgement of, and support for, Tintin's Francophone roots, the owners of the Tintin Store are donating

4 each of the Tintin adventure books, in French, to both the FRENZ School, and to the library of the Alliance Française. The titles for the FRENZ School are *Objectif Lune*, *On a Marche sur La Lune*, *La Secret de la Licorne*, & *Le Tresor de Rackham Le Rouge*. Tintin is a worldwide phenomenon - part of many children's and adults' lives - but, with one out of every three French-speaking households owning either a set of the books or several copies, Tintin is also an important part of European (more specifically, French-speaking) comic book culture.

With both school libraries and public libraries happy to carry the books, they are a meeting point for parents, educators, and (younger) children who don't wish to start their reading with books containing no pictures. The French language used in the books is good, colloquial everyday French;

not textbook, but without the downside of outmoded slang either.

With Steven Spielberg due to begin making a movie of Tintin next year, the reporter hero is now on the point of conquering the New World as well.

For those children at the FRENZ School unfamiliar with Tintin, it's time to begin an acquaintance; & for those kids who know him already, they can renew their association. Tintin, bienvenue en Nouvelle Zelande !!

Andrew Hoobin
Tintin Shop

Intermediate (follow up from page 3)

3. Findings and recommendations

We are still in the early stages of this project, but preliminary indications are that it should be achievable to establish an intermediate French module for the 2006 academic year.

In terms of an initial cohort, there are eight students leaving Richmond Road Year Six at the end of this year (2005), and a number of others at intermediate school in Years Seven and Eight who might be interested in joining this class.

Students from Richmond Road could attend Kowhai or could

travel for that day to join the programme (using Kowhai as an example).

However, questions have been raised by a FRENZ member, who has talked to John McCaffery, as to whether a single day a week is sufficient to achieve the goals of cementing French language for life.

This is obviously something we need to establish. Hence we are investigating whether we need more than one day a week to achieve our goal (or whether one day is sufficient); and we can receive funding from the Ministry of

Education.

4. Next steps

- Find out how many parents are interested in sending their children to this programme. (including contacting other children outside the unit in bilingual families)
- Apply for funding from Ministry of Education.
- Find a teacher.
- Establish a firm agreement / charter with an intermediate school as a base for the programme

C.C.

Bursaries

French children residing in New Zealand who have family outside of this country, may be able to benefit from financial assistance offered by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to help pay for their education. The application forms have been sent to fami-

lies via email and should be returned to the French Embassy before 11 April 2005. If you haven't already received this form, and would like to apply for assistance, we can pass these forms on to you by email. Email us at contact@frenzschooll.org.nz.

Further information on this subject is available at

<http://www.aefe.diplomatie.fr/aefe/Texte.nsf/Pages+HTML/Demander+une+bourse>

S.F./J.C.

FRENCH EMBASSY
34-42 Manners Street
13th floor
PO Box 11-343
Wellington

Extra-curriculum classes

Drama Class:

Taken by Michel Cassin for children aged 7 years and over.

Each Friday afternoon from 3:15pm to 4:15pm in the Richmond Road School hall.

Cost; \$ 50 term.

Homework Class:

Taken by Valérie Levergne for those children from the age of 5 years

Each Wednesday afternoon from 3:15pm to 4:15 pm in the Richmond Road School hall.

Cost; \$ 50 /term

Please see the appropriate teachers for enrolment in these classes.

AGM 2005

THE COMMITTEE for 2005

President:

Vincent Commarieu

Vice President :

Stéphanie Fonteneau

Secretary:

Joanne Commarieu

Treasurer:

Valérie Levergne

Members:

Shona DeLuen, Cathy Carter, Monica Mac Fadyen, Annie Bourvis

RRS has been nominated to be honoray member embodied by a teacher or school member.

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Vincent Commarieu

Pictures:

Cathy Carter

We would like to thank the members of the committee for their various reports, and to the Frenz members who were able to attend the meeting, and those who sent their apologies.

The minutes of the AGM will be available and distributed imminently.

The complete President's report, as well as those of the Treasurer and Accountant are also available and will be sent shortly; the reports on the Preschool and Intermediate projects will be included in the newsletter.

I underline here 3 essential points which were mentioned by the President relating to the Association's survival, without which the bilingual education our children receive, would not exist.

Frenz exists thanks to your donations, the financial support of the French government, and through fundraising. At the end of 2004, the association's financial situation was healthy and the bank accounts positive – mainly due

to monies dedicated by the French government to the French Preschool project which are currently earning interest in short and long-term investments. 2005 promises to offer the same situation. Yet we must think of the following years and look at diversifying our sources of income.

3 problems have been identified :

- The grants will diminish (FLAM, a 3-year programme which we have benefitted from, will not be given again this year).

Even though the number of students in our class is currently healthy, there remains an uncertainty for the following years as to the number of participants. At the end of 2005, 10 students will move on to Intermediate, yet we can't predict how many children will enrol in our unit. As has been explained a number of times in this publication, the New Zealand government's responsibility for paying teachers salaries is linked to the number of students in the

class, as well as the amount of donations we receive from the families. The need for fundraising becomes crucial for us, but involves a lot of time, with the committee members already thoroughly occupied. It is important to increase the number of people working for the committee to be able to multiply the effort. And to rotate manpower to maintain enthusiasm.

The establishment of a French Preschool is an important key to the success and continuation of Frenz. It will allow us to regulate the number of students into the primary class, to predict the financial support of the New Zealand government, and in turn the donations asked of parents. As soon as a site is identified for the preschool, the project will fall into place quickly. Yet again, it requires manpower and time.

We value whatever help you can give us ; please don't hesitate to offer your services.

S.F./J.C.

For many of our members, the name Valérie Levergne is synonymous with the face and personality of Frenz. The member who has spent the greatest amount of time at the school, and who has actively supported the association for the longest - nearly 12 years.

This year, Valerie has resigned her post as President; sadly, all good things must always come to an end. Thank you Valerie for your time, your energy, your patience, and your punctuality. We will miss you but we know where to find you.

The elections for the committee took place during the AGM, the 30 March. The successful nominees are noted above.

Valerie will hold her position of Treasurer in the meantime while we look for someone else to take over this role.

S.F./J.C.

Kid's Corner

Une journée à l'école.

Mon père me déposa A A A
 Il oublia le bébé B B B
 La maîtresse en eut assez C C C
 On décida de l'aider A B C D

On commence à parler E E E
 Avec tous nos copains elfes F F F
 Mon elfe s'appelle Gégé G G G
 Et il adore les flashs E F G H

Savez-vous qu'aujourd'hui I I I
 On a vu d' la magie J J J
 C'est la sorcière Yaka K K K
 Qui s'transforme en poubelle I J K L

L'école, oh moi que j'aime M M M
 Tout ce qu'ils nous apprennent N N N
 On copie beaucoup d' mots O O O
 A la récré on peut grimper M N O P

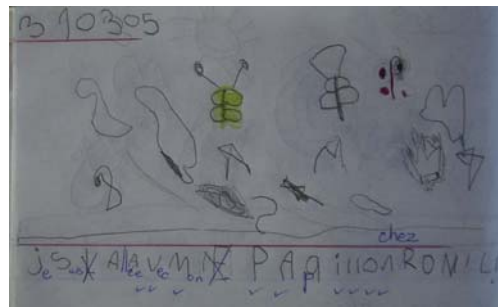
Les saucisses sur l'barbecue Q Q Q
 Et de l'eau dans nos verres R R R
 On s'assied sur nos fesses S S S
 Et tout ça on doit l'acheter Q R S T

Ce poème on l' a eu UUU
 Enfin on est sauvé VVV
 Merci Maryse qui nous aide W X Y Z
 Et on n'a rien trouvé pour W

Ruma 12, D'après "Un jour la troupe' campa"
 Mars 2005



Roopu 5 students, part of Richmond Road School swimming team. Congratulations!



Pieces from the Junior's class.





**Fun Languages
School Holiday Program**

Monday 18 to Friday 22 April

Venue: Newmarket School, 7 Gillies Avenue, Epsom

**For more information and bookings: 09 845 6352 mob: 021 251 7435
or email: maroussia@funlanguages.co.nz website: www.funlanguages.co.nz.**

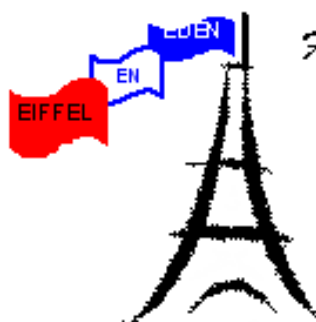
Fun Languages has developed a programme in association with other educational professionals, linguists and child psychologists. Each age group follows a programme specifically designed for them, involving games, crafts, drama, songs, and lots of lively activities! Mornings will be dedicated to language learning through the Fun Languages method and the afternoons the children will be exposed to more language and culture through cooking, pétanque, arts and crafts.

Fun French or Spanish	
Morning option:	Full day option:
9.30am-12.00pm Cost: \$35.00 per morning or \$160 for the week	9.00am-3.00pm Cost: \$60.00 per day or \$250 for the week

Thanks to all our sponsors.



craft



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Bakery
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CAFE

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