



French-English Association for a bilingual education

NEWSLETTER

December 2005

Issue 30

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A few words from the President

Greetings!

As a Committee we have been busy in several fronts. Our two major goals this year have been offering the extension of French-English bilingual education before and after Primary level and working towards sustainable funding

In October we opened a preschool pilot site aimed at children aged from 3 to 5. Why a pilot? By finding a partner who would be bringing their Early Childhood infrastructure, it was an easier way for us to get started. However we need to prove to our "partner" the financial feasibility of the project and the final decision to carry on beyond 2005 will be taken mid December.

The Intermediate bilingual unit will open in February 2006 at Kowhai Intermediate School and will consist of a number of our children currently completing their final year at the Richmond Road School French-english unit

Sustainable funding is a harder nut to crack and will take us some time to achieve. It is our intention to nevertheless, progressively work towards establishing procedures and tools which will expediate the preparation of applications for funding particularly in relation to Charity Trust applications and potential sponsorship.

Thank-you too to all who supported our special fundraising event, *Les sœurs fachées*. It was a sellout and we were delighted. Watch for details on our next event, "The Garden Party"; an opportunity to meet friends around a few glasses of bubbly and canapés, and a chance to show your expertise at petanque and croquet at the Tribeca Restaurant in March.

I have been involved in numerous meetings this year, with the Richmond Road School community groups discussing the 5-10 year building plans and also with the visit of 3 French senators. The meetings and the paper work associated with it were time consuming but I do hope that spin-offs for the association will eventuate from it.

Lastly, one area that we have just started to work on is closer ties with other associations and groups. We feel it is necessary to develop relationships with others and in doing so there will have mutual benefits for both parties. After all, 'l'union fait la force'!

I would like to finish by wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2006.

Vincent Commariou

Picture:
Juniors' class at Arataki Park.

News from Röpü 5

The year 2005 is at an end. A particularly rich year, but also one which has been a heavy load for the teachers.

A year rich in experiences and a variety of learning: experiences manifested in the range of themes studied within the two classes:

In the junior class, the life cycle of plants, particularly at the seashore with their well-hidden secrets behind their pistils and stamens, or a pud-



dle trapped between two rocks.

The seniors studied the modern farm, but also the agricultural practices during the time of the Gauls, and the wonders of the underground world manifested via the volcanoes.

For all, an insight into the world of racism, and tolerance in man for the seniors through looking at the French Revolution, and the Declaration of Human Rights.

This intense period of learning culminated with the school art festival, the school production and class trips where our apprentice farmers milked a cow, the ecologists walked the bush and waded in the waters, while the vulcanologists filled their bags with treasures. Not forgetting the model volcanos which erupted, expulsing red lava on their slopes.

Teachers and students exhibited their creativity and perseverance time after time in search of information, by mixing poems, research pa-

pers, and emptying the libraries. The children have also perfected the art of working within groups, and helping each-other. Many of them have also immersed themselves into the school by becoming 'mediators' during the breaks, librarians or excelling in sports.

This fantastically full year, has been a heavy toll for the teachers:

In both classes, new systems

of learning have been put in place: in Vesna's class, the 'learn by heart' method of spelling has been replaced, and in Maryse's room, the numeracy contract is now being

employed. This constitutes an enormous amount of work for the teachers, in familiarizing themselves with the programme, development of resources and in relation to the maths, stages of implementation.

A huge amount of organisation and liaison with other teachers allows a number of children to follow the programme according to their needs, thereby moving from one class to the other for certain activities.

The expansion of röpü 5 that we would ultimately love is not something that is easily managed. This year we have achieved a maximum of 51 students. Negotiating the inclusion of a little one starting anew, often intimidated by the environment, some with very limited French, and lost in the routines of school-life, is not an easy affair! Facilitating 4 reading groups and three in spelling in one and a half hour is also a great feat!

This is why the teaching team thanks you sincerely and warmly for your help. To all those parents who are able to give of your time whether regularly or sporadically, in the class or with resources, a huge 'thank you'. I take much pleasure from our 'cелlotaping' sessions on Tues afternoons, and I hope I can count on you to continue this into 2006.

On Sunday 11 December, our community united to celebrate this rewarding year, to learn of its participants work, and to thank and wish well those who leave us at the end of the year. This year, it is a large group of 11 children who go to join the ranks at the Intermediate schools: Alex, Claire, Charlotte, Eliot, Franck, Jack, Madeleine, Margot, Riwan, Roman, and Theo. They leave with an excellent base on which they will continue to build their personalities, and leave behind an immense hole which the 'year 5's' will endeavor to fill and take their places.

This Sunday we also celebrated 10 years since Maryse Varaine was employed, the Senior teacher, and Head of this unit. Maryse began in 1996, the sole teacher for a group of six children, aged between 5 and 12 years. She has lived the highs and the lows, even finding herself one year the only teacher in the afternoons, along with an assistant, Shirley Parker, for 30 children aged between 5 and 11. If the unit has survived and achieved the excellent results that we recognize today, it is due to Maryse. Maryse is an organiser without rival, her passion for maths is legendary, but above all, she is never satisfied with mediocrity and continually searches to improve and share these improvements with her colleagues. Therefore, I pay deep homage to her.

News from Röpü 5 (next)

Picture:
Juniors' class at Point
Chevalier's beach.

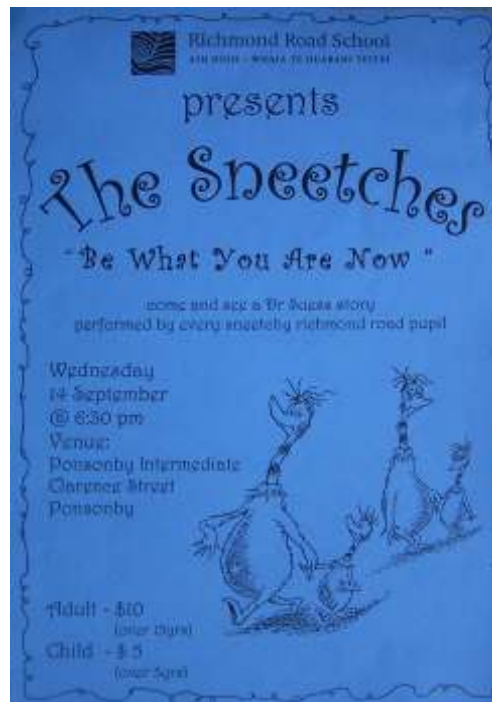
In 2006, Maryse will not be teaching in our class. She will be responsible for the "Reading Recovery" programme within the school, which supports children who have difficulty in reading. Michael has taught english in the senior class, but will be replaced by Donal MacLean next year. We wish him well for 2006 and thank him for his dedication to the röpü seniors.

We also welcome Monique Manders as French teacher of the senior class.

Valérie Levergne



The Sneetches



THE SNEETCHES..... (after the Dr Seuss story of the same name)

Or 'be yourself'..... as was the title of the Richmond Road School production this year. During the 2 hours, each röpü presented their vision of differences, indifference, tolerance or intolerance..... Our class were planted in a french beach setting (which could have well been Normandy) and the children sang with all their heart «J'ai frappé à la porte» (I knocked at the door, a well known song by all now!)

After many weeks of preparation in organising costumes, learning lines and songs, painting props, and choreography. And what backdrops!

Congratulations to the team who pulled this altogether, and understood well how to pull at our heartstrings and keep our children enthusiastic up to the last minute.

Stéphanie Fonteneau

FAQ

Having noted a demand for information from a number of our members, we have included this new section in the newsletter. Don't hesitate to add to it with your questions and responses.

Q: How do you enroll my children in the bilingual units?

R: Enrolments need to be done directly with the schools. You can contact them by phone or by email:
 Richmond Road School : office@richmondroad.school.nz or ph: 09 376-1091
 Kowhai Intermediate : ph: 09 846 7534

On parallel, you need to confirm your membership with Frenz School Inc.
contact@frenzschooll.org.nz

Q: What does the donation we make to Frenz go towards paying for?

R: Frenz School Inc. has signed a contract with Richmond Road School (RRS) in establishing the French-English bilingual unit. The public schools in New Zealand receive funding from the Ministry of Education (MoE), calculated on the number of students, the number of hours taught, and the decile of the school (1 = total funding, 10 - very little funding).

Frenz School Inc. pays RRS for extra teachers, not funded by the Ministry. The table below, lays out the amounts that have been paid over the last 5 years : The amount has decreased as the number of students in the class has risen

Year	Amount
2001	\$24.000
2002	\$28.815
2003	\$26.800
2004	\$24.000
2005	\$16.200

This year, Frenz School Inc no longer receives funding from France, and primarily uses the parents donation to pay the school.

Q: Is the donation obligatory?

R: Yes and No !

We would prefer the term `contribution' which is less ambiguous.

We received the status of a `charitable non-for-profit association' so as to allow our members to declare this amount on their tax returns under `donations', and therefore be eligible for reimbursement.

It is not possible to enforce payment of this sum, but without it the class will be in serious difficulty.

Q: What is the membership fee paid to the Frenz School Association?

R: Frenz School Inc is a not-for-profit society, who by law must be comprised of paying members.

**The Committee for
2005**

President:

Vincent Commarieu

Vice President :

Stéphanie Fonteneau

Secretary:

Joanne Commarieu

Treasurer:

Joanne Kendall

Members:

Shona DeLuen, Cathy
 Carter, Monica Mac
 Fadyen, Claude Cagne.

Members ex officio:

Richmond Road School
 represented by Maryse
 Varaine.
 Nadine Plet, Honorary
 President

Foire aux Questions (suite)

The association, in the name of its members, is able to engage in contractual relations with various organisations, such as schools, the French government, sponsors, banks etc.

When asking for funding, the number of affiliated members is a decisive factor. The membership fee also helps to cover the general administrative costs of paper, stamps, etc.

Q: I have friends whose children do not attend RRS, but would like to borrow books, videos and DVD's from the French library.

R: This is not a problem. These resources are available to all members of the Association, and everyone is welcome to join Frenz School Inc.



Bibliothèque Frenz School,
Horaires:
La bibliothèque sera fermée pendant les vacances scolaires.

Official Visits from 3 French Senators

October 2005 will last in our memory as the « Senator » month!

On the 12th, we received at Richmond Road School Senator André Ferrand, John Mac Col, conseiller à l'assemblée des français de l'étranger and Monsieur Marlaud our ambassador in NZ.

On the 25th, we received Senator Christian Cointat, with Monsieur François

Raffray, business advisor, representing the embassy.

On the 28th, we received Senator Richard Yung, Marie-Claire Guilbaud, conseillère à l'assemblée des français de l'étranger and Monsieur Marlaud.

Traditional Powhiri ceremonies were performed for the last 2 visits, which impressed our visitors.

Every delegation took time to listen: we have been able to explain the current situation, our projects, our fears and hopes.

We thank them for their attention and help.

Vincent Commariou

Dear Mr President,

A little late due to many obligations, but I hope that you will accept my apologies. I would like to thank you most sincerely for the quality of your welcome during my recent visit to Richmond Road School in Auckland. I was impressed by the efforts you made, but also by the warmth of the multi-cultural atmosphere which permeates the establishment. You were even able to entice me into singing a song, which has never happened before!

I have included a few photos, souvenirs of our meeting. Please pass my best wishes to your school principal and to all the teachers.



Senator Christian Cointat

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Opening of the bilingual unit at Kowhai Intermediate

Frenz is very pleased to be able to announce that the Intermediate French-English bilingual Unit will be opening at Kowhai Intermediate School, Mt Eden at the beginning of 2006.

If you haven't already done so, you still have time to enroll your year 7 or 8 children into the unit, which will operate two days per week, and the rest of the week will be integrated into the mainstream English classes.

Fees for one child to attend this unit will be \$500 per year, payable to Frenz School Association plus the \$60 association membership, and the Kowhai school fees of \$180 per child per year.

If you require any further information, please contact us: contact@frenzschooll.org.nz or Paul Douglas, Kowhai Intermediate Principal on (09) 846 7534

For more information on Kowhai Intermediate School: <http://www.kowhai.school.nz>



Preschool

In October this year, the french preschool opened it's doors at the premises of Kindercare, Mairangi Bay. It opened Monday to Friday from 9.15 to 2.15, welcoming a total of 9 children from 3 to 5 years.

Despite it's opening being long awaited and there being a desire for a french preschool, the actual number of children enrolled is not enough to enable the continuation of this particular project. Nevertheless, the 4 children who regularly attended the class, have shown that the interest in french is there, and indeed infected the other children in the centre with whom they share their day. Starring in particular, "pomme de reinette, pomme d'api".

Each month the theme being studied changed, initially being 'food and technologie', then 'who are we?' In November, it is 'Christmas', as it is this month. We will close the year on December 16th with a mini-concert to celebrate the arrival of Father Christmas, and a little surprise to take home.

Claudine Mathon

Les sœurs fachées

The Frenz School Inc. \$NZ1800 profit, but the committee would like to warmly thank all those members, non-members, parents, grandparents and friends – without whom this wonderfully successful night would not have been possible. It was not only the 152 tickets sold which netted

Valerie for the generous gift from Elizabeth Arden, and Jenny for the Mainland cheeses.

So we'll see you same place, same time next year?

Vincent Commarieu

Advertisements

Les petits lascars

-Groupe de jeu francophone-



Francophone parents of different nationalities meet every week to give their children the opportunity to play, socialise and make friends. "Les petits lascars" playgroup is specifically created for children ages 0 to 5 to provide a uniquely French-speaking environment.

Every Tuesday morning from 9.30 am -12:30 pm
Blockhouse Bay Playcentre
582 Blockhouse Bay Road

For more information, contact Claude on 522 9307

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