Message de la Présidente du chapitre :

Bonne Année à toutes et à tous !!

I hope that you all had a restful winter break and were able to spend some quality time with your families.

As we begin 2023, who knows what adventures await us? When I think back around this time of a new year my thoughts go to getting ready for mid-year exams. A moment when we see how our students are doing with acquiring the language skills we have been working on since la rentrée.

But more importantly, a new year represents new opportunities to do new things and, as teachers, to continue to teach our students to think critically, to analyze current events in the many Francophone countries that we study and to delve more deeply into the French cultures that are represented in the Francophone locations that we study. And to give our students the safe environment in which to expand their thoughts and to express their ideas and opinions in the French language.

With my profound thanks to all the Philadelphia chapter members who contributed to this newsletter, I wish you happy reading. We hope that it is of interest and of use to you in the classroom and in your professional life. Feedback welcome!

As you all embark on 2023, I wish you all a year full of wonder and a renewed dedication to your French students. Stay safe and be well.

À la prochaine,

Jean Copeland, President AATF Philadelphia
Emerita, Masterman High School

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Our Mission Statement:
The goal of this newsletter is to inform you, our members, and potential members with news on personal, professional and pedagogical opportunities, as well as cultural information about the Francophone world that would be of interest to you. We will also be celebrating our members’ accomplishments, including lesson plan ideas and materials. We will announce upcoming events and report on events that we have recently had and alerting you to local events recommended by our members.

Le Réverbère Team:
Jean M. Copeland
Sally Cushmore
Rochelle Ostroff-Weinberg
Sarah Thatcher
Emily Wagner
et
un grand merci à ceux qui ont contribué à cette edition.

The 2023 AATF Convention will be held at the Delta Hotel in Trois-Rivières, Québec from July 23-26, 2023. The theme is: “La Justice sociale: Écoutons toutes les voix, racontons toutes les histoires.”

https://frenchteachers.org/promote-french/conventions/
The AATF loves Philadelphia, and our chapter is thrilled to welcome all members. Le Réverbère, our newsletter, provides pertinent cultural information, including lessons and activities, how to benefit from our special discount program with local French-related businesses, and announcements of regional upcoming events, to help our members in their teaching and lives. We offer meaningful programs about the Francophone world and the most current pedagogical practices through our workshops and social events. Members can take part in a myriad of activities, such as workshops, performances, and events, as well. Over the course of the year, AATF Philly puts on affairs like our Soirée Cinéma at the start of the New Year, National French Week, and Le Grand Concours (The National French Contest).

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023

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WEBSITE
https://frenchteachers.org/chapters/philadelphia/

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH

The AATF is the only national association devoted exclusively to the needs of French teachers at all levels. Our community of French educators at all levels works to promote and defend French programs, create and disseminate useful materials for the classroom, and provide opportunities to recognize professional excellence and student achievement. We sponsor the National French Contest, French National Honor Society, and National French Week and publish the French Review and the National Bulletin.

AATF
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aatf@frenchteachers.org
De grandes félicitations à Sister Mary Helen pour cet honneur bien mérité qui reconnaît toutes les années du dévouement qu’elle a accordé à la poursuite de l’apprentissage de la langue et de la culture française.

SR. MARY HELEN KASHUBA PRESENTED WITH PALMES ACADÉMIQUES AWARD

Sister Mary Helen receiving the Palms Académiques Award from Ambassador Étienne

All good things come to those who are patient and hard-working. This is especially true of Chestnut Hill College’s Sister Mary Helen Kashuba. In 2019, Sister Mary Helen, DML, Professor of French and Russian, Chair of Foreign Language and Literature Department, was awarded the honor of “Commandeur” in the Palms Académiques, the highest academic award one can receive outside of France. Due to the pandemic, the ceremony was delayed, but on Saturday evening, November 5, 2022, Ambassador Philippe Étienne of France invited a select number of guests to his official residence in Washington D.C.

Chestnut Hill College’s longest-tenured faculty member recently received the highest academic honor in France for her significant contributions to its language and culture. The Ministry of National Education of the Republic of France promoted Mary Helen Kashuba, SSJ, DML, professor of French and Russian, from Officer to Commandeur, the highest grade of the Ordre des Palms académiques, a national order that recognizes distinguished academics and figures in French education and culture.

Sister Mary Helen has been teaching foreign language and literature courses at the College since 1963. She has served in many other roles at the College during this time, helping to guide and promote the instruction of foreign language. She is currently the chair of the Foreign Language and Literature Department.

“Learning any language is going to enrich a student’s experience because they are learning how another culture expresses itself,” Sister Mary Helen said. “It’s a means of communication, a discipline, and a way of learning critical thinking, and it’s a way of understanding another culture because I think that one of the main failings in America is that we don’t understand other people in other cultures, and we think of ourselves often as superior.

“We have to learn diversity, and you learn diversity through studying another language. You are enriched. You are able to read their literature. You are able to find out about the important people in the society. It’s a benefit.”

Established in 1808 by French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte and originally given to French academics, the award comes in the form of a golden medallion on a purple ribbon. It has been awarded on an international level since 1866 to anyone who demonstrates exceptional leadership, participation, outstanding work, and advocacy in French culture and education.

Sister Mary Helen was nominated for the honor by the executive director of the American Association of Teachers of French, the world’s largest association of French teachers. She is an active member of the organization, serving as its president from 2013 to 2015. She has also held leadership positions in other language associations, including the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Furthermore, since 1978, she has served as the local administrator for the National French Contest, an annual French language contest for grade school and high school students.

Sister Mary Helen has received several awards for her contributions in promoting foreign languages, such as the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching, the AATF Ludwig Award, and the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association Educator of the Year Award. Most recently, she received the 2019 Nelson H. Brooks Award, which recognizes world language professionals for longstanding and exceptional service and leadership.

After Sister Mary Helen received the Nelson H. Brooks Award, Cecelia J. Cavanaugh, SSJ, Ph.D., the dean of undergraduate studies at the College, said, “Above and beyond her prestigious scholarship for over fifty years and all the excellence she demonstrates and inspires on campus, Sister Mary Helen Kashuba has been tireless in advancing, improving, and promoting the teaching of foreign languages, literature, and culture in regional, national, and international professional circles.”

À la veille de la Révolution française, Manceron (Grégory Gadebois), cuisinier ayant perdu son poste auprès d’un duc exigeant et méprisant, rencontre Louise (Isabelle Carré), une femme à la fois errante et porteuse de mystères qui insiste pour devenir son apprentie. Ensemble, et avec quelques proches, ils mettront sur pied ce qui deviendra le premier restaurant.

**bande-annonce:** Délicieux (2021) - Trailer (English Subs) - YouTube

**critiques presse:**
https://francetoday.com/culture/cinema-film/delicieux-directed-by-eric-besnard/
https://www.lapresse.ca/cinema/critiques/2021-09-10/delicieux/la-democratie-est-dans-la-sauce.php

**DISCUSSION APRÈS LE FILM**
• Le film est sous-titré en anglais
• Retrouvez vos amis au Hothouse Coffee dans le hall du cinéma avant le spectacle!

gratuit pour les membres de l’AATF et leurs amis
rsvp: Rita Davis: rdavis@agnesirwin.org
When I taught at Wissahickon Middle School holidays were always part of my lesson plans. For Mardi Gras each eighth grader would create a mask as a homework assignment representing a French person or thing. They had a month to prepare and would then explain their masks in class. Some of the more creative ones over the years were a jar of Grey Poupon, the Louisiana Purchase, an Orangina cap, Asterix, a guillotine and Bonhomme Carnival. Each year I could count on seeing a Tour Eiffel, Napoléon, and artists. Prizes in different categories were homework passes. We always made crêpes, too. with a choice of Nutella or butter with cinnamon sugar.
Poisson d’avril was always fun doing a connect-the-dots activity (with a trick) and cutting out paper fish for them to surprise other teachers and classmates. The accompanying snack was, of course, Goldfish crackers!

**Susan Zeager**
emerita, Wissahickon Middle School

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**COMMENT CÉLÉBRER LES FÊTES DE LA SAISON**

**2023 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE**

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Draw a simple fish that takes up most of a sheet of paper. Put another sheet of paper on top and put dots around the fish. Put random numbers on the dots ~ not in order! Give students the paper with dots only, of course. Teacher dictates the numbers ("reliez vingt et onze". "reliez dix-huit et trente-cinq")
The students must search for the number somewhere on the fish. If you make the connections randomly, it keeps the kids on their toes! Alternatively, have students work in pairs with one person having the list of numbers to read instead of you.
At the end, show them your original drawing to confirm their success!
March is just around the corner. While most of us are looking forward to a little more daylight, spring break, and the glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel that is a typical school year, I am most excited about Manie Musicale! In case you have never experienced it, Manie Musicale is the super engaging francophone song contest created by Michelle Fournier and Stephanie Carboneau, two AATF members from Maine. Imagine basketball’s March Madness tournament but replace college basketball teams with pop songs from around le monde francophone. Last year schools from almost every continent voted on which songs would make it to the knockout rounds. Upwards of 100,000 French students voted on their favorite songs in many of the rounds!

This will be my second year having my classes participate in the event. Last year I couldn’t have imagined that my beginning learners would be singing along with the videos on voting days, but they were totally engaged! In the weeks leading up to the first round of voting, I shared the playlist with my classes so they could get to know the songs before creating their brackets. Little did I know they loved the songs so much that they had been listening to them outside of school! When their favorites were up for voting they were completely invested in the outcome. I stood in amazement as we watched some of the videos and they were singing along. I hadn’t done any lessons on the songs and hadn’t given them any of the lyrics yet! The first question they asked me at the end was if we were going to be doing it again this year.

Another element of this competition that brings me so much joy is the spirit of collaboration amongst our colleagues. Not only has the Manie Musicale team curated a fantastic list of songs and organized this annual event (no small feat with close to 5000 participating schools worldwide as of the writing of this article), but they have created a space for all participating teachers to share their resources for any of the songs and artists that are highlighted. You will find information on the artists, lesson ideas for the songs, chat mats to support students talking about the songs in French, and much more. What better way than through music to get your students engaging with Francophone culture and language?

You can adapt this event to your own needs in whatever way is most suitable for your classes, at any level. I try to keep the process as simple as possible for me. Once the playlist is shared, I will post it for my students and will play it in class while they are doing independent work. Then, just before voting begins, students will submit their brackets to me for safe keeping.

Throughout the month I will choose songs to highlight that I can work into our lessons, and we will take some time to vote each week and watch the winner reveal videos. The possibilities are endless! If you have never participated in Manie Musicale before I highly recommend giving it a try this year - even if you only use the playlist in class. It is guaranteed to bring some energy and fun to your day. You can find all the information from how to register your school to the generous resources from previous years on their website, manimusicale.info. Un grand merci to Michelle and Stephanie for creating this event and being willing to share it with all of us.

Sarah Thatcher
Jenkintown Middle and High Schools
In the past, I’ve had trouble thinking of fun things to do in French Club that are culturally relevant but are not “work”. When I let the kids take the reins, I realized that they know what high schoolers enjoy doing! Here are two activities that my students enjoyed, created by the current presidents of the French Club at Souderton Area High School.

Movie Night! One of my students approached me and asked if we could have a French movie night. The presidents got together and proposed the idea to members of the club, where it was well-received. The presidents had selected five possible selections ahead of time, and then members voted on which one they wanted to view. All of the movies were reviewed ahead of time for appropriateness of topic and content, and for availability. The movie the students chose was « Les Visiteurs », a 1993 comedy starring Jean Reno, Christian Clavier, and Valérie Lemercier, which was available on Amazon Prime.

We hosted our movie night on a Friday at school in my classroom. The kids wore their pajamas and brought blankets and pillows, and of course there were plenty of snacks. We watched the movie in French with English subtitles, and the kids really enjoyed it. This could also be a good after-school activity.

Another activity that the presidents planned was a drawing session to introduce French Club members to various French and French-speaking artists. They chose several works of art by famous and lesser-known artists and displayed them on the smartboard/tv at the front of the classroom. Members were provided with paper, colored pencils, crayons, and markers, and each person got to choose which painting they wanted to recreate. This was an activity that allowed the students to get to know each other a little better while learning about French art. I hung up their chefs-d’œuvre upon completion - the kids learned a little about art, and I got to decorate my classroom!

I hope you’ll find these activities to be useful and fun. What are some things you like to do with your French Club students? Let us know!

Sally Cushmore
Souderton High School
-IT’S ELEMENTARY-
A FRENCH CLUB FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

I have developed a unique curriculum pulling from a variety of sources over the years that is designed for elementary level French students and has many cross-curricular connections within our own school culture.

I teach 30 minutes of French per week in third through sixth grade at the Meadowbrook: School in Abington. I try to incorporate a lot of cultural celebrations and activities into the curriculum. Beginning in December, I offer an after-school French club to students in first through sixth grades. This year I had a wonderful turn-out of 22 students. I try to include as many of the recommended FLES topics that are outlined on the National French Contest website that I can into the French club. In addition to participating in FLES Grand Concours, the French club is very game-based with some crafts and entertainment as well.

It has also been a big long-standing tradition at our school to have a Mardi Gras celebration including a parade, a skit in French and French inspired cuisine contest. It is now a Carnaval/Mardi Gras celebration. Each grade has a particular theme and students create masks based on the theme. Third graders research and write about a famous person that influenced French culture in French and English and make a mask to represent the person. Fourth graders create a mask based on a French dessert. Fifth graders research and write about a French landmark in French and English. The sixth graders put on a mini-skit in French and English. The fourth, fifth and sixth graders bring in traditional French dishes of various categories that the faculty and staff vote on, and the students win fun prizes for the tastiest dishes. It is a lot of work, but a fun and memorable day!

Suzanne Cordon
The Meadowbrook School
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WHICH FRENCH FOR SPECIFICS COURSE SHOULD I TEACH?

Choosing the course that works best for you* at 4 pm PT/5 pm MT/6 pm CT/7 pm

Presenters: E. Nicole Meyer, Augusta University (GA); Kathy Comfort, University of Arkansas; Margaret M. Dempster, Northwestern University; Laurence Denie-Higney, UCLA; and Camille Meritan, Bentley University (MA). This webinar is open to all. Please register HERE.

The French Embassy’s Webinar Series Continues!
January 21 & 28: « La littérature jeunesse en classe de FLE » avec Mme Christelle Berger
February 11 & 18: « Développer les compétences orales en classe de FLE » avec M. Pierre-Yves Roux

AATF members will receive priority registration for these webinar series. For more information about webinar times and to register, please click HERE.

Quick Links
AATF Webinar Series
French Embassy Webinars
National French Contest Ordering
Language Advocacy Days
Fédération des Alliances Françaises Upcoming Events
Savez-vous que...
Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

Scholarships and Awards

Did you know that NECTFL has four substantial awards programs? One for advocates in our field, one for outstanding leadership, one for the best published article and a fellowship for significant contributions to the field that advance language instruction. There is still time to make nominations! The nomination deadline is January 16, 2023: Martin Luther King Day.

Did you know that NECTFL supports five scholarship opportunities? One for teachers with five or fewer years of experience to participate in the annual conference, one for high school students interested in pursuing a teaching career, two for university students interested in pursuing a teaching career and one for teachers of German to do an advanced summer study abroad program. The deadlines are January 16, 2023: Martin Luther King Day.

Don’t delay! Apply RIGHT AWAY!

The NECTFL Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you at the Annual Conference
March 2-4, 2023 at the NY Hilton Midtown!

Upcoming AATF National Dates and Deadlines
January 15 -- AATF Convention Travel Award applications due
January 26 -- AATF Webinar: Which French for Specifics Course should I teach? Choosing the course that works best for you (see above for times and registration info)
February 6 -- SHF Creative Writing Contest entries due
February 6 -- FLES* Concours (Grand Concours) begins
February 15 -- Grand Concours (Levels 01-5) begins
Applied DEI in the World Language Classroom Workshop with Ben Tinsley  
(Germantown Academy)

On November 3rd from 4:30-6:00 PM, 15 French Teachers joined Ben Tinsley to learn and engage in a meaningful conversation about Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in our classrooms. I introduced him by echoing powerful words on his website, “I’ve been blessed with the opportunity to work with students and educators from around the world to develop curriculum and pedagogy that serve as both windows and mirrors”. Indeed, we explored how we can do important DEI work in our classrooms, how to make it accessible to early level students, how to establish purpose, how to differentiate and understand centering vs. including activities in our daily teaching and curriculum work. Ben also gave us examples of the Map Talk technique that he uses to introduce French-Speaking countries/areas like Senegal and Martinique.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to work with Ben, I sincerely hope you will find a way to do so. For me it has been a thought provoking and rich experience. In my opinion, the work on DEI starts with us first, as a window into the outside world and our inner world, as well as a mirror reflecting who we are as individuals and teachers.

Edith Guay  
Emerita, Jenkintown Middle and High Schools

AATF Phila - PSMLA Workshop at Chestnut Hill College  
Applied Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the World Language Classroom

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 8:30am—12:30pm

Featured presenter Ben Tinsley will facilitate a conversation about Applied Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the World Language Classroom, followed by language-specific conversations. Learn important teaching techniques and practice the target language with language teachers from around eastern Pennsylvania!

For more information and to register, please click on the following link:

PSMLA Workshop

About Ben Tinsley:
A native of Long Island, New York, Benjamin made Philadelphia his home almost 20 years ago. His passion for social change and community development made Benjamin a committed and determined teacher in Philadelphia area schools for 14 years. Ben has dedicated his professional and personal life to the pursuit of substantive diversity, equity, and belonging. In the classroom, he has worked with teachers around the world to develop curricula that center Black and Brown voices from around the world. Ben’s recent work has focused primarily on leveraging language acquisition and language education toward developing global literacy and 21st century competencies.
University of Pittsburgh offers week-long study tour to Brussels, Belgium for educators- deadline to apply is Jan.17, 2023

This program gives selected educators K-16 an opportunity to learn more about the European Union firsthand. All selected participants will receive grants providing up to $1,300 toward the cost of their airfare and six nights double (shared) occupancy in a four-star hotel located in the EU Quarter. Visit this link to apply.

Montgomery County Association of Foreign Language Teachers (MCATFL)

Registration is open for the Oral Proficiency Contest!

The James J. Doyle contest offers students in Montgomery County the opportunity to demonstrate their interpersonal speaking skills in Spanish, French, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, or German. World language professionals conduct individual interviews with students to evaluate their performance.

This year’s contest will be held Tuesday, February 28 at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School. Registration will remain open until Thursday, February 23. Click here to register or visit our website to learn more.

January Thought Share

We’re excited to host our next Third Thursday Thought Share on January 19 from 4:30-5:30. This month, we’ll model a wildly engaging, low-prep game (Loup-Garou!). This virtual event is free for members and offers ACT 48 credit. Register here.

Need to renew your membership?

MCATFL membership provides you access to regular professional development opportunities, a chance to participate in our annual Oral Proficiency Contest, and a network of language educators who are committed to continued learning. Click here or visit our website to register/renew your membership.

Website
Facebook
Twitter
Matines Café is a quaint, charming French BYOB café, which recently opened in Chestnut Hill. It is located half a block from the Chestnut Hill East train station and is a short walk from the Chestnut Hill West train station located on Germantown Avenue. The café is open seven days a week beginning at 8:00 a.m.

My daughter brought the café to my attention as she noticed the construction on her way from the train station to Chestnut Hill College. She and I visited the café on the second day of its opening. What a delight!

The line went out the door; however, we did not mind the wait. It permitted us time to read the menu which is very appealing and beautifully designed. The menu selections are enticing to say the least. Matines has everything from boulangerie items to all-day breakfast favorites, gourmet sandwiches, tartines, salads, cheese & charcuterie boards and pastries. Matines even has a perfect petite matines meal menu for children.

As we entered the café, we were greeted by a welcoming and pleasant staff. Everyone seemed calm and was smiling even though the flow of customers had not stopped since the opening at 8:00 a.m. The interior of the café is cozy and warm. There is seating available inside and outside. In addition to the wonderful menu, the café has a little French market inside where you can purchase fabulous French products and souvenirs. I purchased several items from the market along with a delicious baguette, superb macarons, magnificent croissants & pains au chocolat and decadent mini pastries. Fortunately, one of my market purchases was a Matines Café tote bag, which was large enough to hold my purchases. I now use it to carry my books to school. I also purchased a beautiful decorative towel depicting a Provençal scene which is prominently displayed in my classroom. It makes me smile even during those less than calm moments in the classroom.

I look forward to returning to Matines Café to sample the cheese and charcuterie board as well as other tempting items from the menu. How fortunate are the residents of Chestnut Hill to have this gem of a café in their neighborhood.

As the one side of my tote says, “La Vie est Belle à Chestnut Hill!” Je suis complètement d’accord!

Monique Coval
St. Xavier et L’Alliance Française

Matines Café
89 Bethlehem Pike
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Tel: 215-621-6667
https://www.matinescafe.com
Open 7 days beginning at 8:00 a.m.
LE RENDEZ-VOUS DES RETRAITÉS

Le 12 octobre, on s’est retrouvés chez George Eckhardt, un de nos retraités, dans le jardin de sa maison à King of Prussia pour un déjeuner trois étoiles à la française, grâce à notre gentil hôte et aux invités. Nous le remercions de tout cœur pour son chaleureux accueil. On s’est bien régalés tout l’après-midi.

On a découvert que l’on pouvait à la fois être francophones et chefs et gourmets.

On a célébré ces retrouvailles en chantant Chevaliers de la Table Ronde tout en dégustant, sous un soleil brillant et dans une ambiance très amicale, des apéritifs, hors d’œuvres variés (fromages, roulades d’aubergines, olives, pain aux paw-paw) suivis d’un repas copieux et délicieux (soupé à la courge musquée, quiche aux épinards et aux champignons, poulet au curry, riz, crème caramel, salade de fruits, tarte normande, palmiers, et un petit café). Pas de doute - on a bien mangé.

La bonne surprise à la fin du repas, c’était qu’un de nos membres, Henri Mikol, a joué de l’accordéon ! Nous avons été ravis de son petit concert et de pouvoir chanter de vieilles chansons favorites.

Donc, le 9 novembre, on a fermé les yeux et on s’est retrouvés sur la Rive Gauche de nos jeunesse. Une douzaine de professeurs de français à la retraite se sont réunis au bistro - crêperie Planchette à Ambler (95 E Avenue Butler, Ambler, Pennsylvanie, 19002) le 9 novembre pour savourer un délicieux déjeuner et chanter en compagnie du maître accordéoniste (et ancien professeur de français) Henri Mikol. Tant de souvenirs de nos jours en France nous sont revenus alors que nous mangions, chantions et rions tout l’après-midi ! Un grand merci à Carol Henderson d’avoir tout organisé, ainsi qu’à Oulid de la crêperie Planchette pour son chaleureux accueil et à Henri pour la merveilleuse animation musicale.

PROCHAINS ÉVÉNEMENTS

9 février – visite à Eastern State Penitentiary et déjeuner dans le quartier
23 mars – Danièle Thomas-Easton sur l’histoire de l’absinthe dans l’art et déjeuner au Café Caribou
avril – visite du Curtis Publishing Building et du Dream Garden et déjeuner dans le quartier
4 mai – déjeuner et visite guidée de la Cathédrale de Bryn Athyn et ses jardins

Tous les membres du chapitre de l’AATF de Philadelphie sont les bienvenus!
Contactez Emily Wagner (voila5@comcast.net) pour plus de détails.
MARQUEZ VOS AGENDAS!

Le Rendez-vous des Retraités de l’AATF de Philadelphie vous invite à nous rejoindre pour une visite à Eastern State Penitentiary et le déjeuner au restaurant Bishop’s Collar dans le quartier Fairmount à Philadelphie.

jeudi, le 9 février 2023, à 11h30

Eastern State Penitentiary, autrefois la prison la plus célèbre et la plus chère du monde, était connue pour son système révolutionnaire d’incarcération séparée. Inauguré en 1829, l’imposant centre de correction fut le premier véritable "pénitencier" au monde, conçu pour inspirer la pénitence, ou le vrai regret, dans le cœur des prisonniers, plutôt que la punition.

11h30 – rendez-vous à la prison et visite
https://www.easternstate.org/
2027 Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19130

13h30 – déjeuner chez Bishop’s Collar
https://www.thebishopscollar.com/
2349 Fairmount Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19130. Fairmount, Art Museum District

$10 la personne pour la visite (guide audio pour les gens du 3e âge) et le déjeuner à vos frais

Merci à notre collègue Maria Traub d’avoir organisé cette journée.

Réservez votre place avant le 2 février d’auprès Emily Wagner à
voila5@comcast.net
**LE GRAND CONCOURS SEASON IS UPON US!**

Having spent most of my career in small schools I am often a department of one, with usually only one other counterpart in another building. In most respects, I really enjoy the freedom to shape my curriculum independently and develop strong relationships with students whom I have taught over multiple years. Despite this, I still wonder how they are making progress and if they are meeting the standards of each level. My goal is to have them be able to continue their French studies beyond our school, so I want them to be prepared. To measure my students’ achievement one tool I like to use is the Grand Concours. It’s a great addition to any French program.

Registration for the contest has just opened and I am looking forward to diving into all the practice resources that are available. I plan to start reviewing the list of specifications for each level and add in a little review each week. In the time leading up to our administration of the Grand Concours, students will take a few of the practice tests so that they feel comfortable with the format. These practice sessions are readily available on the Lingco testing platform. They are also a great option for sub plans in the event I need to be away. Students can complete the exercises easily and get immediate feedback. Even though they are still a little nervous once the big day rolls around, they tend to feel a bit more relaxed knowing what the test will look like.

The thing I love most about participating in the Grand Concours each year is that it gives me a reason to celebrate my students. I am proud to share their achievements with the community. I get to highlight them and the French program in our awards ceremonies, at the School Board meeting and in the school’s newsletter. It is easy publicity! Lastly, I get to communicate with families outside of the routine grading periods. Sharing good news and talking about their child’s accomplishments is a way for parents to feel invested in the program. We work together to encourage students to continue studying the language.

If you’ve never given the Grand Concours or it has been a few years, don’t hesitate to make this the year to dive in. There is plenty of information to get you started on the contest website (https://www.frenchteachers.org/concours/index.html) In addition, there is a great deal of support from the Grand Concours team, whether this is your first time, or if you are a veteran. Join me this year in bringing the contest to your schools!

Sarah Thatcher  
Jenkintown Middle and High Schools

DENVER, OU L’ESPRIT FRANCOPHILE BRILLE DANS ÉNORMÉMENT DE DOMAINES

Pendant ma visite là-bas en août, j’ai passé des heures au musée d’art où la collection d’œuvres d’art françaises, à mon avis, représente le bijou étincelant de cette couronne francophile des Rocheuses.

Comment ces beaux tableaux pourraient nous aider, les enseignants de français, à développer l’expression orale de nos élèves? Si chaque peinture vaut mille mots, et je vous en offre une vingtaine, cela fait pas mal de conversation! Que ça soit pour votre propre plaisir ou en cours avec vos élèves, admirez-les, discutez-en et décrivez-les. Amenez vos élèves dans un univers français à travers ces belles peintures françaises. Bonne visite!

Rochelle Ostraff-Weinberg  
emerita, Friends Central School

Si vous voulez poursuivre même plus cette balade, cliquez sur cet hyperlien: Denver Art Museum; dans la barre de Recherche, tapez French et vous découvrez 22 pages d’œuvres d’art françaises en ordre alphabétique.

D’autres liens intéressants à explorer

L’histoire du Rémois, Champagne Charlie Heidsieck, propriétaire d’un tier de la ville de Denver

Où savourer pain, pâtisseries, plats français?

Je voulais goûter le meilleur pain français de Denver. Ayant choisi la boulangerie Detour, j’ai appelé un taxi. En route...Vingt minutes plus tard me voici devant le Detour. Mais comme on le dit “Ça se vend comme des petits pains chauds” Oh zut...complet! Detour Bakery
Denver, suite

Voilà d'autres boulangeries-pâtisseries françaises qui valent le détour!

Katherine’s French Bakery and Café. N’oubliez pas d’acheter une galette des rois!
La Fillette. Contemplez le beau site plein de belles photos du choix appétissant
Trompeau Bakery. Regardez ces photos! Délicieux!
Gâteaux Pastries, la meilleure pâtisserie de Denver!
Le French. Cuisine française authentique et savoureuse
Bakery Four. L’art du pain

Vous cherchez peut-être une table pour deux? Suivez-moi... Je vous présente quelques bonnes tables françaises

Comme dit le proverbe français: “Bien boire et bien manger font bien travailler.”
J’ai choisi Bistro Barbès pour beaucoup de raisons. Tout d’abord, le nom et la cuisine s’inspirent du quartier maghrébin, Barbès, à Paris dans le XVIIIe arrondissement. J’aime les deux. Et je voulais voir un autre quartier de Denver. Hop! dans un taxi et 15 minutes plus tard, je me suis retrouvée à Park Hill, transportée dans un autre monde, plus chaleureux et tranquille que le brouhaha style western du centre-ville.

Quelques autres restaurants français?

Vous aimez la Nature et l’ambiance charmante? N’hésitez pas à essayer Potager
Qu’est-ce que vous prenez au Bistro Vendôme?
Destination Chez Maggy!
Aimez-vous les crêpes? Allez à la Crêperie Bon Ami
C’est l’ambiance parisienne que vous désirez? Bistro La Merise sera parfait
Les bons mets français dans une belle ambiance chaleureuse et chic? Le Bilboquet sera idéal
La cuisine québécoise, vous l’adorez? Réservez Au Feu Brasserie!

Le Saviez-vous? Denver et Brest, France sont villes jumelées
Découvrez l’histoire du jumelage entre Brest et Denver

Le Commerce et les Entreprises français à Denver? Cela vous intéresse?
Rocky Mountain French-American Chamber of Commerce. Visitez le site.

Une bonne librairie, tendance francophile?
The Tattered Cover
La librairie Tattered Cover et l’Alliance Française Denver ont récemment organisé une session dédicace du livre Champagne Charlie:

The Frenchman Who Taught Americans to Love Champagne par Don et Petie Kladstrup
“J’aime ce qui me nourrit : le boire, le manger, les livres.”
Si vous voulez suivre cette devise d’Etienne de la Boétie, explorez Denver!
Denver où l’esprit francophile brille dans énormément de domaines.

Rochelle Ostroff-Weinberg
emerita, Friends Central School
The official mascot for the Paris 2024 Olympics is... a hat. Organizers say it’s a nod to the spirit of the French revolution. Critics see something different. It’s a symbol of revolution and freedom, of striving. And it’s a hat. It’s an icon seen over centuries, from the Notre Dame Cathedral to the Eiffel Tower. And yes, it’s still a hat. More specifically, it’s a Phrygian cap, the red bonnet famously worn by Marianne, the artistic personification of the free French republic. The Paris 2024 Olympics and Paralympics unveiled the hat as their official mascots this week, showing off cartoonish images that are meeting with wide-ranging reactions.

“It's the French spirit that came to us, this French spirit that makes us a slightly out-of-the-ordinary nation,” explained Paris 2024 Brand Director Julie Matikhine, in a video celebrating the mascots' unveiling.

As happens when a national spirit combines with the Olympic spirit, the mascots are also being packaged into nearly 10,000 types of products, from plush toys to hoodies, electronics and luggage.

These mascots are not like the others
The mascots are named the Phryges — Olympic Phryge and Paralympic Phryge. And before we get into the responses to them, we should note that the Paris 2024 mascots do something important, even revolutionary: Apart from the Paralympic Phryge having a racing blade where its counterpart has a leg, they are nearly identical.

For Paris 2024, it’s a way to emphasize that despite differing appearances and events, athletes in the Olympics and Paralympics are just that: athletes.

“They’ve been brought together and it’s the same world, the same family,” said Joachim Roncin, who led the mascot design effort.

Among the reactions: Are these lady parts?
It's not uncommon for Olympic mascots to provoke head-scratching and bemusement. Some of the most successful examples have been safe crowd-pleasers — see Beijing's recent deployment of the panda, its hard-working ambassador. But when the French conceptualize something, "safe" and "crowd-pleasing" often don't carry the same weight they might elsewhere.

As they sought to express the French spirit, Matikhine said, the Phrygian cap was the "best way that we found to illustrate this, the most distinctive way anyway." Responses to the Paris 2024 video tweet revealing the Phryges ranged from "Olympic Crynge" to questions about whether the coq, the well-known French rooster, was for some reason unavailable.

Then there are the comparisons. One commenter said the red caps look like Smurf hats gone amok. And several others said the elongated triangular shape is like a cartoon of female body parts brought to life.

The Phryges have backstories
Simple though they might appear, these mascots are not under-conceptualized, although Paris organizers seem undecided about their gender, sometimes referring to them as "it" and other times as "she."

Describing the Olympic Phryge, Matikhine said:

The figure of the French Republic depicted as a dark-haired woman in a red cap, circa 1795. The Phrygian-style cap, or bonnet rouge, was worn by the partisans during the French Revolution and was adopted as a Republican symbol.

"It's a fine tactician, it’s a mascot who is extremely focused, who thinks everything through before it acts. It analyses the terrain, the situation. It never launches into anything without calculating the risks. It is also very French, with a great charm, and with a sensitivity that it tries in vain to hide."

Of the Paralympic Phryge, she said: "In a way it's the twin of the Olympic Phryge. It is a real party animal, extremely extroverted, it is a people person, it brings the party and its charisma with it wherever it goes, rallying everyone around it, spontaneously and naturally."

Origin stories and appearances aside, organizers hope the mascots connect with fans and children and inspire the French public to embrace sports even more than they currently do. And, they add, the mascots' dolls and other items are already on sale, more than 600 days before the Paris Summer Games begin.
La fête de la Chandeleur, qui a lieu le 2 février chaque année, est connue de tous comme étant l’occasion idéale de faire sauter des crêpes. Pourtant, si cette coutume populaire a beaucoup d’adeptes, en revanche la plupart des gens ignorent le sens et les origines de cette fête. Comme de nombreuses fêtes populaires, c’est une fête chrétienne qui puise un certain nombre de ses traditions dans les survivances de rites païens très anciens.

La "Présentation du Seigneur" : La Chandeleur est une fête religieuse chrétienne appelée également "Présentation du Seigneur". En effet, les Chrétiens célèbrent à cette date le moment où Jésus est présenté au temple, 40 jours après sa naissance. Autrefois, on appelait également cette fête "Purification de la Vierge", car on célébrait en même temps les "relevailles" de Marie. Le terme de relevailles, un peu oublié de nos jours, désigne le moment où la jeune accouchée reprenait une activité normale et se rendait au lieu de culte pour se purifier.

Des "chandelles" à la "chandeleur" : La fête de la "Présentation du Seigneur" s’accompagnait autrefois d’une procession avec des cierges allumés. C’est ce qui explique le nom courant de cette fête, "chandeleur", qui vient du latin "candelorum" et signifie "chandelles". Si l’on allume des cierges lors de cette fête, c’est en référence à un événement raconté par l’Évangile selon Saint Luc (2,21-40). En effet, lorsque Jésus fut présenté au Temple, il fut reconnu en tant que messie par Saint Siméon qui l’appela alors "Lumière du monde". L’utilisation des chandelles lors d’une procession nocturne est cependant antérieure aux coutumes chrétiennes. En effet, les Romains de l’antiquité et les Celtes avaient des rituels similaires, ayant pour but de purifier la terre et d’en assurer la fertilité.

Autrefois, les cierges bénis à la Chandeleur étaient soigneusement conservés par les fidèles. Ils les allumaient en cas de danger car on leur prêtait des vertus protectrices.

Crêpes, croyances et rituels : A la Chandeleur, tout le monde, petits et grands, se plie avec plaisir à la tradition gourmande de faire sauter les crêpes. Savourer ce délicieux dessert léger et croustillant en est le premier intérêt, mais on peut suivre cette tradition également par superstition ou pour le côté symbolique de la crêpe...

Présage de bonheur : D’une manière générale, faire sauter les crêpes à la Chandeleur est censé assurer un constant bonheur tout au long de l’année. Plus spécifiquement, les jeunes filles qui souhaitent se marier doivent faire sauter la crêpe six fois de suite sans la faire tomber. Une prouesse difficile à réaliser, mais qui leur garantira, d’après la légende, de rencontrer le fiancé idéal dans l’année. Enfin, faire sauter une crêpe en tenant une pièce de monnaie dans la main assurera la prospérité, tout comme le fait de conserver dans une armoire la première crêpe réalisée lors de la Chandeleur assurera de bonnes récoltes... C’est du moins ce qu’on dit, mais les résultats ne sont nullement garantis !

Symbolique de la crêpe: Pour les Chrétiens, la symbolique de la crêpe est évidente : par sa rondeur et sa belle couleur dorée, la crêpe symbolise le soleil, source de lumière. Elle rappelle ainsi la prophétie de St Siméon au sujet du Christ. Cependant la crêpe de la Chandeleur n’est pas sans rappeler la galette de céréales que les Romains de l’Antiquité instaurée vers le Vème siècle, visait à remplacer des rites païens qui perduraient encore. Quoiqu’il en soit, nous aurons tous plaisir à déguster des crêpes à la Chandeleur, à moins que vous ne fassiez comme les Marseillais qui se régalent, le jour de la Chandeleur, d’un délicieux biscuit appelé navette.

https://www.lemagfemmes.com/Fetes-populaires/La-Chandeleur.html
COMMENT FAIRE DES CREPES

**Ingrédients :**
- 2 cuillères à soupe de beurre
- 3 œufs
- 1 tasse de farine
- 1 1/2 tasse de lait
- 1 pincée de sel

**Préparation :**
1. Faites fondre le beurre.
2. Mélangez ensemble le lait, les œufs et le beurre.
3. Ajoutez-y la farine et une pincée de sel.
4. Mélangez avec un mixer.
5. Mettez au frigo.
7. Étalez un peu de pâte dans une poêle chaude jusqu’à ce qu’elle soit mince
8. Faites cuire jusqu’à ce que les bords deviennent bruns.
9. Retournez la crêpe dans la poêle.
10. Ajoutez ce que vous désirez (du fromage, du jambon, du beurre, du sucre, de la confiture, du chocolat, du jus de citron, etc)
11. Pliez la crêpe et servez-la bien chaude.

Bonne dégustation et joyeuse Chandeleur !
Les Pièges Pénibles du Participe Passé

J’ai relu le mois dernier *Une Femme*, roman d’Annie ERNAUX, auteure française (ou bien, autrice française, féminisation que préfèrent certaines gens), récipiendaire du Prix Nobel de littérature 2022. Pendant ma lecture, j’ai examiné les participes passés de sa prose ce qui m’a inspiré à partager avec vous la partie “le Participe passé” du *grand quiz de la langue française* du *Figaro littéraire* (juillet/août 2022). Je vous souhaite bon courage ! Faites de votre mieux et vérifiez vos réponses…après !

*Rochelle Ostraff-Weinberg, Emerita, Friends Central School*
**COIN CULINAIRE – LES POTS DE CRÈME**

*Pot de crème* is a loose French dessert custard dating to the 17th century. The name means "pot of custard" or "pot of crème", which also refers to the porcelain cups in which the dessert is served. *Pot de crème* is made with eggs, egg yolks, cream, milk, and a flavor, often vanilla or chocolate. The milk and cream are heated and flavored, then mixed into the whisked eggs and egg yolks. The mixture is strained and poured into cups, which are usually then baked in a *bain marie* (a water bath) at low heat. (This recipe avoids that last step)

![Image of a Pot de Crème](Image)

**Ingredients:**
- 9 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups whole milk
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 6 large egg yolks
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar

**Directions:**
- Place the chocolate in a blender.
- Whisk the milk, 1 cup cream, egg yolks, sugar and salt in a heavy-bottomed medium saucepan over medium heat.
- Cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick enough to coat the spatula and almost boiling (5 to 6 minutes.)
- Immediately pour the milk mixture over the chocolate in the blender.
- Blend until combined and smooth, stopping to scrape down the sides of the blender as needed.
- Pour the chocolate mixture in small cups and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.
- Whip the remaining 1/2 cup cream and the confectioners' sugar until soft peaks form.
- Top the chilled pots de crème with whipped cream and serve!

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**La Cuisine Française**

IF YOU HAVE AN EASY FRENCH RECIPE TO SHARE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND IT TO JEAN COPELAND

JeanneAATF@gmail.com