

## STUDENTS MADE *CRÊPES*, DANCED, PLAYED SPORTS AND GAMES, AND ACTED "*EN FRANÇAIS*"



The ninth and tenth grade students of the new high school at the northernmost end of Dade County (FL) have completed their first year at Dr. Michael Krop High. The French program started with three first-year, two second-year, and one combined third-and fourth-year classes. With my colleague Georges Lesperance's support, I decided to offer our students the opportunity to use the language skills they had acquired in the classroom in a fun and authentic context. Other French-speaking staff members were invited to help implement activities on Saturday, May 15. Physical trainer Lionel Leger taught students the game of *pétanque* (game lent by the *Alliance Française* of Miami). Mr. Lesperance refereed a heated game of handball. Ms. Toussaint gave a dance workshop.

French-Spanish teacher Phyllis Blanco and our own FLTDC president were in charge of games. Former students M. Nissenberg, Yona Wiszniak, and my own son Sasha helped in all activities and were responsible for distributing stickers to those students who showed the most effort in speaking French. In addition, several Francophone parents and community members assisted with such things as food preparation and distribution as well as student supervision. Chef Philippe Serres from the former "Chez Philippe," who is the father of one of my students, shared his own recipe for *crêpe Suzette* with us in a dramatic and lively manner. We all got the chance to flip some *crêpes* the old-fashioned way.

The day which had begun with a French breakfast in a corner of the school cafeteria temporarily turned into a French Bistro complete with menu, checkered tablecloths, posters, and student productions, continued with sports, cooking, and, of course, a French lunch featuring *quiches*, French Brie cheese, sandwiches made with fresh *baguettes* from La Baguette Bakery, assorted pastries, all of these accompanied by Orangina and Évian. The afternoon flew by

as students played French Monopoly and other French board games while others learned dance steps and vocabulary. Finally, the time had arrived to report to the auditorium for a mini-rehearsal of the skits and songs which had been prepared to entertain the students' families. Every class and every level performed at least one act. In addition, various students dressed as and presented highlights of the lives of famous French personages such as Édith Piaf, Zinedine Zidane, Marie Curie, etc. The audience was involved and asked to guess



who the famous person was for a small prize. After this amazing display of talent and linguistic skills, prizes were awarded to all participants as the level of participation on everyone's part had been so great as to make it impossible to identify only a few.

The level of energy, enthusiasm, and good humor among the 50 students who participated in this Immersion Day was absolutely fantastic. The commitment and support of a network of school and community volunteers were essential in realizing this gratifying project. A mini-grant from the AATF made all this possible at a cost of only \$5 per student.

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