

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR LA FÊTE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE 99

The *Fête de la Francophonie* will soon be upon us. November 1999 may appear a long way off, but it is none too soon to start planning for the national event. Don't panic, though! You don't have to start from scratch. Two chapters in Region IX have already experimented with formats that are described below and that could help you devise your own scenarios. For further information, you may contact the chapter itself or the Region IX Web page.

Vincent Morrisette
Region IX Representative

Journée de la Francophonie WA/AK/BC Chapter 7 February 1998

Seventy-four students from eight schools in our chapter attended this inaugural Francophone immersion day at Decatur High School, Federal Way, WA. The program opened with a parade of nations where each school carried a flag or coat of arms of the Francophone country it had adopted for study and briefly described the flag or coat of arms. Greetings from our superintendent were followed by a pledge, administered by the executive director of the *Alliance française* from Seattle, in which participants promised to speak French as much as possible during the day's activities. Then students selected three courses from 15 possibilities presented by the teachers in attendance. Choices included a real life encounter with a 2 CV (*Deux chevaux*), puppetry, karate, French cinema, *Roue de la fortune*, and a presentation on Cameroun by a former Peace Corps volunteer. There was also a *Coupe du monde francophone* where students could demonstrate their knowledge of *la Francophonie* on a multiple choice test. All students enjoyed a mid-morning snack of croissant and Orangina. Lunch was prepared by Café Indochine, a local Vietnamese restaurant whose proprietor speaks French. After lunch students all participated in the one-hour session on Francophone music and dance led by KLASS, a local Francophone band with a Caribbean and African repertoire. At the closing ceremonies, students each received a pin in recognition of their participation in the day's program and some were awarded a certificate for their outstanding performance in *le dessin, le portrait, la marionnette, and la coupe du monde francophone*.

This day was inclusive in the sense that it was open to students at all levels and provided activities accessible to all levels.

The funding for this event came from several sources: a small grant from AATF, contributions by the chapter and from the *Alliance française*, as well as registration

fees for schools, students, and adults. Support was also requested from *la Chambre de commerce franco-américaine* of Seattle.

In a future *journée*, I would like to use the information that students developed about their country to promote interaction between the students of the various participating schools, possibly in the form of a treasure hunt or scavenger hunt: "*trouvez quelqu'un qui ...*"

Linda Reed
President, WA/AK/BC Chapter

'97 Language Camp a Roaring Success Northern California Chapter March 7-9, 1997

Eighty-three students from eleven high schools in the Santa Clara Valley (CA) participated in an educational fun-packed French weekend camp. The theme was *La Francophonie*. Students were encouraged to learn more about French-speaking countries through a variety of activities presented during the camp. They pledged to speak only French the whole weekend. The weekend immersion program took place at Walden West, a beautiful site surrounded by nature in the hills of Saratoga (CA).

The French campers arrived Friday at 7:00 p.m. in "France." They went through the "French customs," sometimes contraband was found (planted surreptitiously by the customs officers/teachers) in their luggage. After customs, students were led to their hotels, *l'Hôtel Marrakech, la Case du Baobab, or l'Auberge Gauguin*. The evening began with a parade of fourteen participating teachers, each teacher wearing the traditional costume of a French-speaking country: le Sénégal, le Cameroun, la Tunisie, la Martinique, Tahiti, etc.

Then, students were given a piece of a puzzle that would eventually form the map of a French-speaking country. They were asked to find students with the other pieces of the puzzle and to complete the puzzle of their country. Once the puzzle was completed, it was time to discover some facts about the country with their new-found friends. Prizes were given to those who could answer the teachers' cultural questions. The evening concluded with popular French songs and hot chocolate.

The early risers on Saturday morning were invited to an aerobics program (*en français, bien sûr*) before breakfast of croissants, *baguettes*, and hot chocolate. Following breakfast, students were offered a variety of sessions they could choose to take: fencing, cooking, French nursery rhymes, African story reading and mask making, African dances, brooch making, etc. True to the French camp tradition, dinner was a five course affair with *oeufs à la mayonnaise*, couscous, and delicious *crêpes*

that the young chefs had prepared in the morning session. The highlight of the evening entertainment, for some, was the *Griot* (the African story teller) Jeff who led the masked story tellers in two African tales while the audience sat in the twinkle of candlelight. For others, the highlight was *le bal* that followed the storytelling at which they danced *des danses cajunes, des danses de ligne* (sorry about the literal translation!), *la danse des canards*, etc.

Sunday morning campers relaxed taking a nature walk or playing *pétanque* and table games, while the *Marché aux Puces* was being set up. The French Bank generously distributed piles of (imitation) French francs to each camper. The items for sale were donated by the students themselves who had been asked to bring three white elephant gifts to the weekend event. Buyers had to bargain with the teacher/sellers; otherwise there was no sale. Selling was hot and frantic as wonderful bargains exchanged hands. The camp closed with a nostalgic rendering of the "Marseillaise" as the participants received their certificates and journeyed back to the USA.

Funding for the weekend was provided by student fees, a contribution from the California Association of Language Teachers, and some schools which either created scholarships from their budget or raised money through fund-raising for students who could not afford to attend the weekend immersion camp.

Hélène Chan
Chapter President
Jan Treadgold
Chapter Vice-president