

## **A NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK CELEBRATION OF *FRANCOPHONIE***

National French Week at our school has become an important and much anticipated celebration. This year we will continue the yearly favorites but are going to try something new as well. Here are some events that we have done in the past:

### **Café Night**

We decorate our student center with murals that the students have copied from French artists. We string Christmas lights and crepe paper, cover the tables with brightly-colored tablecloths and top them with candles. We ask the Parent's Association, students, and teachers to provide food which students dressed as French waiters distribute. Students and teachers perform skits and songs, and we have a poetry reading contest as well. We use a karaoke machine as our sound system. We sell raffle tickets for fifty cents each the week before café night and then draw prizes midway through the evening. Café night does a great deal toward improving the community atmosphere.

### **Poster Contest**

We give the students a French theme. Prizes are awarded for the top three posters.

### **Waiter's Race**

We discuss in class the race that waiters have in Paris each year, and then we simulate our own race. I buy trays at the dollar store and plastic cups. We go outside where pairs of students with a glass

of water on a tray race each other to a destination and back. The one with the least spilled water wins.

### **Presentation of *Francophonie***

This year we will try something new—a presentation of *Francophonie*. There will be a presentation to show the students that French is spoken all over the world and to explain the rich and varied cultures. We will cover as many countries as possible in the short time available. Students will then select a country to represent through various activities such as:

- songs/music/dances from the countries;
- costumes from the countries;
- a brief description or PowerPoint presentation for each country;
- decorate the room with flags and other realia;
- food from the different countries. Behind each type of food will be some cultural information.

In order to pull this together, I will contact the various embassies for any help they can give me, and I will invite students to help me prepare food.

I hope that this year's French week will continue to be a chance to spread the word about the wonders of French as well as another chance to bring our community together with cultural events.

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