

## NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK PROGRAM IN PEORIA

I always look forward to National French Week for the opportunity to celebrate the study of French and to involve parents and the community. At our Back-to-School Night in September, I welcome parents' ideas and participation in National French Week.

Our guest speakers were Chantal Lynnes from Quebec, Amina Goelzer from Morocco, and James Kane (Peoria, IL). Mme Lynnes spoke in French to my advanced class. She read aloud "Soir d'hiver" by the French-Canadian poet Émile Nelligan and gave her interpretation of the poem. She spoke about winters in Quebec and also read aloud a text by

Gabrielle Roy. Mme Goelzer also spoke in French to my advanced class. Her discussion focused on two readings, *La Poésie au secours de ma raison* by Abdellatif Laabi and *La Pierre et la peau* by Tahar Ben Jelloun. Mr. Kane, parent of a former student, spoke about the car race at LeMans. He gave an interesting presentation which included pictures of different aspects of the race. We learned that there was an accordion marathon as a special activity at the race one year.

Our National French Week theme activities were the following:

**Cuisine:** Some students were chefs. Others composed poems and songs about crepes while they waited for tasing. They provided our entertainment. A parent brought a cake with "Bon anniversaire Claire et Antoinette." The cake had an Eiffel Tower on it, and we sang "Joyeux anniversaire" twice for the twins.

**Music:** We sang French folk songs.

**Art:** Students performed puppet shows for the Metcalf School French classes on the Illinois State University campus. Students created props for the plays which they composed. They also designed a program. The students also created posters which were displayed in the classroom and in the hallways.

**Technology:** The students competed in the "Concours de connaissances" organized by the Chicago/Northern Illinois AATF Chapter.

The principal, Mr. Meisinger, read an announcement to call attention to the beginning of National French Week and to ask students to think about the importance of the study of French.

The entire school community admired our posters placed in a prominent showcase and heard our principal's announcement of National French Week. The students enjoyed the aroma of crepes in the hallway!

Our publicity this year consisted of an announcement at "Back to School Night" in September, our principal's announcement at the beginning of the week, and the stu-



dents' posters in the hallway.

"Vive le francais!"

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