

NATIONAL FRENCH WEEK: CAFÉ NIGHT

On November 10, our school celebrated the second annual Café Night, the culmination of all the activities involved in National French Week. It took place in our student center. Thanks to the generosity of the AATF, we received a grant of \$500. We expected a large crowd as we had invited students, teachers, parents and other community members. Some food was ordered from the cafeteria but also students prepared food at the homes of teachers. Students acted as waiters, bringing food and drink to the tables; others had prepared menus which were placed on the tables. Teachers and students decorated the center with art that had been made throughout the week. We reproduced banner-sized pictures of French art. Students performed throughout the night. We even convinced several teachers to perform. Our science teacher sang "Lean on Me" in French. There was also a poetry contest and a poster contest. We used some of the grant money for prizes. The winner of the poster contest was announced, and the students in the poetry contest presented their poems. The high point of the evening for me was to see a boy with very low self-esteem stand up in front of a huge crowd to perform an original poem in French. He won the nonnative speaker prize. (My students hand in a journal every Monday, and this young man wrote about how special it made him feel to win.) My thanks to AATF for the grant money, for giving us the chance to expose more people to French, and for giving our students another opportunity to show their talent.

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