Meilleurs Vœux!

Chers amis,

This time of year is full of cheer, holiday decor, buying gifts for special ones and smells of goodies baking in the oven. It is a busy yet fun time of year.

As we prepare for the holidays, don’t forget to prepare for the classroom. The AATF is eagerly anticipating and preparing for the National Conference in Martinique this summer, as you may have seen many notices in the National Bulletin, Facebook page and Twitter. But even if you can’t attend the conference, you can explore various French-speaking countries and territories with your students in the classroom or on your own. You can create a virtual tour, a webquest, choose a poem, a song, etc. to enrich the culture in your classroom. The CNY Chapter of AATF has hosted several workshops regarding other French-speaking areas such as: Martinique, Belgium, Algeria, etc. Dig into those files or download from our website (aatfcny.org) and glean from these workshops a wealth of knowledge to enhance your and your students’ cultural experiences. We need to remember that there is much more to the French-speaking world than France. So pack those bags, book bags that is, and explore a new place this holiday season.

Enjoy your holidays. I always feel that the time spent with family and friends is the best part of the holiday season. From our families to yours, the AATF of CNY officers and Board of Directors wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Warmly,

Jennifer Kostolecki
President
AATF of CNY
French Night at the Crunch
Crunch vs. Laval
December 1st 2017

French students, French teachers, their families and francophiles from all over Central New York enjoyed une soirée de hockey on December 1st, 2017. The Syracuse Crunch took on Laval, a Quebec team playing in the same league as the Crunch for the first time this season. The home team prevailed, 2-1. The Crunch scored a goal in the first period, but the celebration was somewhat tempered by a roughness incident that resulted in a five-minute penalty for boarding against a Laval player. Despite the presence of the trainer on the ice, the Crunch player was able to skate off following the incident. The two teams seemed evenly matched during the second period, but the Crunch’s Franco-Ontarien player, Matthew Peca, scored early in the third period, making it 2-0. Although Laval did score on a power play late in the third period, that goal was not enough to catch up to the Crunch’s lead.

Besides the game, French students also participated in a trivia contest on the ice between the first and second periods. Congratulations to the Whitesboro team on winning French trivia!

Participating school districts included Cazenovia, Carthage, Chittenango, Cortland, Fayetteville-Manlius, Norwich, Sauquoit, South Jefferson, West Genesee, Whitesboro and more. The AATF of CNY is committed to continuing the hockey night tradition – now in its fifth year – and hopes to organize another French Night at the Crunch in Fall 2018.
Le Grand Concours 2018: Registration Now Open

Update from Denise Mahns, National French Contest Administrator, AATF of CNY

There was quite a bit of discussion about le Grand Concours at the AATF National Convention this year in Saint Louis. Last year’s administration was beset by several problems, including bad weather and server issues, resulting in delays in scores. AATF of CNY still managed to deliver prizes and certificates by mid-May, but incurred substantial postage costs due to the delays on the national level.

Because of the increase in postage costs and AATF of CNY’s commitment to providing a participation certificate to every participant, regardless of national rank, this year there will be a price increase of $0.50 per test in Central New York. This brings the total to $4.00 per test for AATF members. Rest assured that every penny of this charge will be used to provide and ship prizes and certificates to participating students. If there should be any remaining funds, that money will go to the AATF of CNY’s annual scholarship for excellence in the study of French.

Registration for le Grand Concours 2018 is now available. Orders must be completed on-line by January 30, 2018. Visit http://frenchteachers.org/concours/ to read about the test and follow ordering instructions. The AATF of CNY encourages teachers to select on-line testing, as the deadline is earlier and costs are higher for paper tests. In addition, on-line testing allows teachers to proctor their own students, can be completed over two days if testing during class time, and requires only a computer or tablet with headphones for each student.

Because of on-line testing, teachers may select their testing dates within the following windows:

FLES testing: February 11-24 2018
(Please make note of your district’s February break while scheduling FLES testing.)
Levels 01-5 testing: February 24-March 25 2018
(AATF of CNY recommends testing during the first two weeks of March.)
Concours cont.

Once again this year, there will be plaques and medals for platinum scores (the highest score in each level), gold medals (95th percentile), silver medals (starting at the 85th percentile), bronze medals (starting at the 75th percentile) and honorable mention certificates (starting at the 50th percentile). When registering students, if prompted, please request paper certificates – these national awards will be combined with local prizes in your prize shipment. Please also be sure to enter student names correctly, as prizes will be sent and certificates printed based on the name as entered. AATF of CNY will award prizes to the highest scores in our chapter and ensure that every student participant receives a certificate of participation.

Please contact Denise Mahns at grandconcoursaatfcny@gmail.com with any questions about le Grand Concours.

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Operation Reindeer

On December 7, 2017, members of the French Club and French Honor Society participated in Operation Reindeer held at the Presbyterian Church in Mexico, NY. Operation Reindeer is a community service organization that provides gifts for underprivileged families during the holiday seasons. Members packed bags with a variety of gifts for children from age 5 to 14 after school for two hours. Approximately 278 bags were packed and distributed to 132 families of Mexico and the surrounding area.
National French Week at Mexico HS

The 15th annual celebration of National French Week took place at Mexico High School during the week of October 30th though November 3rd, 2017. A variety of exciting activities were organized and sponsored by the MACS French Honor Society and French Club that involved high school and faculty.

The foyer of the high school was decorated beautifully using red, white, and blue decorations, flags from different francophone nations, decorations representing Les Nuit Blanches and a variety of student projects on display. During the week, activities for the student body included music in the morning, the parade of nations of Francophone countries, a daily trivia contest, and French style foods in the cafeteria.

Daily lessons included Smart Board presentations and games regarding different francophone countries. In-class activities, which corresponded with the lesson, included show and tell of authentic French souvenirs, decorating t-shirts and backpacks with French sayings, food tasting, plate decorating, a scavenger hunt, and the daily treasure hunt.

For the faculty, coffee and croissants were served in the teachers’ room by the French 4 & French 5 students. Students, faculty and administration all enjoyed a little bit of “francais” during the week. Much gratitude and appreciation goes out the French Honor Society and French Club members and to everyone who was involved and worked hard to make this year’s French Week a great success.

Un Grand FÉLICITATIONS to our very own Roseann Lorefice who is now the editor of L’Élan, the newsletter of AATF's Société Honoraire de Français, and is creating an online version for this national publication.
Richard Ernst wins
NYSALFT Wasley Award

The 2017 Ruth E. Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award K-12 was presented this year to Richard Ernst, a teacher at Eagle Middle School in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District. Richard Ernst earned a B.A. in French Education in 1975 from SUNY at Albany, including study at Université de Caen, France. He completed an M.A. in Spanish education at SUNY at Albany in 1980. He holds New York State 7-12 permanent certification in French, German and Spanish. Richard is currently in his thirty-third year at Eagle Hill Middle School in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District where he teaches German and French in grades 7 and 8. He has taught middle and high school French, German and Spanish for a total of forty-one years in several New York school districts. Richard joined NYSALFT as an undergraduate in 1974 and has been a member ever since. He is also a member of LECNY, AATF, AATG and ACTFL. In 1982-84 he served on the NYSALFT Secondary Education Committee and has presented at NYSALFT and AATF of CNY events.

The prestigious Ruth E. Wasley Distinguished Teacher Award K-12 was named after Ruth E. Wasley, a former secretary of NYSALFT and a professor and teacher/trainer of foreign language methodology at SUNY Albany. Extremely innovative and creative, and known for her sense of humor, Dr. Wasley was a methodologist par excellence and an outstanding role model for her students. This award was created in her memory in 1986 to honor those who have followed in her path. This year’s award was funded at $700 through a generous bequest made by late NYSALFT Executive Director, Robert J. Ludwig.

During his acceptance speech, Richard Ernst spoke of his passion for language teaching, the innovations that technology has brought to his practice, and the importance of professional organizations through his career. In attendance at the 100th Annual NYSALFT Conference in Niagara Falls as Richard Ernst accepted his award were his Fayetteville-Manlius LOTE colleagues and nominators: Hugh Welfling, Susana Senties-Nevin, Kate Stewart and Denise Mahns.

Press release and photos courtesy of NYSALFT
Calendar of Events

February 3, 2018  LLL/LECNY Workshop
                 Goldstein Student Center at Syracuse University
                 Syracuse, NY

February 11-24, 2018  Le Grand Concours
                       Grades 1-6 (FLES)

February 24-March 25, 2018  Le Grand Concours
                             Grades 7-12 (Levels 01-05)

March 5-11, 2018  National Foreign Language Week

May 2018  LECNY May Celebration

July 18-21, 2018  91st Annual AATF Convention,
                  La Pointe-du-Bout, Martinique
“What I most enjoyed about the workshop is that I spent 2 weeks speaking only French and learning new things. It is almost irrelevant whether I use a few specific things in class, because I feel recharged and up-to-date on many aspects of la France actuelle.” Betsy Nickerson, French teacher at the Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., spent the last two summers with us in France at our annual immersion program in Toulouse 2016 and then in Aix-en-Provence in 2017, and she plans to join us again in the summer of 2018 in Lyon. Your total involvement in French culture and language is bound to have a positive impact on your lesson plans and in the way in which students and parents perceive you as a teacher. Principals will be impressed with your efforts; you’ll feel more confident about representing France today. Venez nous rejoindre en 2018! Each summer our workshop is held in a different region of France. Rendezvous à Lyon, 15-26 juillet 2018! Program, cost and details at www.frenchtraveler.com; ask us for a free brochure at trips@frenchtraveler.com.

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