



CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH BRITISH COLUMBIA & YUKON

Who are we?

Our new line up for 2019/20

President: Sandra Arthur

Vice President: Christine Malmberg

Treasurer: Tara Keeping

Secretary: Vacant*

Membership: Vacant

Special Events: Lisa Glynn,
seeking additional volunteers*

Fundraising: Tara Keeping,
seeking ad hoc volunteers*

Members at Large: Cedar Payne,
Andrea Calder.

Communications: Cait Espinoza/
Sandra Arthur

Our Contacts

Canadian Parents for French Saanich Chapter

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
CPF.Saanich/](http://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich/)

Email: CPF.Saanich@gmail.com

Join our conversations:
[facebook.com/CPF.Saanich](https://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich)

*Email us if you are interested to help with
our volunteer roles

Our Vision Statement:

“CPF-Saanich Chapter is the resource to parents and students for continued French language learning in an engaged community”

What do we do?

Welcome to our summer 2019 newsletter! **Canadian Parents for French – Saanich** is a group of dedicated parent volunteers covering four schools within Saanich SD63 - Deep Cove Elementary, Keating Elementary, Bayside Middle School, and Stelly’s Secondary. We come together once a month, to coordinate and fund French cultural activities for our children, raise funds for our programs, communicate with teachers and administrators on ways to foster our children’s French language experience, and provide access and resources for parents of children in French Immersion and core French programs.

CPF Saanich - we volunteer for the children!





Please join CPF!

Help support FSL students in your community by joining or renewing your CPF membership online at bc-yk.cpf.ca/

Why?

CPF offers tools, help, and exclusive members-only privileges (i.e. discounted French book purchases, summer camps at our annual Resource Book Fair etc). Join the conversations on our website and connect with like-minded people to support your children's education. **80% of your funds are used 100% to finance events, special activities and French books at local FI Saanich schools.**

Without your funds we will be unable to offer the great additional support to our local schools that are much needed.

At only \$25 per year to receive a year's membership, it will greatly add to our ability to deliver MORE to your students' French study experience.

Join Canadian Parents for French at: www.cpf.ca

Don't forget to apply to join the Saanich Chapter.

Merci!

FRENCH BOOK APPEAL

Many parents have kindly donated their good conditioned French books and magazines to local schools.

Please contact us if you can help supply more.

“Kids mentoring kids is a great way to get everyone excited about learning skills”

In this newsletter we will be including a variety of articles that highlight the benefits of speaking more than one language. We have some wonderful examples of how local Saanich students are using their ability to speak English and French to enjoy some amazing experiences.

- French Student Exchanges
- International French “pen friends”
- Celebrating with our new G12 French Immersion Grads
- International Youth Camps and more.

A French Immersion, Saanich student has been regularly communicating with a student in France - not in the old fashion way by writing letters (once called a Pen-friend) but via the magic of the internet and modern apps such as Snapchat, Messenger, FaceTime etc. He has been able to sustain an ongoing dialogue to secure a strong friendship, exchange music and magazine tips as well as sharing sporting views. The icing on the cake has been the opportunity to arrange a private exchange trip. The French student was able to travel to Canada for the first time last year and this year will be the Canadian student's turn to travel to France to engage in a full immersion and cultural exchange. *Bon Voyage!*



CPF - LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR



Our current CPF Saanich volunteers are second to none and we feel honoured to have worked with such a group of dedicated parents.

The commitment of the CPF – Saanich Chapter members goes beyond attending a monthly meeting. Their dedication to ensuring that our Saanich school families have a “voice” is often overlooked. This dedication is found in their preparation for the meetings, special events that our French students enjoy, and for the fundraising initiatives that allow us to provide better French

learning experiences for our children across the countless hours of time given.

Do you use FACEBOOK? We have improved and added more content on our Facebook page !

It is jammed packed up helpful links, event news and CPF events. Please bookmark, like and join our conversations!

<https://www.facebook.com/CPF.Saanich/>



You can also follow the **CPF BC & Yukon** blog and their social media channels for additional information on: +Sponsored youth events and opportunities +Resources, research, and tools for students, parents, educators, and French Second Language advocates +French-language exchanges and excursions in Canada and abroad +Local, regional, and national networking opportunities +Volunteer leadership and training such as board and committee positions, informational webinars, skills-building workshops, etc. +Awards, bursaries, and recognition for youth, educators and volunteers. AND MUCH MORE!

Graduating from French Immersion this year?

Why not complete a teacher education program at a B.C. university?

Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia both offer teacher education programs led in French. The Ministry of Education’s Bursary for students - Pre-service French Teachers, which is managed by UBC and SFU directly, provides bursaries to students who are training to become French teachers.



Although the University of Victoria only offers teacher education programs in English, this university offers a Professional Specialization Certificate in Teaching French Immersion to individuals who are already certified teachers. Bursaries are available directly from UVic for B.C. teachers who complete this certificate program. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/.../.../studying-to-teach-in-french-in-bc>

Bonjour Kindergarten, Au Revoir Grade Twelve!

In April 2019 we had the pleasure to welcome over 100 kindergarten and 52 grade twelve French Immersion students (together with their families and teachers) to attend the 25th annual CPF Saanich K-12 Gift Exchange Celebration.

Kindergarten students received scrolls of wisdom from those departing Stelly's this year.



Written in French these scrolls gave them advice for the future: believe in yourself, work hard, and stay in French because it pays off.

CPF acknowledges the support of the parents, the dedicated teachers, support teachers, staff and administrators for their commitment to French Language programming and cultural events for students in the district.

This year, for the first time, we were delighted that French teachers, led by Cindy Lister (G6 French Immersion Teacher), were able to arrange and manage this memorable event. Due to reduced volunteer support, CPF felt unable to manage the whole event but were happy to still be involved and supply gifts and certificates as well as information to attending parents and students. CPF/School PAC and parents were also able to express their thanks to two teachers who were retiring - Mr Daniel Parent (Keating) and Mme. Johanne (Deep Cove) - we will miss you!



*A big thank you to the flower sponsor: Eurosa Farms and **MERCI to All teachers/staff and students who kindly supported this wonderful annual event.***

PHOTO: Left: Daniel Parent with CPF BC & Yukon VP, Andrea Calder. Right: Deep Cove PAC President (Heather) and Mme Johanne

CPF - Saanich 2019 Autumn/Winter plans:



Our CPF volunteers are busy planning new exciting events for 2019/20 such as the Bonjour/bonne nuit, French Film/theatre evenings, French Cooking workshops and much more.

Please contact us if you are interested in being a part of this dynamic group of volunteers.

What have we done this year?

Programs we have supported in 2018/19 : We've had a busy year, despite facing budget cuts, lower membership and less volunteer support. We are very grateful to those people who supported our two fundraisers (Spring Bulb and Maple Syrup sales) as well as those who purchased membership.

- + Annual K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration.
- + Maple Man Workshops (All students at our Elementary schools)
- + Winter Carnival Celebrations
- + French Drumming Workshop!

- + Supplied Verbathon™ kits to all schools
- + French "Buddy" Reading activities: Bonjour: Bonne Nuit.
- + Welcome back - all schools/Welcome Grade 5: CPF information desks
- + Semi-finals @ Bayside - Concours d'art oratoire (snacks/prizes/medals/travel support for winners)
- + French live theatre for Grade 9-12.
- + French DVD's supplied to Saanich Elementary Middle Schools.+ Support French for the Future conference (Grade 10/11)
- + Supplied private French books and magazines to all of our Saanich schools.

- And other French cultural activities.
- + Fundraising ... membership, spring bulb and maple syrup sales.
- + Sent members to the CPF BC & Yukon regional conference.



CPF Saanich **Advocating for:**

- + Continuous French (S1 and S2) at high school
- + More spoken French activities
- + More French courses/online course at high school
- + More French during PE!
- + DELF examinations.



To continue this great work we need volunteers and new members.

Please join CPF Saanich at only \$25 per year or \$60 for 3 years.

Your funds will be used to support similar activities as listed above.



We are also seeking volunteers to support different roles such as *Chapter Secretary, Membership Drive, Special Event support, Fundraising* etc - let us know if you can help. Many of the volunteer roles are only for a few hours/weeks such as Membership drive in September.

Please email or PM on our Facebook page.

Mentoring helps young people succeed - that's why CPF love to arrange French reading mentoring sessions between our students in our elementary schools.

We are working on our early program plans for the new school year 2019/20. Seeking a volunteer to help us host a special Reading Mentor event called Bonjour Bonne Nuit at Ecole Keating. This would be for a short period of time in October - November, amounting to no more than a few hours of volunteer support. Please PM on Facebook/email CPF to learn more or if you could be interested - we look forward to hearing from you.

What is K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration?

Just over 30 years, back in 1988, a French Immersion teacher at Ecole Stelly's High School and volunteer with Canadian Parents for French (CPF) came up with an idea to celebrate the achievement of her Double Dogwood Grade 12 graduating students. At the same time, she thought it would be an excellent idea to also provide some motivation to the new French Immersion Kindergarten students.



This led to the creation of the K:12 Gift Exchange Celebration by Canadian Parents for French - Saanich Chapter.

This event is expensive to host and requires significant volunteer time to arrange what has now become a popular event in the graduating French Immersion students' calendar. Funds for the event are raised by the local chapter via its' own membership and fundraising efforts.

The K12 Gift Exchange which has become a tradition in our district and has even been a model for many other districts who now engage in a similar event.

CPF Concours d'art oratoire is a pan-Canadian French public speaking competition—an estimated 85,000 students participate annually across Canada and 10,000 in BC.

Concours offers students a chance to celebrate their many hours of hard work to learn French, including their written and spoken French skills. The competition encourages participation from students with a wide range of language abilities. Program categories include Core French, Core+, Early Immersion, Late Immersion and Francophone. Prizes include scholarships to support continued French study in post-secondary institutions. Benefits include increased self-confidence, strengthened public speaking skills, and the chance to meet like-minded friends while speaking Canada's official languages!



During the month of February and March, the students in French Immersion at Ecole Bayside begin to prepare for their public speaking presentations. They spend many hours researching their subject, perfecting their work and memorizing their 3-5 minute speeches. They present their topic in front of their class and the winners advance to District finals in the library with judges and parents watching. The winners from Districts go on to Provincials in Vancouver where they compete with the top speakers of regions throughout British Columbia. Also, top students in grade 12 move on to the national competition. Different categories are set out for students in French Immersion, Core French, and Francophone students. The speeches are judged by

French-speaking volunteers: from university and college professors, to teachers and native Francophones, and even French immersion graduates, many of whom have themselves competed in Concours. This event is one of the biggest events the Canadian Parents for French support and we are very proud to represent Saanich in the Concours d'Oratoire.



We want to congratulate all of the students who worked hard on their speeches and for their courage to stand in front of others presenting in French. We would like to congratulate the semi-final winners that continued onto Vancouver to represent Bayside Middle School in the Provincials. We'd also like to extend a well-earned "Bravo" to Tessa who won GOLD at the BC & Yukon

finals in Vancouver! Medals, gift certificates, books and cash prizes are also among the prizes offered in select grade and categories!

Next year, we'd like to encourage students in Grade 12 to also participate as there are 16 large Scholarship and bursaries including up to \$26,000 scholarships offered to the G12 winners.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Support our community - learn more about the upcoming **Francophone Games - Victoria 2020** - sign up and become a volunteer for this exciting event in 2020. This is a "once-in-a-life-time opportunity" that would benefit youth from across the country, much the same that the Invictus Games benefit Canadian veterans, show Saanich's inclusiveness, increase the visibility of the local Francophone community, and generally raise Victoria and Saanich's national profile.

Information collected with the form below, will allow the organizers to contact you once the official volunteer registration process has started and also to keep you up to date with the CF Games. You do not have to speak French for some of the support roles. This is an excellent opportunity for all our French speaking students and families to get involved, give back and be part of an amazing event.

<https://tinyurl.com/yy7s6bh3> *This form takes approximately 2 minutes to fill out*





You may have missed out to learn French at school, but it's never too late to start or improve!

A local musician was sharing his story of learning French and how this has led him to running a very successful and enjoyable business. Travelling around the world to discover new music and instruments, led local man, Jordan Hanson to West Africa. Here he found the most common language to speak was French. He was curious to learn more about the African Djembe and other percussion instruments and knew he could only develop his musical talent to play these drums if he improved his French. By speaking French, he was able to converse with talented, musical teachers and at the same time get a better understanding of the history, culture and stories that went with playing a wide range of African instruments. Once back in Canada, he recognized the value to offer music lesson using these amazing instruments to not only adults but also students and children.



Fast forward to today, and Jordan now offers a range of innovative drumming workshops in FRENCH! If he had not studied to learn French at aged 26 years, this may have been a golden opportunity he missed.

CPF Saanich is delighted to co-fund one of Jordan's Drumming workshops at our Middle School this year.

Learn more at worldbeatdrumming.com or jordanhanson.com Jordan offers student workshops as well as adult groups and team building experiences (*which can also be done in English or French*).

If you speak French, why not consider what talent, skills you have and how you could use your experience, knowledge or expertise to teach to others in FRENCH!

How to sustain French learning over the summer?

Did you know there are over 220 cartoons and kids shows to watch in FRENCH on Netflix? Tip, set up your profile in FRENCH but sometimes you may still have to manually select "French language" under audio.

Most libraries have a range of FRENCH books and DVD for FREE hire.

Bonjour Ecole Stelly's French Immersion grads 2019:

Thanks to the support of your teachers, peers, parents and your determination you have successfully graduated and have received a double dogwood-also known as a bilingual certificate of education.



This simple piece of paper distinguishes you amongst many. It will open the door to so many opportunities that you would not have had without it. It will help you stand out for college or university applications. It will help you not only be distinguished for a job but also allow you to earn more.

You are now worth 2 employees, one French and one English.... both of Canada's Official Languages, you can communicate with more customers than your uni-lingual future co-workers.

Did you know, most jobs that hire you for bilingualism offer a bilingual premium on top of your regular pay. Anywhere between 1-10\$/hour

from our experience. When you apply for post-secondary schooling, know that there are so many bursaries available for those pursuing French Language Programs that your schooling could essentially be free.

You're in high demand!

To give you an example if you were to continue your studies to become a French Immersion Teacher (SFU, Uvic, UBC) you would most likely have a secured job before your graduation, our province cannot meet the need and supply for FI teachers and this goes for most bilingual posting in western Canada.

Consider your options as a bilingual grad and know just how valuable your education will be. Cherish that piece of paper for it will prove its worth to you as you embark on this new journey, one with so many open doors.

Photocopy the certificate we gave you at the K:12 event together with your Double Dogwood - attach it everywhere, to every application; post-secondary, volunteering, or for employment opportunities, as it will truly make a difference.

You are bilingual, you are distinguished, you have earned this. Be proud!



On behalf of the entire **Canadian Parents for French** team, *Félicitations!*

Learning another language comes with benefits that are beyond just words.



Article by Krista Rossato

Last summer, Soren was one of four kids representing Canada at a month long ‘Village’ camp in Norway. He is part of a global organization called **CISV**, a UNESCO-endorsed organization whose main focus is world peace and cultural understanding starting with kids. They focus on *Human Rights, Diversity, Sustainable Development & Conflict Resolution*. It was in Norway that kids from 12 different countries, all 11 years old, came together to learn from each other, about each other and ultimately realize how more alike they are than different. Country delegations travelled from South America, North America, Europe and Asia. For many kids, **CISV** is their first experience living, learning & communicating with people from other countries.

Despite differences in language, children have an amazing ability to communicate with one another. While at camp, having the opportunity to use his **French** proved to be a valuable confirmation of all that he had learned so far in the 6 years of his *French immersion program*. Not only did it help him communicate with those from French-speaking countries, but he also felt proud that he was able to come to camp with the ability to speak a language other than English. One of the kids from France complimented him and was impressed at how well he could communicate given he wasn’t from Quebec or France. But learning another language comes with benefits that are beyond just words. His *French Immersion experience* also equipped him with the capability to have cultural awareness, regardless of where his new friends were from. It was an amazing opportunity to put into practice, in an international setting, the many skills he has learned so far.

If you want to learn more about the opportunities within **CISV**, both locally and abroad, visit: www.CISV.org or the local Chapter: www.CISVvictoria.ca



Saanich/Lyon Mobility Path Program

In October 2017, the Saanich School District launched the beginning of an official partnership agreement between l'Académie de Lyon, France and our Saanich District.

Part of this exciting partnership is the **Saanich/Lyon Mobility Path Program**. It offers a direct and reciprocal student exchange between our Saanich high school students and the students



from Lyon lycées. Hosted by families for the duration of four weeks, the students are immersed in the culture and language of the host country. The first annual Saanich/Lyon Mobility Path Program was a great success. Meaningful cultural moments were shared, engaging language learning increased confidence and skills, and new friendships were created between the 12 participants.

We look forward to offering our second annual Mobility Path program in Saanich. If you are in Gr.10/11 and would like to experience this exciting opportunity, please contact **Cindy Lister** at clister@saanichschools.ca

French fun in the kitchen!

Our high school students have welcomed a group of exchange French students from Lyon arranged by Cindy Lister (see report above). They enjoyed a cooking class by Chef Daniel. The French students worked with their Canadian hosts to learn how to cook Bannock, White chocolate & raspberry tartlets and chicken stir fry!

What a great way to develop a new talent, meet new friends and practice your French and English conversation skills.



Look out for details in September of CPF Saanich French Cooking Classes to be launched this fall for Middle and High School Students on a Saturday morning!

Benefits of raising your kids bilingual

Source: *The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages*

As parents, we want to offer our kids every advantage for a happy, healthy and successful life. Many think this means ensuring our children do well in math and science and doing better in school overall. But did you know that learning a second language like English or French also offers many unique rewards? Here are some reasons to raise your kids bilingual.



A better, bigger brain.

Research shows learning a second language actually changes the size and structure of our brains. Speaking two or more languages is like mental exercise that trains the brain, leading to improved attention, memory skills, problem-solving abilities and multi-tasking.

Greater empathy.

Bilingual people also have better social skills, allowing them to be more empathetic towards others and read them better. Experts think this is because bilingual

people are better able to block out their feelings and ideas, allowing them to focus on those of others more easily and accurately.

Protection against illness.

Your kids will have plenty of reasons to thank you for encouraging them to be bilingual when they get older. Studies show that being bilingual can delay the onset of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, for an average of five years. Bilingualism can also protect against brain injury — bilingual stroke survivors are twice more likely to experience cognitive recovery than monolingual people.

Practical benefits.

Learning two languages when started early follows your kids in every sphere of their lives. Whether it's getting a good job, travelling to exciting destinations, experiencing more connections to different cultures and people, or contributing to diverse communities, a second language offers enrichment for a lifetime.

Since English and French are Canada's official languages, why not start with those? And because our official languages belong to everyone, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages is holding [public consultations](#) and invites you to share your ideas online.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WE DO IN SAANICH](#)

**VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND JOIN THE CONVERSATIONS
[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CPF.SAANICH/](https://www.facebook.com/CPF.SAANICH/)**

Join us to say “Merci” to our Saanich CPF VOLUNTEERS!



How lucky we are to have a wonderful group of volunteers supporting the work of Canadian Parents for French. We are sorry to see some of our special people depart but we are grateful for the hours of work they have contributed to CPF Saanich, over the past year - An amazing 600+ hours of volunteer time!

In addition to parent and grandparent volunteers we'd also like to thank the many students at our Middle and High School who supported a variety of events including Bonjour, Bonne Nuit, CPF information table at the Keating Spring Fair and K:12 Gift Exchange.

Photo: CPF Saanich Volunteers Feb 2019 Left to right: Karen, Monique, Tara, Sandra, Cedar, Christine, Cait.

Missing: Rachelle, Andrea, Joel, Lisa.

We also wish to acknowledge the contributions of our Treasurer, **Cedar Payne**. We want to thank Cedar, who gallantly stepped up to be our Treasurer last year (*one of the hardest roles to fill*). Prior to that she served as the CPF Chapter Secretary and also Representative for Ecole Keating. Bucket loads of gratitude are sent to you for attending to our financial matters. There are lots of moving parts to this task, and we thank you for getting those deposits to the bank and making sure everyone gets paid in a timely manner!

Cedar is now completing her final exams and will become a French Immersion Teacher in 2020! Woo, hoo! we really need more French teachers - Cedar we are so proud of you! Cedar will remain as a CPF member at large. We wish you continued success!

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us at our next
meeting!

June 20, 2019 6.30 - 8.00 pm



**CANADIAN
PARENTS
FOR FRENCH**
BRITISH COLUMBIA
& YUKON