

Canadian Parents for French –Cranbrook/ Fernie Chapter Dec 2017

We are glad to be in full swing this year again, organizing a number of events for the various schools with French immersion (FI) in the District from Kindergarten to grade 12. This includes TM Roberts Elementary, Parkland Middle, Mt Baker Secondary, Isabella Dicken Elementary (Fernie) and Fernie Secondary School.

We have already held the biennial High School Pizza Lunch and Information session at Fernie Secondary School to tell the grade 10-12 students about many opportunities in French during and after high school is completed. We had a French immersion float in the Cranbrook Christmas parade, plus various bingo nights for the students at TM Roberts School. We have also received government funding through CPF to support bringing an artist to various schools in February (to those schools that wish to participate by matching funding). This school year, storyteller Anne Glover is coming (February 14-16, 2018) to TM Roberts, Parkland and Isabella Dicken schools. She tells stories with string and teaches the students skills too. She has had rave reviews!

With volunteer time and CPF memberships, we are able to access government grants through CPF BC/Yukon (which come from the government of Canada) for performances and workshops for students. These events would not otherwise happen without CPF sponsorship. And that's why we need you. *We need members and volunteers to help continue this worthy program.* Not only do members help us access more grants, 80% of the membership fee comes back directly to our local chapter.

CPF membership for your family is very inexpensive. It costs only \$25/year, or \$60 for 3 years. You can do this online at the CPF BC website or fill out a membership form and send to TM Roberts School in Cranbrook. To get a membership form, contact Katrin Powell at kapowell@telus.net or you can get one from the CPF bulletin board (next to the office) at TM Roberts School. You can get to the website by googling 'cpf bc'. ***Help support your child by becoming a member. Thank you!***

Everyone is invited to the monthly meetings in Cranbrook. If you are in Fernie, you can attend via speakerphone at Isabella Dicken Elementary School (contact teacher Patrice Oscienny at patrice.oscienny@sd5.bc.ca). So please mark your calendars! ***The next meeting is Tuesday January 16th from 7-8pm at TM Roberts School in the library. We look forward to seeing you!*** Your ideas and feedback would be most welcome. Thank you!

To get on our mailing list for future meeting reminders and meeting minutes, please contact Katrin Powell (volunteer parent looking after cpf membership) at littletree1973@gmail.com For more information you can also visit the CPF BC website at <http://bc-yk.cpf.ca>.

Things we do locally with volunteer time and your membership dollars:

Access government grants to bring French artists and performers to the French immersion schools in the District (K-12) to help show students that French is an exciting live language both in and outside of school.

Hold 'Parkland Buddy Day' for grade 6/7 Cranbrook FI students, to ease the transition to middle school

Provide scholarships to graduating French immersion students in Cranbrook and Fernie, to recognize their perseverance!

Hold a regional French public speaking event to encourage students (grade 6-12) to feel confident using their French

Have a French immersion float in the Cranbrook Christmas Parade, to promote the program and keep it strong

Have regular parent meetings and communicate with the School Board

Provide French immersion schools with French magazine subscriptions for their libraries.

Hold High School Pizza Lunch at Mt Baker and Fernie Secondary every 2 years, to summarize the many French opportunities outside of school.

Offer French T-Shirts every few years to students for a minimal charge, helping them feel proud of their second (or third) language.

Hold bilingual bingo nights every few months or so, at TM Roberts Elementary School.

Plus, we are part of the greater BC and National CPF, which provides parents lots of resources through their websites. Just google CPF BC (<http://bc-yk.cpf.ca>) or CPF National (<http://cpf.ca>).

Locally, we are all volunteers and parents of students in French immersion. We are always looking for more volunteers in any capacity that you are willing. Even a few hours per school year is very much appreciated. A big thank you to all those who support us with their time and or money.