

“Quoi de Neuf” in French at JFDS?

by Robin Ashe

Do you have what it takes to be the next French idol? Students in Madame Ashe's French class at James F. Doughty are singing, dancing, laughing, eating beignets, conjugating verbs and working hard with the French language to become just that! The next French idols! At the end of the term, those students who have mastered the specific goals will find themselves in French celebrity status up on the bulletin board for all to see and admire their accomplishments!

This year for the first time, the seventh grade French program has moved to a trimester ranking period. Instead of the traditional nine-week quarters, students will have twelve weeks to explore the French language, the French world and French culture. Initially, students are given a syllabus with the list of topics to be covered during the trimester.

They are also asked to keep a notebook, as there is no text for seventh grade French. This notebook is numbered and brought to class daily and graded during the quarter. In addition to daily note taking, students really do need to keep organization skills intact. Along with the traditional means of learning and exploring the language, students engage in the target language with music, dialogs, games, TPR (learning the language through commands) and the added usage of the laptop. Yes, technology has arrived in the French classroom. Presently, students are taking a “virtual trip” to Paris and various sites in France! The laptop makes that possible. Making passports, packing our suitcases, making airline and hotel reservations are all a part of the “realia” of the impact of technology! We depart for our ten day stay in November! Parent chaperones needed!

Students who elect to study French in their eighth grade year are enrolled in French I, a very defined high school course with midterm and final exams looming at the end of the semester and the end of the year. In conjunction with their text, *Discovering French Bleu*, students engage in active listening with the CDs that coincide with their lessons as well as a DVD program that adds reinforcement to their study. Homework



On va dans un café? (Want to go to a café?) Trevor, Chelsea, JC and Kim.



Je veux être le/la prochain(e) (I want to be the next.) Josh, Addison, Dayna and Katrina.

is assigned nightly and students are expected to meet the requirements of the curriculum. Aside from the good resources available to them, students will also engage in reinforcing their language skills with music, games, dialogs and the laptop! Students will have projects that will take them to famous French people, French landmarks and we will correspond in French with our counterparts at Cohen. A jeopardy contest between the two schools and an after school “picnique” with French food may be in the near future! Oral and written proficiency are expected outcomes, but maintaining enthusiasm and an “esprit de corps” continue to be high on the list as well. We all do better when we like what we are doing!

The French program at JFDS is well underway for this school year.

The curriculum is in place and the students are engaged! We have

the resources to really delve into the French language and culture! Therefore, the challenge to all French students at JFDS — Do you have what it takes to be the next French idol? All students are in the offing for the “French Idol” so if you have the opportunity, stop by to see who makes the cuts! Au Revoir! Bonne Année Scholaire!



William S. Cohen School Students do Marvel!ous Research

by Priscilla Soucie

MARVEL! Maine's Virtual Library is an electronic source of information that is available to all Maine schools, libraries, businesses and homes.

Literally millions of magazine and newspaper articles and reference books are now freely available 24/7. You only need a computer with Internet access and the following address: <http://www.maine.gov/marvel/>.

MARVEL! is funded through the collaboration between the Maine State Library, the University of Maine, the State Legislature and MTEAF (Maine Telecommunications Educational Access Fund). The state-wide licensing of these resources for every library and resident of Maine is a truly cost-effective service that can benefit all Maine citizens.

Why MARVEL!? There is valuable information to found on the Internet, but there is much misinformation, too. Even to the experienced Internet user, it is not always easy to determine if the information is from a reliable source. MARVEL! is the resource for credible, authoritative, reliable information. With MARVEL! the user is accessing magazines, encyclopedias and reference books, not web sites. MARVEL! goes beyond a search on the World Wide Web and reaches what

is sometimes referred to as the “deep web.” These results would not be found using search engines.

Recently at the Cohen School all 7th



Science students, Michael, Deven and Matt, explore Marvel! sites with Mrs. Soucie, librarian.

& 8th grade students were instructed in the use of MARVEL!. This instruction was possible because all students have their own laptops and have MARVEL! as a permanent icon on their desktop.

Many of the data-bases found on MARVEL! were designed for K-8 students and are excellent resources for students doing research in all curricular areas. Grade 6 students will receive instruction as well when they become more proficient on their laptops.

Students were encouraged to talk about MARVEL! with their parents and to set up an account with MARVEL! on their home computers. This is a great free resource available to everyone. For those who would like to learn more about MARVEL!, Mrs. Soucie, Cohen School librarian, will be offering MARVEL! evenings for parents and students in January. More information and

specific dates will be announced in the January Cohen School Newsletter.



MARVEL!
goes
beyond a
search on
the World
Wide Web
and reaches
what is
sometimes
referred
to as the
“deep web.”

www.maine.gov/marvel