



Miramichi, New Brunswick and Surrey, British Columbia

CASLT Chez Vous From East to West - February 2006

School boards tend to choose February as a good time to offer professional development opportunities for their teachers. And this year, CASLT was invited to present two CASLT Chez Vous sessions spanning from the East to the West of our country.

Monday, February 6th, District 16 in Miramichi, New Brunswick organized a PD day at the James M. Hill Memorial High school. High school, middle and elementary teachers were on-site participating in a variety of sessions. Nicole Thibault, CASLT Executive Director, facilitated the agenda for the French teachers that focussed on an Update of FSL Initiatives in Canada, Lessons Learned from Intensive French and practical communication strategies in the « Trucs du métier » workshop. More than 50 Core French and Immersion teachers attended. Sincere thanks to the District FSL consultants, Lyne Montsion and Jacqueline Roy-Patterson, who coordinated the day and to the District who provided a one-year membership to each of the participating teachers.

Friday, February 17th, the Surrey School District (#36) coordinated a CASLT Chez Vous for their modern language teachers at Fraser Heights Secondary School. The day was

very well organized by the planning committee led by Marian Lowery, from the signage placed outside the building, the multilingual welcome signs, the helpful technical support people, and the tasty and healthy lunch. The program included a keynote presentation by Nicole Thibault, a series of workshops and an informative panel of teachers sharing insights on past travel visits and exchanges with students.

Workshop highlights included: Communicate and Have Fun in French, Graduation Portfolios and your Projects, Punjabi Language through Punjabi Culture, and a hands-on session « La paella » in which the presenter, Andrew Gonsales, prepared a mouth-watering recipe of the Spanish dish and which the participants most pleasantly indulged. Es una perfecta manera para capturar la atención de los profesores.

A CASLT Chez Vous session is designed to provide professional development regionally and service to our members, including in under-served or remote areas. We make every attempt to answer requests but a minimum timeline of 3 months is required for planning and coordination purposes. For more information or to organize a CASLT Chez Vous, contact the National Office.

H. H. Stern Award Winner 2006 CONGRATULATIONS TO JAN CLAES OF DARTMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA!

Jan has been a classroom teacher of French Second Language for 29 years at both the high school and junior high school levels. For the past four years, she has been keenly interested in teacher action research, and has applied its techniques to her Core French practice, with very exciting results. She has had the opportunity to deepen her understanding of the research results through collaboration with Monash University in Melbourne and through four research papers, presented at practitioner research conferences internationally.



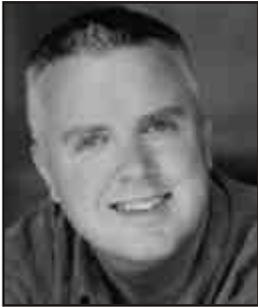
« Kiss My Donkey! », *The Authentic Communication Approach to Core French* - Jan Claes, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

The “Kiss My Donkey” approach has been developed through numerous cycles of teacher action research, beginning in the spring of 2002 and continuing to the present. The original research question was “How can I improve the level of authentic communication in my Core French classrooms?”

The approach combines three key components: there is a philosophy of authentic communication, whereby it becomes a class goal (teacher and students together) to encourage French to be spoken in valid social contexts - that is, for a reason. This philosophy is supported by the systematic introduction of quick, fun expressions in each of a series of categories of communication that the

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Message du président



Miles Turnbull
CASLT/ACPLS President

Being on strike for the first time at my university has taught me many lessons and has driven many points home for me - not the least of which is the importance of solidarity and passion for an important cause. I have experienced an unbelievable demonstration of passion, commitment and solidarity in the last few days on the picket lines at UPEI.

These demonstrations of passion and solidarity have also made me think of the importance of celebrating the passion for and our strong belief in language learning as a core component of a top-notch public education system. I know that the passion for language learning is deep within each and every one of us. It may not always be apparent to others for a variety of reasons. But it's there! Working with like-minded colleagues, either in person or virtually, helps bring this passion to the fore and reinforces our solidarity. CASLT and other professional organizations provide a venue for this collaboration and networking, resulting in increased solidarity. This makes our jobs easier and ultimately improves learning for students.

If you are reading this message, you are more than likely a member of CASLT. If you understand what I mean, please pass the word on to other language teachers who are not

currently members. If you are a non-member reading *Réflexions* to check us out, I encourage you to join us - an excellent network of passionate and committed second language educators. Just being a part of this exemplary group is worth much more than the membership fee!

Vous verrez dans ce bulletin qu'il se passe beaucoup de choses à l'ACPLS ! And many more exciting and important activities are planned for the coming year. For example, I am thrilled that CASLT will be coordinating a national initiative to promote the use of a student language portfolio to track student success in language learning. We hope that this portfolio project will lead to the establishment of a common national framework for language learning in Canada.

Bravo et MERCI à tout le monde - nos milliers de bénévoles et notre personnel incroyable au Bureau National. Of course, un gros MERCI to Patrimoine Canadien / Canadian Heritage for their ongoing financial assistance and for their confidence in CASLT's work and capacity to get the job done.

De la part du Conseil d'administration de l'ACPLS, many best wishes for a successful end-of-year, a restful and productive spring and summer. We look forward to meeting you all at an upcoming CASLT-sponsored professional development session in your area...Venez nous voir à Saskatoon en octobre 2006 lors du congrès !

Editor's Corner

by Carolyn King

Coin de l'éditrice



C'est avec plaisir que j'écris ma signature au Coin de l'Éditrice. Our members and readers will find excellent and relevant information in this issue of *Réflexions*. Les projets soulignés par la CASLT-ACPLS continuent à fournir des renseignements au sujet de la recherche ainsi que des stratégies d'enseignement et d'apprentissage des langues. On doit souligner l'importance primordiale de la recherche au travail des enseignant(e)s.

I fully support the words of our President encouraging the membership to share this edition with others - We are very proud of our connections with our partners, and the great work of several is featured in each issue.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Janice Aubry, our new Alberta Representative on the CASLT-ACPLS National Council, for her kind references to my work. I have been a member of CASLT since 1976 and will continue to be very active in its work, and the promotion of research, teaching and learning second languages. Again thanks to Patrimoine Canada - Canadian Heritage, the CASLT can proceed with its work effectively.

Opinions expressed by authors are their own and not necessarily those of the Board of Directors of CASLT.

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Question... Commentaires... Suggestions...

Nous voulons toujours entendre de vos idées, chers membres!
Envoyez-nous des informations pertinentes à l'enseignement
L2 que vous croyez important à partager avec tous les membres.
Et n'oubliez pas de nous laisser savoir si vous déménagez!

Bureau national

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