

# Des collégiens américains découvrent la commune

*L'échange effectué entre les Campelières et un établissement américain, a permis l'accueil et l'hébergement en famille d'une douzaine de jeunes*



*Les douze jeunes collégiens américains ont également été reçus en mairie par Richard Galy, le maire de la commune.* (Photo J.-M. P.)

Cette année, pour la première fois, le collège des Campelières avait décidé de faire des échanges avec des établissements scolaires américains. « *Cela fait des années que nous entretenons de tels rapports avec des structures européennes. Nous avons décidé de franchir l'Atlantique* », indique un responsable du collège.

L'initiative du projet revient à M<sup>me</sup> Allenda, professeur d'anglais : « *Je pensais qu'un échange avec un collège américain serait très enrichissant pour tout le monde* ».

Grâce à l'aide de collègues, M<sup>mes</sup> Roverant et Cecillon, elles aussi professeurs d'anglais, et de la direction du collège, le projet a vu le jour en cette fin d'année scolaire.

Avant de se rencontrer, les jeunes Français et Américains de Farmington Hills, ont commencé par correspondre par

lettres et mails pour se présenter. En avril dernier, vingt-quatre collégiens français, tous en classe de cinquième, ont séjourné dans des familles américaines. « *Une excellente occasion pour eux de découvrir la culture de leurs hôtes* ».

## **Découvrir une autre culture**

Aujourd'hui, les Américains visitent à leur tour notre région : visite de Cannes, de Biot, Grasse et ses parfums, Monaco, Marineland... mais aussi Mougins et son vieux-village qui a séduit ces touristes d'un jour.

« *Ces échanges sont l'occasion pour les jeunes des deux collèges de découvrir une autre culture, une autre façon de vivre* ». Les premières retombées de cet échange étant très positives, le projet devrait se pérenniser dans les années à venir.

**J.-M. P.**

# Exchanging worlds

## French, Flagstaff students get taste of foreign cultures

By KELI MAURER

Daily Sun Correspondent

When her host mother mentions the word "shopping," 10-year-old Nadege's eyes light up and a big smile spreads across her face.

She's recently discovered peanut butter, an American treat, and it's one of her favorite things.

Nadege Tenza is taking part in a foreign exchange program for fifth- and sixth-graders coordinated by Sechrist Elementary School. Twenty-four French boys and girls fly back home tomorrow. Then, 21 of those students and their families will get ready to host Flagstaff kids in late May.

"In the beginning, it was tense getting to know each other," said Matt Evans, Nadege's host father. His 10-year old daughter Molly goes to school at DeMiguel. "But we made an effort to get together and go out with the other French kids (here on exchange)."

Evans' wife Jennifer said she will miss Nadege when she leaves. She said this is the first time the Evans family has participated in the exchange program and added that it's an incredible experience.

"Kids are kids, even if they can't speak the same language," she said.

See FRENCH, Page 5



Sean Openshaw/Arizona Daily Sun

Twelve-year-old Renouard Benjamin (left) struggles against the persistent hand of Raffin Remi, 11, who was trying to apply sun screen Friday morning at Sechrist Elementary School. The two boys, along with 22 other French fifth- and sixth-graders, are visiting Flagstaff as part of an exchange program.

# French students revel in life here for 3 weeks, regret having to go home

By Joe Winter

When two dozen students from a Paris suburb arrived here almost three weeks ago, they were tired from hours on an overdue plane, and their hosts felt the mixed emotions that come with anticipation.

Tomorrow, when it's time to return to the Twin Cities International Airport, then home to France, none of them will want to part.

Many of the parents told Richard Stebbins, the Rock School principal who helped arrange their stay, that the experience "has changed their lives forever."

The students reveled in shopping during multiple trips to the Mall of America, since something like a pair of jeans costs \$75 in Paris. They were surprised that both their host families and store clerks were so hospitable.

The trip was sponsored through the French Class in America, which was borne out of the "transplanted class" experience in France and involves more than 200,000 French elementary school children each year.

"I was very surprised how attached I've gotten to the children," said Kim Gallison, who is hosting Mohamed Benhammou. Gallison added that she admires the fifth-grader's resolve. "I can't imagine sending my 11-year-olds to Paris. That's a big trip."

Mohamed and Gallison's fifth-grade twins, Devin and Avery, tease each other just like regular siblings — even though only one of the visiting students speaks English. "Half of the fun is the language," Gallison said. They've gotten by with the help of an English-French dictionary.

Mohamed lost a tooth while here, and informed his host family that there's really no such thing as the tooth fairy.

Everybody knows it's really called the tooth mouse.

The teacher from Paris, Theresa Rodrigues Desilva, stayed with John and Grace Guldán. (Counselor Salvador Salazar, who translated for the students, stayed with Ron and Cathy Shimon). "I haven't used my French in 25 years," Grace Guldán said. "This is a Godsend. It all came back."

Guldán observed while the students met with Hudson Mayor Jack Breault — and asked some rather pointed questions about how tax dollars and welfare monies are used here. In France, Breault quickly learned, both taxes and government spending are much higher, and the mayor has much more political power. Politicians are held to a high accountability for that spending, and the kids wanted to know how great the scrutiny is here.

The students also met with Alderman Don Bruns, who defended France while fighting in World War II. They asked him about his plane and imprisonment, were excited to try on his flight jacket and vowed to watch American war movies, especially "High Noon," upon returning home.

Guldán and the host teacher talked about education in France, and her family and children back home. Rodrigues Desilva has gained grants virtually every year to obtain travel and allow the students an opportunity they normally would not have.

She added that food is much more spicy here. More people have cars, and gas costs about 40 percent of what it does in Paris, where tickets for seat belt violations are \$175. Houses in the Hudson area have much bigger lots, and in France a relatively small house costs \$300,000 with 20 percent interest. That's tough to afford on a teacher's starting salary of less than \$17,000.

A small reprieve is found in a government program where new houses can be purchased and no interest paid, part of an incentive to encourage new homes, not retaining the old ones where people have lived for generations.

Rodrigues Desilva's students had to adjust to a different schedule when attending school with their new classmates. In France they have Wednesdays off, in turn going to school every other Saturday morning.

Stephanie Weber was one of the four mothers and their children from Rock who accompanied Stebbins and one of the teachers to the airport on March 29.

She described the anticipation that made their hearts race. "They were the last ones off the plane, and it was

a very large plane," Weber said. "One of the moms said it was like giving birth."

The initial excitement of finally meeting was soon preempted by the practical chore of getting everyone's luggage loaded. The guests at first wondered where the other host families were, expected they'd all be there to greet them.

There was one overwhelming first impression. "They couldn't believe how welcome they felt in people's homes," Steve Weber said. In France, people visit each other in coffee shops, seldom in their own homes.

"The language was a little awkward at first," Stephanie Weber said. "But it's amazing how kids can communicate. They find a way, just as we are."

"It takes a little bit longer to get things done, and there are some moments of humor," Steve Weber said. "Planning to go somewhere is sometimes like grabbing a coat and holding it up to say, 'Let's go.'"

The students took part in numerous activities, one almost every other day, and also put on a French American cultural presentation featuring diversity in song. "They also got a wagon ride drawn by two Shetland ponies, and they loved it. These are city kids," Steve Weber said.

Stebbins said he has never experienced a foreign exchange program of this scope before. The idea came up at a National Principal's Meeting in San Diego, and the next step was checking the interest of parents, which was phenomenal and involved many people, he said.

It's likely that program could be held again next year, and possibly expanded to include a trip by local youngsters to France. The School Board would have to issue its approval before the idea goes any further, Stebbins said.

He added that at this age level, students take the experience to heart much more than when they grow older, and it has a greater impact on their life.

It was gratifying to see parents who did not know each other that well come together and become "best of friends" through the experience, Stebbins said.



OLGO RADEGONDE WEDRAOGO, left, and Diki Thondup, the only student from Paris who also speaks English, listen to a presentation by Mayor Jack Breault on the workings of the City Council (top photo). Breault also addressed the mechanisms of municipal politics in general while the students were in his office. Staff photos by Joe Winter

# France Visits CMS

## Highlights of French Students' Visit

In the early morning of Sunday, April 17, 1999, French students and their teachers arrived at the high school gym, greeting their hosts with cheerful cries of "Bonjour!" The sleepy hosts and students went to their homes and went to bed.

They awoke later that afternoon, very inquisitive. The students were shown around the house, amazed at how different this was from France. They were introduced to family members, had American meals, and gifts were given to the hosts. They were excited.

On Monday, they went to their first day of American school. The students and the hosting children met in the Commons first period, introducing themselves, and singing their national anthem. Mr. Clairmont also gave a short speech. Second period they went on a tour of the school and Corvallis, then they returned third period to be picked up by the hosts, and spent the rest of the day with them.

Tuesday, they spent most of the day with Mr. Clairmont. Several were in groups which gave presentations to several of the high school, middle school and primary school classrooms.



The rest of the week went pretty much the same way as Tuesday. Then attended the dance on Friday. It cost \$1.50 per person, but the students and hosts got in for free. (Including my French student, Alexandre Porte, and I) We all had a good time, dancing to swinging music, munching on some great snacks and meeting new friends.

On the weekend, Alexandre, my family and I went fishing at Lake Como. We didn't catch any poisson (French for "fish"). We also went to Southgate Mall in Missoula. He bought a lot of clothing, especially polo shirts.

Monday was school as usual, but after that, the fun activities started.

Tuesday, the French students went to an Indian Reservation for the day. They took some pictures for their parents, and also bought some nice souvenirs to take home.

On Wednesday, they, and some other students from our school including me, hiked up Blodgett Canyon, from 8:35-11:30 AM. We got some nice pictures there, as well. We got up pretty far, but were disappointed when we had to descend.

On Thursday, they went to a museum. They also got to ride some mules! The weather was less than satisfactory, but they had a great time.

Friday, our last full day with them, they went to Ft. Missoula in the morning. They said their good-byes to the saddened students, not wanting them to leave, then they left for the Daly Mansion Barbecue & Potluck, with us following later. There was a tour, games and dinner, then at 6:30 they said more good-byes and we all cleaned up.

Then finally, early Saturday, May 1, 1999, we dropped the students off at the gym. Then they left for France, riding away on the bus, waving to us.

By: William Sigler, Jr.

## An Interview with Mr. Clairmont



-How long have you been coordinating the program?

-Mr. Clairmont: "Since 1995."

-How many students usually participate?

-Mr. Clairmont: "15-21."

-Has anyone from our school ever gone to France?

-Mr. Clairmont: "About 50."

-What was it like?

-Mr. Clairmont: "A lot of fun, and work."

-Would you do it again?

-Mr. Clairmont: "Oh yeah!"

-Were the French students confused in the U.S.?

-Mr. Clairmont: "No."

-Have you ever gone to France with this program?

-Mr. Clairmont: "6 times."

-How long has this program existed?

-Mr. Clairmont: "15 years."

-Have there ever been any serious problems?

-Mr. Clairmont: "Never."

-Have the hosts had much trouble understanding the French students?

-Mr. Clairmont: "No."

-What did the students feel like after the French students left?

-Mr. Clairmont: "They missed them."

-Do you think they all had a good time?

-Mr. Clairmont: "An excellent time!"

-Did most of the students want to host again, and/or go to France and be hosted after their experience?

-Mr. Clairmont: "Yes."

By: William Sigler, Jr.

## AMERICAN AND FRENCH SCHOOLS COMPARED

In Paris, we don't have bus which pick-up us. We have to go to school on our own, by metro or by bus. You have special yellow school buses and they go to pick you up, there are not bus stops.

It seems you are less people per class than in France so you have more freedom to speak and to exchange ideas.

It is possible for you to have activities after school because you get out earlier. In France we start at 8 am and finish at 5 pm or 6 pm. After school, we have a lot of homework. We have more school holidays (4 months in the year).

As our school day is long we have breaks in the court yard. We have one hour for lunch and we might go back home if it is not too far or stay at the cafeteria. We are not allowed to bring bag lunch. In the French cafeteria, we have forks, bread, water (no milk) and we don't put all the food in the same plate.

To conclude, we would like the French school the same as in America. We love it.



## Interview with a French Student

-How did you like America?

Alexandre Porte: "I enjoyed it very much!"

-How is Montana different from France?

A.P.: "Montana has very beautiful mountains. France is flat. Also, there are many things here, that are either more expensive, or not available at all in France."

-What do you like best about Montana?

A.P.: "Montana has a lot of mountains, and the wildlife is plentiful. Also, fishing is fun!"

-How do you like the people here?

A.P.: "They are very helpful. People go out of their way to help us, and they are very friendly."

-Did you get along with the other French students who came here?

A.P.: "Oh, yes! We mostly didn't know each other before the trip, since we all came from different schools, but all our parents work at Lucent Technologies, and some of us were friends before the trip."

-What did you do on the field trips, and did you enjoy them?

A.P.: "The field trips were fun! We went many places, including Blodgett Canyon, a house-making company, and we even rode mules!"

-What do you like to do in France?

A.P.: "I like to fish a lot!"

-Was the language, laws, etc. confusing here?

A.P.: "A little bit, but not that confusing."

-Do you know any other languages?

A.P.: "I am studying Spanish at my school. The host father knew some too."

By: William Sigler, Jr.

Every day in YourTown, we spotlight  
 a different Lorain County community:  
 MONDAY: Avon/Avon Lake  
 TUESDAY: Amherst/Vermilion/S. Amherst  
 WEDNESDAY: Wellington/Oberlin  
 THURSDAY: North Ridgeville  
 FRIDAY: Grafton/LaGrange/Columbia  
 SATURDAY: Lorain/Sheffield/Sheffield Lake  
 SUNDAY: Elyria

# YOURTOWN GRAFTON & LA GRANGE & COLUMBIA

WWW.CHRONICLELETTER.COM

Page  
**C3**

Friday,  
 March 2,  
 2007

## Midview with an accent

French teens  
 experience life  
 in Grafton

Cindy Leise  
 The Chronicle-Telegram

GRAFTON — When you walk  
 in the hall at Midview High  
 School these days, the chatter of  
 French can make you think  
 you've been transported to the  
 Eiffel Tower in Paris, not in  
 Grafton.

That's because 26 French stu-  
 dents have descended on the  
 school in hopes of learning  
 more about their American  
 counterparts.

In June, Midview students  
 will jet off to France, spending  
 three days in Paris and another  
 two weeks with students at their  
 respective schools.

So far, the time in Grafton has  
 been a blast, according to  
 Alexandra Gaulitzine, 16.

"I love everything, especially  
 the dance (on Saturday)," she  
 said. "I wore a long blue dress  
 with diamonds and I was like a  
 princess."

For Marin Fouqué, 15, a high-  
 light of the trip was going to the  
 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in  
 Cleveland, where he got to see  
 the gear that belonged to The  
 Rolling Stones, according to his  
 host, Kuyler Fazekas, 18.

No photos were allowed at the  
 museum, but he said Marin  
 enjoyed taking pictures at the  
 Hard Rock Café.

On Sunday, the kids got a  
 chance to go to the Kalahari Water  
 Park in Sandusky.

On Tuesday, they visited Mal-  
 ley's Chocolate Factory and the  
 ASA Lewis Research Center,  
 where they had a scavenger  
 hunt in the Visitor's Center and  
 got to see a film about space  
 travel.

Teacher Courtney Miller said  
 this is the fourth year that Mid-  
 view has been involved in the  
 exchange program and it is very  
 popular.

But when teens of different  
 cultures live together, there are  
 bound to be differences.

"They always turn the lights  
 off, even if they're going back  
 into a room in a minute," said  
 Jacques Sanderson, 17. "They're  
 really polite and they make fun  
 of us because we talk really  
 loud."

Very few of the French teens  
 snack between meals and they  
 hate the loud bells that signal  
 change of class at Midview,  
 Miller said. They also are used  
 to long, leisurely meals and  
 hate the fact that students are  
 only allowed 30 minutes to eat  
 lunch at the high school, she  
 said.

The school day is longer in  
 France — 8:40 a.m. to 5 p.m. —  
 and there are no sports teams or  
 school dances at French  
 schools. Plus, most French kids



CHUCK HUMEL / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

The mayor of Fércy, France, Monique Mouraud and Alexandra Gaulitzine, 14, view the Friendship 7 exhibit at the NASA Glenn Research Center in Cleveland. The mayor and students from France were on a two-week exchange/visit with Midview High School students.



Albane Poirier, 14, of Bourron-Marlotte, France, poses with her face through a life-size picture of an astronaut during an EVA, or extra vehicular activity while her host Midview student Victoria Parker, 13, looks on.

can't get jobs or driver's licenses  
 until they are 18.

Teresa DiVencenzo, 16, said  
 her French visitor, Amelie  
 Grus, 18, isn't quite sure what to  
 think of the crowded schedule  
 of a typical American teen.

"I feel I'm always rushing —

Go! Go! Go! — and my exchange  
 student isn't," she said.

But in the end, kids are most-  
 ly the same, according to Victo-  
 ria Parker, 13, who is hosting  
 Albane Poirier, 14.

"They have the same fast food  
 restaurants and the same taste

in clothes," she said.

Victoria said she's learned  
 quite a bit of French in a short  
 time from Albane, but her par-  
 ents aren't willing to allow her  
 to go to France quite yet.

"They think I'm too young,"  
 she said.

### AMERICAN-FRENCH SLANG TRANSLATIONS

What's happening?

Q'est qui se passe?

Cool!

Cool, génial!

She's hot!

Une belle gosse, elle est canon

He's hot!

Beau goss, il est canon

My boyfriend

Mon petit copain/ami

My girlfriend

Ma petite copine/amie

That rocks! Rock on!

Ca déchire, c'est super

Homie (friend)

Put

What a dork.

Tu es (t'es) dingue

Oh my goodness!

Oh la vache

Jerk/loser

Crétin, idiot, abruti

Fo' Shizzle (for sure)

C'est clair, bien sur

High five

Tape-la, top-la

My crib (my home/room)

Mon chez moi, ma piaule

You are crazy!

Tu es fou

Metal mouth/brace face

Sourire d'enfer

Gangster/gangsta

Gangster/ voyou/ bandits

Spoiled brat

Pourrit-gâté

Tattoo

Tatouage

Wrestling

La lutte

Source: Courtney Miller and  
 French exchange students



Send your Grafton,  
 LaGrange and Columbia  
 news  
 to Cindy Leise  
 Phone:  
 329-72457  
 E-mail: cllise  
 @chronicle.com

### THINGS TO DO

#### Saturday, Sunday

Pancake and sausage  
 breakfast, noon to 6 p.m.  
 Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3  
 p.m. Sunday at the  
 Chatham VFW Post 6892.  
 The breakfasts will be  
 every weekend through  
 March 25 and features  
 fresh Ohio maple syrup.  
 Cost is \$5.50 per adult; \$3  
 for children and \$5 for  
 senior citizens.

Maple sugaring weekends,  
 noon to 4 p.m. at Lorain  
 County Metro Parks  
 Carlisle Visitor's Center,  
 12882 Diagonal Road,  
 LaGrange. Come enjoy the  
 many aspects of maple  
 sugar processing each  
 Saturday and Sunday in  
 March.

#### Saturday

Open Jam sessions 7 p.m.  
 at Brew & Cue Tavern on  
 Cleveland Street, Grafton.  
 Hosted by OPURT and the  
 Brews Brothers, all  
 performers are welcome,  
 on a first-come, first-  
 served basis. A 24-channel  
 board is available. Drums  
 and keyboard on site.

#### Sunday

Pancake and sausage  
 breakfast, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 at Carlisle Visitors Center,  
 Lorain County Metro Parks,  
 12882 Diagonal Road,  
 LaGrange. Sponsored by  
 Friends of the Lorain  
 County Metro Parks. Cost  
 is \$5 for adult; \$3.50 for  
 children; and free for  
 children under 2 years old.

#### Tuesday

7 p.m., LaGrange United  
 Methodist Church, 105 W.  
 Main St., LaGrange. For  
 information, call (800)  
 GIVE-LIFE.

#### Wednesday

Red Cross blood drive,  
 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Black  
 River High School in  
 Sullivan. To register, call  
 (419) 736-3303.

#### March 10

Fish fry, 5 to 7:30 p.m. at  
 the dining room; 4:30 to  
 7 p.m. for carry-outs, at  
 Pittsfield Community  
 Church, corner of state  
 Routes 56 and 303,  
 Pittsfield. Cost is \$7 for  
 adults; \$5 for children 6 to  
 12; free for children under  
 6 years old.

#### March 10 & 11

Pancake and sausage  
 breakfast, 9 a.m. to 2  
 p.m., at Carlisle Visitors  
 Center, Lorain County  
 Metro Parks, 12882  
 Diagonal Road, LaGrange.  
 Sponsored by the  
 Keystone Band Boosters.  
 Cost is \$5 for adult; \$3.50  
 for children; and free for  
 children under 2 years.