



Aux Petits Soins Newsletter

Vol. 2

Issue 2

SPRING SESSION

April 4 - June 19

C'est le Printemps!

Our goal is to make children fluent in French through immersion teaching. Foreign language immersion works the same way as native language immersion: *Listen. Absorb. Speak.*

At Aux Petits Soins, we only speak French in class. Activities include songs, reading, and engaging in simple activities. Join us, and become an active member of the growing French community in Lansing.

A note from Gaëlle

Bonjour,

“Joyeux anniversaire” to...us!

Aux Petits Soins is one year old! Sometimes it's hard to believe it's been that long, but then I look at how far this little French language immersion program has come in 12 short months. From renting spaces hourly around town to having my own full-time dedicated space. From working alone to having an awesome team of volunteers. From having a handful of students to more than four dozen, many of whom are already picking up on the intricacies of the French language.

So whether you've been there since the beginning or are a new member of the Aux Petits Soins family, thank you for your encouragement – nothing would have been possible without your support. I am looking forward to seeing what's 2016 has in store!

What's new at APS

This month, we launched our website: APSFrenchClass.com. It contains an overview of Aux Petits Soins for new families, and will have the latest info on the current session, such as the lyrics of all the songs we sing in class. I hope this website will grow to become a valuable resource for the local French community, a central place where you can find

all the events, classes and other information relative to the French language and culture. So, if you wish to share any information, please reach out to me and I will make sure to get the word out.



Over the winter, we also added Khadija Ouahidi as a new staff member. Some of you may have already met her while she was assisting during a few classes last session.

Khadija is a native French speaker who just moved to Lansing after spending a few years in London, where she was a nanny. She adores kids and will start “Storytime,” an early literacy experience intended for kids 1-5. This new activity will be accessible at no cost to all kids enrolled in Explorers program. More detail to follow.



Finally, I'm proud to announce the addition of Day Trippers, a new program created by popular request for babies 6 months and younger.

I will offer two Day Trippers classes per week: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.

The gift of French

Some parents have had the idea of giving Aux Petits Soins sessions as a present, so I've also started

offering gift certificates. They make great baby shower, birthday and holiday presents. Please contact me for more information.

Spring forward

The theme for the upcoming session at Aux Petits Soins will be *C'est le printemps!* (It's spring!) In addition to new songs and games I'll be teaching, I'll be adding new vocabulary words that will teach students the names of fruits and vegetables, body parts, and musical instruments. Of course, I'll still rotate in things we learned in the past sessions to keep them fresh in everyone's minds.

Onward and upward

The Aux Petits Soins culture center is slowly coming together. I'm currently working on the design of the reception area - I can't wait to see it all come together. I am still looking for financial opportunities to fill the Aux Petits Soins Library with books for kids 0-12, so if you know of any opportunities or would like to make a donation, please let me know. I'm also looking to create a collection of educational wooden toys, so if you or someone you know enjoys working with wood. More information are available on the website.

Please help spread the word

Please share this newsletter! As a growing business, I rely almost entirely on word-of-mouth. Aux Petits Soins isn't just a French language program for kids - it's the beginning of a French community based right here in Lansing. I know there's interest, because there are already a handful of other businesses here in town dedicated to French: For Crêpe Sake, the Creole,

Creole Coffee Co., Le Chat Gourmet, and Le Bon Macaron. Aux Petits Soins is just one part of this growing community. Please help spread the word!

Culture lesson

Unlike the beginning of the year, there are no French holidays in April, May or June that involve sweet treats. However, we still celebrate holidays that involve lots of laughs and an important part of our history.

On April 1, children play a game named *poisson d'Avril*, which is analogous to the American tradition of April Fools' Day. The aim is to stick a fish picture on your friends' back. When the joke is discovered, the person is supposed to scream *poisson d'Avril!*

On May 8, we recognize *Fête de la Victoire*, which commemorates the end of World War II in Europe. It is a day of celebration and remembrance, with church services, ceremonies and parades. The French flag flies from the top of public buildings and the Air Force thunders overhead in dramatic flyovers. Wreaths are laid during the ceremonies at *monument aux morts* in each village, town and city.

On June 21, the *Fête de la Musique* is celebrated. The slogan of this day is, *Faites de la musique* (make music, a homophone of *Fête de la Musique*). You can find people playing music at home, in the streets, and in bars and restaurants. It was created by Jack Lang, the French Minister of Culture in 1981, and has grown to become an international phenomenon that is celebrated in 120 countries.

FUN FACT:

May is probably the favorite month of the year of most of the French people because it's the month with the higher number of days off:

May 1 - Fête du travail ("Labor Day")

May 5 - Jeudi de l'Ascension ("Ascension Day")

May 8 - Fête de la Victoire ("World War II Victory Day")

May 16 - Lundi de Pentecôte ("Whit Monday")

SPRING CALENDAR

APRIL 4 - JUNE 19 *SPRING SESSION*

April 16 - No class (Greater Lansing Baby Fair)

May 28 - No class (Memorial Day weekend)

May 29 - Mother's day

June 19 - Father's day

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