



Aux Petits Soins Newsletter

Vol. 2
Issue 3

SUMMER SESSION

June 27 - August 19

Aux Petits Soins is a French language immersion program for children from birth up to age 12, taught by French native speakers.

*Our goal is to introduce children to French at an age when their brains are still learning to process linguistics. This will give them the ability to speak French fluently. We teach through the simplest method possible – by immersing the child in a completely French-speaking environment geared toward his/her age and ability. Building on the principles of Typical Physical Response (TPR) and Montessori-style teaching, we've developed our own three-step method of foreign language education: *Listen. Absorb. Speak.**

A note from Gaëlle

Bonjour,

When I published the first Aux Petits Soins newsletter last September, two of my objectives were 1) to offer classes to kids up to age 12, and 2) to find APS a permanent home. Nine months later, I'm proud to announce I've achieved both. But these were only the first steps – I have a few new pieces of exciting news to share about upcoming improvements to our space.

My next objective is to start an adult program, and the solid base I've built is slowly enabling that to become a reality. I've heard from many people who have expressed a real desire to have a French center in our community, so I've begun the process of figuring out how to accomplish this. Please let me know if you have any ideas!

Welcome aboard

Some of you may have already met our new teammates Luke and Malhani while they were assisting during the Explorers II classes last session. Both Michigan natives who fell in love with the French culture. You can read their full stories on our website page, "Meet the Team."

Vive les vacances!

The theme for the 8-week APS summer session will be "Vive les vacances!" ("Hooray for summer vacation!") I've developed an engaging set of activities for each level:

- The Day Trippers will be learning new hand songs to sing during daily routines;
- The Explorers will learn new vocabulary words about modes of transportation (including trains, boats and airplanes) and summer activities such as going to the beach, aquarium, farm, and zoo; and
- The Travel Bugs will learn conversational vocabulary words pertaining to activities and hobbies from their everyday life.

Of course, I'll still rotate in things we learned in the past sessions to keep them fresh in everyone's minds. And this summer, I'm starting a summer camp for kids age 6-12. We will meet twice a week for one-hour classes, which are designed to serve as an introduction to the French language. Please let

ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE

Storytime & activities (age 1-5) July 13 10-12 p.m.
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Events are \$10. Registration required.

anyone know who may be interested in this program, as I'll cater this camp to age, skill level and class size.

Onward and upward

Last month, Cassin Architectes and MI Craft teamed up to design and create a reception area for APS. The desk is now under construction and will be delivered by the end of the summer.

My husband Allan is also working to create shelving units for the upcoming APS Activity Center, for which I have been collecting toys and creating activities. This will be a fun space for kids age 1-6 to play before and after class, and I'm hoping it will be a social hub for all APS students and their families. The APS Activity Center should be open by mid-July.

And as for the library, I've temporarily stopped ordering new books because I will be going to Paris in August. I plan to use this opportunity to buy books and CDs that are either hard to get or expensive to ship overseas. (For the first time of my life, my luggage will be filled with supplies for APS instead of goodies from home!)

Please help spread the word

As always, I need your help. 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. Please help spread the word!

Culture lesson

Summer celebrations

Every July 14, the French celebrate Bastille Day, also known as *Fête Nationale* or simply *le quatorze Juillet*. On that day, we recognize the storming of the Bastille, a French prison, which happened on July 14, 1789. It was a pivotal event at the beginning of the French Revolution. The next years, the first *Fête de la Fédération* began celebrating the unity of the French people and honoring the allies of France.

On Bastille Day, celebrations are held throughout France, with the most prominent one being the military parade down the Champs-Élysées in Paris. This is the oldest and largest regular military parade

held in Europe, and the President of the Republic is always in attendance, along with other French officials and foreign guests.

Many Catholic holidays are also French national holidays, including August 15, the Assumption of Mary. Notably, six out of the 11 French national holidays are Catholic holidays, showing the strong link between religion and culture in France.

Host a French student

If you would like to bring more French in your house, consider becoming a host family for Asse, an international exchange program for high school students age 15-18. There are countless French students who would love to come to U.S and it's easy to host - all you just need a spare bed and enough food to share. More information on www.asse.com. Evelyn is the mother of one of our APS students, and she is an ambassador of this program. You can contact her at evelyn.asse@gmail.com.

French eating

And finally, although summertime is usually a time for hot dogs and hamburgers, I recently became aware of a new restaurant that serves (almost) authentic French food. Brigde Street Social in DeWitt offers a wide selection of wines, including many French wines that I didn't know were available in the U.S. And their tartare is to die for. I haven't had tartare like that since my last trip to Paris. I highly suggest trying it out. And as a testament to how small of a world it is, the owner's son came to a demo -it was a coincidence, I swear!

SUMMER SCHEDULE

- Day Trippers - Tuesday @ 4:30 p.m.
- Explorers I - Tuesday @ 5:15 p.m.
- Friday @ 10:30 a.m.
- Explorers II - Wednesday @ 5:15 p.m.
- Thursday @ 5:15 p.m.
- Friday @ 9:30 a.m.
- Explorers III - Wednesday @ 9:30 a.m.
- Friday @ 5:15 p.m.
- Travel Bugs II - Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m.
- Travel Bugs III - Friday @ 6:15 p.m.