

January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the 2010 *A Vous la Parole* oral French contest. Once again thanks to Betsy Kerr, it will be held **Tuesday, April 20th, 2010**, in **Coffman Union** on the campus of the **University of Minnesota**, from **9 AM to 1:30 PM**. *A Vous la Parole* is open to students of French in Grades 7 through 12 accompanied by their teachers and/or representatives.

This year's theme is "**Qui se ressemble s'assemble**" thanks to Anne Muske and her Lakeville students. She will again offer light blue **t-shirts** for sale (in advance) with the logo that I have enclosed. They will cost **\$11. each** and more precise information will go out to teachers in the second mailing. Anne has suggested charging your students a few extra dollars per t-shirt and using the extra money for your French Club. T-shirts will be available for pick-up the morning of the contest.

There will be **an opening ceremony starting at 9 am. Student performances will be scheduled starting around 9:30 am and ending around 12:45/1:00**. Please keep me well-informed about your school's needs and I can let you know if they will be possible to schedule around.

The **cost per student and per category is \$8**. (a student can enter several categories, but must pay the \$8. fee for each entered -- each member of a group pays the \$8. fee as well)

If you need some guidance **in choosing texts for students**, I can email you a list upon request that was compiled several years ago by veteran AVLP teachers. It gives some suggestions as to pieces for prose/poetry, theater and songs for various levels. Although I had anticipated updating it last year, only 3 teachers responded to my plea for updated texts. The most important thing to remember is not to choose something too difficult for a student's skills. It is always better to pick something that they can master well than something that they will struggle through (this comes from feedback from former judges).

To receive the next mailing, **you must let me know your intention to participate by Friday, February 12th**. You can simply send an email to **avouslaparole@hotmail.com** and respond to the following...

- 1) **name the teachers from your school who will be involved**
- 2) **let me know approx. how many students you anticipate coming - real ballpark figure like 5 or 50 or 100**
- 3) **inform me of any late arrival/early departures/scheduling issues that you already know about**
- 4) **let me know if you anticipate any DVD entries from your school (so I can provide you all pertinent information)**

The second mailing should arrive by the 3rd week of February. Right now I do not need to know how many entries you will have in particular categories (just keep in mind that the limit is 4 per category as you are assigning them to your students) nor do I need any student names. Here is a synopsis of the process to keep handy to make sure you are meeting all deadlines:

*****by Friday, February 12th** --- you send me an e-mail regarding your initial interest in participating (**mid-February** – those who expressed interest will receive info in the mail regarding registering students AND the important specifics about the DVD entries since they need to be sent in by March 26th)

*****by Friday, March 26th** – finalized electronic entries are due – you provide me student names, specific categories entered and \$ - DVD entries need to be postmarked by this date, t-shirt orders are also due to Anne Muske by this date (**first or second week of April** -- you will receive all master judging sheets, maps, student expectations & last minute instructions)

*****Tuesday, April 20th, 2010** --- competition day – t-shirts will be ready for pick-up on-site; judging results will be taken home

This year I am enclosing a two-sided sheet entitled "**FAQ's**". Those of you who are new to the contest might find the information particularly helpful.

As always, I look forward to your participation and to the success of the 2010 *A Vous la Parole*. This will mark my 14th and final year as coordinator.

Sincerely,
Clare Hagen
coordinator, *A Vous la Parole* 2010

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