

January 24, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the 2011 *A Vous la Parole* French speaking contest: "Les Grands Esprits Se Rencontrent." Thanks to the efforts of Betsy Kerr, it will be held **Tuesday, April 26th, 2011**, in **Coffman Union** on the campus of the **University of Minnesota**, from **9 AM to 1:30 PM**. *A Vous la Parole* is sponsored annually by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French and is open to students of French in grades 7 through 12 accompanied by their teachers and/or representatives.

Clare Hagen will be working closely with me this year as I transition into my new role as coordinator. Please note that there will be a few changes in the contest along the way. One is that the category of "Original DVD" has been changed to "**Original Skit**" in order to better meet the needs of involved students, teachers and judges. See the **category sheet** on the back of this letter for more information regarding that change as well as information regarding the other categories. Another change is that the due date for final entries has been moved up a week in order to reduce all the last-minute scrambling.

There will again be **t-shirts** for sale (in advance) with the enclosed logo on them. They will cost **\$11 each**, and more precise information will go out to teachers in the second mailing. Perhaps you can have the option on your permission slip itself in order to encourage more students to order the shirts. 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 at 9:30 am and ending around 12:45/1:00**. Please keep me well-informed about your school's needs, and we 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**, please send an email requesting the sheet listing some examples.

To receive the next mailing, **you must let me know your intention to participate by Friday, February 18th**. You can simply send an email to **avouslaparole@hotmail.com** to let me know. You do not need to provide any other information by Feb. 18th.

The second mailing will be sent out on February 21st and will be sent only to those who express interest in the contest. Right now we do not need to know how many entries you will have in particular categories (just keep in mind that the limit is four per category as you are assigning them to your students) nor do we need any student names. Here is a synopsis of the process to keep handy to make sure you are meeting all deadlines:

on or before Friday, February 18th, 2011 – you send an e-mail regarding your initial interest in participating
February 21st, 2011 – information regarding registering will be sent **ONLY** to interested parties
on or before Friday, March 18th, 2011 – finalized electronic entries are due (you provide us all student names in a spreadsheet, including specific categories entered); payment is due; t-shirt orders and payments are also due
April 4th, 2011 (approximately) – the mailing including the master schedule, all master judging sheets, maps, student expectations, and last-minute instructions will be sent out
April 26th, 2011 – competition day; t-shirts will be ready for pick-up on-site; judging results will be taken home or arranged for pick-up

Enclosed please find a two-sided sheet entitled "**AVLP FAQ**." Those of you who are new to the contest might find the information particularly helpful.

I look forward to your participation and to the success of the 2011 *A Vous la Parole*.

Sincerely,

Annie Muske

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The 2011 AVLP t-shirt was designed by ninth grader Cynthia Simba, Lakeville South High School.