

# STORY OF THE FRENCH CAFÉ AT MAUREPAS SCHOOL

The purpose of the French Café is to collect funds to buy Christmas presents for children of less fortunate families in our school community.



In 2005, the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students initiated the first French Café (the Wolves Café) of Maurepas School during Literacy Night. We arranged 16 students' desks into four tables for our customers. We were located in a small room at the back of our auditorium and collected \$177.85. Right away, it became a tradition. Since then, during Literacy Night or Math Night, 5<sup>th</sup> graders have opened and hosted their café. This tradition has grown bigger every year.

In 2007, we moved our café to the school cafeteria to have more room for our customers. The French Café grew so fast that more people volunteered to help. Beta Club students, faculty, and staff started to donate supplies and volunteer their time to the café. In 2014, the café was so popular that it had to host its own night.



Now, we host the café in the main building, and it occupies both the first and second floors. Guests sit in the auditorium, and the “kitchen” is that back room where it all started. We have also added a program on the stage and set up activity booths on the second floor, along with some smaller tables for guests on the balcony.

Today, The French Café is so big that the whole school participates in the event, taking part in the program, creating ornaments and pieces of art for sale during the night, helping with the organization, working at the event, etc. For the past 3 years, we raised over **\$10,000.00** each year. With that money, we provide presents to an average of **30 children** from our school community. We also help students with school supplies, uniforms, and graduation fees. With this growing success, we have enough money left to upgrade and maintain some of our school equipment and infrastructure.



The existence of our traditional French Café is not possible without the support and donations from the whole community. Every year, students, parents, friends of the school, community members, and faculty and staff members donate food, drinks and art pieces for students to sell. Local businesses sponsor our event every year. They provide us with food, supplies and money. All money raised under the French Café charity will be used for the children of the Maurepas School community.

The French Café has become an essential part of our school. Every year, students, parents, community members, faculty and staff wait for the French Café to open its doors, and to challenge previous year's success. And every year, they succeed.

