

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Taking up the opportunity- the Stage d'Hiver

by Christine Black, TIC French James Hargest College

During the month of January, three eager teachers travelled to France to embark on an experience of a lifetime! ILANZ and the French Embassy provide teachers around New Zealand the chance to do a "stage". Fortunately it is during the Christmas holidays so you can extend your time overseas to visit other places or Francophones – don't forget it also means no relief to prepare!

The course is over four weeks, two in Nice and two in Paris. You are hosted with a family in Nice for two weeks so you can experience more personal aspects – such as "la cuisine" and customs; and maintain the use of the French language. During the week in Nice, we attended a foreign language school. We learnt so much about the cultural aspects of France – politics, history, language and art.

While in Paris, you stay at CIEP in lovely personal rooms with an ensuite – the same place where the lessons are.

At both institutions, the experienced teachers were very adaptable in the lessons in regards to our ability in the French language.

Most of the mornings at the language schools in both Nice and Paris had language lessons in the morning and excursions in the afternoon – for example, to a law court, visiting a variety of "quartiers" in both cities, Musée d'Orsay, La Cimetière de Père Lachaise and visiting "maisons d'édition" in order to find resources, to name some. For each excursion, we were guided by

different people who had such a thorough knowledge of their domain.

A bonus about this stage is that your international airfare is partially reimbursed and your national airfare to an international airport in New Zealand is fully reimbursed.

Some resources:

Online "journal" that you can set up in order to use with your students. The students can add a piece of their writing to your personal internet newspaper for all French students to view. I believe this is a good way to model excellent samples of writing.

Website: www.webzinemaker.com then click on "créez votre webzine maintenant", which is at the top right of the webpage.

An example of this journal is:

www.webzinemaker.com/journalclasse/

This website is used for teachers to contact other French teachers around the world, there are also resources that come from television shows...

Website: www.franctparler.org

If you have any questions about these two resources or any parts of the stage, please contact me:

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