

# The Bilingual Chronicles



# FIRST WORD

Welcome to 2026! While we all enjoyed a quiet time with family over the holidays, the Bilingual Section has come roaring back in the new year. January is the month of new years resolutions, and we in the section are resolved to make the Bilingual Section even better than it was in 2025.

In the United States, January is black history month, in commemoration of Abraham Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 as well Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. In 1ère IPQ, we have spent the several last weeks learning about Civil Rights in the United States by studying the play, A Raisin in the Sun. In doing so, we have learned the challenges and out-right dangers that African-Americans faced in taking a stand to achieve equality.

While we are not organizing marches in the Section, our students are standing up to recite poetry. Over the past several weeks, students have begun poetry heats to decide who will represent Sainte Marie at the Poetry by Heart Competition in March. Teachers have been heartened by their moving recitals and their mature understanding of the poems themselves.

January will also witness our first Pathways and Perspectives talk by Joseph Srouji, who will share with us his unique journey into law. We look forward to seeing you there for this long-awaited talk on the 22nd of January.

2026 also has plenty of trips on the calendar. We were already proud of students in The Hague at Modern European Parliament in November, but we are delighted to offer other students the opportunity to experience Model United Nations in Stuttgart this March. We will also be giving the 5ème and 4ème Bilingual students the chance to delve deeper into the curriculum by visiting England this spring.

As you can see, the Bilingual Section is well on its way to making its New Year's Resolution a reality. We wish you and your family health and happiness as you take you first steps into 2026.

Deborah Leparc, Supervisor Bilingual Programme



# THE PUBLISHING TEAM



STUDENT PUBLISHING TEAM



TEACHER EDITING  
ADVISORS

## EDITOR'S NOTE

This third edition of *The Bilingual Chronicles* marks another important step in the development of the bilingual program at Sainte Marie de Neuilly. Since September, the program has continued to grow, welcoming greater participation and fostering a stronger culture of bilingual learning within the school community.

Over the past months, students have increasingly engaged with bilingual education not only as an academic challenge, but as an opportunity to broaden their perspectives. Through coursework, discussions, and creative expression, the use of two languages has become a natural part of learning, encouraging curiosity, critical thinking, and cultural awareness.

*The Bilingual Chronicles* reflect this evolution. Each edition serves as a space where students' voices come together, demonstrating progress in language proficiency and confidence, as well as a deeper understanding of the world beyond a single linguistic or cultural frame. The diversity of topics and ideas presented in this issue mirrors the expanding scope of the bilingual program itself.

As the program continues to develop at Sainte Marie de Neuilly, this third edition stands as both a record of growth since the beginning of the academic year and a celebration of the collective effort that makes bilingual education thrive.

Victoire Mantoux



## PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE GROUPS

Recently, an initiation to parliamentary debate has been created through a MEP (Model European Parliament) and a MUN (Model United Nations) to increase our oral skills.

These workshops are possible thanks to three teachers of Sainte Marie: Mrs. Leonor Le Coustumer, Mrs. Deborah Leparc and Mrs. Viviane Lemaire

In the long term, certain students will have the opportunity to participate in MEP and/or MUN conferences, as well as in real-life simulations within an international context, to apply and demonstrate their skills.

These activities help us improve our public speaking, critical thinking, and diplomatic skills in English. We learn to debate international issues, work as a team, and gain confidence in our English communication, essential skills for our future success, both academically and professionally.

The sessions take place on Monday evening, from 18h30 to 20h30, and include a pizza dinner with all the students.

During these sessions we are separated into three groups of ten people and each group has a theme on which they must debate. Every group has a president and a co-president, which lead the debates and organize the ideas their group find. The students are secondes, premieres, and terminales from SMN only, with a B2 or C1 level.

Anaïs Heimermann and Sélène Pellerin

## MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



From 26th November to 3rd December, three students from Sainte Marie and two students from the Centre Madeleine Daniélou, accompanied by their English teachers Mrs. Le Maire and Mrs. Le Ccoustumer had the incredible opportunity to participate in the 62nd edition of the MEP (Model European Parliament) in The Hague. This reconstruction of the European Parliament for young people brought together over 200 high school students from the 27 member countries, as well as other invited countries (Montenegro, Norway, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom), all grouped into different committees, as they are in the European Parliament (FEMM, LIBE, AFET/SEDE...). During the opening ceremony, in the presence of the Mayor of The Hague, Mr. Jan van Zanen, and the Danish Ambassador, Mr. Ulf Melgaard, the presidents of each delegation delivered a brief speech presenting their country (and their expectations for this session). This unforgettable experience allowed each student delegate to gain a better understanding of how a parliamentary democracy functions, from preparing and proposing laws in committee work sessions, to proposing amendments to those laws, giving speeches, and participating in debates, before reaching the voting procedure in a plenary session. The committees, united, were able to defend the resolutions they proposed, making use of legal and political nuances, and displaying great enthusiasm as well as a strong self-confidence, particularly during speeches delivered in front of an assembly who sometimes showed opposition. The young delegates had the honour of being guided in this experience by notable interventions by Mrs. Marit Maij, social democrat Member of the European Parliament, Mr. Mark Rutte, NATO Secretary General, as well as Mrs. Wieke Paulusma, member of the social-democratic party in the Dutch Parliament. It was a week full of encounters, fruitful in learning, personal development, and cultural discovery.

Constance-Anne Trechot





## AUSTRALIAN AND FRENCH EXCHANGE

Victoire Mantoux, a student in IPQ, has welcomed an Australian penfriend from Perth, Australia, for two months in Paris. Isadora Lane is a student that learns French since five years, she recounts her stay in Paris :

The first day of school at Sainte-Marie was a massive shock. My mum told me that it would be hard, but I brushed it off. In Perth, the days of school are from 8:40 to 3:25, which gives us around 30 to 32 hours of class a Week. In France, it's 40. For the first week, that was a big adjustment I had to make. As a result of late finishes, buckets full of homework and the exams every Friday resulting in lots of study, sleep is really important. So, we would leave it to the latest possible time before waking up, which meant that mornings were a chaotic rush. So, that was another adjustment I had to make. In Perth, on a good day, I would wake up at 6:30, have a shower, do my violin practice and make my breakfast, and then get in the car and drive to school for 15 minutes. So, it was a challenge for me to figure out how to shorten my routine as well. But, though the hardships, Paris has been a blast! Being thoroughly immersed in the culture, habits and rituals of a French family has truly opened my eyes to how all the countries are around the world, and I am so, absolutely grateful for every minute !

Isadora Lane



Isadora Lane and Victoire Mantoux

# DRAMA CLUB

As Sainte Marie's bilingual program evolves and flourishes, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our very first English drama club! For the 2025–2026 school year, thirteen middle school students have signed up and meet every week in the Salle Molière during lunchtime. The drama club is open to all students, which means that you can join even if you are not in the bilingual program!

What does a typical English drama class look like? Students begin with vocal exercises and tongue twisters, followed by character work, improvisation exercises, and short dialogues that they act out. At the end of class, the young thespians are given complete creative freedom to invent their very own short skits based on realistic scenarios, such as "imagine you forget your homework and come up with a silly excuse," or more outlandish ones, such as "you saw an alien and your friend won't believe you."

Do we play any games? Of course! Drama classes encompass a myriad of games that allow you to hone not only your vocal strength, body coordination, confidence, and ability to express convincing emotions, but also your ability to work and communicate effectively in groups. All of these skills help you grow into an incredible actor!

Now, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Are you determined to become a fluent English speaker?
2. Growing up, did you enjoy inventing stories and putting on shows for your parents?
3. Do you consider yourself shy and wish you could feel more confident and fearless?
4. Would you like to act in a school play or work backstage to help bring the play to life?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you should definitely join the drama club next year! In the meantime, here is a tongue twister you can practice saying out loud as fast as you can: She sells seashells by the seashore!

Mrs. Tissot, Teacher Drama Club

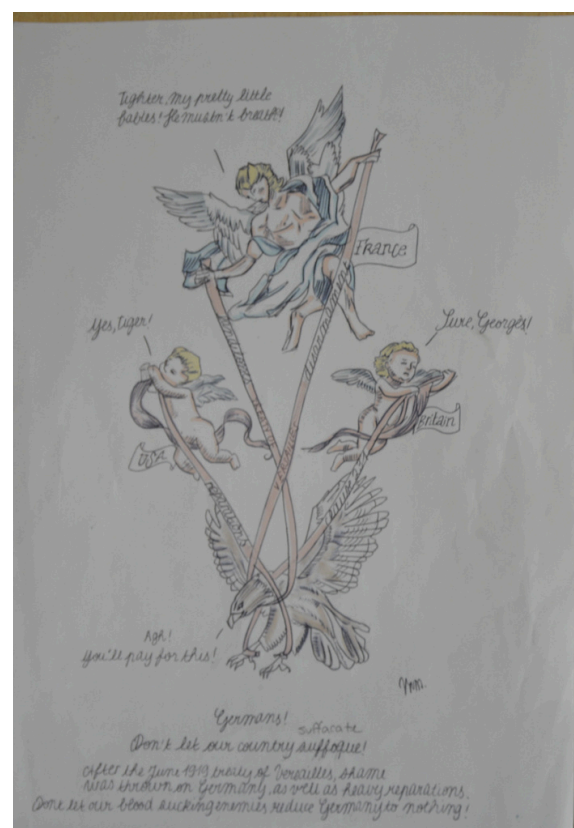
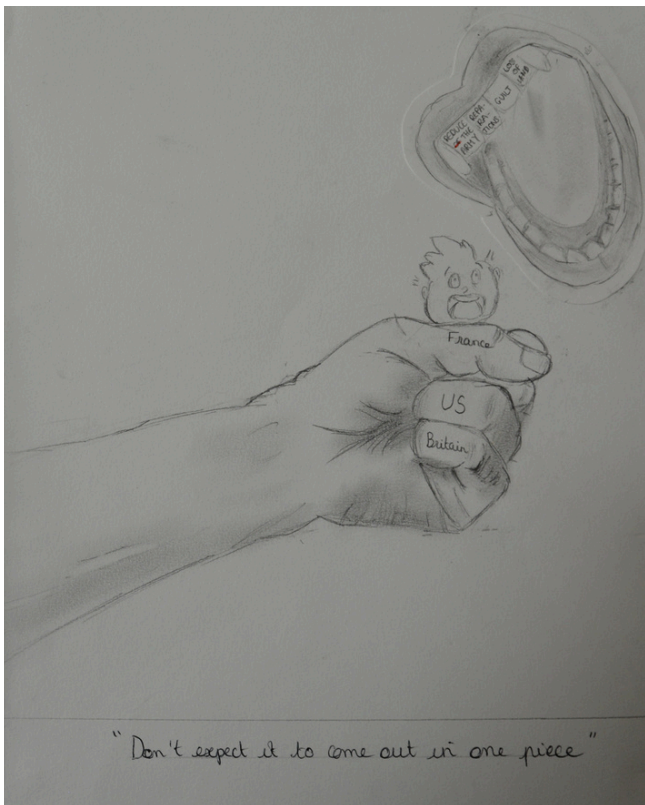




## CARTOONS IN 2NDE

Since September, we have been studying the Treaty of Versailles, a subject as vast as it is fascinating, in all its aspects : repercussions, context, actors,... After four months of hard work, we can now say that we know everything there is to know about the subject ! To further deepen our analysis, Mrs Leparc, our teacher, asked us to create a cartoon reflecting our point of view on the treaty, giving budding artists the opportunity to showcase their talent !

Gabrielle Dereux







## NEW IPQ CLASS



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

The 1ère class started their 15-month long Cambridge International Project Qualification in september. It will last until october next year, as they have to build up a topic question to answer to throughout their resarch project.

A few examples of students topic questions :

- To what extent should parents be allowed to control the medical life of their children on ethical or religious ground?
- Why do countries like Somalia and Kenya encourage or discourage the education of women even though it is key to national development?
- To what extent can AI generated creations be considered art ?
- To what extent has the United Nations succeeded in limiting the spread of nuclar weapons ?

## POETRY BY HEART

This year, all Bilingual classes take part in the Poetry by heart contest. Students have learnt a poem By heart , and recited them in front of their class, which chose with the teacher the finalists of the class.



POETRY BY  
HEART



# BOOK SUGGESTIONS

## OUR SUGGESTIONS

- THE MAZE RUNNER - JAMES DASHNER
- THE HUNGER GAMES - SUZANNE COLLINS
- THE FAULT IN OUR STARS - JOHN GREEN
- THE GIVER - LOIS LOWRY

## TEACHER SUGGESTIONS

### COLLEGE :

- THE LAND OF STORIES SERIES - CHRIS COLFER
- THE DARK IS RISING (SERIES) - SUSAN COOPER

### LYCEE:

- BOMB BY STEVEN SHEINKIN
- INTO THE WILD: JON KRAKAUER

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## A BOOK REVIEW : *THE GIVER*, BY LOÏS LOWRY

I just finished *The Giver*, and it was way more interesting than I expected. At first, Jonas's world seems perfect, but pretty quickly you realize how controlled and weird it actually is. When Jonas meets the Giver and starts receiving memories, the story gets much deeper.

I liked how the book makes you think about choices, emotions, and what freedom really means. Jonas is young, but he's brave enough to question everything he's been taught. The memories he gets are so powerful that I started imagining how different our world would be without pain or joy.

The ending is a bit mysterious, but I think that's what makes it stick in your mind. Overall, *The Giver* is a short but meaningful book that makes you see society in a different way. I'd definitely recommend it.

# EDITORS' RECOMMENDATIONS

ABBEY BOOKSHOP  
29 RUE DE LA PARCHEMINERIE  
75005 PARIS  
01 46 33 16 24



THE FROG AND BRITISH LIBRARY  
114 AVENUE DE FRANCE  
75013 PARIS  
01 45 84 34 26



O COFFEE  
23 RUE DE LOURMEL  
75015 PARIS  
01 45 79 69 89



THANKSGIVING STORE  
20 RUE SAINT PAUL, PARIS, 75004  
BASTILLE, MARAIS  
0 1 42 77 68 29





# RECIPE: CINNAMON ROLLS

## **For the Dough:**

500g (4 cups) strong bread flour  
7g (1 packet) dry yeast  
50g (1/4 cup) sugar  
1 teaspoon salt  
300ml (1 1/4 cups) warm milk  
50g (1/4 cup) unsalted butter, melted  
1 egg, beaten

## **For the Filling:**

100g (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, softened  
150g (3/4 cup) brown sugar  
2 tablespoons ground cinnamon

## **For the Glaze:**

200g (1 1/2 cups) icing sugar (powdered sugar)  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
2-3 tablespoons milk



### 1. Prepare the Dough

In a large bowl, combine the strong bread flour, sugar, and salt. In a separate small bowl, dissolve the yeast in the warm milk and let it sit for 5 minutes until it becomes frothy.

Add the yeast mixture, melted butter, and beaten egg to the flour mixture. Stir until the dough begins to come together, then knead for about 10 minutes until you have a smooth, elastic dough. You can knead by hand or use a stand mixer with a dough hook.

Once the dough is smooth, place it in a greased bowl, cover with a clean kitchen towel, and let it rise in a warm place for 1-1.5 hours, or until it doubles in size.

### 2. Prepare the Filling

While the dough is rising, make the cinnamon-sugar filling. In a small bowl, mix the softened butter, brown sugar, and ground cinnamon until well combined. Set aside.

### 3. Roll Out the Dough

Once the dough has risen, punch it down to release any air bubbles. Lightly flour your work surface and roll out the dough into a large rectangle, about 1 cm (1/2 inch) thick.

### 4. Spread the Filling

Spread the cinnamon-sugar filling evenly over the rolled-out dough, leaving a small border around the edges.

### 5. Roll and Slice

Starting from one of the longer edges, carefully roll the dough into a tight log. Use a sharp knife to slice the roll into 12 even pieces.

### 6. Arrange and Let Rise Again

Place the cinnamon rolls into a greased or parchment-lined baking dish, leaving a little space between each roll. Cover with a towel and let the rolls rise again for 30-45 minutes, until they are puffy and touching each other.

### 7. Bake the Cinnamon Rolls

Preheat your oven to 180°C (350°F). Bake the cinnamon rolls in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes, or until they are golden brown and cooked through. Remove from the oven and let them cool slightly.

### 8. Make the Glaze

While the rolls are cooling, prepare the glaze. In a bowl, whisk together the icing sugar, vanilla extract, and 2-3 tablespoons of milk, until you have a smooth, pourable consistency.

### 9. Glaze the Cinnamon Rolls

Once the cinnamon rolls have cooled slightly, drizzle the glaze over the top, allowing it to ooze into all the crevices.

### 10. Serve

Serve the cinnamon rolls warm, and enjoy their soft, buttery, and cinnamon-sweet goodness.

# QUOTES

THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THOSE  
WHO BELIEVE IN THE BEAUTY  
OF THEIR DREAMS."  
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

"SUCCESS IS NOT FINAL,  
FAILURE IS NOT FATAL: IT IS  
THE COURAGE TO CONTINUE  
THAT COUNTS." — WINSTON  
CHURCHILL

BELIEVE YOU CAN, AND YOU'RE  
HALFWAY THERE."  
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

"WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN IMPROVE  
ALL YOUR TOMORROWS."  
RALPH MARSTON

"YOU ARE NEVER TOO SMALL TO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE."  
GRETA THUNBERG

# GAME

	7			2			4	6
	6					8	9	
2			8			7	1	5
	8	4		9	7			
7	1						5	9
			1	3		4	8	
6	9	7			2			8
	5	8					6	
4	3			8			7	

# JOKE

WHY CAN'T YOUR NOSE BE 12 INCHES LONG?  
BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD BE A FOOT!

I TOLD MY COMPUTER I NEEDED A BREAK...  
NOW IT WON'T STOP SENDING ME KIT-KAT ADS.