

January 20, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the theme of the 2016 Minnesota statewide *A Vous la Parole* French speaking contest. The theme of this year's contest is, "*De tous vos voyages, lequel est le plus beau?*" The 2016 contest will be held on **Thursday, April 28, 2016**, 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.

The purpose of this initial mailing is to give you some basic information as well as the timeline for this year's contest. Teachers who express interest in participating will receive additional information next month. Especially if you are new to the contest, you may wish to begin by reading the enclosed two-sided sheet entitled "**AVLP FAQ 2016**." The **categories sheet** can be found on the back of this letter.

The **cost per student and per category is \$8**. (Students may enter several categories, but they must pay the \$8 fee for each category entered. Each member of a group pays the \$8 fee as well.) **T-shirts** with the official logo on them will be sold **in advance**. They will cost **\$11 each** and will be available for pick-up the morning of the contest. More precise information, including an electronic version of the logo, will go out to teachers in next month's mailing.

Student performances will be scheduled starting at 9 AM and ending around 12:45 PM. You will have an opportunity to make special requests regarding scheduling. Clare Hagen, the former contest coordinator, will continue to be in charge of scheduling and awards. She will do her best to accommodate your requests.

To receive next month's mailing, **you must let me know your intention to participate by Friday, January 29**. You can simply send an email to **avouslaparole@hotmail.com** to notify me of your intent to participate.

Here is a synopsis of the process to keep handy to make sure you are meeting all deadlines:

on or before Friday, January 29, 2016 – you send an e-mail to Annie regarding your initial interest in participating

Friday, February 5, 2016 (approximately) – information regarding registering will be emailed ONLY to interested parties (PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FEBRUARY MAILING WILL ONLY BE ELECTRONIC THIS YEAR)

on or before Friday, March 18, 2016 – finalized electronic entries and t-shirt orders are due (you provide us all student names in a spreadsheet, including specific categories entered – no more than four entries per category – and details of t-shirt order); payment for entries and t-shirt orders is due

March 21-25, 2016 – Annie and Clare will be on Spring Break but may be available to reply to emails

Friday, April 15, 2016 (approximately) – master schedule, master judging sheets, maps, student expectations, and last-minute instructions will be mailed and emailed

Thursday, April 28, 2016 – competition day; t-shirts will be ready for pick-up on-site; judging results will be taken home or arranged for pick-up in Lakeville

I look forward to your participation and to the success of the 2016 *A Vous la Parole*.

Sincerely,

Annie Muske

Coordinator, *A Vous la Parole* 2016

avouslaparole@hotmail.com

NB: Details of the 3rd Annual Armand and Madeleine Renaud Prize - later.

The 2016 AVLP t-shirt was designed by Lakeville South High School sophomore Jackson Paradise.