

For immediate release

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### Le Concours d'art oratoire winners off to provincials at SFU

Comox Valley, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools proudly congratulates its students who excelled at Le Concours d'art oratoire, a prestigious French public speaking competition organized nationwide by Canadian Parents for French. The district-level competition saw winners chosen from among hundreds of participants from École Puntledge Park Elementary, École Robb Road Elementary, and Mark R. Isfeld Secondary.

Le Concours d'art oratoire challenges students to write and memorize speeches on topics of their choice, presenting them before judges who evaluate their expression, memorization, quality of French, depth of knowledge, and their responses to impromptu questions.

This year's district winners earned the right to represent Comox Valley Schools at the provincial competition on May 3 at Simon Fraser University's Surrey Campus.

#### Winners from Comox Valley Schools:

- **Grade 6 Early French Immersion:** Kate Szkwarek (École Robb Road) – *Intelligence artificielle*
- **Grade 6 Late French Immersion:** Hannah Bain (École Puntledge Park) – *Le camping sauvage*
- **Grade 6 Francophone:** Erika Gabourie (École Robb Road) – *Le bilinguisme*
- **Grade 7 Early French Immersion:** Lexi Kapalka (École Robb Road) – *Les énergies renouvelables*
- **Grade 7 Late French Immersion:** Asher Ozirney (École Puntledge Park) – *Les raisons pour lesquelles l'OTAN devrait aider davantage l'Ukraine*
- **Grade 7 Francophone:** Naima Douillard (École Robb Road) – *Les devoirs*
- **Grade 8 Early French Immersion:** Hudson Van Tongeren (Mark R. Isfeld Secondary) – *Pourquoi tout le monde a besoin d'un animal* (Hudson previously won 1st place provincially in Grade 7 last year.)
- **Grade 8 Late French Immersion:** Nellie Hund (Mark R. Isfeld Secondary) – *Impact de Covid*
- **Grade 8 Francophone:** Clara LeBlanc (Mark R. Isfeld Secondary) – *Les bénéfices d'apprendre une nouvelle langue*
- **Grade 9 Early French Immersion:** Zuri Koernig (Mark R. Isfeld Secondary) – *Les dangers des concours de beauté pour les enfants*
- **Grade 9 Francophone:** Béatrice Sauvageau (Mark R. Isfeld Secondary) – *La réalité des femmes Afghanes*

This year's competition was particularly special as it marked the first year of collaboration with the revitalized Comox Valley Chapter of Canadian Parents for French, which had previously been inactive for nearly a decade.

Congratulations to all participants and best of luck to our talented students advancing to provincials!

For more information about Le Concours d'art oratoire, visit: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/en/concours-dart-oratoire/>

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### **Media Contact**

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**Photos courtesy of Richard and Isabelle Warrington**



Some individual winners' photos follow on the next page.

Nellie Hund, Grade 8, Mark R. Isfeld Ecole Secondaire (white shirt)

Hudson Van Tongeren, Grade 8, Mark R. Isfeld Ecole Secondaire (black hoodie)

Clara LeBlanc, Grade 8, Mark R. Isfeld Ecole Secondaire (green shirt)

