A DEMONSTRATION lesson in French for lower elementary children was presented by Mrs. Nicole Buller, bilingual specialist at Opelousas Catholic Elementary, during a bilingual awareness workshop.

Attending were parents of children in the parish’s bilingual program, members of the parent advisory committee for bilingual education, and paraprofessionals working with the bilingual program.

Bilingual Workshop Held

The St. Landry Parish School Board’s two bilingual projects sponsored a four-day awareness workshop this past week for parents of children in the bilingual program members of the parent advisory committee for bilingual education, and paraprofessionals working with the bilingual program. Workshop sessions explained the meaning of bilingual education, what it's doing for students, and cited ways in which parents can use both French and English in helping their children to grow culturally and academically.

Bilingual projects in St. Landry Parish are RACINE (Resourceful Activities for Continued Innovative Education) for grades K-4 in 10 parish schools and BEAU (Bilingual Education Activities Unified) for grades 5-8 in seven parish schools.

Monday’s session included an overview of bilingual education given by Rene Calais of the National Bilingual Resource Center at USL in Lafayette. Mrs. Nicole Buller, bilingual specialist at Opelousas Catholic Elementary, conducted a demonstration lesson in French using lower elementary children as her students. Workshop participants also viewed video taped classroom instruction.

"Parental Involvement in a Child’s Education” was the topic for a presentation Tuesday by Mrs. Carole D’Amico, master teacher for the school board, and Miss Sandy Hebert and Mrs. Lorella Marshall, training curriculum coordinators for the parish’s bilingual program.

A presentation Wednesday by Richard J. Guidry, resource specialist and teacher trainer at Breaux Bridge Elementary for St. Martin Parish’s bilingual program, focused on the value of the French language spoken in Louisiana. Wednesday’s workshop also included a session on Louisiana French songs, presented by Dr. and Mrs. R.C. Gilmore, songbook authors from Lafayette.

Thursday’s workshop featured quilting and palmetto bilingual paraprofessional at Opelousas Junior High, parents and paraprofessionals involved with the school demonstrated the art of quilting, while Miss Elvina Kider of Arnaudville demonstrated palmetto weaving. Both presenters displayed their finished products and urged workshop participants to preserve traditional crafts practiced by Louisiana inhabitants.