CODOFIL Holds ‘Gouter Francais’

The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana recently held its first "gouter francais" to honor exceptional junior high and high school French students for their efforts in the study of the French language. The "gouter" took place at the Acadiana High School.

The late afternoon snack party was held to recognize approximately 50 French students from Lafayette and surrounding parishes for their motivation and improvement in their respective levels of French.

Teachers from each of the participating schools were also recognized for their contribution to the preservation of the French language in this area.

Representatives of the French Cultural Services and of the Quebec government awarded posters and maps to the teachers for use in their classrooms. Students were awarded sky-blue T-shirts with a Smurf design and the caption "Embrasse-moi, je parle francais." Translated that's "Kiss me, I speak French."

Special guests at the "gouter" included Dr. Wayne Vasher, superintendent of schools for Lafayette Parish; James Domengeaux, chairman of CODOFIL; Maurice Dedieu, French Cultural Services, and Bruno Geslain, Quebec Delegation of Lafayette.

Ethel Burleigh of the State Department of Education acted as master of ceremonies, and a welcome address was given by Carol Doucet, a French teacher at Acadiana High School. Other distinguished guests included Dave Cavelier, principal, and George Brown and Julie Cox, assistant principals at Acadiana High School. Also present were officers from Region III of the Association of High School French Clubs of Louisiana.

"This program is designed to help the teachers and students of different schools get to know one another better and to attract other students to French classes," Domengeaux said.

Students and teachers honored this month included:

Mrs. Cecile Garboushian, teacher, Christina Smith, Marla Deffer, Willard Knox, Missy Collins and Lila Heymann, all of the Episcopal School of Acadiana; Mrs. Georgie Mouton, teacher. Janice Pang, Kevin Landry, Brigitte Dugas and Kris Latiolais, all of Lafayette High School; Ronnie Dore, teacher, Monica Huval, Brian Champagne, Shawn Guidry and Julie Robin, all of Cecilia High School; Sister Philip Schexnayder, teacher, Julie Moosa, John Huckaby and Neal McClelland, all of St. Edmund High School; Carol Doucet, teacher, Angela Richard, Vicki Chauvin, Patti Jung and Sonya Hebert, all of Acadiana High School; Mrs. Marie Woodson, teacher, Kelly Guidry, Ninh Nguyen, David Edmond, Vanessa Vandergriff, Wendy Devalcourt and Luke Robin, all of Opelousas Junior High School; Sister Claire Saizan, teacher, Rene Thorne, Deborah Hooker, Jeanne Pavy, Laura Pavy, Trice Thomas, Marie Vargas and Rachel Bourgeois, all of the Academy of the Sacred Heart; Mrs. Shirley-Paul Knox, teacher, Stephanie Kimball, Ed Fontenot, Ellen Haigelin, Jannette Huval, Laurie Romero and Darlene Morgan, all of Comeaux High School; and Mrs. Phoebe Trotter, teacher, Terry Cormier, Ken Boudreaux and Robin Wimberly, all of Carencro High School.