

## French Warship to Deliver 10,000 Books to Disadvantaged U.S. Children

### JEANNE D'ARC BRINGS FRENCH-LANGUAGE BOOKS TO NEW YORK AND NEW ORLEANS STUDENTS

**New York, December 7**—This Christmas, Santa Claus is leaving his reindeer behind and hitching a ride on... a French warship! The *Jeanne d'Arc*, a helicopter carrier which serves as a training ship for French navy midshipmen, will dock into **New York Harbor** on **Friday December 28** carrying over **10,000 books destined for disadvantaged American students**, giving new meaning to the expression “turning swords into ploughshares.” The French books, including dictionaries and textbooks, but also novels and comic books, will be offered to the children participating in New York’s newly launched **French-English dual-language programs**, as well as to **New Orleans** schools devastated by **hurricane Katrina**.

A delegation of students from the **Jordan L. Mott Middle School** (CIS 22) in the **Bronx**, one of the three schools that have launched a French-English dual-language program this year (the other two are **PS 125 in Harlem** and **PS 58 in Brooklyn**), will be welcomed on-board the ship at **2pm on the 28<sup>th</sup>**. Following a performance by their school band and a tour of the two French ships (the *Jeanne d'Arc* will be accompanied by the antisubmarine warfare **destroyer Georges Leygues**), they will take delivery of the books on behalf of all the schools involved. Sixty of the eighty crates will remain in New York, while the rest will be shipped overland to New Orleans.

At **3pm**, the ship’s commander, **Captain Hervé Bléjean**, will hold a **press conference** in the presence of **Catherine Petillon**, the French Embassy’s Attaché for Educational Affairs. To attend this conference, please **RSVP** to xxx.

This unusual delivery was initiated, coordinated and financed by the **Cultural Services of the French Embassy**, but the books themselves have been donated by two French associations, **Adiflor** and **Bibliodef**. Both specialize in providing French-language books, which are either new or in excellent condition, to needy children throughout the world. The French Embassy’s contribution comes in addition to the **\$100,000** the French government has recently earmarked to support dual-language programs in New York City public schools.

Students participating in these dual-language programs are being **partially immersed** in a **French-language environment**, with half of their classes taking place in French, and half in English. They are expected to become **completely bilingual after five years** of such bilingual teaching.

The *Jeanne d'Arc* will remain moored in New York until **January 2 at Pier 92** (West 52th Street). It will be open for visits by New York area children learning French and their parents from December 29-31 (schools with French-language programs will receive the necessary registration information).

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 PROGRAM:

<b>Date</b>	:	Friday, Dec 28
<b>Arrival of Ship</b>	:	9am (approximately)
<b>Arrival of Jordan L. Mott Students</b>	:	2 pm
<b>Press Conference</b>	:	3 pm
<b>Location</b>	:	Pier 92 West 52th street
<b>RSVP</b>	:	xxx xxx

***For more information:***

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