

For the love of French

Alliance Francaise Du Bengale, in collaboration with The Newtown School, hosted a writing and illustration workshop for students of French with writer Anne-Claire Leveque and illustrator Emilie Camatte. Young Metro reports



Some 16 students of the school took part in the workshop in two groups. Illustrator **Emilie Camatte** gave them various themes and asked them to put their imaginative skills to the best use by drawing on paper. "The idea is to let them understand things by seeing pictures and express themselves by drawing as well. This will improve their ability to relate to things and their pictorial communication as well," said Camatte.



Director of Alliance Francaise **Fabrice Plancon** also chipped in to teach French to the students. "We host such workshops at Alliance Francaise but I want to reach out to more schools. Because when you start to learn a language, it is not about grammar or anything else. It is about expressing yourself better. That is what students need the most," he said.



Author and freelance journalist **Anne-Claire Leveque** showed the students some illustrations and asked them to imagine the context and write a fictional conversation based on what they think is the meaning of the illustrations. "The goal is to use idioms properly in real-life conversation. The students are very imaginative. They have a lot of ideas. But, they need more confidence," **Anne** said at the end of the workshop.



Melissa Abrantes, a native of Lille in northern France, was spotted assisting students at the workshop. Melissa has joined the school as a resident teacher for nine months. Her joining has given an impetus to activity-related teaching. "It has already been six months with the school and I work with the students to improve their communication skills in new and engaging manners," she said.



I was asked to draw a situation where you have got a throat problem due to cold and you can't talk properly. The experience was fun.

— **Ashmita Bhattacharya**
Class VIII,
The Newtown School



I had to choose three expressions and had to write dialogues with them. It immensely helped me build my French vocabulary.

— **Anushka Guha**
Class VII,
The Newtown School

Learning new languages is one way to empower yourself. It offers a lot of opportunities and increases confidence. It is a life skill by itself.



— **Satabdi G. Bhattacharjee**, principal,
The Newtown School

We ask the students to express themselves and be creative. It is not a problem if they don't know the right word. They need to create their own vocabulary.



— **Samira Manna**
French teacher
The Newtown School

I learnt a lot about French grammar and how we can use it, from English to French.



— **Swastik Dutta**
Class VIII
The Newtown School

I tried to draw on a theme of having eyes behind your back. I have never done anything like this before and it was a great experience.



— **Arshia Ghosh**
Class VIII
The Newtown School

I wrote a dialogue on idioms in French and learnt idioms that I never knew existed.



— **Redhim Ghosh**
Class VII
The Newtown School

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