

# vous Francais?

## What's happening in other schools?

Although the state does not require foreign-language teaching until high school, many schools around Chittenden County offer exploratory programs as early as fifth grade for students to have a taste of French or Spanish. Here's a sampling:

■ **BURLINGTON:** After-school programs are in place at the six elementary schools of the Burlington School district, said acting superintendent Jeanne Collins. "Our board had discussions about it (elementary foreign-language instruction), but nothing formal at the moment," she said.

■ **CHITTENDEN EAST:** Assistant superintendent John Alberghini said schools are looking at the benefits of elementary foreign-language instruction and discussing it with parents. Richmond Elementary started a six-week after-school enrichment program for students to explore Spanish. The Chittenden East Supervisory Union serves students from Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond and Underhill.

■ **CHITTENDEN SOUTH:** Shelburne Community School used to have a French program for kindergarten through eighth-grade students supported by a local family foundation, said former Principal Walter Nardelli. "It was really worth it. By the time they graduated they were very fluent," said Nardelli, who is now the district leader at Williston Central School. The program

was discontinued about two years ago because the school district budget could not take over the cost of the program and "foreign language is not really a standard," he said. The Chittenden South Supervisory Union serves students in Charlotte, Hinesburg, St. George, Shelburne and Williston.

■ **COLCHESTER:** High school students offer French and Spanish lessons two or three times a year to some of the elementary classes. This is part of the high school curriculum, said Gwen Carmolli, Colchester School District director of curriculum. "Last year during budget season, a parent brought up the issue of foreign-language at the elementary level but it never went any further than that. We have a very tight budget," Carmolli said.

■ **ESSEX:** There has been an interest for years in offering second-language instruction to young students, said Wilhelmina Picard, director of curriculum and instruction for the Essex Town School District. "The length of the school day is a huge issue right now. We are looking for ways to accommodate all the mandates we have," she said. How to afford it is the other big concern, Picard said.

■ **SOUTH BURLINGTON:** The South Burlington School Board formed a committee to write recommendations on elementary foreign-language instruction, world languages supervisor Bob Schermer said. Also, parents put together an after-school voluntary program for children to learn French, he said.

— Mariana Lamaison Sears

Staff writer

Sharrah McEnerney plans her husband returns home. The wait is going to stand out — as if it's painted bright red — colorful photos. Amid a sea of placards likely to welcome home," McEnerney art a different message:

married her high-school friend McEnerney, less than a year after the Vermont Army National Guard was deployed to Kuwait in 1994. Since then, the young husband — both are 19 — saw her only once, during the soldier's brief homecoming in April.

McEnerney married more than a year ago, less than a month together. She hopes to actually have him around again next week. "It'll be nice

See **COUPLE**, 3B

## ent plan

■ Forty-seven additional faculty who won't have reached those milestones by 2010 will be eligible for the program, but not until they are 58.

■ About 100 nontenured faculty and all new hires will lose access to the early retirement benefit, but they will see a salary boost of about \$1,100 a year, because they will no longer be asked to help fund the program.

"That was a goal of the negotiations — to try to get something back for those people who were losing something (the early retirement benefit) they were promised as a condition of employment when they were brought in," Carleton said.