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That love of the Parisian language dates back to her Grade 7 days at Tweed-Hungerford elementary school, when teacher Rachel Seaver "got her into it."

"She was quite influential," she said. Boden only took one period of French a day, rather than French immersion, but the enchantment with the language stuck.

She doesn't understand where the passion comes from.

"My parents, they knew no French," Boden said, laughing.

It turned out that returning to St. Theresa for another year was a blessing, because Boden got involved in the nuts and bolts, behind-the-scenes machinations of the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

St. Theresa principal Nancy McKeown selected Boden as one of two students to represent the high school to join peers from other schools on a student council.

Then, she won election as the lone student trustee on the board, representing high school students stretching from Kingston to Trenton.

She has attended three board meetings so far and it has opened her eyes.

"I love it," Boden allowed. "I think it's so neat to get a different perspective. I didn't know all the processes ... even for a simple (student) field trip."

She takes the position seriously, too.

"My role is to be the student's voice ... (to) make sure the students are heard."

One concern is that the high schools in the Algonquin jurisdiction no longer have a 15-minute home room first thing in the morning, Boden said. The home room had about 20 students from all grades and announcements could be made about various activities. Without it, it is hard to get the word out to all students about events.

"It worked really well," she said. Other issues for students include no late buses, so there is no transportation to take them home if they participate in after-school activities.

She is also involved in the Model UN and the J(e)DI (Just Do It) club. The latter is involved in the collection of garments for the

Salvation Army program, Coats for Kids.

Boden's school involvement would fill anyone's plate but she is hungry for more.

For example, she has two part-time jobs.

"I work in the Tweed IGA in the bakery," Boden explained. During the winter, she can also be found at the arena, where she is a hockey timekeeper.

"I write, too," she said. "I was running some articles in the Tweed News."

One of those articles concerned Eva Olsson, a Holocaust survivor and author of *Unlocking the Doors: A Woman's Struggle Against Intolerance*.

Olsson was a guest speaker at St. Theresa and she was impressed with the article Boden penned. Some of Boden's words will be included in the introduction of the latest edition of Olsson's book.

At home, the Boden household also includes a younger brother, Kelsey, 15, and Taylor, "soon to be 10," she said. Then there are

the four cats, the dog, a rottweiler, who gets along famously with the felines, and the horses.

There are four horses, kept in stables at a nearby farm.

"I love horses," Boden said. "I grew up riding."

Her favourite mount is Dakota, a three-and-a-half year old Quarterhorse gelding.

She tries to ride at least an hour a day, more on Sundays.

There's more. Just like any teen, Boden likes to "hang out with friends."

Her favourite music is country — perhaps that is due to the horse influence — but she listens to everything.

Along the same vein, she recently went to the movies and saw *Walk the Line*, the story of the late country superstar, Johnny Cash.

But when it comes to her favourite food, she breaks with country.

"Chinese," she said.

Contact Barry Ellsworth at: newsroom@intelligencer.ca

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Boden, Amanda