

## Language Department Stresses Speaking



During the Christmas season French students become spontaneously creative when they are required to make cards, some of which are shown by Mme. Z.

If, when walking through the halls, you should suddenly hear a confusing babble of strange noises, it is probably that you have wandered into our Foreign Language Department. This year the spoken rather than the written language is being stressed. In order to become fluent in speaking, students take part in oral exercises which often include memorizing short dialogues or producing an original commercial. Skits are frequently performed and have featured current personalities such as James Bond and Batman.

The language lab also plays a vital role in oral study. Within the privacy of his individual booth, a student masters an accent and improves his listening comprehension by hearing tapes of native voices. In the more advanced courses of the language, reading and writing is emphasized. Here students are often pleasantly surprised as they find themselves enjoying the masterpieces of French, Spanish, or Latin literature. Much individual writing is also done, including such creative projects as composing an original poem.

With cultural field trips including visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Hispanic Museum, and even a French restaurant, it is proven that learning a foreign language involves more than the often dull study of grammar.



Alan Gilbert and Bob Miller are conversing in a French dialogue while Mme. Heite nods approvingly from the rear of the room.