



## December 2017 PTO Newsletter

### December PTO Meeting

The December PTO meeting is on **Thursday, December 14, at 6 p.m. in the Lower Campus library**. Please come and be an active part of your school and PTO! This month, we will be discussing PTO staff grants, a spring fun run fundraiser, whether to update/keep the PTO website/directory, and Kermesse/volunteers needed to help the Kermesse teacher committee. There will be simple sandwich makings available at 5:45 p.m. Free childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children.

### Intern Profiles



Hello! My name is Julie Aelion and I'm 22 years old. I'm French and I live in Paris in the Montmartre district. I'm an only child and I'm also the happy owner of a goldfish. ● I'm currently in a Master Degree dedicated to the teaching of French as a foreign language. I've just finished my first year and I'll start my second (and last one) in September 2018. I've also studied literature (French, English and Spanish.) ● Being an intern at L'Etoile du Nord is something I really feel enthusiastic about. My professional goal is to become a teacher of French as a foreign language in the US. I've already taught adults and young adults but I've never had the chance to work with children, which is a thing I've always wanted to experience. I look forward discovering the US teaching methods and also learning more about the US. I would also like to improve my English and meet new people. ● I'm fond of literature, cinema and sports (running, hiking, cycling...). (Mlle Aelion works with Mmes Rivard and Handley's classes.)



Hi all! ● My name is Nadir and I'm 22 years old. I'm a French guy whose parents are from Tunisia and Algeria. I live in Meaux, a small city that is 32 miles away from Paris. I have a big family composed of 7 children in which I'm the second to last! ● I'm currently enrolled in a Master's degree (1<sup>st</sup> year) specializing in Educational Science and English Humanities. I passed the competitive exam called CAPES (Certificat d'Aptitude au Professorat dans l'Enseignement Secondaire) which allows me to become an English high school teacher in France. The French Department of Education has given me the opportunity to delay the second year of my master's in order to go abroad as an intern. ● Becoming a teacher has always been a vocation for me. First of all, I think that teaching represents the best way to link pleasure with intellectual stimulation. That's why the internship at L'Etoile du Nord is nothing but an asset for a fresh teacher like me. Thanks to this experience, I will be able to discover a new way of learning all the while improving my English skills. In addition to this, I truly believe in education and its power. As Geoffrey Canada says, "we have to make the children believe again that education is a way out". ● I am fond of literature (I love reading whether it be in French or in English). I also like going to exhibitions or theatre with some of my friends. I do a bit of jogging as well and I like taking pictures of nature, especially of the sunset and the green and pleasant places. (M. Essediri works with Mmes Tran and Solachava's classes.)

**LNFI Community Interaction with Interns** - LNFI families are encouraged to interact with their child(ren)'s intern outside of school. Some ideas include inviting an intern to dinner or to other events, outings, etc. It's a good way to get to know interns better and experience the benefits of the cultural exchange aspects of the Intern Program! If you have questions or want the contact information for a particular intern, please send an email to [communications@lnfi-pt.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pt.org).

### December PTO Meeting Lower Campus Library

Thursday, December 14, 6 p.m.

Simple sandwich makings and fruit will be available at 5:45 p.m. Toilet-trained children can play in the gym (under LNFI TA supervision).

### Winter Break

Friday, December 22, through Tuesday, January 2 (classes resume on January 3)

### January PTO Meeting - The French Immersion Pathway after LNFI

January 11, 6 p.m., Lower Campus Library  
Staff from Ramsey Middle School and Central High School will present information on the French immersion pathway after LNFI.

### Give to the Max

We raised \$1,500 during Give to the Max! Thank you to all the families who reached out to family and friends and asked them to support our kids.

### Teacher Wish Lists

Thinking of giving a gift to a teacher? The PTO has asked teachers to create wish lists for items they need. As wish lists are created, they will be posted on the PTO website. To find a wish list, go to [www.LNFI-PTO.org](http://www.LNFI-PTO.org) and look under the "Other Happenings" column on the right side. This is a great way to give a gift that will really be appreciated!

### Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or comments for the PTO, please email them to [communications@lnfi-pt.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pt.org).

### PTO Officers

Julie Bowen, President  
McKenzie Mahoney, Vice-President  
Verna Carlson, Secretary  
Brian Soule, Treasurer

**Support the PTO when you shop Amazon and Shutterfly/TinyPrints.** As we enter this busy time of year, please remember that the LNFI PTO has arrangements with Amazon and Shutterfly to earn money on all purchases made via the PTO links (this does not affect the price you pay). This is a great way to support the PTO! However, you must use the link each time you begin to shop on either Amazon or Shutterfly. After following these links, you can sign in with your regular sign-in information. **Amazon** - Please use the PTO's Amazon link every time you shop: <http://www.amazon.com/?tag=lnfipto-20>. The LNFI PTO is an Amazon Affiliate and earns money from all purchases made via this link. (This link is different than the AmazonSmile link, which doesn't earn as much money for the PTO, but which still works.) **Shutterfly** - <http://lnfipto.shutterflystorefront.com/>. Bookmark this link to print photos or create cards, photo books, invitations, and more on Shutterfly or Tinyprints. Shutterfly donates 13% of purchases to the LNFI PTO. **Feel free to pass these links on to family and friends! These links are also on the top right of [www.LNFI-PTO.org](http://www.LNFI-PTO.org).** Thank you for thinking of the LNFI PTO when you are doing online shopping!

**Staff Appreciation Conference Potlucks.** Thank you to all families that dropped off food or donated money to help keep the staff well fed and energized during conference week! The coordinators, Monica Brown and McKenzie Mahoney, appreciated everyone's participation and received many compliments from the staff on how much they appreciated everything that was done for them during the week. We could not have done it without the great parent involvement at LNFI!

**Scholastic Book Fairs.** Thank you to all who volunteered and shopped at the book fairs! Both Upper and Lower Campus fairs went well. At Lower Campus, we had sales of about \$2,200 and earned 40% of those sales as profit taken in Scholastic credit. At Upper Campus, we had sales of almost \$5,000 and earned 50% of those sales as profit taken in Scholastic credit. (Sales below \$2,500 earn 40% profit taken in Scholastic credit and above \$2,500 earn 50% taken in Scholastic credit.) The PTO used Scholastic Dollars to buy \$2,700 worth of books for LNFI classrooms and libraries and prizes for the science fair and spelling and geography bees. That's a lot of books! Thank you also to those who donated used books for the used book sale at Lower Campus. It was great to see gently-used books passed on to other families!

**Kermesse – Volunteer Coordinators Needed.** Kermesse is planned for Friday, May 18, 2018. A kermesse in France is an end-of-year community-building fundraiser for the whole school and is similar to a school carnival. The whole school will be involved, so the school will need lots of help to make it successful! This event went really last year (the first year LNFI had a kermesse), but needs planning volunteers. **A committee of three teachers will work with volunteer coordinators to organize the event. Co-coordinator planning volunteers are needed for:** 1) food, 2) games, 3) silent auction, 4) logistics, 5) tickets, 6) Great Gatherings, 7) activities, and 8) classroom projects. If you can help, please sign up for a coordinator position at [www.LNFI-PTO.org/volunteer](http://www.LNFI-PTO.org/volunteer) or let your student's teacher know you would like to help. If you would like more information, please send an email to [kermesse@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:kermesse@lnfi-pto.org).

**Fundraising Update.** The PTO strives to raise approximately \$80,000 a year (about \$120-\$150 per student, depending on enrollment. Up to 75% of this amount supports the intern program and the remainder supports/provides student enrichment grants to LNFI staff, food for staff several times a year, Art Adventure, miscellaneous classroom needs, as well as yearly costs associated with running a PTO. Each year, we aim to raise enough money to support the following year's programs. So far this year, the PTO has raised a little over \$17,000. (This amount excludes profit from the book fairs, which is taken as Scholastic credit to purchase books and supplies for the libraries and classrooms.) Because the LNFI PTO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, donations to the LNFI PTO are tax deductible. Donations can always be made online at [www.LNFI-PTO.org](http://www.LNFI-PTO.org) or by sending cash or check to school.

**Box Tops for Education.** Don't forget to keep collecting Box Tops for Education! Box Tops can be sent to school with your student in a bag clearly labeled with the student and teacher's names.

**Class Liaison and PTO Emails.** If you aren't receiving emails from your class liaison or the PTO and would like to, please send an email to [communications@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pto.org).

**PTO Website and Facebook.** The PTO tries hard to keep the website, [www.LNFI-PTO.org](http://www.LNFI-PTO.org), up-to-date with information about upcoming events, the direct donation link, fundraising opportunities (like Box Tops, Amazon, and Shutterfly partnerships), and backpack flyers. The PTO also has a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/lnfipto](http://www.facebook.com/lnfipto) where we post information about upcoming events.

**PTO Meetings – Second Thursday of the Month.** PTO meetings are held the second Thursday of the month in the Lower Campus library at 6 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children.