

December 2016 PTO Newsletter

Intern Profiles



My name is **LAURA DOUANGDARA**. I am Lao French. My parents are Lao but they moved to France over 30 years ago. I was born and raised there. I might look familiar to you. Indeed, I was an intern at LNFI in 2012-2013. Back then, I trained in kindergarten and first grade. Things have changed a little for me since my last internship. First of all, I am four years older!

When I got back to France, I studied French as a Foreign Language. While studying at university, I had a part-time job as a TA in a French elementary school. In 2015, I did my student teaching at Kiettisack International School in Vientiane, Laos. Since I graduated from Stendhal University with a Master's Degree, I am a substitute teacher. I even had the chance to teach French at university level! Over these past four years, my passion for teaching and my love for children have grown stronger. Life is a journey. What brings me back to Minnesota is my desire to always improve as a teacher and my deep affection for the LNFI community. I am looking forward to learning from amazing mentors. I am thrilled to be back at LNFI. Mlle Douangdara works with Mmes Tran (fifth grade) and Scholl (third grade).



My name is **LAURA GUILLEMIN**. I am a kindergarten and first-grade intern at LNFI. I am originally from Issoudun, in the middle of France, and I am currently studying in Paris. I am working on a Master's Degree in didactics and French as a second language at the University Paris Descartes. I taught French at a high school in Thailand for 2 months. There, I gave lessons about French culture, grammar, and vocabulary. During my free time, I love listening to and playing music (cello and piano). I also really like cooking, travelling and meeting my family and friends. Mlle Guillemain works with Mmes Bolar Boly (kindergarten) and Handley (first grade).

•Please consider hosting an intern for the 2017-18 school year! Visit www.lnfi-pt.org/content/lnfi/interns for more information or to fill out an application.

Volunteers Needed

The PTO is always looking for additional volunteers, but we especially need help now if the following events are going to continue to take place:

***VIP (Very Important Persons) Day at Lower Campus** – This event is usually held in conjunction with the spring book fair and just before March conferences. This event usually lasts less than two hours and includes light refreshments and time spent in the classrooms. A planned date is Friday, March 17.

***Staff Appreciation Potlucks** – For the past few years, potlucks have been provided by parents on the days of evening conferences in the fall and in the spring (week of March 20) and coordinated by the book fair coordinator, but these now need a separate coordinator(s). A Coordinator is needed for both campuses for one or two days in the spring and in the fall to make sure volunteers are signed up, and to set up and clean up the potlucks.

***Art Adventure** – A coordinator is needed for the 2016-2017 school year. The Art Adventure coordinator works with the Minneapolis Institute of Arts to recruit, organize, and train volunteers, and to provide props and ideas for classroom instruction.

If you would like to be a coordinator or would like more information on any of these events, please send an email communications@lnfi-pt.org or stop in one of the school offices and leave a message in the PTO mailbox. Instructions and guidance can be provided. Note: additional volunteers are always needed for other events, programs, and committees (Social, Intern, Fundraising, Communications, and Finance).

December PTO Meeting

Lower Campus Library

Thursday, December 8, 6 p.m.

Come and learn about the French Immersion Pathway through Ramsey Middle School and Central High School! Simple sandwich makings will be out at 5:30 p.m. Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children.

No School Days

Thursday, December 22, through Monday, January 2 (classes resume on January 3)

January PTO Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 6 p.m.

Dr. Efe Agbam, Saint Paul Public School's Assistant Superintendent for Multilingual Learning, will be coming to the January PTO meeting to provide additional information to parents concerning district support for the French Immersion Pathway. The district will be providing dinner.

LNFI Family Roller Skating Evening

Friday, January 20, 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Saints North Family Skate Center, Maplewood

Le Festival des Pays Francophones – Lower Campus

Thursday, February 2

Amazon.com and Shutterfly.com

If you or others shop online at Amazon or Shutterfly, please use the links at the top right of www.lnfi-pt.org every time you shop (the links time out after 24 hours). The LNFI PTO earns money on all qualified purchases made via this link. Use Shutterfly to print photos or create cards, calendars, photo books, invitations, and more, and the LNFI PTO will earn a 13% commission! Once you follow the links, you can bookmark them on the computer!

Teacher Wish Lists

Thinking of giving a gift to a teacher? As teachers provide wish lists for items they need, the wish lists will be put on the PTO website. To find a wish list, go to www.lnfi-pt.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!

Teaching Assistants

LNFI has six French-speaking teaching assistants this year who assist in the classrooms. (TAs are school district employees.) The TAs help out in classrooms during times when there is not an intern in the classroom or when additional assistance is needed during for special subjects, such as math rotations in kindergarten and first grade.

Elise Lindell is a TA at the Lower Campus. This year, she is working with Mme Handley (first grade) and Mme Faltsek (kindergarten), as well as with Dr. Lamb's music classes. She graduated from North Park University (Chicago) with a double major in Global Studies and French and is currently working on her Elementary Teaching License at Hamline University. After college, she worked for a year as an English Language Assistant in a public French high school and traveled all over Europe. She has also worked for various non-profits in Minneapolis doing fundraising and in several youth development roles with the YMCA. Prior to L'Etoile du Nord, she worked as a teacher for four years at a small French-immersion school in Minnetonka called Mes Amis. She loves working with children and speaking French! In her spare time, Elise enjoys cooking, playing violin, reading, and biking around Minneapolis.

Souleymane Diarra is a TA at the Upper Campus. He is from Thies, Senegal, a town about 50 miles away from Senegal's capital, Dakar, in West Africa. He is a native French speaker who recently moved to the United States. Last year, Souleymane volunteered at LNFI for four months at the Lower Campus. He had a great experience and got to work with awesome people. He's excited to continue to work with great staff and great kids at Upper Campus this year! He works with Mme Scholl (third grade), M. Kigin (third grade), M. Mang (fifth grade), and Mme Vang (fourth grade).

Thalia Bea Kostman was born in Grenoble, France, and has been bilingual all her life. She graduated from Macalester College with a major in Theatre and minor in French and Francophone studies. This is Thalia's second year at L'Etoile du Nord. She also spends her time teaching private French lessons and performing in local theatrical productions. This year, Thalia is working with M. Kakou (second grade), Mme Dubaille (second grade), Mlle Eichten (second grade), Mlle Geimer (second grade), and Mme Tavernier (third grade).

Chai Tho was born in Sacramento, California, but moved to Minnesota when he was two years old. His family is from France, so, at the age of 12, his parents decided to move back to France. Chai lived in a small city down south from Paris. Growing up in France was not easy at all especially learning French! In 2016, he decided to move back to Minnesota and came to work at LNFI as a TA. He works with second, fourth, and fifth graders.

Jonathan Bouissières has worked at LNFI for four years and absolutely loves it! This year, he works with a lot of different grades, including in science and with Mme Rivard (first grade), Mme Stephenson (kindergarten), and Mme Harberts (kindergarten). He also coaches soccer for kindergarteners and first graders, teaches second graders during EDL, and works at Discovery Club every morning. Jonathan is from a charming little town called Albi in the south of France.

Anne Ben Amor works as a paraprofessional in Special Education. She is from France, but has been living in the United States for almost five years. She was born and raised in Strasbourg, in the Alsace region located at the border of Germany. She is also fluent in German. Anne studied literature in France at Marie Curie University in Strasbourg. She has two boys, 10 and six years old. In her free time, she is active in a lot of sports and also likes to cook. Anne loves working at LNFI, not only because she loves working with children, but also because she has the chance to work with people from different cultures and can learn from her colleagues and students every day!

Another successful Scholastic Book Fair! Thank you to all who volunteered and shopped at the Scholastic book fairs! Through direct donations and book fair proceeds, teachers and the libraries received approximately \$2,000 in new books!

Thank You for Give to the Max Donations! We raised approximately \$2,400 during Give to the Max this year. Thank you to all the members of our LNFI community who donated!

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.

PTO Directory. If you aren't in the directory (or don't know if you are), aren't receiving PTO or class liaison emails, never set up a password, or lost your password, send an email to communications@lnfi-pto.org. If you have previously provided your email address on a PTO form, but don't know if you have a password or don't remember it, you can go to the directory page at www.lnfi-pto.org, fill in your email address, and click on the forgot your password button to be sent a link to create a new password.

PTO Website and Facebook. Volunteers try hard to keep the website, www.lnfi-pto.org, up-to-date with information about upcoming events, the direct donation link, fundraising opportunities (like Box Tops and Labels for Education and Amazon and Shutterfly partnerships), backpack flyers, and the family directory. The PTO also has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lnfipto where we post information about upcoming events.

Questions? Send an email to communications@lnfi-pto.org, and we'll direct you to the right person to answer your questions!