

## January 2017 PTO Newsletter

### IF YOU HOST, THEY WILL COME!

Please consider signing up to host an intern for half the school year in 2017-18!

**YOU** – our LNFI Families – impact how many interns we are able to bring into our classrooms! This year, host family recruitment will end earlier than usual - **MARCH 31**. We will interview interns in April and May based on the number of host families we are able to find by this date. Our goal is 24 families, so that we can recruit up to 10 interns. (Each intern stays with two different host families, but we also need back-up host families.)

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:** All families who sign up by January 31 will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card for the brand-new Revival restaurant in St. Paul! All host families need to provide a private bedroom (not bathroom), meals and transportation to and from school (which can be on the school bus). To learn more, contact Tracie Berniard at [tberniard@gmail.com](mailto:tberniard@gmail.com) or visit [www.lnfi-pto.org/](http://www.lnfi-pto.org/).

#### HOST FAMILY TESTIMONIAL:

It can be hard to imagine opening up your home to a stranger. What kind of person will they be? How will it affect me and my family and our routines? What will we do with them every day? It seems so long of a commitment – what if we don't get along? These are the types of questions that we asked ourselves when considering whether or not to host a French Intern through LNFI's Intern Program. They were all rational thoughts, but underlying the concerns was the exciting idea of what we



might learn and experience by sharing our culture with someone from another country. And we wanted to support a program that means so much to our daughter's school. So we signed up. **What happened?** Well, we got matched to an intern – Jeanne Etelain. It was a nervous excitement as we prepared for her arrival! But we tried to imagine how much harder it would be to leave what is familiar to go on an adventure in a new country. And it was fun to imagine our life here as something foreign to another person and made a list of all of our favorite things that we would love to share.

**It turned out that we had much more in common than we imagined!** We all loved good food and shared lots of time in the kitchen exchanging recipes and food culture. We loved the outdoors and ran together, hiked together, biked together and more. Jeanne's English began to sound amazing and she and my daughter would speak French together regularly. She shared French stories and movies. In short, we just loved spending time together, and, before long, Jeanne was just a normal part of our family. By the time our 5 months were over, we found ourselves sad that we would have to say goodbye. We still miss her, but stay in touch regularly. And I know we have made an amazing friendship that will last the rest of our lives. We got so much more out of hosting than we gave and would wholeheartedly recommend taking the leap. – Tracie Berniard

### Volunteer Needed – VIP Day

**\*VIP (Very Important Persons) Day at Lower Campus** – This event is held in conjunction with the spring book fair and just before March conferences. The event usually lasts less than two hours and includes light refreshments and time spent in the classrooms. The planned date is Friday, March 17, but it needs a coordinator to go forward. If you are interested, send an email [communications@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pto.org) or stop in the office and let Mme Blomgren know.

#### January PTO Meeting

Thursday, January 12, 6 p.m.  
 Dr. Efe Agbamu, 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 provide a light dinner.

#### LNFI Family Roller Skating Evening

Friday, January 20, 5:15-7:15 p.m.  
 Saints North Family Skate Center, Maplewood  
 \$5 admission includes quad-rental skates. Rollerblade rental is an additional \$3 (or you can bring your own) LNFI will have the entire facility to itself during this time. Concessions will be sold and there will be games played and a grand prize giveaway. (This is a family event. Please do not drop off your children.)

#### Ramsey Middle School Open House for prospective students and their families

Thursday, January 26, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
[www.ramsey.spps.org](http://www.ramsey.spps.org)

#### Le Festival des Pays Francophones – Lower Campus

Thursday, February 2, 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
 The Lower Campus will display information about the different Francophone countries classes have been studying this year. Families are invited to come see the work the students have been doing! (This event will take place in conjunction with LNFI's prospective family School Showcase.)

#### Winter Gear Needed for Upper Campus –

The Upper Campus could use some more winter clothing (jackets, hats, mittens, boots) to have on hand when extras are needed. If you have items you no longer need, please drop them off at the Upper Campus office. (Lower Campus has enough in smaller sizes.)

#### No School Days

Monday, January 16  
 Friday, January 27



I am **Sophie Delsaux**. I turned 24 on December 9th. I got a bachelors' degree in literature, and I am actually finishing my Master's in mediation, advising, and academic politics. I should be done in September - I just have to finish my thesis! I like to challenge myself, so I always want to discover new things! But I also like to read a good book, go to the gym, and hang out with my friends. I look forward to discovering the school and see how it is to teach my own language to the kids. I am not sure yet about the career I want to do later, but if I like the internship, I would love to continue!



Hello, my name is **Elise Boire**. I am 24 years old. I am French and am from Normandy. I have a younger brother who is 21. I studied at the University of Caen. I have a bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages Applied to the Business World. I studied English and Spanish, and I took three years of Arabic and studied other subjects related to business. For my senior year, I did an exchange and studied at Appalachian State University, Boone, NC for a year. I am currently studying to get my Master's in teaching French as a Second Language (I should graduate in September). I like basketball (playing and watching it), skiing, and snowboarding. I like to watch sports in general, but I also like to read, play board games, go to the cinema, and I love American TV shows. I like amusement parks

and love rollercoasters! I love travelling, because I can discover new landscapes and meet new people. I have travelled in some countries in Africa, several countries in Europe, and a couple of countries in the Carribean, and I have been to the U.S. five times. I really love this country, the way of life, and the wide-open spaces! I would like this internship to help me acquire some field experiences because I would like to be a French teacher. I would like to put into practice what I have learned in school and learned from the teachers at the school. I have a big family with a lot of younger cousins, and I have worked in a high school and coached a basketball team (the children were 9 years old).

**Family Service Fair** -The LNFI PTO will host a Family Service Fair on Tuesday, April 18, in the evening at the Lower Campus. At the fair, families work on projects that will be donated to local non-profits. The PTO will provide the supplies, but we need families to act as **Table Hosts**. Table Hosts may help prepare projects prior to the event and help participants complete the projects the night of the event. This is a great way to get your family involved in doing good together! To find out more, please email [libby.hilsendager@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:libby.hilsendager@lnfi-pto.org). To sign up to be a Table Host or to help in other ways the night of the event, go to [www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer](http://www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer).

**Minnesota State Arts Board – Arts Learning Grant Program** - The LNFI PTO has considered applying for this grant in the past, but needs a parent who is willing and able to take the lead to investigate the feasibility of applying, as well as to prepare the application (it is a long and detailed application). The deadline is February 24. To learn more, go to <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/machf-al.html>. If you are interested in participating, please send an email to [communications@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pto.org) or stop in and talk to one of the school secretaries or Mme Lemtouni.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

**Questions?** Send an email to [communications@lnfi-pto.org](mailto:communications@lnfi-pto.org), and we'll direct you to the right person to answer your questions!

**PTO Website and Facebook.** Volunteers try 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 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](http://www.facebook.com/lnfipto) where we post information about upcoming events.

**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-pto.org](http://www.lnfi-pto.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!