



November 2017 PTO Newsletter

November PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting is on **Thursday, November 9, at 6 p.m. in the Lower Campus library**. Please come and be an active part of your school and PTO! We will discuss, among other agenda items, PTO grants for this school year (how much to spend on grants, how/who to implement and solicit grant proposals, and timing of process) and get updates on the Carnaval des Citrouilles and the Direct Donation Campaign.

Intern Profiles



Hi all! I'm Claire Ferté from Nantes, France! I'm 22 years old, and currently a master's student in education. I have an elder brother who is 25, two younger sisters who are 20 and 14, and the youngest of the family is my 9 year-old brother. We have two cute little dogs, a male and a female. I love dogs, and any kind of animals! ● My dream job is to become a teacher, either an English teacher in France, or a French teacher abroad. I decided to participate in this internship program to experience French teaching to American students. I'm looking forward to meeting you guys! ● I've been traveling a lot since I was a child. I've lived in many different places in France, as well as in Italy, Belgium, Finland and Canada too! I love traveling for vacation too and my favorite countries so far are Canada, Sweden and Russia! ● Being part of l'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School is an amazing opportunity. I can't wait to learn from teachers and students, as well as having a great cultural exchange between the school community, host families, myself and the other interns! ● I really love cooking and baking, it is one of my greatest passions! I do enjoy reading novels and poems, going to the cinema and watching T.V. shows. Music is very important to me, too!

(Mlle Ferté works with Milles Geimer and Gagnaire and Mme Swann's classes.)



Hi all - My name is Diane Durey, I am 22 years old. I have grown up in a suburb located one hour from Paris named Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines. It is also ten minutes from Versailles. I have been living in Paris for my studies. I just finished my first year of Master's in Language didactics at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University. After getting my diploma, I would like to travel and teach French as a foreign language. Being an intern at LNFI is for me a great opportunity: it will help me to gain experience into teaching French as a foreign language. As well, it will help me to gather matter to write my second year of Master's memoire. Also, living in the United States has always been a dream for me. I have never worked with children but I am very curious about them: for me, it will be an interesting challenge. Working with children can be a great way to manage my creativity. Sharing my culture and comparing it to another one can be enriching for both the children and me. ● I have grown up in a three-child family and I love being surrounded by people. I love games (video games, board games, outdoor games...). Reading and writing are among my passions (I have a bachelor's degree in Letters, Edition, Medias and Audiovisual). I also am fond of music and I like going to concerts and festivals. Moreover, I love cooking (eating also).

(Mlle Durey works with Mmes Stephenson and Handley's classes.)

****The PTO supports and fully funds the intern program.** Many people deserve a thank you for supporting this program – those who make direct donations, those who support PTO fundraisers like the Carnaval des Citrouilles, the teachers and volunteers on the intern committee, LNFI administration and teachers, the volunteers who organize and run PTO fundraisers and events, and, of course, the wonderful interns! Thank you all!

November PTO Meeting Lower Campus Library

Thursday, November 9, 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).

Scholastic Book Fair Shopping Hours

Tuesday, November 14, 4 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16 (**Upper Campus Only**), 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 16, 4 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 17, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers needed! Please see reverse side for more information.

Give to the Max Day

Thursday, November 16

Please see reverse side for more information and LNFI PTO's Give to the Max link.

Staff Appreciation Lunchtime Potlucks

Tuesday, November 14

Thursday, November 16

LNFI families donate the food and time to keep teachers going through conference days!

LNFI Family Roller Skating Evening

Friday, December 8, 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Saints North Family Skate Center, Maplewood

December PTO Meeting

December 14, 6 p.m., Lower Campus Library

Carnaval des Citrouilles and Dance

Thank you to all who attended and volunteered! A special thank you to the student volunteers and the interns (who were in the haunted house) – we couldn't have done it without you!

Direct Donation Appeal

Thank you to everyone for your participation in our fall appeal! We raised an estimated \$14,500 for our children, that's enough for two interns next year!

Meet Your Child's Intern!

Send an email to interncommittee@lnfi-pt.org if you would like to host your child's intern for meal at your house or do something else with him or her to get to know them!

Direct Donation Appeal. Thank you to everyone for your participation in our fall appeal! We raised an estimated \$14,500 for our children, which can provide for two interns next year! We celebrated in many classrooms with small prizes and a few classes earned popcorn or popsicle parties for turning in 15 donation cards. If you still have a card to turn in, please do so as soon as possible. Your support makes LNFI a school of excellence and fun!

Staff Appreciation Lunchtime Potlucks. During conferences, the PTO hosts Staff Appreciation Lunchtime Potlucks on the days of evening conference days (Taco Bar - Tuesday, November 14, and Soups and Salads - Thursday, November 16). LNFI families generously bring potluck items to help sustain the teachers and staff through the long conference days! If you can volunteer to bring a food item or to help set up or clean up the potluck, please sign up at www.Infi-pto.org/volunteer (look for the Staff Appreciation Potluck tabs). Food items can be dropped off at school any time before 11 a.m. the day of the potluck. If you can't drop off food, you can send an item with your child on the bus. This is a great way to show your support for LNFI staff!

Scholastic Book Fair. The book fair will be open during conferences on November 14, 16, and 17. You can also shop the online book fair from November 1-20 and have books shipped (for free) to school and delivered to your child. (It doesn't look like there are any French books available in the online fair.) The online book fair has even more books, so check it out! The Lower Campus online book fair link is <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/letoiledunordlower>. The Upper Campus online book fair link is www.scholastic.com/bf/letoiledunordfrenchschool2. (Scroll down to "Shop Online.") • **Upper Campus Daytime Student Shopping is Wednesday, November 16** (there is no daytime shopping at Lower Campus). Please send money in an envelope marked "BOOK FAIR" with the amount of money, as well as a note about any buying restrictions. Books generally cost \$4-\$25. Volunteers help the students shop. ***Volunteering.** We need volunteers to help students and families find and purchase books and to set up (Friday, November 10) and pack up (Monday, November 20). If you would like to help for a one-hour shift, please look at the times and dates available and sign up at www.Infi-pto.org/volunteer. If you have questions about the book fair or volunteering, please email becky.erickson@Infi-pto.org. ***Used Children's Book Sale at Lower Campus.** We will also collect and sell donated used children's books at the Lower Campus. You can drop off used books in either school office before November 10 or bring them to the book sale at Lower Campus. All used books will be 25 cents. Most are in English, but some are in French.

Give to the Max – November 16. Give to the Max Day is the largest single fundraising event in Minnesota for non-profits and schools. Now is the time to reach out to friends, neighbors, and family and ask them to make a donation to support our kids and our school. Ask them to make a donation to the LNFI PTO between now and November 16, 2017, at <https://givemn.org/organization/Lnfi-Pto>. Each Give to the Max donation could turn into \$1,000 through GiveMN's hourly drawings, and one donation made during Give to the Max will be randomly selected to receive a \$10,000 dollar prize! (*This isn't a request for LNFI families to make a donation, which is what we did during the Direct Donation Campaign, but a reminder that friends and extended family may want to make a donation on Give to the Max Day.)

Kermesse - Save the Date! Kermesse is tentatively planned for Friday, May 14, 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). Planning will soon be starting with the teacher committee for the Kermesse celebration. Watch for a backpack flyer soon to see how you can be involved or let your student's teacher know you would like to help.

Box Tops for Education. Thank you to all the families who turned in Box Tops! Almost \$250 worth of Box Tops were collected! If your student turned in 100 Box Tops, a \$10 book fair certificate was sent home with the student. (There will also be a list of students at the book fairs.) After the fall collection, the rankings are: 1) Mme Tran (372), 2) Mme Faltesek (324), and 3) Mme Solachava (246). When you turn in Box Tops, don't forget to label the bag with the teacher's and student's names.

PTO Website and Facebook. The PTO tries hard to keep the website, www.Infi-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/Infipito where we post information about upcoming events.

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@Infi-pto.org.

Amazon. If you make purchases on amazon.com, please use the PTO's Amazon link every time you shop: <http://www.amazon.com/?tag=Infipito-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.)

Shutterfly. Bookmark this link to print photos or create cards, photo books, invitations, and more - <http://Infipito.shutterflystorefront.com/>. Shutterfly will donate 13% of purchases to the LNFI PTO.

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

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.