

October 2016 PTO Newsletter

Intern Update

•All 10 interns hail from France this year; they are excited to join the LNFI community and work with the teachers and your children in the classrooms. Each month, we will introduce two interns.

Hi! My name is **ELSA GASPARINI**. I am 24 and I come from Grenoble, a beautiful city located in the South East of France and surrounded by three mountain ranges. I am currently enrolled in a Master Degree of Research in English studies, and I will graduate in June. After that, I will pass the exams to become a teacher and pursue a PhD. This year, I will be working with Mme Klein (5th grade) and Mme Bissoy (3rd, 4th and 5th grades). I am really pleased as I will be able to deal with different courses and grades! I have many hobbies including watching movies, reading books, cooking, manual activities and doing sports. But what I enjoy the most in life is traveling, discovering other cultures and meeting new people. Being an intern will be a great opportunity for me to know more of the American culture, as well as improving my teaching skills. Also, I am really enthusiastic about sharing my native language and culture with the students!



Hello, my name is **MAXIME BROSSARD**. I'm 25, and I'm coming from Lyon in France. I like children and I have a lot of experiences with them. Moreover, I want to be a teacher in France. I have already studied Psychology but, now, I'm in education. After my year at LNFI, I need only two years of studying to be a teacher. I like music, cinema, reading, but especially I like hanging out, meeting people, and traveling.



•All costs associated with the intern program are paid for by the PTO.
 •It's not too soon to consider hosting an intern for the 2017-18 school year! Visit www.lnfi-pt.org and click on the Intern Program tab for more information or to fill out an application.

PTO Direct Donation Appeal

•This month we are sending home a donation card and envelope with each student. Please complete the card, and return the card and envelope to your student's classroom by Monday, October 31, 2016. Teachers will have a box to receive completed cards in each classroom. •At school, students will receive fun prizes based on the number of completed donation cards received in each classroom – e.g., bracelets, beads, extra recess! The classrooms at each grade level with the greatest number of returned donation cards will win classroom parties. •The donation cards ask you to make a donation to the LNFI PTO by cash/check (made to LNFI PTO) or online (www.lnfi-pt.org, click on the Contribute tab). You can make a one-time gift or set up recurring monthly donations. Classrooms win prizes based on the number of returned donation cards, not on the amount of money received in donations. The PTO encourages you to make a donation, but you do not have to make a donation in order for your student's classroom to win prizes. •Please complete your donation card and return the card and envelope to your student's classroom by October 31, 2016. Help our students have fun while making their future as bright as it can be.

All-School Family Halloween Dance

Put on your costumes and join other LNFI families at the LNFI Family Halloween Dance on Friday, October 28, 6-8 p.m., in the Lower Campus Gym! There will be music, dancing, great costumes (and prizes), a photo station, and face and glow light nail painting. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

PTO Meeting

Lower Campus Library

Thursday, October 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children three years or older.

Box Tops for Education Due

Friday, October 14 – Fall due date

Picture Day

Tuesday, October 18

Halloween Dance

Lower Campus Gym

Friday, October 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 This is a no school day for students.
 Flyers will be sent home in backpacks.

No School Days

Thursday, October 20
 Friday, October 21
 Friday, October 28

PTO Family Directory

The Family Directory (www.lnfi-pt.org/content/lnfi/directory) is used by the LNFI PTO and class liaisons for communicating with LNFI families. It is accessed by using a login email and password. If you aren't in the directory (or don't know if you are), aren't receiving PTO or classroom liaison emails, never set up a password, or lost your password, send an email to communications@lnfi-pt.org for instructions.

PTO Officers

Julie Bowen, President
julie.bowen@lnfi-pt.org
 McKenzie Mahoney, Vice-President
mckenzie.mahoney@lnfi-pt.org
 Verna Carlson, Secretary
verna.carlson@lnfi-pt.org
 Treasurer - OPEN



LNFI Yard Signs. Pick up an LNFI yard sign and show your school spirit! There are two designs to choose from. LNFI yards signs are available in the school offices. Suggested donation for a sign is \$5.

Fifth Grade France Trip. LNFI has been in partnership with the Language and Friendship organization for the past six years to offer a trip to France for fifth graders. Students get to experience the French language and culture by staying with a French family for two weeks. This is a wonderful and exciting cultural experience! Please go on the school website (frenchimmersion.spps.org/) and scroll down to the tab on the bottom left for "Travel to France in 2017." For more information or questions, check www.languageandfriendship.com or contact Mme Vang (maynhia.vang@spps.org).

Minneapolis Institute of Art's Art Adventure Program - No art experience is needed! Art Adventure is a fall program that engages students with artwork from the Minneapolis Institute of Art's collection. Up to three volunteers are needed per class, so do not hesitate to sign up because a class already has a volunteer! The PTO rents art props from the MIA from November 30-December 15, which volunteers can, but do not have to, use. You can sign up for specific classrooms at www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer or let your child's teacher know you are interested. Additional information will then be provided to you. Upcoming MIA training sessions will be held on 10/18 (10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.), 10/27 (5:30-8 p.m.), 11/3 (5:30-8 p.m.), and 11/15 (10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.). For more information on the program, visit <http://new.artsmia.org/discover/art-adventure/>. **Email questions to the LNFI parent coordinator, Nicole Pierce, at (lovesheart27@gmail.com).** This is a great way to get to know your child's teacher and classmates!



Box Tops for Education. Collect 100 Box Tops and send them to school by Friday, October 14 to earn a \$10 Scholastic Fall Book Fair credit for your child! Box Tops should be sent to school with your child in a bag clearly marked with the teacher and child's names. At the end of the year, the class collecting the most Box Tops will get a pizza party. Box Tops earn the PTO 10 cents per box top.

Carnaval des Citrouilles. Thank you all who volunteered, donated baked goods, and attended the Carnaval des Citrouilles! Kelly Holland and McKenzie Mahoney had a great idea to have it outside this year – what a beautiful and fun evening!

December 8 PTO Meeting. There will be a panel discussion about the benefits of attending Ramsey Middle School and the French program there. If you are interested in being part of the panel, please send an email to becky.erickson@lnfi-pto.org.

VolunteerSpot is now Signup.com. The PTO uses Signup.com to organize many volunteer opportunities. Please go to www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer to visit the PTO's volunteer Signup.com page to volunteer for scheduled events.

LNFI PTO Executive Committee and Committees. The LNFI Executive Committee consists of the four officers and the committee chairs. The PTO has five committees – Fundraising (Ray Kirsch – chair), Intern (Andrea Plautz – chair), Social (Libby Hilsendager – chair), Communications (Becky Erickson – chair), and Finance (Mark Christenson – chair). Committees are always looking for additional members, so please consider joining a committee that interests you. If you can't attend the monthly PTO meetings, you can still participate on a committee!

PTO Website and Facebook. The PTO tries 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. Please spend some time browsing the website, so you will know where to look for more information when you need it. The PTO also has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lnfipto where we post information about upcoming events.

PTO Meetings – Second Thursday of the Month (after September). PTO meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, unless they have to be moved to accommodate the school schedule. Meetings are held in the Lower Campus library from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children.

Amazon. If you make purchases on amazon.com, 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.)

Shutterfly. If you use Shutterfly (or any of the related websites), please use this link – <http://lnfipto.shutterflystorefront.com/> before placing an order and Shutterfly will donate 13% of purchases to the LNFI PTO.

Questions? Send an email to communications@lnfipto.org or let someone in the school office know that you have a question for the PTO, and we'll direct you to the right person to answer your questions!