

September 2016 PTO Newsletter – Welcome LNFI Families!

Welcome Interns!

This year we will have 10 native French-speaking interns at LNFI. Please welcome them to LNFI and Minnesota when you see them. Benji Tardieux will work with Mme Faltesek. Sophie Delsaux will work with Mmes Harberts and Rddad. Célia Pil will work with Mmes Stephenson and Rivard. Laura Guillemain will work with Mmes Bolar Boly and Handley. Roxane Chiquet will work with Mmes Dubaille and Swann. Elise Boire will work with Mlles Geimer and Gagnaire. Claire Destanque will work with M. Kakou and Mme Tavernier. Laura Douangdara will work with Mmes Tran and Scholl. (You may recognize Mlle Douangdara's name because she was also an LNFI intern in 2013-2014– welcome back!) Elsa Gasparini will work with Mmes Klein and Bissoy (science). One intern, Max Brossard, has had some visa issues, but we are hopeful he will soon to work with Mlle Eichten and Mme Solachava. Right now, the intern committee is working hard to help the interns and teachers settle get prepared for the school year; the Intern Program page at www.lnfi-pto.org will soon have intern bios and photos.

September 15 PTO Meeting

Come and meet other LNFI families (and possibly interns) and learn about what the PTO does and the many volunteer opportunities! PTO meetings are held in the Lower Campus Library at 6 p.m. Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children. After the September meeting, PTO meetings are the second Thursday of the month (unless there is a school conflict).

Carnaval des Citrouilles (Pumpkin Carnival)

The PTO's annual fall carnival will be held at the Lower Campus on Friday, September 30 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The evening includes games, face painting, a cake walk, bouncy houses, food, and many other activities! Tickets are required for meals and activities. (More information will be sent home in backpack flyers.) The students love this event, and it is a great fundraiser, but it requires many volunteers at the event. You can sign up to volunteer at www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer, send an email to communications@lnfi-pto.org, or fill out the backpack form and return it to school.

Fundraising and Social Events

In addition to events like the Carnaval des Citrouilles, the PTO holds several fundraising events throughout the year to support its programs. The budget for 2016-2017 is \$84,450. The most significant expense is the intern program, which the PTO fully funds, and which reduces the staff-to-student ratio. This year all but four classrooms will have an intern for half the day for the whole year. There are many other programs funded by the PTO, including Art Adventure, the grant program, staff appreciation meals, and the purchase of classroom and library books. The PTO budget is about \$150 for each child at LNFI. Donations can always be made at www.lnfi-pto.org/contribute or with cash or check made to LNFI PTO. Additionally, the PTO organizes social events, including a school dance, a roller skating night, and a family service night. The many PTO activities depend on volunteers – thank you to all who will volunteer this year to ensure that events can take place! As volunteer opportunities are planned, event sign-ups will be linked to www.lnfi-pto.org/volunteer.

PTO Executive Committee

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

PTO Meeting Lower Campus Library

Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Childcare is provided in the gym for toilet-trained children.

Flu Shot Clinics

All LNFI families are invited to receive a free flu shot or mist. A consent form is needed for each person receiving a shot or mist and Insurance information will be requested if you have insurance.

Lower Campus Gymnasium –
Monday, October 3, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Upper Campus Gymnasium –
Tuesday, October 4, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Halloween Dance

Friday Evening, October 28

PTO Family Directory

The Family Directory is used by the LNFI PTO 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 emails, never set up a password, or lost your password, send an email to communications@lnfi-pto.org.

No School Days

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

LNFI PTO Treasurer Needed. The PTO needs a treasurer for the 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested or would like more information, please send an email to julie.bowen@lnfi-pto.org or becky.erickson@lnfi-pto.org. Training will be provided.

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! Please attend the September 15 PTO meeting to learn more about the committees or, if you can't attend, send an email to communications@lnfi-pto.org if you would like more information about any of the committees or other volunteer opportunities.

Minneapolis Institute of Art's Art Adventure Program. Art Adventure is a fall program that engages students with artwork from the Minneapolis Institute of Art's collection. Adult volunteers attend a short training session at the MIA and then work with a teacher and any other classroom volunteers to plan and schedule two classroom presentations and corresponding activities. Volunteers can present alone or with others. Classroom presentations/activities can be done any time after training. 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. To sign up for an MIA training session or for more information about the program, go to <http://new.artsmia.org/discover/art-adventure/>. Training sessions are scheduled for 9/8 (5:30-8 p.m.), 9/27 (10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.), 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.). Questions for the LNFI parent coordinator can be sent to Nicole Pierce (lovesheart27@gmail.com). **This is a great way to get to know your child's teacher and classmates! No art experience is needed!**

Halloween Dance, Friday, October 28. An all-school family dance is being planned for Friday, October 28, which is a no-school day. It is tentatively planned to be held in the Upper Campus gymnasium from 6 – 8 p.m.

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 page to volunteer for scheduled events, including Art Adventure and the Carnaval des Citrouilles.

Box Tops for Education. Collect 100 Box Tops and send them to school by October 15 to earn a \$10 Scholastic Fall Book Fair credit for your child! Box Tops should be sent to your child's teacher in a bag with the teacher and student's names on it. 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.

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.

PTO Newsletters. The LNFI PTO Communications Committee provides periodic PTO newsletters. If you have any information to include in the newsletter, please send an email to communications@lnfi-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=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 will donate 13% of purchases to the LNFI PTO.

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