



FRENCH IMMERSION SCHOOL
L'ETOILE DU NORD
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

PTO General Meeting Notes
Thursday, September 23rd, 2021 6:00-7:30pm

1. Welcome-Johnny Fils-Aime
2. PTO Introductions-Mme Flores-Hanson, M. Vales, Johnny Fils-Aime (PTO President), Jenn Fils-Aime (PTO Treasurer), Malia Caruso (Communications Committee Chair), Rebekah LaCasse (PTO Secretary)
3. Principal's Update-Mme Flores-Hanson: Thank you to each PTO officer, you have been with us through COVID, through health issues, you continue to trust your children to us. It's one of my passions to let children become bilingual. I'm so honored to be working alongside you and with you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you did during welcome week. Thank you for coming and spending a lot of your time to beautify the grounds. Thank you to you and to your children. It's so nice to come in everyday and think of you when we see the beautiful grounds! Thank you to all of you who are here as parents. Thank you for everyday...getting your child ready with breakfast, backpack, clothes. It's so beautiful to welcome the kids back to school and adjust back to school. We are using the layers of protection, social distancing, face masks, and making sure that we're monitoring ourselves at home and at school. We are keeping healthy. A couple of the things that have been hard is being able to manage the challenges of staffing adequately. There's a shortage of teachers, bus drivers, etc. Thank you for being understanding. We are getting there. I can tell you that I deeply enjoy spending time with the students. It's great to see them singing in French and being together. This year we have two new teaching assistants who are also parents of students. We need guest teachers and we also need a half time person and we're looking for a special education teacher. As far as the bussing-the first day was very hard. The buses were late. Some places don't have a bus route. We are getting better and better. The buses are getting more on time. We are getting better with drop off and pick up. I'd like to remind everyone that we need to show courtesy. If we can follow the protocols for the safety of everyone, we really appreciate that.
4. PTO Overview-Rebekah LaCasse
 1. The PTO works to support teachers and students in any way possible. One of the most important functions we have is providing French interns to the school. The PTO funds the intern program and also finds host families. This is a huge support because not only are we providing native French language input for our students but we are also lowering the student to teacher ratio in the classroom. The PTO works all year to fundraise, run, and support this program. We also run a grant program in

the winter that allows teachers the opportunity to write grants to request items or experiences for their students. In addition, the PTO does teacher appreciation events, social events, and fundraisers.

2. The events we are going to do this year: Last year we had to pause many of our activities due to COVID but we are ready to start back up this year! We are going to start small with some manageable and safe activities. The PTO is going to hold two different school beautification events. We had one this fall and we will have another one this spring. We are going to provide a catered meal to teachers during conferences in the fall and in the spring (we usually do a potluck but we are switching this year for safety reasons). We will have a teacher appreciation week in the spring where there will be a different activity each day to show the teachers our support and care. For fundraising we are going to hold a read-a-thon! Students can be sponsored for each book they read. We will hold the book fair in the fall and in the spring. We will also have the plant sale with delivery just in time for Mother's Day!! Guys we've got you! 😊 We will hold t-shirt sales, and finally a direct donation campaign.

5. Structure of the PTO-Malia Caruso

1. Committees-The PTO consists of four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary), and four committees.

1. **Communications committee** which is getting the communications out to all of the families.
2. **Fundraising committee**-We are in need of a fundraising committee chair. The fundraising role is very vital because we need it to support the intern program. We are going to be doing the plant sale, the read-a-thon. The teachers benefit and our school from the plant sale. The fundraising chair supports the people running the fundraisers and updates the PTO about what's going on with fundraising and how much has been raised.
3. **Intern committee**-We are looking for people to help with interns. The intern committee is responsible for recruiting host families, hosting social events, working with the visa organizations, working with the school, and keeps families informed with the intern events. There's a lot that happens there. Reach out if you are interested.

6. Adjournment-Johnny Fils-Aime We want to thank everyone who took the time to attend today!! Please reach out to us if you are interested in volunteering or a leadership position!