



PTO Budget Newsletter – June 2024

The PTO is a nonprofit that is separate from the school and school district. It is a family-funded, teacher and family-volunteer organization. The PTO aids L’Etoile du Nord students by providing support for their educational and recreational needs and by promoting open communication between the school district, teachers, parents, and students. Students of immersion programs require the investment of unique resources – resources that are not provided through school or district funds. The PTO aims to fill that need wherever possible, most notably with funding and running the L’Etoile du Nord intern program.

Based on budgets and expenses this past year, the executive committee of the PTO is recommending a budget of \$64,375 for the 2024-2025 school year as outlined below.

Budget			
Fundraising¹		Expenses	
Individual Donations	\$12,500	Interns (7)	\$44,675
Corporate Matching Donations	\$5,000	Teacher Grant Program	\$3,000 (up to \$200 per teacher)
Fun Run	\$20,000	Social Events	\$2,500
Kermesse	\$5,000	Raising Awareness	\$1,500
Fall Carnival	\$2,500	Administration	\$2,500
Spirit Wear	\$2,000	School Enrichment	\$6,000
Give to the Max Day	\$1,000	Field Trip Scholarships	\$2,000
Plant Sale	\$2,000	Principal’s Fund	\$1,500
Restaurant Night	\$500	Staff Appreciation Meals	\$1,500
Box Tops	\$100	NAAPID	\$2000
Book Fair	\$1,500	Beautification	\$200
FY23-24 Net Excess	\$10,930		
Total	\$63,030	Total	\$64,375

¹ All Fundraising components are shown net of expenses

² Book fair profits are generally taken as “Scholastic dollars” and used to purchase books and supplies for the school. Profits can be taken as cash, at the discretion of the PTO; however, cash profits are substantially less than Scholastic dollars.

PTO Expense Components
<p>Interns – The PTO is working to bring 7 interns to LNFI next year. The cost for 7 interns is about \$48,675. The PTO fully funds the intern program. This primarily includes their monthly stipend, the visa agency fee, host family gatherings, and field trip expenses. This expense can be reduced by grants the PTO receives, specifically earmarked for the intern program. The PTO has been awarded a \$4,000 grant from the Albertine Foundation for the 2024-2025 school year.</p> <p>Intern Program Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visa Processing Fee (per intern): \$1,900 ● Monthly Stipend (per intern for 10 months): \$350 ● Intern Supervisor Stipend: \$1,000 ● Intern Gifts (per intern): \$100 ● Host Family Gift (per family): \$25 ● Intern Field Trips (ski trip and Deep Portage, per intern): \$100 ● Fall Get-Together and Winter Party (per party): \$250 ● Tax Bill: \$3,000 ● Host Family Assistance: \$2,000 ● Intern Health Insurance: \$2,700
<p>Grant Program – The PTO funds a grant program for teacher and parent-proposed projects that benefit LNFI students. Teachers may request funds for special projects or materials in their classroom.</p>
<p>Field Trip Scholarships – The PTO defrays field trip costs so that more students can participate.</p>
<p>Principal’s Fund – The PTO provides the principal with discretionary funds to be used for items not paid for by the school district.</p>
<p>School Enrichment – The PTO funds grade-level enrichment such as the Afoutayi dance residency and science fair costs and prizes.</p>
<p>Social Events – The PTO provides support for LNFI social events. The social committee holds monthly get-togethers for the students and parents, which includes Open Gym and the BIPOC support group. The PTO also hosts all school social events celebrating the many cultures represented at our school. The committee organizes teacher appreciation activities in addition to all staff appreciation.</p>
<p>Raising Awareness – The PTO, in cooperation with the school, works to raise awareness of LNFI through a variety of means including underwriting, advertising, and promotional materials. The PTO provides funds for fees associated with promotional events such as booths at Little Africa Fest and Grand Old Days, etc.</p>
<p>Administration – This PTO incurs costs such as accounting software, group insurance, tax preparation, directory app, Zoom & PTO website fees and general office supplies.</p>
<p>Staff Appreciation Meals – The PTO pays for staff appreciation meals during back to school workshop week, open houses, conference weeks, and teacher appreciation week.</p>
<p>NAAPID The PTO supports a full series of enriching events celebrating Black History Month. This includes expenses associated with the NAAPID assemblies and educational materials.</p>

What do we mean by “the PTO?”

We mean YOU! The PTO includes all parents and guardians of LNFI students, as well as all current LNFI staff members.

Where does the PTO’s money come from?

The PTO is family and community funded and all of the work is done by volunteers and teachers. The PTO fundraises by hosting events for and soliciting direct donations from L’Etoile du Nord families and friends. The primary fundraisers for the PTO are: a fall carnival, a spring party (“Kermesse”), a fun run, and direct donations. Book fairs are also held each year as both a service and a fundraiser. Spiritwear sales and the collection of Box Tops for Education provide additional income.

Does the PTO have funding for the proposed budget?

Yes, the PTO currently has sufficient funding for the proposed budget. The PTO funds the coming year’s PTO budget first with money raised during the current year. As of this newsletter, we have approximately \$125,000.00 in our cash account, which is sufficient to cover the proposed budget for the next year. Ideally fundraising and expense figures will be balanced, but keeping our programming sustainable is more important than posting a profit, and we manage our cash to help absorb the difference.

Does the PTO budget reflect LNFI families’ ability to support the PTO? Does it reflect the fact that not everyone can make a financial donation?

Yes! The PTO’s programs are powered by volunteers, as well as by financial donations. If you can’t make a financial donation, you can volunteer. If you’re pressed for time and can’t volunteer, you can make a financial donation. And you can do both – volunteer and make a financial donation!

Is the PTO looking at funding sources other than LNFI families and friends?

The PTO is always looking for additional or new ways to support its programs. If you have new fundraising ideas or know of any grants that might be available, please email fundraising@lnfi-pt.org. Some employers (like 3M and Best Buy) provide a monetary match for volunteer hours you donate to LNFI. Please ask your employer about such programs or email fundraising@lnfi-pt.org.

What if the PTO does not use all of the money it has budgeted for a school year?

If the PTO doesn’t spend all of the money budgeted for a school year, it can reserve the money for the next year’s budget or vote to use the money in another way.

2023-2024 Financial Results (through April 30, 2024)*			
<i>Fundraising</i>¹		<i>Expenses</i>	
Individual Donations	\$12,276	Interns (6)	\$14,749.15
Corporate Matching Donations	\$233	NAAPID	\$313
Fun Run	\$19,681	BIPOC Support Group	\$542
Carnaval des Citrouilles	\$356	Administration	\$4,089
Spirit Wear	\$255	Beautification	\$1,191
Plant Sale	\$2,044	Teacher Appreciation	\$2,840
Give to the Max Day	\$275	Grant Program	\$907
Open House	\$60	Principal's Fund	\$1,024
Box Tops	\$227	PayPal Fees	\$222
Book Fair ²	\$0		
Earned Interest	\$1,400		
Total	\$36,807	Total	\$25,877
Net Income			\$10,930

¹ All Fundraising components are shown net of expenses

² Book fair profits are generally taken as "Scholastic dollars" and used to purchase books and supplies for the school. The school earned more than \$11,500 Scholastic dollars during the 2022-2023 school year. Profits can be taken as cash, at the discretion of the PTO; however, cash profits are substantially less than Scholastic dollars.

*Our fiscal year-end is June 30th. Final reconciled figures for FY2023-2024 will be published on the PTO website as soon as they are completed.