



## PTO Budget Newsletter – May 2025

The L’Etoile du Nord Parent Teacher Organization (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 board of the PTO is recommending a budget of \$56,000 for the 2025-2026 school year as outlined below.

<b>Budget</b>			
<b>Fundraising</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Individual Donations	\$18,000	Interns (6)	\$34,300
Corporate Matching Donations	\$6,000	Teacher Grant Program	\$2,000
Fun Run	\$20,000	Social Events	\$2,500
Kermesse	\$2,500	Raising Awareness	\$2,000
Fall Carnival	\$2,500	Administration	\$3,000
Spirit Wear	\$2,000	School Enrichment	\$4,000
Give to the Max Day	\$1,000	Field Trip Scholarships/Expenses	\$3,000
Plant Sale	\$2,000	Principal’s Fund	\$1,500
Restaurant Night	\$500	Staff Appreciation Meals	\$1,500
Box Tops	\$100	Black History Month	\$2,000
Book Fair	\$1,500	Beautification	\$200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,100</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> All Fundraising components are shown net of expenses

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<b>PTO Expense Components</b>
<p><b>Interns</b> – The PTO is working to bring 6 interns to L’Etoile du Nord next year. The cost for 6 interns is about \$42,300. The PTO fully funds the intern program. This includes, but is not limited to, 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 an \$8,000 grant from the Albertine Foundation for the 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>Intern Program Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visa Processing Fee (per intern): \$1,900</li> <li>● Monthly Stipend (per intern for 10 months): \$400</li> <li>● Intern Supervisor Stipend: \$1,000</li> <li>● Intern Gifts (per intern): \$100</li> <li>● Host Family Gift (per family): \$25</li> <li>● Intern Field Trips (ski trip and Deep Portage, per intern): \$100</li> <li>● Fall Get-Together and Winter Party (per party): \$250</li> <li>● Tax Bill: \$1,000</li> <li>● Host Family Assistance: \$2,000</li> <li>● Intern Health Insurance: \$900</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grant Program</b> – 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><b>Field Trip Scholarships/Expenses</b> – The PTO defrays field trip costs so that more students can participate and helps cover costs associated with field trips.</p>
<p><b>Principal’s Fund</b> – The PTO provides the principal with discretionary funds to be used for items not paid for by the school district.</p>
<p><b>School Enrichment</b> – The PTO funds grade-level enrichment such as the Afoutayi dance residency and science fair costs and prizes.</p>
<p><b>Social Events</b> – The PTO provides support for L’Etoile du Nord social events. The social committee holds monthly get-togethers for the students and parents, which includes Open Gym and multiple support groups. The PTO also hosts all school social events celebrating the many cultures represented at our school. The committee organizes teacher/staff appreciation activities.</p>
<p><b>Raising Awareness</b> – The PTO, in cooperation with the school, works to raise awareness of L’Etoile du Nord 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><b>Administration</b> – This PTO incurs costs such as accounting software, group insurance, tax preparation, directory application, Zoom &amp; PTO website fees and general office supplies.</p>
<p><b>Staff Appreciation Meals</b> – The PTO pays for staff appreciation meals during back to school workshop week, open houses, conference weeks, and teacher appreciation week.</p>
<p><b>Black History Month</b> 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 L’Etoile du Nord 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 \$118,000 in total assets, which is sufficient to cover the proposed budget for 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-pto.org](mailto:fundraising@lnfi-pto.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-pto.org](mailto:fundraising@lnfi-pto.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.

<b>2024-2025 Financial Results (through March 3, 2025)*</b>			
<b>Fundraising<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Individual Donations	\$21,418	Interns <sup>3</sup> (4)	\$13,837
Corporate Matching Donations	\$9,297	NAAPID	\$1,179
Fun Run	\$20,961	Social Events	\$965
Carnaval des Citrouilles	\$(949)	Administration	\$3,367
Spirit Wear	\$114	Beautification	\$120
Plant Sale	\$2,000	Staff Appreciation Meals	\$1,435
Restaurant Night	\$683	Grant Program	\$3,841
Box Tops	\$96	Principal's Fund	\$1,300
Book Fair <sup>2</sup>	\$(432)	Raising Awareness	\$1,663
Kermesse	TBD	School Enrichment	\$1,516
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$53,188</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,223</b>
<b>Net Income</b>			<b>\$23,965</b>

<sup>1</sup> All Fundraising components are shown net of expenses

<sup>2</sup> Book fair profits are generally taken as "Scholastic dollars" and used to purchase books and supplies for the school. The school earned \$3,767 Scholastic dollars during the 2024-2025 school year. We were also able to use excess saved Scholastic dollars to offer a \$10 gift certificate for each student to spend at the fair in the fall. Profits can be taken as cash, at the discretion of the PTO; however, cash profits are substantially less than Scholastic dollars.

<sup>3</sup>The two major expenses associated with the intern program are the visa processing fee (\$1,900 per intern) and the intern stipend (\$400, paid monthly). The visa processing fee is typically paid in late May or early June, and this will be reflected in the final finance report posted on the PTO website over the summer. Expenses for the intern program line item are expected to closely match the budgeted amount after taking these two expenses into account.

\*Our fiscal year-end is June 30th. Final reconciled figures for FY2024-2025 will be published on the PTO website as soon as they are completed.