

La Vie d'EFIP 2018-19

AN ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS





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Message from the Board Chair



THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF PHILADELPHIA has one of the most diverse and multicultural student bodies in the region. Our students represent over 50 nationalities, and receive a rigorous bilingual education delivered by an outstanding faculty and staff led by our inspiring Head of School, Kathy Kotchick. Our students become creative individuals who think critically and are open-minded communicators. If you've watched the YouTube video created by our recently graduated eighth graders, then you'll know what I mean.

It is no surprise then that our school is experiencing unprecedented successes: enrollment is at its highest levels and a record proportion of our students are staying on to complete their bilingual education through eighth grade. Our alumni are going on to the region's leading high schools and the world's best universities.

To accommodate our growing school, the Board of Trustees has spent most of this year evaluating and pursuing multiple options to increase our building footprints after making the correct decision to withdraw from the Knox Estate project in the fall of last year. The Board, Kathy and I were very pleased to announce at the end of this academic year that the school is now under contract to buy a property at 6 Bala Avenue, Bala Cynwyd—behind the Upper School building on City Avenue. Our previous preparation and work with the Knox Estate project has enabled us to quickly organize and submit applications for approvals from Lower Merion Township to combine the existing Upper School with this new, adjacent property. This would allow us to enlarge and upgrade our Upper School facilities with more classrooms and outside space and some new programming.

Our previous experience of Lower Merion Zoning Approvals process makes us optimistic that we will be successful with this application. However, approvals are not guaranteed and, with construction, it could be another 2-3 years before we are operating from the newly enlarged Upper School Campus and the existing Lower School Campus on North Highland Avenue. The proposals would create a rejuvenated and welcoming space and Kathy and I are looking forward to sharing details of the proposals with the school community as they become finalized.

While finding new space has been the Board's main area of focus this year, it has not been the only one. Working together, Kathy and Catherine Kosman, a current Board member and former French International School teacher, successfully led the school through the midterm process to retain accreditation from the Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges. This is an important part of maintaining the school's high academic standards.

In addition, our growing school needs modern systems that enable us all to stay connected in order to operate efficiently and effectively. After a careful selection process led by the Board's Technology Committee, the school has selected and is now undergoing implementation of Blackbaud, a widely-used school computer software system that will eventually support all the administrative aspects of the school. It will sit behind and interact with our current website and will enhance parents' ability to interact with the school.

Our hard working and creative team of faculty and staff deserve special thanks. They are rightly proud of our 320+ students and alumni who are a testament to their diligence and professionalism. I also want to acknowledge and thank everyone who engages, volunteers and contributes to our vibrant school community through events like MLK Day, school picnics and the memorable Soirées.

(Continued on next page)

Message from the Board Chair

I believe that part of becoming exceptional comes from continuously seeking out ways to get better, and from our school community continuing to engage and work together towards our common goal. Our school is now experiencing incredible success, and it is our collective job to build on that momentum. I can't wait to see where it takes us.

On behalf of the whole Board of Trustees, I'd like to wish you a relaxing and rejuvenating summer and look forward to seeing you all at the start of next year.



Peter Lorenzi
Chair of the Board of Trustees

L'ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE INTERNATIONALE DE PHILADELPHIE a la population scolaire la plus diverse et la plus multiculturelle de la région. Nos élèves représentent plus de 50 nationalités et reçoivent une éducation bilingue rigoureuse dispensée par notre remarquable personnel enseignant et administratif sous la direction encourageante de Kathy Kotchick. Nos élèves deviennent des personnes créatives, dotées d'un bon sens critique, ouvertes d'esprit et maniant la communication avec finesse. Si vous avez regardé la vidéo YouTube que nos élèves de 4^e ont créée, vous en savez quelque chose.

Il n'est donc pas étonnant que notre établissement rencontre des succès sans précédents : nos effectifs n'ont jamais été aussi élevés et un nombre record d'élèves poursuivent leur scolarité jusqu'à la fin de la 4^e. Nos anciens élèves étudient dans les meilleurs lycées de la région et dans les meilleures universités du monde.

Afin d'accueillir ces effectifs en augmentation, le conseil d'administration a passé la majeure partie de l'année à évaluer et à étudier les moyens d'accroître la superficie de notre structure après avoir judicieusement décidé de se retirer du projet de la propriété Knox Estate l'automne dernier. Le conseil d'administration, Kathy Kotchick et moi-même avons eu le plaisir d'annoncer en fin d'année scolaire que notre établissement a signé un contrat de vente de la propriété située au 6 Bala Avenue à Bala Cynwyd, derrière les locaux de l'Upper School sur la City Avenue. L'expérience acquise avec le projet de la Knox Estate nous a permis de nous organiser rapidement et de soumettre les demandes d'agrément auprès de la municipalité de Lower Merion pour relier les locaux actuels de l'Upper School à cette nouvelle propriété adjacente. Nous pourrions ainsi agrandir et moderniser les locaux de l'Upper School en proposant plus de salles de classe et plus d'espaces extérieurs et aussi de nouvelles opportunités éducatives.

Compte tenu de notre expérience antérieure concernant le processus d'obtention des agréments de zonage municipal, nous envisageons une issue favorable. Ceci étant dit,



Message du Président du conseil d'administration



l'obtention des agréments n'est pas garantie et au vu des travaux à réaliser, 2 ou 3 ans pourraient s'écouler avant que notre campus nouvellement agrandi de l'Upper School soit opérationnel, en plus du campus actuel de la Lower School sur Highland Avenue. Le projet conduirait à la création d'un espace redynamisé et accueillant et Kathy et moi-même nous réjouissons de donner plus de détails au fur et à mesure que le projet avancera.

Même si le conseil s'est principalement penché sur la recherche de nouveaux locaux, d'autres projets ont été au coeur de nos préoccupations. Ensemble, Kathy et Catherine Kosman, qui est un membre actuel de notre conseil et anciennement une enseignante de l'École Française Internationale de Philadelphie, ont dirigé avec succès la procédure intermédiaire d'obtention de la réaccréditation de la *Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges*. Cette démarche est importante car elle garantit un niveau d'enseignement élevé.

De plus, en s'agrandissant, notre école a besoin de se doter de systèmes informatiques modernes et efficaces qui permettent à tous de rester connectés. Suite à des recherches minutieuses effectuées par le comité de technologie du conseil d'administration, nous avons choisi Blackbaud, un logiciel largement utilisé par de nombreux établissements scolaires, que nous mettons actuellement en oeuvre afin de soutenir toutes les tâches administratives de l'école. Il sera relié à notre site internet et facilitera les échanges entre les parents et l'école.

Notre énergique et créative équipe enseignante et administrative mérite une reconnaissance particulière. Ils sont fiers, à juste titre, de nos quelques 320 élèves et anciens élèves qui rendent hommage à leur rigueur et leur professionnalisme. Je voudrais aussi remercier tous ceux qui ont contribué au dynamisme de notre communauté scolaire en joignant leurs efforts lors de la journée en l'honneur de Martin Luther King, de pique-niques ou de l'inoubliable Soirée.

Je crois que notre performance tient en partie à la recherche constante de moyens de nous améliorer et au concours de notre communauté scolaire qui oeuvre vers un objectif commun. Notre établissement rencontre actuellement un succès incroyable et il est de notre devoir de continuer sur cette lancée. Je suis impatient de voir où cela va nous mener.

Au nom de tout le conseil d'administration, je vous souhaite de passer un agréable et reposant été et espère vous revoir tous à la rentrée.

Peter Lorenzi
Président du conseil d'administration

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Message from the Head of School



ONE OF THE THINGS I look forward to most at the end of the school year is our spring shows. I love standing back and observing the children, reflecting on how much each of them has grown since September. A big inspiration for our 2019 spring

shows was this year's school theme, "Open to the World." It struck me that this was not only a fitting annual theme but, a phrase that our school and our community perfectly embody on a day-to-day basis.

Open to families. Our school welcomes families representing more than 50 different nationalities, making our community a true microcosm of the world. For new and returning families alike, we are a gathering place where parents can connect, exchange and get involved. The extraordinary diversity of our school families is authentically present daily, while special events like our Beyond Borders Feast and World Culture Fair give us the opportunity to stop and celebrate this diversity. This year, parents, grandparents and families introduced our students to places like Ecuador, Italy, Lebanon, Russia and Africa, as well as holidays and traditions like Ramadan and "la galette des rois" through interactive classroom presentations. (You can read more about the important role parents play in school life in the gray box on page 7.) I am thrilled at the prospect of adding even more families and cultures to our community as we make plans to expand our Upper School campus, an exciting development you can read about at greater length in the message from our Board Chair, Peter Lorenzi, on page 1.

Open to caring. Being "Open to the World" goes hand in hand with being empathetic, and our community is deeply caring and supportive. I see this in the spontaneous exchanges I overhear among children in the halls, in the

way our teachers interact with their students and each other, and in the impressive turnout of our families at volunteered events like MLK Day. I also see this in the way our community reacts and comes together following tragic events, such as when our students crafted candleholders for our neighbors at Lower Merion Synagogue following the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting last October, or when they shared words of comfort and stories of their own experiences after the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral earlier this year. In times both happy and sad, the support of our community is overwhelming.

Open to new experiences. In a very literal way, our students are regularly out in the world, discovering all that our region has to offer through outings to places like the Academy of Sciences, Ridley Creek State Park, the Delaware Museum of National History or Riverbend Environmental Education Center. Trips to places like the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Glencairn Museum, the University of Pennsylvania or Arden Theater allow them to travel even further, offering a window on the wider world. We are lucky to live in a city and a region that provide so many opportunities to enrich our students' learning through tangible, authentic experiences.

Open to learning. Our students and graduates are the ultimate embodiment of "Open to the World." Throughout their time at our school and thanks to their mentors, community and to the experiences described above, they become global citizens ready to take on whatever they choose to do, wherever they choose to do it. This year, our impressive students earned recognition at the Montgomery County Science Research Competition, the National Geographic GeoBee, the National History Bee, the National Latin Competition and Reading Olympics, just to name a few. Our most recent eighth grade graduates will continue their studies at some of the best public and private schools in the area and abroad, while alumni from our Class of 2015 are headed to universities including Cornell, New York University, Villanova and Wellesley in the fall. Our alumni are our school's best ambassadors, and I wish them the best as they continue their academic and professional journeys.

Before we turn the page on the 2018-19 school year, I

Message du Chef d'établissement



would like to recognize our Board of Trustees, led by Peter Lorenzi, for the tremendous amount of time and expertise they continue to commit to the long term wellbeing of our school. Our Board members are dedicated volunteers who frequently meet early in the morning, late in the evening, on weekends and over the summer to ensure that our school continues to thrive and is well prepared for the future. I am deeply grateful for everything they do in service to our community, and look forward to continuing our work together over the next school year.

Kathy Kotchick
Head of School

PARMI TOUTES LES ACTIVITÉS DE FIN D'ANNÉE, je suis toujours impatiente d'assister aux spectacles de printemps. Je me plais à rester à l'écart et à observer les enfants, et je songe à tel point chacun d'entre

eux a mûri depuis le mois de septembre. Le thème de l'année scolaire était "Ouvert sur le monde" et fut une source principale d'inspiration pour nos spectacles de printemps. J'ai été frappée par le fait que non seulement ce thème annuel était fort pertinent, mais il s'agissait aussi d'une expression qui représente parfaitement notre école et notre communauté jour après jour.

Ouvert aux familles. Notre établissement accueille plus de 50 nationalités différentes, créant un véritable microcosme. Pour toutes les familles, nouvelles ou actuelles, nous sommes un lieu de rassemblement où les familles peuvent se rencontrer, échanger et joindre leurs efforts. L'extraordinaire diversité de nos familles se manifeste quotidiennement et des événements spéciaux comme notre Fête au-delà des frontières et notre Exposition de la culture mondiale nous permettent de célébrer ensemble cette diversité. Cette année, les parents, grand-parents et familles ont fait découvrir à nos élèves de nombreuses destinations comme l'Équateur, l'Italie, le Liban, la Russie et l'Afrique et grâce à des interventions en classe, ils ont fait connaître des fêtes et traditions comme le Ramadan ou la galette des rois.

Message from the Head of School



(Pour en savoir plus sur le rôle important des parents d'élèves dans la vie de l'école, reportez-vous à l'encadré gris sur la page suivante.) Je me réjouis à l'idée d'accueillir encore plus de familles et de cultures au sein de notre communauté à mesure que nous agrandissons notre campus de l'Upper School. Voilà un développement majeur que notre Président du conseil d'administration, Peter Lorenzi, décrit en détail dans son message en page 1.

Ouvert à la bienveillance. S'ouvrir sur le monde c'est aussi faire preuve d'empathie et notre communauté est animée d'un esprit de bienveillance et de solidarité. Je le vois dans les échanges spontanés que les élèves ont les uns les autres dans les couloirs, dans la façon dont nos enseignants communiquent avec les élèves et entre eux, et dans l'importante participation de nos familles lors de manifestations culturelles organisées bénévolement comme la journée en l'honneur de Martin Luther King Jr. Je le vois aussi lorsque notre communauté agit de concert à la suite d'événements tragiques. En particulier lorsque nos élèves ont confectionné des bougeoirs pour nos voisins de la *Lower Merion Synagogue* après la fusillade survenue à la *Tree of Life Synagogue* en octobre dernier ou lorsqu'ils ont partagé des paroles réconfortantes après l'incendie de la Cathédrale Notre-Dame au début de l'année. Dans la douleur ou dans la joie, notre communauté fait preuve d'une immense solidarité.

Ouvert à de nouvelles expériences. En effet, nos élèves participent à de nombreuses sorties à la découverte de ce

que notre région a de mieux à offrir comme l'Académie des Sciences, Ridley Creek State Park, le Musée de sciences naturelles du Delaware ou le Centre Riverbend d'éducation à l'environnement. Les sorties au Musée d'art de Philadelphie, au Musée Glencairn, à l'Université de Pennsylvanie ou à l'Arden Theater élargissent encore plus leurs horizons. Nous avons la chance de vivre dans une ville et dans une région qui offrent tant d'opportunités authentiques, tangibles et enrichissantes d'apprentissage pour nos élèves.

Ouvert au savoir. Nos élèves et anciens élèves représentent le comble de l'ouverture sur le monde. Tout au long de leur scolarité dans notre établissement, et grâce à leurs mentors, à la communauté et à toutes les expériences décrites plus haut, ils deviennent des citoyens du monde, prêts à saisir toutes les opportunités qui se présentent à eux. Nos brillants élèves se sont illustrés dans différents concours comme la *Montgomery County Science Research Competition*, le *National Geographic GeoBee*, le *National History Bee*, la *National Latin Competition* et les *Reading Olympics*, pour n'en citer que quelques-uns. Nos derniers élèves de 4^e vont poursuivre leurs études dans certains des meilleurs établissements publics et privés de la région ou à l'étranger. Et nos anciens élèves de la classe de 2015 vont aller à l'université à l'automne, pour certains à Cornell, New York University, Villanova et Wellesley. Nos anciens élèves sont nos meilleurs ambassadeurs et je leur souhaite beaucoup de succès au cours de leurs parcours universitaires et professionnels.

Avant que la page de l'année scolaire 2018-2019 ne se tourne, je voudrais remercier notre conseil d'administration, dirigé par Peter Lorenzi, pour tout le temps et le savoir-faire que les membres consacrent au bien-être à long terme de notre école. Tous bénévoles et engagés, les membres du conseil se réunissent fréquemment tôt le matin, tard le soir, le weekend et durant l'été afin que notre établissement continue de prospérer et soit parfaitement préparée pour l'avenir. Je suis profondément reconnaissante du service qu'ils rendent à notre communauté et je suis heureuse que cette collaboration se poursuive l'année prochaine.

Kathy Kotchick
Chef d'établissement

Message du Chef d'établissement

SPOTLIGHT ON PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Alongside our dedicated faculty and staff members, our students' parents play a vital role in helping us achieve our mission and creating a vibrant school life. Here are just some of the PA initiatives from 2019!

- *Classroom presentations.* Parents regularly come into our classrooms to introduce students to their countries of origin, their traditions, their careers, or a special skill or hobby. This helps enrich our students' knowledge of different cultures, reinforces lessons learned in class and inspires them to think about the future.
- *Parents' Association events.* The Back-to-School Picnic, MLK Day, the Soirée, the Spring Fair... Many of the school traditions that bring our community together are led by volunteers in our Parents' Association.
- *Opening doors.* Thanks to our parents' connections to institutions throughout the city, students have had the opportunity to visit places that few others are given access to, like Drexel University's College of Medicine.
- *Volunteering.* Whether we need field trip chaperones, classroom helpers, costume creators or field day coordinators, our parents are always ready to lend a helping hand!



Our 2018-2019 Year in Pictures



1

(1) Welcome back! Students lined up on the blacktop and waved goodbye to their parents before heading into their classrooms on the first day of school.

(2) Mrs. Kotchick greeted families at the Lower School campus.

(3) Older siblings led the way!

(4) A group of third grade boys arrived on the school bus.

(5) Upper School students were happy to reunite at recess after a long summer.

[SEPTEMBER]



2



3



4



5

Notre année 2018-2019 en photos



1



2

[OCTOBER]

(1) Students sampled food from Spain—and more than a dozen other countries—during our annual Beyond Borders Feast, a tasty conclusion to “la semaine du goût.”

(2) Upper School students stopped by the Germany table for a chat and a snack during the Beyond Borders Feast.

(3) Parents and friends happily looked on as our Halloween Parade wound its way around the Lower School grounds.

(4) Eighth graders led their classmates in a choreographed dance to *Thriller* in honor of Halloween.



3



4

(5) Following the tragic events at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, students showed their solidarity with our neighbors at Lower Merion Synagogue by presenting the congregation's leadership with 11 small candleholders, one for each of the Pittsburgh victims.

[NOVEMBER]



6

(6) Snow came early this year! Students were dismissed early following a mid-November dusting.



5

Our 2018-2019 Year in Pictures



(1) Our "Fundamentals of French 1" class successfully finished their first semester of Parent University, through which current and alumni parents can take evening French lessons at school.

(2) After creating their own educational board games, fourth graders tested them out.

(3) Younger brothers and sisters got acquainted with our school—and each other!—during our three sibling playdates.

(4) Second graders practiced their coding using Puzzlets.

(5) Our youngest students kicked off the winter show season!

(6) Upper School students performed a winter concert at the King of Prussia mall, a December tradition.



Notre année 2018-2019 en photos



(1) First grade students weren't afraid to get their hands dirty while making a traditional galette des rois. (2) Eighth graders suited up before entering a lab while visiting Drexel University's College of Medicine.



[JANUARY]

(3) The cold temperatures did not stop our community from coming together for our annual MLK Day of Service! With the help of parent volunteers, PK3 students prepared dried soup mix jars for a local food pantry.



[FEBRUARY]



(4) Upper School students collected and filled backpacks with school supplies for school children in Haiti on MLK Day.

(5) The snow provided endless fun during recess this winter!

(6) Second grade students visited the neighboring Union Fire Association after an earlier assembly with the station's firefighters was cut short...because they had to respond to an emergency!

Our 2018-2019 Year in Pictures



1

[MARCH]



2



3



4

- (1) Sixth graders couldn't resist striking a pose on the steps of the Museum of Art.
- (2) Students presented their projects to teachers, family and friends during our 22nd Annual Science Fair.
- (3) Three kindergarten boys got creative while perfecting their leprechaun trap design!
- (4) Seventh graders worked together on math games and activities during "la semaine des maths."
- (5) Older students read stories to their younger friends during Read Across America and the World Day.
- (6) After learning about dinosaurs in class, first graders got to see the real thing (almost!) on a field trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences.



5



6

Notre année 2018-2019 en photos



[APRIL]

(1) With singing, colorful costumes, humor and plenty of drama, our Middle School's bilingual production of *The Wizard of Oz* delighted audiences of all ages.

(2) Our community's thoughts were with the people of Paris following the devastating fire at Notre Dame Cathedral.

(3) Kindergarten students displayed their acrobatic skills during our PK3-K's circus-themed spring show.

(4) Much to the delight of our youngest students, the farm came to school on the first Friday in May.

(5) With the guidance of their teachers Paul Santoleri and Beth Clevestine, who are both artists with Mural Arts Philadelphia, students started working on a mural on the back façade of the Upper School.

(6) Second graders kept their eyes peeled for different bird species at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.



[MAY]



Our 2018-2019 Year in Pictures



[JUNE]

(1) Our G1-G3 spring show, "Around the World," featured songs from 10 different countries!

(2) After finishing a unit on reptiles, second graders were delighted to meet our seventh graders' class pet, a bearded dragon named Levi.

(3) Kindergarteners brought their favorite stuffed animal to school for their annual "Teddy Bear Picnic."

(4) Relay races, water games, soccer, musical chairs... Field Day was chock-full of fun activities, friendly competition and good sportsmanship.

(5) On Thursday, June 13, our 18 eighth graders received their diplomas in front of family and friends. Combined, the Class of 2019 has spent 147 years at the French International School!



Our 2018-2019 Year in Numbers

322

students enrolled
from PK3 to G8



180
days of school

15

average class size

38

languages spoken by
the Class of 2019



More than 55

different nationalities
represented among
our school families

Our chess club won **2nd place**
in the K-3 Open category &
3rd place in the K-8 Open
category at the 2019 PA State
Scholastic Championships



12
projects recognized at the 2019
Montgomery County Science
Research Competition

134

school lunches served
on an average day



17

after-school
activities offered
per semester



28
field trips
throughout the year

Over 1,000

hours of continuing education conferences,
workshops and training sessions
attended by our faculty and staff

400+

students, teachers, parents,
alumni and friends volunteered
on MLK Day

Spotlight on the DELF

LAST YEAR, THE FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL was proud to become an approved DELF testing center, with two teachers earning certifications to administer the exam. This past March, our eighth grade class and five young alumni were the first cohort to sit for the exam, which tests and validates candidates' French language skills. Below, we take a closer look at the DELF and discuss the many benefits that French International School students gain by passing the exam.



Q: What is the DELF?

A: The DELF, which stands for “Diplôme d’Etudes en Langue Française,” or “Diploma in French Language Studies” in English, is a diploma “awarded by the French Ministry of Education to certify the competency of candidates from outside France in the French language” (<http://www.ciep.fr>). Candidates earn the diploma by obtaining a passing score on the DELF exam. The diploma is valid for life and recognized internationally, so that our students will be able to use it time and time again, wherever their careers may take them.

Q: Who can take the DELF exam, and what does the test encompass?

A: At the French International School, students take the

DELF Scolaire, geared towards secondary school children, during their eighth grade year. Like the DELF for adults, the DELF Scolaire tests listening, reading, writing and speaking, but topics and materials have been adapted for school children.

Q: How do students prepare for the DELF?

A: French International School students learn the skills needed for the DELF organically through our bilingual curriculum and are fully prepared to take the exam by the time they reach eighth grade. Along with their Middle School diploma, the DELF is a validation of the language skills they have acquired and developed throughout their entire education.

Q: What are the benefits of earning the DELF?

A: The DELF is an invaluable certification of our students' native French proficiency that will serve them throughout their academic and professional careers. For students applying to French or francophone universities after high school, the DELF is often a requirement for acceptance. For those continuing their education in the United States or abroad, the DELF often times allows students to earn college credits in French. When our alumni begin their careers, having the DELF on their résumé will set them apart from other candidates. If applying to a job position where French is a necessary skill, possessing the DELF might not only be advantageous, but mandatory. The DELF can also be presented as an official attestation of a person's French language skills when applying to immigrate to a francophone country. With so many applications, the DELF is a wonderful tool for our students to have before they graduate.

“A language leads you down the hall of life; two languages open all the doors of this corridor.” —Francis Smith

Coup de projecteur sur le DELF

L'ANNÉE DERNIÈRE, L'ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE INTERNATIONALE a eu l'honneur de recevoir l'habilitation pour être un centre d'examen du DELF ; et deux enseignants sont devenus examinateurs et correcteurs certifiés pour faire passer les épreuves. En mars dernier, nos élèves de 4^e et 5 jeunes anciens élèves ont été les premiers à passer cet examen qui teste et valide les compétences en langue française des candidats. Regardons de plus près le DELF et discutons des avantages que les élèves de l'École Française Internationale tirent en passant ce test.

Q : Qu'est-ce que le DELF ?

R : Le DELF est le diplôme d'études en langue française. C'est un diplôme officiel délivré par le ministère français de l'Éducation nationale afin de valoriser les compétences en langue française des candidats qui n'ont pas le français comme langue maternelle (<http://www.ciep.fr>). Le DELF est obtenu en atteignant un certain seuil de réussite lors de l'examen. Ce diplôme est valable à vie et reconnu dans le monde entier. Nos élèves pourront donc le faire valoir aussi souvent que désiré, quelles que soient leurs carrières.

Q : Qui peut passer l'examen du DELF et en quoi consiste-t-il ?

R : À l'École Française Internationale, les élèves de 4^e passent le DELF Scolaire, qui est destiné à des adolescents dans l'enseignement scolaire. Tout comme le DELF pour adultes, le DELF Scolaire évalue les compétences en compréhension orale, en compréhension écrite, en expression orale et en expression écrite, cependant les thématiques s'adaptent au contexte de vie des adolescents.

Q : Comment les élèves se préparent-ils pour le DELF ?

R : Les élèves de l'École Française Internationale acquièrent naturellement les compétences requises pour le DELF tout au long de leur cursus bilingue et sont tout à fait prêts à passer l'examen lorsqu'ils arrivent en 4^e. Au même titre que leur diplôme de fin d'études du collège, le DELF valide les compétences linguistiques qu'ils ont acquises et développées tout au long de leur scolarité.

Q : Quels sont les avantages à obtenir le DELF ?

R : Le DELF est une reconnaissance précieuse de la parfaite maîtrise du français de nos élèves et il représente un outil dont ils pourront se servir durant tout leur parcours universitaire et professionnel. Pour les élèves désirant s'inscrire dans une université française ou francophone après le lycée, l'obtention du DELF est souvent une condition d'entrée. Pour ceux qui poursuivent leurs études aux États-



Unis, le DELF leur permet d'obtenir une validation de leurs acquis en français. Quand nos anciens élèves entreront sur le marché du travail, la mention du DELF sur leur CV les distinguera du reste des candidats. S'ils postulent pour un poste exigeant la maîtrise du français, la possession du diplôme du DELF sera non seulement avantageuse, mais obligatoire. Enfin, le DELF peut être présenté comme une attestation officielle des compétences en français d'une personne voulant émigrer vers un pays francophone. Au vu de ses nombreuses fonctionnalités, le DELF est un merveilleux outil que nos élèves doivent posséder avant la fin de leurs études dans notre établissement.

“Une langue vous permet de longer le couloir de la vie ; deux langues vous ouvrent toutes les portes de ce couloir.”
—Francis Smith

Alumni News

COLLEGE DECISIONS, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, STUDYING ABROAD... Our alumni have had a lot on their minds lately! The paths they are taking are as unique as they are, and we are proud of both where they've come from, and where they are headed.

RACHEL BROZINA (*Class of 2012*) is currently studying at Cornell University, where she is a Communication major and involved with Slope Media Group and the figure skating team.

ELENA BURTON is majoring in Human Services and Psychology at the University of Delaware. In 2018, she spent the month of January working at several schools in South Africa.



JACK BURTON (*Class of 2014*) graduated from The Haverford School in 2018, and is now a rising sophomore at Lafayette College.

REBECCA BUXBAUM (*Class of 2011*) graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa and with honors from Brown University in Comparative Literature in May of 2019. She is

headed to the University of Southern California on a merit scholarship to pursue a Master's in Teaching Secondary English with a focus on gifted children in under-served areas. She is excited to teach the literature of the world to her future students!

MARIELLE BUXBAUM (*Class of 2016*) is heading into her senior year at the Friends' Central School in Wynnewood where she is an officer in several clubs, including president of the French Food Club. She is looking forward to playing Cosette in her school's performance of *Les Misérables* in the fall.

ROBERT CHO FLEMING (*Class of 2015*) finished his high school career at Harriton as co-captain of the Lincoln Douglas debate team and four-year member of the Science Olympiad team. After his final season on the soccer team, Robert was named All Central League Honorable Mention. In the fall, Robert will head to Cornell University. Robert and fellow French International School alumni Angelica Scotto and Katie Timberlake celebrated the end of their senior year with a joint graduation party, where a number of alumni from the Class of 2015 were also in attendance!



Class of 2012 alums **ALEXANDRE GERVAIS-SCOTT**, **ANTHÉA LAFORÊT** and **RAPHAËLLE SATRE** reunited in Paris this spring! Alex was there completing a six-month internship; Anthéa attends *l'École des Nouveaux Métiers de la Communication*; and Raphaëlle was studying at *l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs* during her college semester abroad.



Nouvelles concernant nos anciens élèves



On MLK Day, French International School alumni returned to school and created a special bulletin board for our Upper School students. The board included both “gifts” from Dr. King—words of wisdom and examples of the civil rights leader’s many contributions to society—as well as our alumni’s own “gifts,” or words of encouragement, to our current students.

ELLA GREENE (*Class of 2015*) graduated from Central High School where, in addition to completing the International Baccalaureate Program, she managed the golf team and played basketball and softball. In the fall, she will attend New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts to study film and television.



SANDRINE HAAB (*Class of 2014*) will attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA this fall.

Throughout her time at Mount Saint Joseph Academy, **KATIE TIMBERLAKE** (*Class of 2015*) was elected to the French Honor Society, the National Honor Society and the Latin Honor Society. She also competed in the Montgomery County Science Research Competition and earned third place in her year and category. Having completed her senior year, Katie will head to Wellesley College in the fall.

INEZ WILLIAMS (*Class of 2016*) is a rising senior at Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School. During her junior year, Inez participated in the work study program at her school



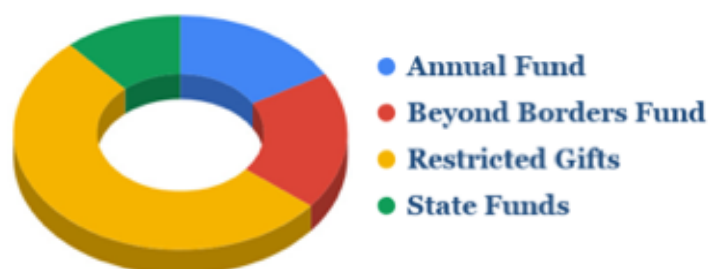
and spent one day each week working in the surgical unit at Holy Redeemer Hospital.

A number of our alumni returned to help during our 2019 French for Fun Summer Camp season! They included: **SYDNEY CASEY-WILLIG** (*Class of 2017*), **DANIELLA FADJOH** (*Class of 2015*), **KENNEDY HARRIS-FARRELL** (*Class of 2016*) and **INEZ WILLIAMS** (*Class of 2016*).

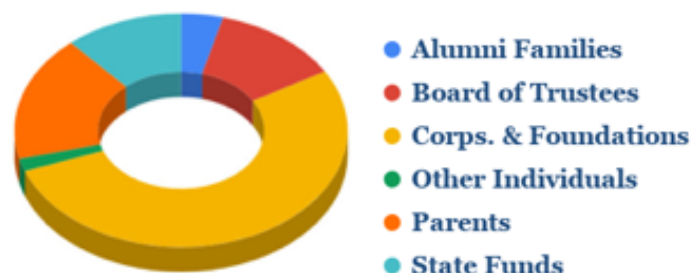
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WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OUR SCHOOL DURING THE 2018-2019 FUNDRAISING YEAR, HELPING US RAISE A TOTAL OF \$331,826!

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