

Ecole Française Internationale  
de *Philadelphie*

French International School  
of *Philadelphia*

NEW  
ISSUE!

# LA VIE D'EFIP 2015

AN ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS



*BEYOND BILINGUAL, BEYOND BORDERS*

## Message from the Board Chair



**A**t our first Board meeting of this year, the air of excitement was quite palpable. Under the capable leadership of two veteran members of our EFIP family, Kathy Kotchick

and Catherine Kosman, we hit the ground running at the opening of the school year, *and* the Search Committee was in full gear to meet and interview candidates for our new Head of School.

On behalf of the Board, I want to extend our sincere appreciation to both Kathy and Catherine for their dedication and hard work over the summer. Since the day they assumed their leadership roles, they have implemented a number of new initiatives to better communicate within our school community and to enhance the French International School's reputation in the larger community.

Over the summer, they gathered a team to oversee the development and implementation of a new website based in part on feedback gathered last year from our French International School families. As you know, we have now unveiled a handsome, user-friendly, secure website that will be the first point of contact for potential new families, and will provide current families with the ability to interact with the school in a number of ways.

Catherine and Kathy have also strengthened the school's ties with the various Franco-American and international organizations in the Philadelphia area, attending and/or co-hosting events open to the entire community. On October 10th, our Lower School opened its doors for an "apéritif-rencontre" planned in conjunction with Philadelphia Accueil and the Alliance Française. On October 27th, our school participated in France Nation Day with the Global Philadelphia Association. Throughout the year, our two Interim Co-Heads will also hold regular "coffees" during which they will discuss the state of the school with our families in an informal setting. It's quite clear that Catherine and Kathy have already made this transitional year a highly productive one.

At the same time, the Search Committee completed its work and as you know, the Board has selected Christophe Bonnet as our new Head of School. Currently the Head of the Austin International School, Christophe has over 17 years of experience in bilingual French schools in the United States and brings with him a wealth of experience in the areas of academic curriculum, enrollment, facilities, budgeting and fundraising—all critical components for the position of Head of School. We anticipate that Christophe will be visiting our school several times during the 2015-16 year to prepare himself for the assumption of his new duties in July, 2016.

So, we head into our 25th year, with both great anticipation to discover what this new chapter holds, and with the peace-of-mind from knowing that the foundation has been laid to ensure the school's continued success through the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

*Deborah Willig*  
Deborah Willig  
Board Chair

**L**ors de notre premier conseil d'administration cette année, il y avait un certain enthousiasme général dans l'air. Sous la direction compétente de deux membres chevronnés de notre équipe de l'EFIP, Kathy Kotchick et Catherine Kosman, l'année scolaire a démarré sur les chapeaux de roue, et le Comité de recherche était prêt pour accueillir et interviewer les candidats au poste de nouveau chef d'établissement.

Au nom du Conseil d'administration, je tiens à exprimer mes sincères remerciements à Mme Kotchick et à Mme Kosman pour leur dévouement et leur travail assidu pendant l'été. Depuis le jour où elles ont assumé leur rôle de Co-directrices, elles ont mis en place un certain nombre d'initiatives permettant de mieux communiquer avec notre communauté scolaire et de mettre en valeur la réputation de l'Ecole Française Internationale auprès d'un large public.

Durant l'été, elles ont réuni une équipe qui a supervisé le développement et la mise en œuvre du nouveau site Internet, en s'inspirant, entre autres, des commentaires recueillis l'année passée auprès de nos familles de l'Ecole Française. Comme vous le savez, nous avons désormais

## Message de la Présidente du Conseil d'administration

inauguré un beau site Internet, facile à utiliser et sécurisé. Il sera le premier point de contact pour les nouvelles familles potentielles et offrira à nos familles actuelles différents moyens de communiquer avec l'école.

Mmes Kosman et Kotchick ont aussi renforcé les liens de l'école avec diverses organismes franco-américains et internationaux de la région de Philadelphie, en participant à et en accueillant conjointement des événements ouverts à l'ensemble de la communauté. Le 10 octobre, notre Lower School a ouvert ses portes pour un "apéritif-rencontre", organisé en collaboration avec Philadelphie Accueil et l'Alliance Française. Le 27 octobre, notre établissement a participé à la journée France Nation Day (Journée de la nation française) avec l'association Global Philadelphia. Tout au long de l'année, nos deux co-directrices temporaires organiseront régulièrement des « cafés » durant lesquels elles discuteront de la situation de l'école dans un cadre informel. Il est bien clair que Mmes Kosman et Kotchick ont d'ores et déjà œuvré en sorte que cette année de transition soit hautement productive.

En même temps, le Comité de recherche a clôturé ses travaux et comme vous le savez, le Conseil d'administration a sélectionné M. Christophe Bonnet en tant que notre nouveau chef d'établissement. À l'heure actuelle, M. Bonnet est le chef d'établissement de l'Ecole Internationale d'Austin et il a plus de 17 ans d'expérience au sein d'écoles françaises bilingues aux États-Unis. Il apporte avec lui une solide expérience en matière de cursus scolaire, de scolarisation, d'infrastructure, de budget et de collecte de fonds—tous les éléments les plus essentiels à ce poste de chef d'établissement. Nous prévoyons que M. Bonnet se rendra à notre école plusieurs fois durant l'année scolaire 2015-2016 afin de se préparer à exercer ses nouvelles fonctions en juillet 2016.

Ainsi, nous approchons notre 25ème anniversaire avec autant l'impatience de découvrir ce que le futur nous réserve, que la sérénité de savoir qu'une base solide a été établie pour garantir le succès de l'école dans les 25 prochaines années.

Sincères salutations,

*Deborah Willig*

Deborah Willig  
Présidente du Conseil d'administration



# Message from the Interim Co-Heads of School

## Message des Co-directrices intérimaires



**A**swere reflect  
u p o n  
our first  
several months  
as Interim Co-  
Heads, several  
words come to  
mind:

**Grateful.** We  
are so thankful  
to have been  
embraced with

such warmth and support by our school community. These are qualities we have always felt, but our expectations have truly been exceeded!

**Confident.** As we pour over updates coming in from alumni, we are further assured that we are achieving our mission and that our mission works. As you will read in our "News from our Alumni," our students have gone on to the best private and public high schools in the United States and abroad, have been awarded International Baccalaureate diplomas and National Merit scholarships, have enrolled in the University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Harvard, and Yale, among other prestigious universities, and have gone on to make career choices in which the foundation is a deep knowledge of multilingualism and multiculturalism. We would love to have our friends and alumni families stop by and say "hello" if you are in the area.

**Energized.** So much is happening at the French International School of Philadelphia, from student programs such as French Yoga Fridays, to our collaborations with Philadelphia Accueil, the Alliance Française, and Global Philadelphia, to our new website.

**Optimistic.** With the announcement that Mr. Christophe Bonnet will be the next Head of School, we are confident that we will be led to the next level. Mr. Bonnet's strengths became apparent quickly when he came for his campus visit; he is a leader who is collaborative, motivated, and innovative. We join the Board of Directors in sincerely welcoming him to our community!

Sincerely,

*Catherine Kosman & Kathy Kotchick*  
Catherine Kosman & Kathy Kotchick  
Interim Co-Heads of School

**A**lors que nous revenons sur nos premiers mois en tant que Co-Directrices par intérim, plusieurs mots nous viennent à l'esprit :

**Reconnaissantes.** Nous avons été accueillies avec tant de chaleur et de soutien; des qualités que nous avons toujours ressenties dans notre communauté scolaire, mais qui ont vraiment dépassé nos attentes!

**Confiantes.** En regardant les nouvelles qui nous proviennent de nos anciens élèves, nous sommes plus qu'assurées que nous remplissons notre mission et que notre mission fonctionne. Comme vous pourrez le lire dans la rubrique « Nouvelles de nos anciens élèves », nos élèves ont continué leurs études dans les meilleures écoles privées et publiques aux États-Unis et à l'étranger. Ils ont été reçus au Baccalauréat International et des bourses de mérite leur ont été attribuées. Ils sont inscrits à l'Université de Pennsylvanie, Brown, Harvard, Yale, ainsi que d'autres universités prestigieuses, et ont choisi des carrières basées sur une connaissance profonde du multilinguisme et du multiculturalisme. Nous serions heureuses que nos amis et les familles de nos anciens élèves passent nous dire bonjour s'ils sont dans la région.

**Stimulées.** Des programmes pour les élèves, tels que les vendredis de yoga français, à notre collaboration avec Philadelphia Accueil, l'Alliance Française et Global Philadelphia, jusqu'à notre nouveau site internet, il se passe beaucoup de choses à l'Ecole Française Internationale de Philadelphia !

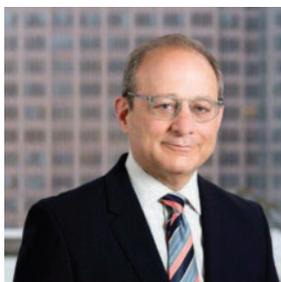
**Optimistes.** Avec l'annonce que M. Christophe Bonnet sera le prochain directeur de l'école, nous sommes confiantes qu'il nous mènera à l'étape suivante. Les qualités de M. Bonnet sont rapidement devenues apparentes lors de sa visite à l'école; c'est un directeur collaboratif, motivé et innovateur. Nous nous joignons au Conseil d'administration en lui souhaitant sincèrement la bienvenue dans notre communauté !

Sincèrement,

*Catherine Kosman & Kathy Kotchick*  
Catherine Kosman & Kathy Kotchick  
Co-directrices intérimaires

# Welcome to our new Board Members!

*Bienvenue aux nouveaux membres du Conseil d'administration !*



**Andrew A. Chirls** joined the Board of Trustees as a member in 2014. An Of Counsel attorney with Fineman Krekstein & Harris, P.C., in Philadelphia, Mr. Chirls is impressed with the seriousness of the French International School, the approach to bilingual teaching,

and quality of education. He believes children benefit if they are citizens of the world as they will understand others and know how big their experiences can be. His law practice and experience as a bar leader has brought him closer to the French community, as has his study of French and travels in France. He is honored to promote the opportunity for young people to be enriched by the French language and culture.



**Marie Guérin-Gantz** has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2015 and has served on various school committees. She is passionate about bilingual education at the French International School because it has given her children access to two cultures

and made them more tolerant and open to others. Mrs. Guérin-Gantz believes "[The French International School] is a very special place because of its academic excellence, the nurturing faculty and staff, the committed parent body, and the school's overall openness to the world. It is another 'home' outside your own. There is a sense of belonging at our school which is very rare and makes it an incredible place to raise children." A resident of Philadelphia, Mrs. Guérin-Gantz is a photographer and the owner of the Collection Marie Guérin-Gantz furniture line.



**Anne Schmidt Oltmanns** is a past president of the French International School's Parents' Association, and a member of the Board of Trustees since 2015. A resident of Ardmore, Pa., Mrs. Oltmanns became interested in bilingual education because her children are bilingual. She

says, "Passion developed when I saw how wonderful it was for them to have the opportunity to become

trilingual in such an academically excellent and open-minded environment as the French International School. Language acquisition is an amazing skill that children have naturally. Multilingualism will enrich our children's lives in ways that are measurable now and in ways that we haven't yet imagined." Mrs. Oltmanns is a past president and a current Board member of the North Ardmore Civic Association.

## 2015-2016 Board of Directors

### *Executive Committee:*

Deborah Willig, Chair  
Tish Emerson, Vice Chair  
Natalie Prosper, Treasurer  
Amy Morgan, Secretary

### *Members:*

Andrew Chirls  
Barbara Freed  
Marie Guérin-Gantz  
Catherine Kosman  
Kathy Kotchick  
Murray Levin  
Jeff Mack  
Anne Oltmanns  
Emily Robin  
Ariel Rodriguez  
Michael Scullin  
Paul Seignourel  
Peshani Singh  
Agnès Wozniak

### *Trustee Emeritus:*

Michèle Rosen

### *Parents' Association Representatives:*

Rebekah Martindale, PA President  
Annabel Perrigreur, PA Vice President

### *Faculty Representatives:*

Marie Gillam  
Susan Killoran

## Welcome to our new faculty and staff!



Top row, from left: J. Genièvre, A. Schuster, H. Letoret, E. Chaput, M. John, R. Ifourah (Childcare)  
Bottom row, from left: J. Touam, M. Bourmaud, E. Galway (Childcare), N. Roche (Childcare)  
Not pictured: E. Ball, A. Casco, M. Gabon, M. Guissé, A. Northrup

### **Erica Ball**

*Upper School English Music Teacher*

Dr. Ball is a Havertown, Pa. native. She holds bachelor's degrees in Music and Environmental Studies from Bard College, as well as a doctorate in Music Composition from the University of Pennsylvania. A decorated composer, in addition to teaching at the French International School, Dr. Ball also serves as adjunct instructor at the University of Pennsylvania, and maintains a private music studio.

### **Myriam Bourmaud**

*Fourth Grade French Teacher*

Ms. Bourmaud is returning to the French International School, after a period in France, to teach fourth grade. She holds a teaching certificate from the Centre de Formation Pédagogique in Nantes as well as a degree in Library Sciences from the University of Tours. Ms.

Bourmaud first came to the French International School in 2007, where she taught fourth grade French until 2010. Ms. Bourmaud is passionate about history, and about French-American historical relations, in particular.

### **Ana Casco**

*Middle School Spanish Teacher*

Ms. Casco was born in La Rioja, Spain. She holds a master's degree in Nutrition from the University of Madrid and a doctorate of pharmacy degree from the University of Navarra. She has taught Spanish to Middle School and High School students at the French International Schools in Seoul and Hong Kong, where she also tutored and served as Foreign Language Coordinator. Ms. Casco enjoys playing sports, reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

# Bienvenue aux nouveaux membres de notre personnel enseignant et administratif !

## **Emmanuelle Chaput**

*First Grade French Teacher*

Ms. Chaput is a native of Saint-Gilles-Croix de Vie, France, who earned her teaching certificate from the University of Cergy-Pontoise. She has also spent time studying and working in London and Portsmouth, United Kingdom, and in Manila, Philippines. Most recently, Ms. Chaput taught first grade in Carrières-sous-Poissy, in northern France. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, and entertaining friends.

## **Marthelene Gabon**

*Upper School French Music Teacher*

Ms. Gabon is an accomplished French musician, both vocally and instrumentally, who loves sharing her passion for music with children. She worked with our Lower School students on their portrayal of "Babatoumba" during the 2013-2014 school year, and the following year assumed responsibility of our Upper School French Chorale.

## **Julia Genièvre**

*Fifth Grade French Teacher*

Ms. Genièvre is another returning teacher at the French International School; she taught second grade French at the school from 2007 to 2010. Raised in Marmande, France, Ms. Genièvre earned her teaching certificate in 2003 in Perpignan, France, and also holds a degree in Chemistry and Physics. A world traveler, Ms. Genièvre is excited to pass along her love of other cultures to her students.

## **Mariame Guissé**

*Administrative Assistant*

Ms. Guissé joined the French International School as an Administrative Assistant in August 2014. Born and raised in Bamako, Mali, Ms. Guissé is a globetrotter who has lived in no less than eight countries. She holds a master's degree in Accounting and Financial Management from the University of Maryland University College. In her free time, she volunteers through the Yiri organization.

## **Molly John**

*Middle School English Teacher*

The child of an Army family, Mrs. John was raised in Tucson, Ariz.; Stuttgart, Germany; London, England; and Kuwait City, Kuwait. She received her bachelor's degree in English from Elon University, and has worked as an English teacher in Burlington, N.C. and Rockville, Md.

Through her life experiences and schooling, Mrs. John has learned German, Latin, and Spanish. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and photography.

## **Hélène Letoret**

*Kindergarten French Teacher*

Ms. Letoret joined the French International School team in September 2014 as a kindergarten teacher. She was raised in Chalon-sur-Saône, France, and earned her teaching certificate from the University of Bourgogne. In addition to France and the United States, Ms. Letoret has lived and worked in England, Ireland, and Australia. In her free time, Ms. Letoret enjoys traveling, playing basketball, and rooting for her favorite sports teams.

## **Ann Northrup**

*Upper School Art Teacher*

Ms. Northrup, a Chicago native, joined the French International School's faculty in 2014. An award-winning painter, muralist, and teacher, Ms. Northrup earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in Fine Arts from the Boston University School of Visual Arts. Her work includes the "Pride and Progress" mural on the west wall of the William Way Community Center in Philadelphia.

## **Anne-Elodie Schuster**

*Middle School French and Latin Teacher*

Ms. Schuster, a native of Sarreguemines, France, earned her teaching certificate from the University of Alsace in 2008. She also holds a master's degree in French Literature. Ms. Schuster joined the French International School team in September 2014. She has taught French at the Middle School and High School levels at different establishments in France, as well as at the Dallas International School in Dallas, Tex. Ms. Schuster enjoys reading, writing, and going to the theater.

## **Jade Touam**

*Development Coordinator*

Ms. Touam, a native of France and an alumna of the French International School, took on the position of Development Coordinator in August 2014. She holds a bachelor's degree in Globalization Studies from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in International Affairs from the George Washington University. In her free time, Ms. Touam enjoys keeping up with current events and reading.

# Six New Things Trending at the French International School of Philadelphia

Much like "trending topics" are the top stories being talked about on social media, the following new initiatives are creating a buzz at our school!

## 1. OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE:

[WWW.FRENCHSCHOOLPHILA.ORG](http://WWW.FRENCHSCHOOLPHILA.ORG) ↗

Over the summer, our administration, partnering with the consulting firm Furia Rubel, started working on a new website for our school community. Security and user friendliness were top priorities throughout this exciting project, as they continue to be today. The new site features a bold new design, and is optimized to make it easier for prospective families to find us when using a search engine. Our new online home also features some fresh content, and comes in a mobile-friendly version too!

## 2. OUR TAGLINE:

**BEYOND BILINGUAL, BEYOND BORDERS** ↗

Our new tagline is a product of a self-study the school carried out as part of the reaccreditation process last year. We chose to extend our former tagline to reflect that our school not only goes above a traditional bilingual education, but that it also transcends borders and seeks to shape students to become citizens of the world. Our own multicultural school community is our most valuable resource as we carry out this important mission.



*Clockwise, from right: Nalini and Alejandra water the garden at our Lower School; second graders work on and later pose in front of a poster featuring our new tagline.*

## 3. REVITALIZED PARTNERSHIPS ↗

Since the start of the school year, the French International School has co-hosted several events with other Franco-American and international organizations in the Philadelphia area. An "apéritif" held in our MPR was the perfect opportunity for our school community and members of the Alliance Française and Philadelphie Accueil to get to know one another. A few weeks later, our school was the first stop for visitors participating in Fance Nation Day, an event organized by the Global Philadelphia Association.

## 4. OUR GARDEN ↗

Last spring, adults and children of all ages came together to plant the garden next to the basketball court at our Lower School campus. Our Parents' Association spearheaded the project so that our students could learn about the different elements of tending a garden and have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Families took turns watering the garden over the summer, and it was quickly overflowing with plants, flowers, and even a few gourds!

## 5. YOGA FRIDAYS ↗

Also new this year, our first through eighth grade students are being treated to a 45-minute yoga session every other Friday. The sessions are led by Christine Ware, mother of Jonathan (G2) and Gabriel (K) and certified yoga instructor. The lessons are conducted in French and are held in our Science and Music Room, which is temporarily transformed into a tranquil yoga studio with mats and soft lighting.



of Jonathan (G2) and Gabriel (K) and certified yoga instructor. The lessons are conducted in French and are held in our Science and Music Room, which is temporarily transformed into a tranquil yoga studio with mats and soft lighting.

## 6. SPIRIT GEAR ↗

After a very successful first year, our School Store is back, with new gear! Among our new items are baseball shirts, aluminum water bottles, and ceramic mugs commemorating our school's 25th anniversary. Additionally, many favorites from last year are still here!

# Six nouvelles initiatives à suivre à l'École Française Internationale de Philadelphie

Tout comme les "sujets à suivre" qui sont les titres dont on parle le plus dans les médias sociaux, les nouvelles initiatives suivantes génèrent beaucoup d'intérêt dans notre établissement.

## 1. LE SITE INTERNET DE NOTRE ÉCOLE : [WWW.FRENCHSCHOOLPHILA.ORG](http://WWW.FRENCHSCHOOLPHILA.ORG) ↗

Pendant l'été, notre équipe administrative, en partenariat avec le cabinet de consultants Furia Rubel, a entrepris la mise en place d'un nouveau site Internet pour notre communauté scolaire. La sécurité et la facilité d'utilisation étaient nos priorités tout au long de ce projet passionnant, et le demeurent encore aujourd'hui. Le nouveau site propose un design frais et audacieux, qui nous permet d'être rapidement visibles lors de l'utilisation d'un moteur de recherche, en particulier auprès de futures familles. Notre nouveau site propose aussi un contenu clair et mis à jour, qui peut être facilement visualisé sur les téléphones portables !

## 2. NOTRE SLOGAN: AU-DELÀ DU BILINGUISME, AU-DELÀ DES FRONTIÈRES ↗

Notre slogan est le fruit d'une auto-analyse que l'école a effectuée lors du processus de ré-accréditation l'an passé. Nous avons choisi d'élargir notre slogan précédent afin de montrer que notre école offre bien plus qu'une éducation bilingue traditionnelle, qu'elle dépasse les frontières et aspire à former les élèves afin qu'ils deviennent des citoyens du monde. Notre propre communauté scolaire et multiculturelle est notre ressource la plus précieuse à mesure que nous poursuivons cette importante mission.

## 3. DES PARTENARIATS DYNAMISÉS ↗

Depuis le début de l'année scolaire, l'École Française Internationale a accueilli plusieurs événements conjointement avec d'autres organismes franco-américains et internationaux de la région de Philadelphie. Un apéritif ayant eu lieu dans notre salle polyvalente a été l'occasion idéale pour que notre communauté scolaire et les membres de l'Alliance Française et ceux de Philadelphie Accueil fassent connaissance. Quelques semaines plus tard, notre école était la première halte des visiteurs participant à France Nation Day (Journée de la nation française), un événement organisé par l'association Global Philadelphia.

## 4. NOTRE JARDIN ↗

Au printemps dernier, des adultes et enfants de tous âges ont joint leurs efforts pour créer un jardin à côté du terrain de basketball sur le campus de la Lower School. Notre Association de parents d'élèves a dirigé le projet afin que les élèves puissent découvrir comment prendre soin d'un jardin et qu'ils aient accès à des fruits et



Top: Christine Ware leads a Yoga Friday session.

Bottom: Wassim and Yasmine show off their spirit gear!

légumes frais. Pendant l'été, les familles se sont relayées pour arroser le jardin et ce dernier a rapidement débordé de plantes, de fleurs et même de courges !

## 5. YOGA LE VENDREDI ↗

Encore une nouveauté cette année, nos élèves du CP à la 4ème ont l'avantage de suivre un cours de yoga pendant 45 minutes un vendredi sur deux. Les cours sont proposés par Christine Ware, maman de Jonathan (CEI) et Gabriel (Grande Section), et qui est professeure certifiée de yoga. Les cours sont menés en français et ont lieu dans la salle de sciences et de musique, qui est temporairement transformée en une tranquille salle de yoga, avec des tapis et une lumière tamisée.

## 6. VÊTEMENTS ET ACCESSOIRES AVEC LE LOGO DE L'ÉCOLE ↗

Après une année très fructueuse, notre boutique d'école est de retour, avec de nouveaux articles ! Parmi ces nouveautés, il y a des t-shirts de baseball, des bouteilles d'eau en aluminium et des tasses en céramique commémorant le 25ème anniversaire de notre école. De plus, de nombreux articles favoris de l'année passée—comme nos pulls molletonnés à capuche—sont toujours disponibles.

# Annual Giving 2013-2014

## Campagne de levée de fonds 2013-2014

It is an honor to recognize the donors to our 2013-14 and 2014-15 Annual Giving campaigns, who helped us raise a total of \$259,551 for our school. Though only those who made a financial gift to the campaigns are listed below, we are also grateful to all those who contributed to our school in other ways throughout these two years: by attending our events, volunteering on MLK Day, chaperoning class trips, and more. To all of our parents, faculty and staff, Board members, alumni families, and friends who supported us we say: "milles mercis!"

### LEAD DONORS (\$10,000 and above)

Anonymous  
Mark Lynch  
PNC Financial Services Group Inc.†  
Willig, Williams & Davidson†  
*(Made possible by Deborah Willig & Kathryn Casey)*

### FOUNDERS' FORUM (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

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Susquehanna International Group, LLP  
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*(Made possible by Ariel E. Rodriguez & Mariana Méndez-Tadel)*  
Paul & Cécile Atkinson  
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Nancy Gabel  
Christiane & Stephen Gallagher  
Joan Gallagher  
Carola Hein & Patrick Dhuique  
Brian & Marina Johnston  
Catherine & William Kosman  
*(In support of the Neil Davidson Scholarship Fund)*  
Sonja Pettingill  
Hon. & Mrs. Michael E. Scullin  
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Van Geertruyden  
Victoria Werth & Kevin Williams  
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Thank you! Merci! ¡Gracias!

# Annual Giving 2014-2015

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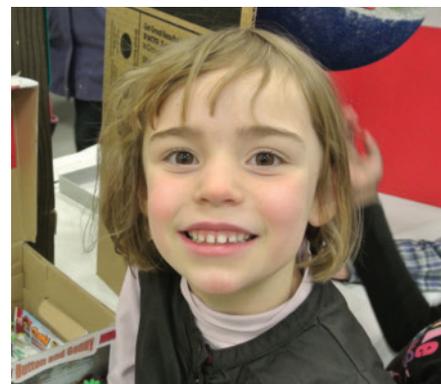
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\*Donor(s) obtained a matching gift from their company. †Donor(s) contributed through the EITC Program. ‡Donor(s) contributed through the OSTC Program.

In their own words, our alumni reflect on their time spent at the French International School and share their plans for the future.

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

"I am currently a sophomore at Yale University, majoring in Psychology."

—*Bijan Makarechi, December 15, 2014*

"Last summer I graduated from McGill University in Montreal with a degree in International Development. After graduating I worked as a Field Organizer for the Iowa Democratic Party and I am going to spend the beginning of 2015 traveling in Southeast Asia."

—*Carlo Makarechi, December 15, 2014*

"I am a full time student at American University, but right now I am studying abroad in Nice, France!"

—*Rebecca Maz, January 19, 2015 (1)*

"I am finishing my PhD in Management at INSEAD Business School in Fontainebleau, France, and have just accepted a position on the faculty of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. I am looking forward to moving 'back home' to Philadelphia in July..."

—*Aline Gatignon, January 29, 2015*

"I'm studying International Business at Temple University. I am currently studying abroad in France."

—*Raquel Lezama, January 29, 2015*

"I'm at Friends Central School right now and I'm having a great time! Lately I've been busy with a show "Cats" that we are presenting this weekend and a ballet. I've kept in

touch with everyone from my 8th grade class."

—*Margaux Berland, February 24, 2015*

"I am in Marple Newtown High School as a freshman. I am in the Robotics Club and I enjoy filmmaking as well as video editing and picture editing!"

—*Maxime Prigent, February 24, 2015*

"[I am] attending The Haverford School, in Haverford, PA, [and playing]...water-polo, swimming and tennis."

—*Gaspard Vadot, February 24, 2015*

"I am in Switzerland, at a school called IIL (Institut International de Lancy)."

—*Beatrice Merlo, March 3, 2015*

"I received a government-funded scholarship called CBYX, which has enabled me to spend this year in Germany. I took the scholarship in order to learn German and experience the culture through my host family and my German school."

—*Yudith Pereira-Lopez, March 19, 2015*

"I'm in England... I'm in St. Bees School, a very good international boarding school. [...] I'm very happy where I am and I have made many friends but I am still in touch with some friends I made at EFIP!"

—*Louise Esperou du Tremblay, April 15, 2015*

"I am headed to Brown University next fall and am a National Merit Scholar..."

—*Rebecca Buxbaum, April 28, 2015 (2)*

## WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT OUR SCHOOL?

"Some of my best memories from EFIP come from history and geography classes where I was first intrigued by the social sciences. [...] Other great memories from EFIP include the yearly Science Fair as well as my 4th Grade trip to Quebec."

—*Carlo Makarechi, December 15, 2014 (3)*





"I was one of the EFIP's very first students, and cut the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony."

—Aline Gatignon, January 29, 2015

"The people at EFIP are really friendly and try to connect with you, especially the teachers. I've created long lasting friendships during my eleven years at this school. I always love to come back to visit my old teachers and friends."

—Margaux Berland, February 24, 2015 (4)

"I remember the great upbeat teachers that would always make me happy and live up my full potential! :)"

—Maxime Prigent, February 24, 2015 (5)

"I remember all of my friends, my teachers, and everything else!"

—Beatrice Merlo, March 3, 2015

"The diversity of the students at the school has always stuck with me, as well as the friends that I made, because I am still friends with people I met in Pre-K. I also remember the teachers I've had very dearly, they taught me how to work hard as well as how to enjoy learning."

—Yudith Pereira-Lopez, March 19, 2015 (6)

#### HOW ARE YOU USING THE SKILLS YOU ACQUIRED AT EFIP?

"Last summer, I spent 6 weeks in Ghana teaching French at a public middle school. Their French curriculum was very poor, and they gave me the chance to create my own short curriculum for the 6th graders, who were in their first year of learning French. It was both challenging and rewarding, and I would not have been at all qualified to do it if I hadn't gone to EFIP."

—Bijan Makarechi, December 15, 2014

"My interests in politics, international development and conflict resolution were sparked at EFIP by the



French will without a doubt continue to be a great asset throughout my life."

—Carlo Makarechi, December 15, 2014

"I acquired and refined my skills in the French language. I made many friends and enriched myself culturally and academically at EFIP..."

—Xavier Pfister, January 19, 2015 (5)

"I am using the skills I acquired at EFIP to pursue a double major in International Relations and Economics at American University in Washington, D.C. Because of the language skills I learned at EFIP, I am able to study abroad twice during my time at school—first in France, and later in Germany. In addition, my communication skills have made me competitive in interviews as well as helped me navigate everyday life in France."

—Rebecca Maz, January 19, 2015

"The school gave me great foundations in reading, writing, math and both structured and creative thinking. It has also left me with wonderful childhood memories of growing up within a small, tight-knit group of students, parents and teachers. Looking back, I believe my years at EFIP made it possible for me to grow up perfectly bilingual and bi-cultural, and feel that my French and American backgrounds fit together seamlessly."

—Aline Gatignon, January 29, 2015

"I am fortunate to have grown up perfecting two languages and learning a third one, as well as learning about the cultural differences that make people special and the international diversity that surrounds the world..."

—Gaspard Vadot, February 24, 2015



The French International School  
*Mourns the Paris Attacks*



November 17, 2015

Our entire French International School family was shocked and deeply saddened by the attacks that took place in Paris on November 13th. A gathering was held at the school two days later to allow members of our community to come together, and our students, faculty and staff observed a minute of silence on Monday, November 16th at 12:00 p.m., like schools throughout France did on the same day. Meanwhile, throughout the city of Philadelphia, landmarks were illuminated with the colors of the French flag to show their solidarity with the City of Light. We stand ready to help our community through this difficult time in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

The French International School of Philadelphia



Le 17 novembre 2015

Toutes les familles de l'Ecole Française Internationale ont été choquées et terriblement attristées par les attentats du 13 novembre à Paris. Un rassemblement s'est tenu à l'école deux jours après pour permettre aux membres de notre communauté de se réunir. Comme dans les écoles à travers la France, nos élèves, notre corps enseignant et notre personnel ont observé une minute de silence lundi 16 novembre à midi. En même temps, les monuments dans toute la ville de Philadelphie sont illuminés avec les couleurs du drapeau français pour montrer leur solidarité avec la ville des lumières. Nous sommes prêts à soutenir notre communauté de toutes les manières possibles pendant cette période difficile.

Sincèrement,

L'Ecole Française Internationale de Philadelphie

**Attention alumni! Want to be featured in our next edition of *La Vie d'EFIP*? Visit the "Alumni" section of our new website to update your contact information and share your news with us! We'd love to hear from you!**



**Mark your calendars for these upcoming events at the French International School of Philadelphia!**

<b>December</b>	Tue. 8 Thu. 10 Thu. 17	Upper School Chorale Performance at KOP PK4 & K Winter Show G1-G8 Chorale Performance
<b>January</b>	Thu. 7 Mon. 18 Fri. 29	Alumni Evening MLK Day Informational Meeting
<b>February</b>	Fri. 19	Informational Meeting
<b>March</b>	Sat. 12 Fri. 18 Thu. 24	Soirée Informational Meeting G2-G8 Recital/Talent Show
<b>April</b>	Mon. 4 Wed. 6 Fri. 8 Thu. 21	PK-G2 Science Fair G3-G4 Science Fair Science Fair (Upper School) Upper School Show

**We look forward to seeing you!**

