

LA VIE D'EFIP 2016-17

AN ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS



Message from the *Board Chair*



*T*welve years ago, my partner Kathryn Casey and I embarked upon one of the most consequential and major decisions a parent can make in the life of their child: the selection of a school—of a community that will

forever have an impact on that budding person's life. At the recommendation of three separate friends and colleagues, we decided to visit the French International School, and I have often repeated our experience at our first informational meeting. We were impressed by the people who attended—a group of almost 50 parents from all over the world. What we all shared became clear immediately: a love of education, a desire to engage in the process, and the single purpose of getting the best for our children. The substantive program, the world-wide diversity, and the methods of teaching were unlike any we had seen at other schools we had visited. I recall that as we left that very first meeting, Katy and I decided that this was where we wanted our daughter, Sydney, to attend school.

These past 11 years have been a journey for our entire family and from the very first moment through today, we have been thrilled and delighted with the educational experience that Sydney has received. It is so clear that the school is doing so many things right. Every year, it exceeds the national averages on standardized tests by significant margins. These results could end the discussion—but they do not. It is the daily methods of instruction that are even more impressive. Teaching geography by reading novels of the era and the region; piquing the curiosity of children even at the tender age of four or five in music and the arts, by having specialist teachers and by visiting cultural institutions like the Barnes Foundation; getting them excited about science through the annual Science Fair, in which, under the extraordinary direction of Mrs. Denny, EFIP Middle School students have been awarded prizes at the county level each and every year. These are but a few examples of how our school excels in its mission.

And as you know, much has been done over the last three years to maintain and build on our successful program. Our facilities have been repaired and upgraded, and that work is ongoing. After two years of hard work by faculty committee members led by Catherine Kosman and Kathy Kotchick, we successfully received our

reaccreditation from the Middle States Association. And of course, we have chosen a new Head of School. In just 18 months as Interim Co-Head and permanent Head of School, Kathy Kotchick has not only implemented a more communicative and transparent leadership strategy, but, through her personal marketing efforts, has increased our enrollment by such large numbers that our Building and Grounds Committee has been reactivated with the goal of addressing our immediate and long term needs for more space. Kathy is working with the Board Technology Committee to ensure that we meet the 21st century technology demands both in the classroom and in all administrative areas of the school. She has also increased our development efforts, culminating not only in our 25th Anniversary Gala in March, but in the creation of a new Beyond Borders Fund, which you can read about on page 19. It is clear that the Board made the right choice of a Head of School who can lead us effectively in the next chapter in our history.

What Katy and I only glimpsed at that first orientation has been our reality for the last 11 years. Still, it's hard to believe that in just a few weeks, there will be another, more personal, milestone to celebrate. On June 14th, alongside friends from all different backgrounds and cultures, Sydney will graduate, a confident French speaker and avid learner, fully prepared not just for High School, but for all of the steps that lie ahead. And for this, I must say a very special thank you to all of our teachers who do such a great job motivating their young pupils. We are incredibly fortunate to have a group of inspired, intelligent, talented, and caring educators who rightfully take great pride in expanding the horizons, opening doors and providing life-anchoring opportunities for our children—bilingually.

I invite you all to attend our graduation ceremony on the 14th, to share in our pride as our eighth graders receive their diplomas, and to see for yourselves the products of this excellent school. Congratulations to the class of 2017!

Deborah Willig

Deborah R. Willig
Chair of the Board of Trustees

*J*ly a 12 ans de cela, ma partenaire Kathryn Casey et moi-même devons prendre une décision lourde de conséquence et capitale : le choix d'une école, et d'une communauté qui influencerait à jamais l'avenir de

Message de la *Présidente du conseil d'administration*



notre enfant. Suivant les recommandations de trois amis et collègues différents, nous avons décidé de visiter l'École Française Internationale, et notre expérience lors de notre première réunion d'information fut inoubliable. Nous

fûmes impressionnées par les personnes qui y assistaient car il s'agissait d'un groupe de près de 50 parents venant des quatre coins du monde. Manifestement, nous partageons les mêmes valeurs : une passion pour l'éducation et le désir que nos enfants reçoivent ce qu'il y a de meilleur. L'école offrait un programme riche, une diversité culturelle et des méthodes d'enseignement, autant d'éléments que nous n'avions pas rencontrés dans les autres écoles visitées auparavant. Je me souviens qu'en quittant cette première réunion, Katy et moi-même avons décidé que notre fille Sydney irait dans cette école.

Onze années d'une aventure ô combien palpitante pour toute notre famille sont passées et nous avons été enchantées par l'éducation que Sydney a reçue. Il est très clair que l'école s'acquitte bien de ses tâches. Chaque année, l'école enregistre, dans les tests standardisés, des résultats très supérieurs à la moyenne nationale. Ces résultats pourraient se suffire à eux-mêmes, mais ce sont les méthodes d'enseignement au quotidien qui impressionnent. L'enseignement de la géographie passe par la lecture de romans ; la curiosité des enfants de 4-5 ans est nourrie par l'enseignement de la musique et de l'art ; les élèves visitent de nombreuses institutions culturelles comme la *Barnes Foundation* ; l'expo-sciences annuelle motive tant de jeunes talents et sous la fantastique direction de Mme Denny, de nombreux projets de sciences de collégiens sont récompensés année après année. Ce ne sont là que quelques exemples qui montrent à quel point l'école accomplit sa mission avec brio.

Comme vous le savez, de nombreuses mesures ont été prises, au cours des trois dernières années, pour assurer la réussite de notre programme. Nos locaux ont été réparés et modernisés et les améliorations se poursuivent. Au terme de deux années d'efforts déployés par l'équipe enseignante et dirigés par Catherine Kosman et Kathy Kotchick, l'école a obtenu sa ré-accréditation par la *Middle States Association*. Et bien sûr, nous avons choisi un nouveau chef d'établissement. En seulement 18 mois, en tant que

chef d'établissement et précédemment co-chef d'établissement par interim, Kathy Kotchick a fait de la communication et de la transparence, la clé de voûte de son style de direction. En outre, grâce à des initiatives de marketing ambitieuses, elle a augmenté les effectifs au point que notre comité chargé des infrastructures s'active désormais à répondre aux besoins d'espace immédiats et à long terme. Kathy travaille étroitement avec le comité technologique du conseil d'administration pour veiller à ce que l'école toute entière s'adapte aux exigences technologiques du XXI^e siècle. Elle a aussi intensifié les activités en faveur du développement avec le gala en mars célébrant le 25^e anniversaire de l'école et la création d'un nouveau fonds, le *Beyond Borders Fund*, dont il est question en page 19. De toute évidence, le conseil d'administration a fait le bon choix en désignant un chef d'établissement qui est capable de nous projeter efficacement dans l'avenir.

Ce que Katy et moi-même avons seulement entrevu lors de la première réunion a été notre quotidien au cours de ces 11 dernières années. J'ai du mal à croire que dans quelques semaines, nous marquerons une autre étape, plus personnelle. Le

14 juin, aux côtés d'amis issus de tous horizons, Sydney achèvera ses études au collège, avide de connaissances, parlant aisément français, et fin prête pour le lycée et les années à venir. Et pour cela, je tiens à remercier chaleureusement tous les enseignants qui savent si bien motiver leurs jeunes élèves. Nous avons eu la chance inouïe de bénéficier d'enseignants motivants, brillants,



talentueux et attentionnés qui, à juste titre, sont fiers d'élargir les horizons, d'ouvrir la voie et d'accroître les opportunités de nos enfants, et cela de manière bilingue.

Je vous invite tous à assister à la cérémonie de fin d'études le 14 juin, pour partager notre fierté alors que nos élèves de 4^e recevront leur diplôme. Vous vous rendrez compte par vous-même de l'excellence de l'école. Félicitations aux diplômés de 2017 !

Deborah Willig

Deborah R. Willig
Présidente du conseil d'administration

Message from the *Head of School*



*I*n June of 1995, my husband, two small daughters and I moved to the Philadelphia area. I left behind a teaching job that I absolutely loved, and was looking for any opportunity to continue. After answering a small

ad seeking a part-time teacher in the classifieds of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, I was offered an interview. I arrived for my interview at a charming old house in Bryn Mawr, Beechwood House, the site of the French International School of Philadelphia. I met with Mrs. Davidson, and was taken on a tour of the classrooms. My interview was standard in its format, but the feeling I had while visiting the school was anything but that. As I walked through the hallways, smelled the bread being baked by the Kindergarten class, saw the incredible art displayed on the walls, and received a sincere “bonjour” or “hello” from each person I passed, I left somehow knowing that this was where I wanted to be. There was a feeling, a warmth, a “je ne sais quoi” about our school that I felt from my very first moments there.

“There was a feeling, a warmth, a ‘je ne sais quoi’ about our school that I felt from my very first moments there.”

In the 23 years since then, a lot has certainly changed. We have gone from 16 students to 308, from a faculty and staff of 11 to one of 64, from leasing Beechwood House to owning two large and thriving campuses... What has not changed is that “je ne sais quoi,” and I am clearly not the only one who feels it! It is described to me each and every day by visitors, teachers and school families alike, over and over again. Could it be that we have struck the perfect formula? That, I do not know, but what I do know is that we have the perfect elements:

We have an engaged Board: Their tireless energy, talent and resources are poured into our school to ensure our immediate and long term success. Their expectations are high and their dedication is unyielding. I would like to say a special thank you to Deborah Willig, our Board Chair, for the continual support I have received since beginning my tenure as Head of School.

We have a one-of-a-kind faculty and staff: Dedicated, professional, smart, creative, loving, and persistent are just some of the words that come to mind when I think about them. They work every day toward authentic fulfillment of our mission.

We have supportive and collaborative parents: 381 strong, and representing 51 cultures. They are well informed, dedicated, involved, selfless. We are nothing without them and their support!

We have amazing children! Engaging in a conversation with our three-year-olds or our 13-year-olds is fascinating. They ponder big ideas, articulate proudly in French and English, express gratitude, excel in Science, Music and Mathematics. They are socially aware, they appreciate their classmates’ differences, they share highly ambitious—sometimes fearless—goals; they truly are beyond bilingual!

The sum of these parts is our incredible school community, which is what we are celebrating as we mark our 25th anniversary. Looking to the future, I know it will also ensure our school’s continued success through the next 25 years, and beyond. Thank you for being a part of it!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "K. Kotchick".

Kathy Kotchick
Head of School

*E*n juin 1995, mon mari, nos deux filles en bas âge et moi-même déménageons dans la région de Philadelphie. Je laissais derrière moi un emploi d’enseignante que j’aimais immensément et désirais poursuivre ma carrière. Après avoir répondu à une petite annonce dans le *Philadelphia Inquirer* offrant un poste d’enseignant à temps partiel, un entretien m’était accordé. Le jour de l’entretien, je découvrais une charmante maison ancienne à Bryn Mawr, *Beechwood House*, dans laquelle l’École Française Internationale de Philadelphie avait élu domicile. J’ai fait la connaissance de Mme Davidson qui m’a emmenée faire le tour de l’école. Mon entretien fut ce qu’il y avait de plus ordinaire, mais l’impression que j’avais éprouvée durant ma visite de l’école ne l’était pas. En passant dans les couloirs, j’avais senti le pain que les élèves de Grande section étaient en train de faire cuire, avais été éblouie par les productions d’art affichées dans les couloirs et chaque personne croisée



m'avait saluée par un « bonjour » ou un « hello ». En quittant les lieux, je savais que c'était là que je voulais travailler. Une impression, une chaleur, un je-ne-sais-quoi émanait de cette école dès le franchissement du seuil de la porte.

Au cours des 23 ans qui ont suivi, beaucoup de choses ont considérablement changé. Nous sommes passés de 16 à 308 élèves, de 11 à 64 membres du personnel et de l'équipe enseignante, et de la location de Beechwood House à la possession de deux campus spacieux et prospères. Ce qui n'a pas changé, c'est ce je-ne-sais-quoi que l'on ressent et je ne suis certainement pas la seule à le remarquer. Pas un jour ne passe sans qu'un visiteur, un enseignant ou une famille de l'école ne m'en fasse part. Aurions-nous trouvé la parfaite alchimie ? Je ne peux répondre à cette question, mais une chose est sûre, c'est que nous disposons des meilleurs ingrédients pour y parvenir.

Nous bénéficions d'un conseil d'administration engagé : Ses membres développent une énergie inépuisable, de multiples talents et ressources pour assurer la réussite de notre établissement, tant immédiate qu'à long terme. Leurs attentes sont grandes et leur dévouement est sans réserve. Je tiens à remercier tout particulièrement Deborah Willig, notre présidente du conseil d'administration, pour son soutien indéfectible depuis que j'ai pris mes fonctions de chef d'établissement.

Nous possédons une équipe enseignante et administrative exceptionnelle : Dévoués, professionnels, sagaces, créatifs, affectueux, persévérants, tels sont quelques-uns des épithètes qui

me viennent à l'esprit quand je pense à eux. Chaque jour, ils mènent à bien notre mission.

Les parents nous assurent de leur soutien et de leur collaboration : 381 parents sensationnels représentant 51 cultures différentes. Ils sont avertis, dévoués, engagés et altruistes. Nous ne serions rien sans eux, sans leur soutien !

Nous avons des élèves fantastiques ! Il est fascinant d'engager une conversation tant avec un élève de 3 ans qu'avec un élève de 13 ans. Ils débordent d'idées, s'expriment fièrement en français et en anglais, manifestent leur gratitude, excellent en sciences, en musique et en mathématiques. Ils ont une conscience sociale aiguë, valorisent leurs propres différences et partagent de grandes, et parfois audacieuses, ambitions. Ils sont bilingues, mais bien plus encore !

Notre formidable communauté scolaire représente la somme de toutes ces entités que nous mettons à l'honneur lors de la célébration de notre 25^e anniversaire. Je regarde vers l'avenir et sais pertinemment que notre communauté scolaire aura à cœur d'assurer notre prospérité durant les 25 prochaines années et au-delà. Je vous remercie sincèrement pour votre soutien !

Kathy Kotchick
Chef d'établissement

September



◀ Students reunited with friends and teachers on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 9th.



▲ The weather was just perfect for our first school-wide picnic of the year!



▲ During "la semaine du goût," students sampled flavors from around the world thanks to parent volunteers.

October

▼ We ended the month with our annual Halloween Parade and Harvest Festival.



▼ Fourth graders led the “turkey pokey” at the school’s Thanksgiving Assembly—and PK3 students followed!



November

▼ *New York Times* Bestselling Author Adam Gidwitz visited the Middle School and shared useful writing tips with our students.



◀ Little brothers and sisters of current French International School students got acquainted with our school—and quickly felt at home!—during one of our “Sibling Play Dates.”

December



▼ In coding class, students built robots out of Lego pieces and applied their skills to program them to move using iPads.



▲ On December 4th, we came together to celebrate our differences at a Community Party held at our Lower School.



◀ Our Musical Ensemble performed during our G3 to G8 end-of-the-year show.

January

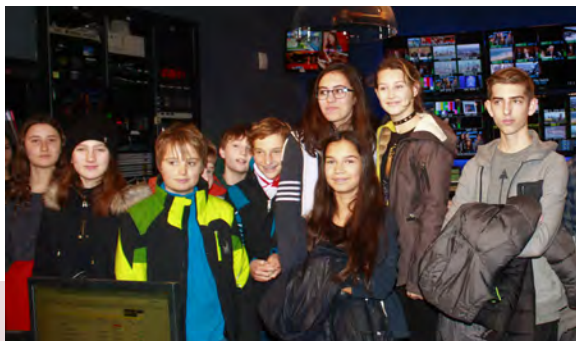


▲ A panel of French International School alumni spoke with current students and their parents about the transition to High School and beyond during our Alumni Evening.

▼ Students participated in a school-wide read of *Martin's Big Words* ahead of our annual MLK Day of Service.



◀ Our seventh and eighth grade students visited the NBC 10 studios, located just down the road from our Upper School campus.



February

◀ Basketball season was in full swing!



◀ Students wore colorful masks and paraded through our halls during *Le Carnaval*.

▼ Students from Pre-K to Grade 8 participated in our Annual Science Fairs!



March



▲ We had a school-wide birthday party—complete with cupcakes and dancing—to celebrate our school's 25th anniversary! Read about our Gala celebration on pages 10-13.

April



◀ Our Upper School students put on a production of the Lion King Jr., much to the delight of their younger peers!

May

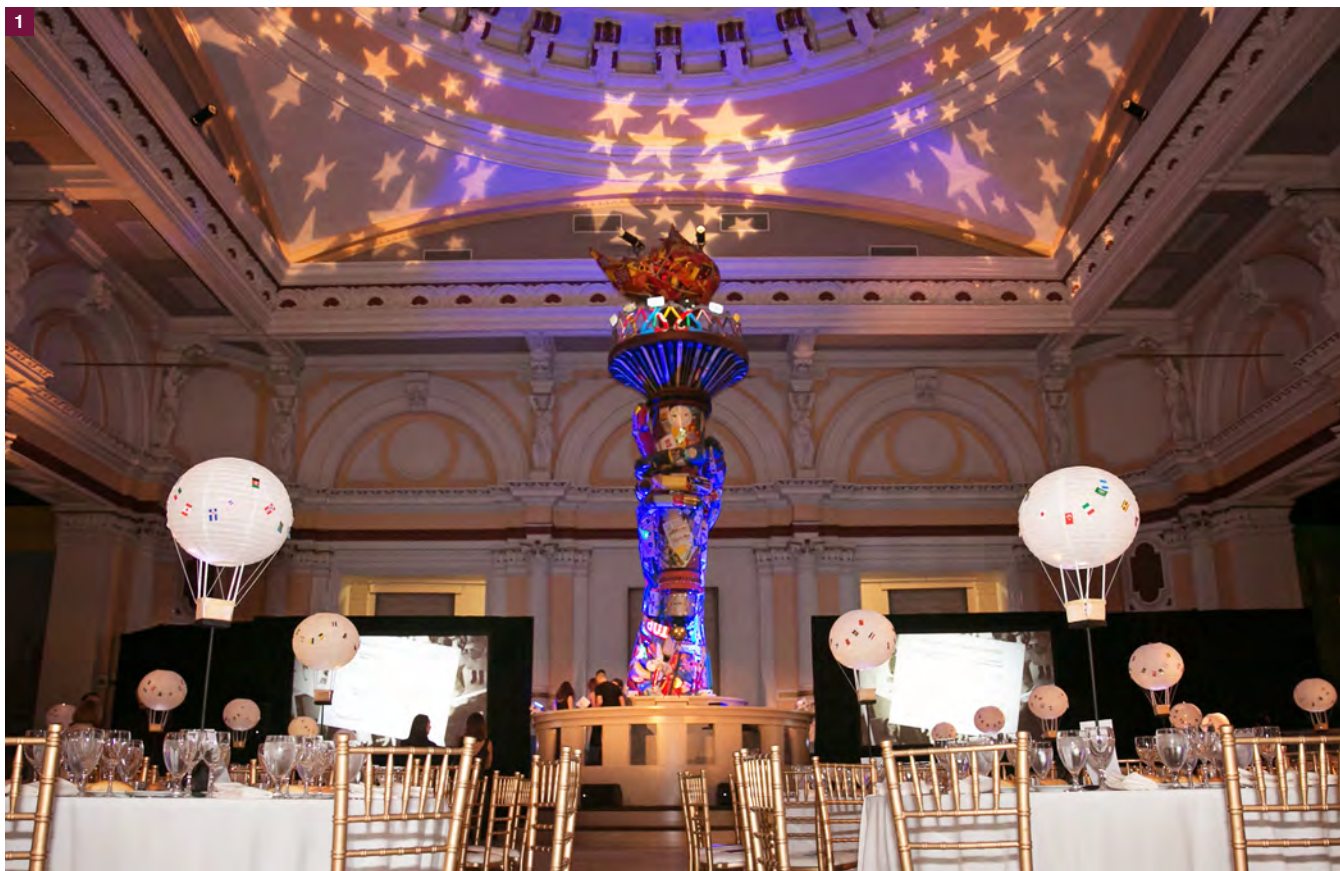


▲ A group of visiting artists from France spent a week at our school, preparing a musical show called "La Promenade de Tipoulet" with our PK3 to G4 students.



◀ Our second graders spent a sunny day at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Tincum Township.

Beyond Borders Gala: *A Celebration of 25 Years*



The school's 25th Anniversary Gala was held at the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia. **1** Tables in the main hall of the museum were adorned with miniature hot air balloons representing the Gala's theme, "Beyond Borders." **2** The Please Touch Museum is housed in the historic Memorial Hall, originally built for the 1876 Centennial Exhibition.

*M*ore than 340 guests gathered at the Please Touch Museum in Philadelphia on March 25th, 2017 for our 25th Anniversary Gala! The spectacular evening was a celebration of our school's growth over the past 25 years—from just 11 students in 1991 to more than 300 today—and of the extraordinary community that made it possible. We also looked to the future, and you can read our families' and friends' aspirations for our school on page 13. We were honored to be joined by Consul General of France in Washington, D.C. Mr. Michel Charbonnier, who served as our Honorary Chair for the evening. Because words alone would not do this splendid night justice, we've gathered just some of the photos from the night throughout the next pages. Enjoy!

au cours des 25 dernières années (car notre école est passée de 11 élèves en 1991 à plus de 300 aujourd'hui), mais aussi l'extraordinaire communauté scolaire qui a rendu cette croissance possible. Nous nous sommes projetés dans l'avenir et avons demandé aux familles et amis comment ils imaginent notre école dans les années à venir ; vous pouvez lire leurs réactions en page 13. Nous avons été honorés de la présence de M. Michel Charbonnier, Consul Général de France à Washington, D.C., et président d'honneur de notre réception. Les mots ne suffisent pas à exprimer le bonheur ressenti durant cette splendide réception. Pour votre plaisir, nous avons rassemblé quelques photos de la soirée sur les pages suivantes.

*P*lus de 340 convives étaient réunis au Please Touch Museum de Philadelphie le 25 mars 2017 à l'occasion du gala célébrant le 25e anniversaire de l'école ! Cette soirée haute en couleur a mis à l'honneur non seulement la croissance de notre établissement



Gala “Au-delà des frontières” *célébrant les 25 ans de l'école*



3 Deborah Willig, Board Chair; Patti Scullin; Michael Scullin, Honorary Consul of France in Philadelphia and Wilmington; and Michel Charbonnier, Consul General of France in Washington, D.C. **4** Marie Gantz poses with fellow Board member Marc Simmons and his wife, Gillian Johnson. **5** The birthday cake created by Sweet Nectar Dessert Kitchen. **6** Head of School Kathy Kotchick (middle) with students Sydney Casey-Willig (G8), Aidan Yeilding (G8), Matilde Ortiz (G8), Newman Yeilding (G7) and Jérôme Gantz (G7). **7** Student ambassadors Lea Alston (G7) and Sarah Durham (G7). **8** Gala Co-Chairs Pandora and Peter Lorenzi. **9** Delia Constantin, Board member Rebekah Martindale, and Carole Grant. **10** Martine Chauvet, Diana Regan, Dr. George Broder, and Nancy Gabel, former Board Chair. **11** Parents David Billy, Lucie Grippon, Stéphanie Billy, Stéphanie Chapuis and Thierry Boulanger.

Beyond Borders Gala: *A Celebration of 25 Years*



1 Retired Interim Co-Head of School and Kindergarten Teacher Catherine Kosman (middle) with eighth graders Matilde Ortiz and Mei Darling-Wolf. **2** The colorful macaron tower and tartlettes prepared by Au Fournil, Inc. **3** John McCarthy, Parents' Association President Ashleigh Rhodes, C. Jesse Pickard-Gabriel, Véronique Bonnet-Vadot, Vincent Vadot, and Patricia McCarthy. **4** Isabel Dever and Mary-Beth Neyhard with fellow teacher Fabrice Paradis-Béland and his wife Alanna. **5** The Class of 2017. **6** Parents Cyrille Taillandier and Rachel Wenrick-Taillandier. **7** Board member Anne Oltmanns and Claudia Le Meliner. **8** Seventh graders Marthe Voituriez, Yasmine Oueslati, and Aruna Balasubramanian. **9** Jaime Graham and Michaela Hinton-Graham.

Where would you like to see our school in 25 years?

On the night of the Gala, we asked you to think big and share your aspirations for our school for the next 25 years. Here's what you had to say:

“Continuing to prosper in Philadelphia and offering study abroad in 10 to 15 countries as part of the Middle School experience.”

—Teresa & Kirk Elliott

“Dans 25 ans, l'ETJP aura un grand campus, un lycée et un enseignement toujours d'exception. Je viendrai vous voir.”

—Catherine Kosman

“800 students, back here at the Please Touch Museum.”

—Brian & Marina Johnston

“Magnifique—comme il est!”

—John & Fabienne Darling-Wolf

“In 25 years I would like to see the school expanded into High School. The value of a bi-cultural education is beyond measure. Thanks for an amazing 10 years!!!”

—Robin Thomas

“With my grandchildren enrolled!”

—Natalie Prosper

“Continue the good work!!”

—Erev Tubb & Zsofia Szep



10 Edugie Niepa, Emma Coffi, Marayamou Samassa, Nadège Chams-Eddine, Erica Wise, and Sherri-Ann Cowie. **11** Jeff Mack with fellow trustees and Gala Steering Committee members Peshani Singh and Amy Morgan and their husbands, Edward Hopkinson and Newman Yeilding. **12** Parents Hervé Le Meliner, Jean Christophe Boidin, Benoit Reliquet, Agathe Boidin, and Aurélie Reliquet raise a glass during the pre-dinner reception in the Carousel Room of the Please Touch Museum. **13** Art projects created by each class were displayed in the main hall before being raffled off. **14** Chef Jean-Marie LaCroix of Brûlée Catering and Greg Moore of Moore Brothers Wine Company.

Who's who?

Can you name any of the students in the photo below from the "early days" at the French International School of Philadelphia?



Fun Facts from 1991...

Our school first opened its doors in September 1991. Do you remember some of the other defining events and trends from that year?

- Disney's animated version of *Beauty and the Beast* was released and topped box office charts in the United States. A live-action remake came out earlier this year!
- The "Pogs" craze was in full swing.
- France came in second place at the Eurovision Song Contest in Rome.
- Popular television shows included *Full House*, *Cheers*, and *Coach*.
- Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France.
- Gas cost just \$1.10/gallon in the United States!
- Sega adopted Sonic the Hedgehog as its new mascot to rival Nintendo's Super Mario franchise.

Bon Appétit!

New Lunch Program Serves Up Healthy, Delicious Meals



What's cooking at the French International School? Just ask Chef Paul Clark, who joined our team last summer and launched our new lunch program in September. (Chef Paul, as students call him, has extensive experience in the food industry and is the father of Jack, in Grade 6). Under the new program, students enjoy a balanced, freshly prepared meal—typically including a protein, a vegetable, a starch, and dessert—every day of the week. Students can also opt for a soup-du-jour and salad combo, helping themselves from the salad bar stocked with lettuce, veggies, fruit and yogurt.

Chef Paul's daily menus draw from international cuisine, and range from thai chicken curry with basmati rice, to boeuf bourguignon with egg noodles. Students are also treated to different specialties throughout the school year: turkey bratwurst and spaetzle for Oktoberfest, chicken gumbo soup and jambalaya for Mardi Gras, and Irish beef stew and soda bread for Saint Patrick's Day.

The new lunch program has been a hit with kids and parents alike. While students love the tasty meals, parents appreciate the clean, sustainable approach to cooking. Chef Paul favors non-GMO ingredients and techniques like baking, roasting, and broiling instead of frying. Meals feature locally sourced, seasonal produce, and even herbs from our school's garden! And in the cafeteria line, students reach for "real" trays, plates and utensils that are washed and reused each day.

Since the program's introduction, the song our youngest students sing before lunch each day has never rung more true: "Autour de la table entre bons amis, qu'il est agréable d'être réunis!"

Le nouveau service de repas chauds propose des déjeuners équilibrés et savoureux

Qu'est-ce qui mijote à l'École Française Internationale ? Demandez à Chef Paul Clark qui a rejoint notre équipe l'été dernier et qui a contribué au lancement de notre nouveau service de repas en septembre ! Chef Paul, comme l'appellent nos élèves, a de nombreuses années d'expérience dans la restauration et son fils, Jack, est élève en 6^e. Les repas fraîchement préparés chaque jour sont sains et équilibrés et comportent toujours une variété de protéines, de légumes, de féculents et un dessert. Les élèves peuvent aussi choisir la formule soupe du jour et buffet à salades, qui offre une sélection de salades vertes, légumes frais, fruits et yaourts.

Chef Paul propose des menus issus des traditions culinaires des quatre coins du monde et prépare aussi bien un poulet thaïlandais au curry qu'un boeuf bourguignon accompagné de pâtes aux oeufs. Il s'inspire des diverses fêtes du calendrier et mitonne, par exemple, des saucisses de dinde et des spaetzle pour Oktoberfest, un gombo de poulet et du jambalaya pour Mardi Gras ou encore un ragoût de boeuf irlandais et du soda bread pour la St-Patrick.

Ce nouveau service de repas chauds a rencontré un vif succès auprès des enfants et des parents. Autant les enfants apprécient les délicieux repas, autant les parents sont sensibles aux méthodes de cuisine saines et écologiques. Chef Paul privilégie les ingrédients sans OGM et les méthodes de cuisson faible en matières grasses comme la cuisson au four, au grill et le rôtissage plutôt que la friture. Il utilise des produits issus de l'agriculture locale et même des herbes aromatiques de notre propre jardin d'école ! Enfin, les enfants disposent de vrais plateaux, d'assiettes et de couverts qui sont lavés et réutilisés, jour après jour.

Avec ce nouveau service de repas, la chanson que nos tout jeunes élèves chantent chaque jour avant le repas n'a jamais sonné aussi juste : « Autour de la table, entre bons amis, qu'il est agréable d'être réunis ! ».

Upper School & Alumni *Achievements*

Our talented Upper School students impress us each and every day with their ability to master a wide range of subjects in not just one but two languages! Here are just some of the highlights from their achievements of the past year:

MONTGOMERY COUNTY READING OLYMPICS

1st Place:
 Sydney Casey-Willig
 Jack Clark
 Mei Darling-Wolf
 Boris Duke
 Jon Dunston
 Alexandra Duranton
 Sarah Durham
 Jérôme Gantz
 Manon Magnan
 Peter Mihaly
 Robert Murray
 Matilde Ortiz
 Yasmine Oueslati
 Alexandros Pratsos
 Katerina Pratsos
 Tristan Prosper
 Kade Schneider
 Eva Shea
 Katie Willis-Carroll
 Kiefer Wood-Barreno
 Aidan Yeilding
 Newman Yeilding

SCRIPPS 2017 REGIONAL SPELLING BEE

Aruna Balasubramanian: 2nd Place

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM, INTRODUCTION TO LATIN

- Aruna Balasubramanian: Ribbon and "Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement"
- Clara Massip: "Certificate of Merit for Achievement"
- Max Oltmanns: "Certificate of Merit for Achievement"

NATIONAL LATIN EXAM, LATIN I

- Alexandra Duranton: "Magna Cum Laude" Mention
- Manon Magnan: "Magna Cum Laude" Mention

NATIONAL HISTORY BEE

National Finalists:
 Aruna Balasubramanian
 Alexandra Duranton
 Jérôme Gantz
 Max Oltmanns
 Alessandra Simmons

FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL NATIONAL GEOGRAPHY BEE

Aidan Yeilding: 1st Place

MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIADS FOR ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Grades 7 & 8 Team:
 Aruna Balasubramanian
 Sydney Casey-Willig



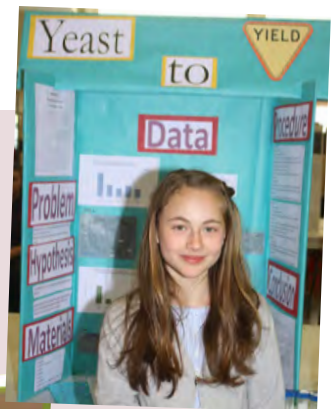
▲ The G5 & G6 Montgomery County Reading Olympics Team.



◀ The G7 & G8 Mathematical Olympiads Team with coaches Mrs. Denny and Mr. Camus.



◀ Aruna Balasubramanian presents her project "Algorithmic Grammar Complexity and Language Learning" to a judge at the Montgomery County Science Fair (MCSF).



▲ Award winner Sibylle Beltran-Gremaud at the MCSF.



◀ Award winner Alexandra Duranton at the MCSF.

Succès des élèves de l'Upper School et des anciens élèves

Mei Darling-Wolf
Alexandra Duranton
Manon Magnan
Sebastian Morel
Max Oltmanns
Katerina Pratsos
Kade Schneider
Kiefer Wood
Aidan Yeilding*
Newman Yeilding

Grades 5 & 6 Team:
Sibylle Beltran-Gremaud
Eunice Fadjoh
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*Highest Individual Scorer Trophy recipients; Silver Pin recipients for ranking in the top 10% nationally.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

- Aruna Balasubramanian: 1st Place for Mathematics
- Sibylle Beltran-Gremaud: 3rd Place for Microbiology, Special Award for Most Outstanding Microbiology Project, and 3rd Place Award from the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology
- Alexandra Duranton: 3rd Place for Consumer Science
- Max Oltmanns: 3rd Place for Engineering and Special Award for Most Outstanding Engineering Project
- Eléonore Perrigueur: Special Award in Botany from Longwood Gardens
- Katerina Pratsos: Special Award for Most Outstanding Medicine and Health Project

DELAWARE VALLEY SCIENCE FAIR

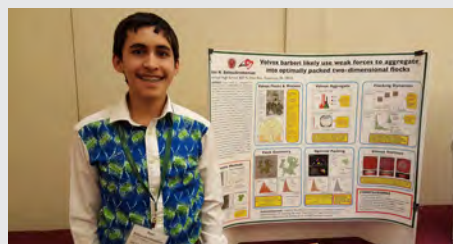
Aruna Balasubramanian: 1st Place for Mathematics and Gold Medal for best overall Middle School project, qualifying her for the 2017 Broadcom MASTERS.

Spotlight on our Alumni

- The French International School Class of 2013 is graduating from High School this year! In the fall, our alumni will continue their studies at schools including the University of Pennsylvania and McGill University. Congratulations Seniors!



- Ravi Balasubramanian, currently in ninth grade at Harriton High School, is continuing his research on *Volvox barberi*, a species of algae which was the subject of his prize-winning Science Fair project at the French International School last year. He presented his new findings in a poster session at the meeting of the Northeast Algal Society in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire on April 21-23, 2017.



- Kennedy Harris-Farrell was nominated to participate in the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists' Congress of Future Medical Leaders, which will take place over three days this summer at the University of Massachusetts.



2015-2016 *Giving Report*

*I*t is an honor to recognize all those who made a gift to our school during the 2015-2016 fundraising year, helping us raise more than \$149,500. We are also grateful to all those who contributed to our school in other ways throughout the year: by volunteering with our Parents' Association, chaperoning class trips, attending our events, and more. To all of our parents, Board members, faculty and staff, alumni families, and friends who supported us we say: "merci infiniment !"

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We would also like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to the success of our 2016-2017 giving year to date with gifts to our Annual Fund, Beyond Borders Fund, and/or 25th Anniversary Gala. Our new Beyond Borders Fund supports scholarships and events that help ensure that our school remains a welcoming environment to families of any race, religion, culture or lifestyle. (The list below includes gifts made between July 1, 2016 and May 24, 2017. The fundraising year continues through June 30th, and a complete list of all 2016-2017 donors will be published in our next edition of *La Vie d'EFIP*.)

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