

# La Vie d'EFIP 2017-18

AN ANNUAL BULLETIN FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS





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# Message from the Board Chair



**FOR THE LAST NINE YEARS**, I have had the honor, privilege and pleasure of serving as the Chair of the Board of the French International School and leading our school community through many defining moments and transitions. These include the creation, adoption and implementation of three strategic plans, the reaccreditation of our bilingual program, the appointment of a new Head of School and the celebration of two milestone anniversaries. This past year has been particularly exciting, and I am pleased to be ending my term as your Board Chair on such a high note. Our 2017-2018 theme, “A Year of Adventure,” perfectly captures the spirit of the last 12 months at our school, where significant developments are under way.

The adventure began in the fall, when Kathy Kotchick and the school’s faculty and staff welcomed 324 students back to school—the highest number of students in our school’s history. This milestone, paired with the dramatic growth in enrollment we have seen over the last several years, spurred our Building and Grounds Committee to redouble its efforts

to find a new location for our school. In January, we made the exciting announcement to our community that the Board had identified a potential new home to accommodate our growing student body on a single campus: the Knox Estate located at 718 Sussex Road in Wynnewood.

In the weeks following the announcement, a team of architects hired by the Board began the important task of gathering input from all of the different stakeholders on what a new campus should look like. The architects met with parents, faculty and staff members, students and alumni families alike. Using your collective feedback, the team drafted a preliminary design for our future school. After several rounds of revisions and more input from planners, traffic engineers, site engineers, landscape architects, lawyers and our own architect, the plan was presented to Lower Merion Township officials in late March.

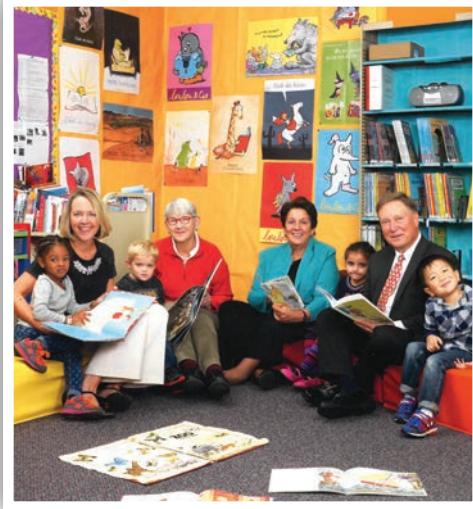
Following this initial meeting, and in an effort to be successful in our endeavor, we began the process of modifying our original plans. Our Petition and Plans now have been filed formally with the Township and the first of what will be several zoning hearings was held on July 12, 2018 before the Lower Merion Zoning Hearing Board. We have also filed plans with the Historical Commission and the Planning Committee. We will continue, of course, to keep you informed about the status of this very important project for our community.

In addition to the substantial work in moving forward with the Knox Estate plans, the Board has also been busy crafting our school’s next Strategic Plan. For the first time, we retained the services of an outside expert to assist us in reviewing and formulating a new Strategic Plan for our school. In February, many of you took part in focus groups to help us identify our school’s priorities for the next three years. Our Board members reviewed, discussed and narrowed down these ideas over the course of a Strategic Planning Workshop. At our last meeting of the year, the Board officially approved our next Strategic Plan, which prioritizes the development of a new campus at the Knox Estate while also calling for the Board to identify and evaluate alternate solutions should our plans not reach fruition. The priorities of the plan will be shared with you over the summer, and will lead our school through the next three years of our ongoing adventure.

As my tenure as Board Chair comes to an end, I want to express my sincere thanks to all of my past and current Board colleagues, including incoming Chair, Pete Lorenzi, for the tremendous and often time-consuming work they do on behalf of our school. Much of this work is unseen, but the milestones I mentioned at the beginning of this message would not have been possible without their participation and effort.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Message from the Board Chair



Our School and I are also indebted to our Head of School, Kathy Kotchick, who ascended to this post just three years ago. It has been a genuine pleasure to work with Kathy and to see EFIP thrive and grow under her stewardship. I know I speak for every member of our community in also thanking our team of committed faculty and staff members who ensure the wellbeing and development of our students on a daily basis. Our children graduate from EFIP as global citizens able to take on the problems of a complicated world—bilingually—because our faculty has taught them well and nurtured them throughout the course of their stay.

I am also grateful to you, our community of parents, alumni families, relatives and friends, for your continued commitment to our school—shown by your participation in our focus groups, your volunteering on MLK Day and other school functions, your attendance at our Soirée, your support of our fundraising efforts and more. Whether you first joined us ten months or ten years ago, our school is special because of your presence. Finally, thank you to our remarkable students, who are the driving force behind everything we do, and who make it all worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Willig  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

**AU COURS DES NEUF DERNIÈRES ANNÉES**, j'ai eu l'honneur et le privilège de présider le conseil d'administration de l'École Française Internationale et de guider notre communauté scolaire lors de nombreux moments décisifs. En effet, j'ai conduit l'élaboration, l'adoption et la mise en oeuvre de trois plans stratégiques, ainsi que la réacrédition de notre programme bilingue, la nomination d'un nouveau chef d'établissement et enfin la célébration de deux grands anniversaires. L'année passée a été particulièrement intense et je suis heureuse que mon mandat de présidente du conseil d'administration s'achève ainsi. Notre thème de l'année 2017-2018 s'intitulait "Une année d'aventure" et il a parfaitement traduit l'esprit régnant dans notre établissement ces douze derniers mois au vu des développements considérables en cours.

L'aventure a commencé l'automne dernier lorsque Kathy Kotchick et le personnel de l'école ont accueilli 324 élèves, l'effectif le plus important de l'histoire de l'école. Ce tournant, accompagné de la croissance spectaculaire que connaît notre école depuis plusieurs années, a incité le comité de travail sur les bâtiments et les terrains du conseil d'administration à intensifier ses efforts pour trouver un nouveau site pour notre école. En janvier, nous avons annoncé à la communauté que le conseil d'administration avait repéré un site potentiel répondant aux besoins du nombre croissant d'élèves et permettant de tous les accueillir

## Message de la Présidente du conseil d'administration

sur un seul campus : le Knox Estate situé au 718 Sussex Road à Wynnewood.

Dans les semaines qui ont suivi l'annonce, l'équipe d'architectes embauchée par le conseil d'administration s'est attelée à consulter toutes les parties prenantes sur les caractéristiques d'un nouveau campus. Les architectes ont rencontré aussi bien les parents, l'équipe enseignante et administrative, les élèves que les familles d'anciens élèves. En tenant compte de tous les commentaires recueillis, l'équipe a élaboré un avant-projet de notre future école. À l'issue de plusieurs révisions et avec la contribution des différents planificateurs, ingénieurs de la voirie et de chantier, architectes paysagers, avocats et de notre propre architecte, le projet a été présenté aux autorités de la municipalité de Lower Merion fin mars.

Après cette première rencontre et pour mettre toutes les chances de notre côté, nous avons suivi les préconisations et modifié notre projet initial. Notre demande ainsi que notre projet ont ensuite été officiellement déposés auprès des instances municipales. La première d'une série d'audiences sur le zonage a eu lieu le 12 juillet 2018 devant la commission de zonage de Lower Merion. Nous avons également soumis le projet à la commission du patrimoine historique ainsi qu'à la commission de planification. Nous ne manquerons pas de vous tenir au courant de l'avancement de ce projet qui est d'une grande importance pour notre communauté.

En plus du travail considérable mis en oeuvre dans le projet du Knox Estate, le conseil d'administration s'est appliqué à dresser le prochain plan stratégique de l'école. Pour la première fois, nous avons fait appel aux services d'un expert externe pour évaluer et élaborer ce nouveau plan stratégique. En février, nombre d'entre vous ont accepté de participer à des groupes de discussion afin de déterminer les priorités de l'école pour les trois prochaines années. Ces priorités ont fait l'objet d'un examen et d'un débat approfondis par le conseil d'administration au cours d'une session de planification stratégique. Lors de la dernière réunion de l'année, le conseil d'administration a officiellement approuvé notre prochain plan stratégique qui est axé sur le développement du nouveau campus au Knox Estate. Il préconise toutefois d'envisager d'autres solutions si notre projet ne pouvait se concrétiser. Les priorités de ce plan stratégique vous seront communiquées au cours de l'été et serviront de guide à notre

école durant les trois années d'aventure à venir.

Mon mandat prenant fin, je voudrais remercier chaleureusement tous mes collègues actuels et passés du conseil d'administration, et son nouveau président, Pete Lorenzi, pour le travail formidable et souvent chronophage qu'ils accomplissent au profit de notre établissement. Une grande partie de ce travail passe inaperçue, mais sans leur concours et leurs efforts, les progrès mentionnés précédemment n'auraient pu être accomplis.

Notre école et moi-même sommes redevables à notre chef d'établissement, Kathy Kotchick, qui a pris cette fonction il y a tout juste trois ans. Ce fut un réel plaisir de travailler avec Kathy et de voir l'EFIP prospérer sous sa direction. C'est au nom de chaque membre de notre communauté que je remercie aussi notre équipe enseignante et administrative qui assure le bien-être et l'épanouissement de nos élèves au quotidien. Au terme de leurs études à l'EFIP, nos élèves sont des citoyens du monde, capables d'appréhender les problèmes d'un monde complexe, de manière bilingue, car notre équipe enseignante leur a prodigué les meilleurs enseignements avec la plus grande attention tout au long de leur cursus.

J'adresse aussi toute ma reconnaissance à vous, parents, familles d'anciens élèves, proches et amis pour votre engagement continu en faveur de notre école. Que ce soit par votre participation à nos groupes de discussion, votre bénévolat lors de la journée en l'honneur de Martin Luther King et lors d'autres temps forts, votre présence à notre soirée de gala, ou votre générosité lors des collectes de fonds. Notre école est exceptionnelle du fait de votre présence, que vous l'ayez rejoints il y a dix mois ou dix ans. Enfin, je remercie nos remarquables élèves, pour lesquels nous nous dévouons car ils le méritent bien.

Sincères salutations,

Deborah R. Willig  
Présidente du conseil d'administration

# Message from the Head of School



ONE OF THE MANY GIFTS OF SCHOOL LEADERSHIP is the opportunity for yearly beginnings: fresh starts, new faces and the implementation of new projects and ideas.... Just as importantly, we have yearly

conclusions: chances to look back upon, wrap up and review the year. As I reflect upon the 2017/18 school year, there is just so much about which to be excited!

**Unprecedented growth in enrollment.** Last September, we welcomed a record 324 students back to school, leading our Board Chair, Deborah Willig, to announce the identification of a potential new home for our school. The site would allow us to bring all of our students together onto a single large and vibrant campus. You can read more about the progress of this exciting project in Ms. Willig's message on page one.

**New educational opportunities.** Additions to our academic and extra-curricular programming this year led our students to discover and pursue interests in disciplines as diverse as chess and capoeira. New tools generated more hands-on learning experiences in the STEM fields, which are the focus of the article on page 12 and to which we remain deeply committed. Through a partnership with St. Joseph's University, weekly swimming lessons were also integrated into our P.E. curriculum for grades four through eight. We continued to offer evening classes in French, Latin and Spanish for our high school alumni, and we are excited to share that we will also offer adult French classes for current and alumni parents starting in the fall of 2018.

**Reaffirmation of our mission.** Our students continue to amaze as they truly acquire bilingualism, cultural awareness and acceptance of each other's differences while achieving

high levels of success in all academic subjects. From participating in our "Beyond Borders" celebration to singing with Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture to earning recognition at the Montgomery County and Delaware Valley Science Fairs, National History Bee Regional Finals, Reading Olympics, National Geographic Bee and more, our students embody our mission on a daily basis. I invite you to learn more about their accomplishments, as well as affirmation of the bilingual edge, in the gray boxes on the following pages.

The end of the 2017/18 school year also marks the end of a nine year tenure for Board Chair, Deborah Willig. For those who know Ms. Willig, passion, energy and commitment are the first words which come to mind to describe her leadership. She has given so very generously to the French International School of Philadelphia in all ways and truly cannot be thanked enough for it. Looking to the future, I am delighted to welcome Peter Lorenzi as our new Board Chair and am certain that what we accomplish under his leadership will be equally impressive.

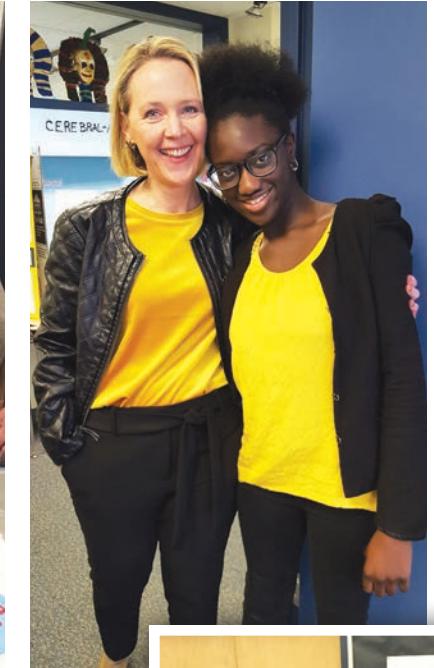
I look forward to seeing many of you in the fall for another new beginning!

Sincerely,

Kathy Kotchick  
Head of School

**PARMI LES DIVERSES OPPORTUNITÉS QUE LA DIRECTION D'ÉTABLISSEMENT OFFRE**, il y a notamment la possibilité d'assister à de nombreux commencements chaque année : tourner de nouvelles pages, accueillir de nouveaux visages et mettre en place de nouveaux projets et des initiatives... Parcilement et avec tout autant d'importance, nous dressons chaque année des bilans afin de nous pencher sur l'année écoulée et d'en faire la synthèse. En songeant à l'année 2017-2018, je me réjouis des nombreuses actions mises en œuvre.

# Message du Chef d'établissement



*Une croissance sans précédent des inscriptions.*

En septembre dernier, nous avons accueilli 324 élèves, un nombre record tel que la présidente de notre conseil d'administration, Deborah Willig, a annoncé le projet d'acquisition d'un nouvel espace pour notre établissement. Le site nous permettrait d'accueillir tous nos élèves sur un seul et vaste campus. Vous pourrez en apprendre davantage sur l'évolution de ce projet prometteur en lisant la lettre de Mme Willig en première page.

*De nouvelles activités éducatives.* Nos programmes scolaires et extrascolaires ont été enrichis pour permettre à nos élèves de découvrir de nouveaux centres d'intérêt dans des domaines aussi divers que les échecs et la capoeira. Grâce à de nouveaux outils, de nombreuses expériences d'apprentissage pratique ont été proposées, notamment dans le domaine des sciences et des mathématiques (les STEM), domaine qui fait l'objet d'un article en page 12 et que nous sommes particulièrement engagés à promouvoir. À la faveur

du partenariat que nous avons établi avec l'Université St Joseph, les élèves du CM1 à la 4<sup>e</sup> bénéficient de cours hebdomadaires de natation, dans le cadre de l'enseignement physique et sportif. Nous avons continué d'offrir des cours de français, de latin et d'espagnol à nos anciens élèves qui sont maintenant au lycée et avons la joie de vous annoncer que nous proposerons aussi des cours du soir de français aux parents d'élèves et d'anciens élèves dès l'automne 2018.

*Réaffirmation de notre mission.* Nos élèves ne cessent de nous impressionner à mesure qu'ils deviennent bilingues et qu'ils développent une ouverture culturelle et une acceptation de la différence ; et ce, tout en atteignant un niveau élevé dans toutes les disciplines enseignées. Qu'ils participent à notre fête "Au-delà des frontières", qu'ils chantent avec le duo Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, ou qu'ils rencontrent de vifs succès lors des expo-sciences du Comté de Montgomery et de la vallée du Delaware, des concours

## Message from the Head of School

régionaux d'histoire, de géographie ou de lecture, nos élèves incarnent notre mission au quotidien. Je vous invite à découvrir tous ces succès et l'affirmation des avantages que procure le bilinguisme dans les encadrés gris.

La fin de l'année scolaire 2017-2018 marque aussi la fin du mandat de neuf ans de la présidente du conseil d'administration, Deborah Willig. Tous ceux qui la connaissent s'accordent à décrire la présidence de Mme Willig avec les mots suivants : passion, énergie et dévouement. Elle a fait preuve d'une immense générosité envers l'École Française Internationale de Philadelphie de tant de façons que nous ne la remercierons jamais assez. Quant à l'avenir, je me fais une joie d'accueillir Peter Lorenzi, qui sera notre

prochain président du conseil d'administration et je suis convaincue que nous rentrerons la même réussite sous sa direction.

Je me réjouis de revoir nombre d'entre vous cet automne pour inaugurer un nouveau commencement !

Sincères salutations,

Kathy Kotchick  
Chef d'établissement

### THE BILINGUAL EDGE

In June, author and international education expert Fabrice Jaumont participated in a roundtable at the French International School during a Bilingual Forum in collaboration with PhilaFLAM and ACUFC Canada. Below are some excerpts from his book, *The Bilingual Revolution*, about the advantages of bilingualism, to which our school families can undoubtedly attest.

- “Bilingualism opens doors to a wide range of cultures and communities that would have remained otherwise closed off to a monolingual person. Instead of having one linguistic ‘home’ or comfort zone, bilinguals have many. As one might expect, **a multilingual life is extraordinarily rich, diverse, and full of possibilities.**”
- “Researchers stress that bilingual students have a greater metalinguistic awareness—in other words, they are more aware of language as a system—and process data with ease at the cognitive level. Because of these cognitive advantages, **bilingual students demonstrate an increased control of attention, a longer memory span, and an aptitude to solve problems of above-average difficulty.**”
- “In addition to the many cognitive advantages of knowing multiple languages, **bilinguals often benefit from an increased emotional intelligence.** Researchers [...] describe this phenomenon as an increased self-awareness and awareness of others; a special capacity of bilinguals to better understand the perspective of another person through the cultural window of language; and an ability to experience a kind of empathy that is linguistically rooted but ultimately culturally experienced.”



## Message du Chef d'établissement

### 2017-2018 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS ROUNDUP

*Highlights from our students' many successes throughout the year*

- Our seventh grade team earned a first place blue ribbon at the [Montgomery County Reading Olympics](#).
- Six of our Middle School students earned special recognition for their projects at the [Montgomery County Science Research Competition](#): Lea Alston (G8), Aruna Balasubramanian (G8), Sibylle Beltran-Gremaud (G7), Jack Clark (G7), Max Oltmanns (G8) and Wassim Oueslati (G6).
- Eighth grader Aruna Balasubramanian won the gold medal for best overall Middle School project at the [Delaware Valley Science Fair](#) for the second consecutive year. Aruna was recognized for her project, “The Grammar of Birdsong: Information in Acoustical Elements,” and her performance at the Fair qualified her for the national Broadcom MASTERS competition.
- After winning our School Bee and earning a top score on the qualifying test, eighth grader Max Oltmanns was among a select group of peers who were invited to participate in the [2018 Pennsylvania National Geographic State Bee](#).
- Thanks to top performances at the Regional Finals, five students qualified for the National Finals of the [National History Bee](#): Arthur Le Meliner (G6), Robert Murray (G7), Max Oltmanns (G8), Alexandros Pratsos (G7) and Lyssandre Wachs-Lauret (G6).



# Our 2017-2018 Year in Pictures

## SEPTEMBER

(1) C'est la rentrée ! A little bit of rain couldn't dampen our excitement as we welcomed 324 students and their families back to school on September 6th.

(2) Families arrive on the first day of school.

(3) Older siblings lead the way!

(4) During our first community day of the year, students came together for an assembly by Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, a group of performers raising cultural awareness through music.

(5) Students clap along to the performance.



## OCTOBER

(6) A "Beyond Borders Feast" with cuisine from more than a dozen different countries was the perfect way to end this year's Semaine du goût!

(7) Fifth grade students visit the Italy table.

(8) Robots, princesses, superheroes, cowboys and more paraded at the Lower School on Halloween Day.

(9) Meanwhile, Upper School students took part in our annual Harvest Festival.



## NOVEMBER



(10) Our kindergarten students visited Morris Arboretum. (11) Allez les bleus ! EFIP faculty and staff members, parents and friends represented France in Philadelphia's 2017 International Unity Cup. (12) Third graders read some of their favorite French stories aloud at the Bala Cynwyd Library during la Semaine des lycées français du monde. (13) Our Parents' Association collected turkeys and canned goods for "Grands as Parents" ahead of Thanksgiving.

## DECEMBER



(14) Parents, grandparents and friends visited our classrooms to teach our students about different year-end holidays and traditions. (15) Pre-k 4 students learn about les Rois Mages. (16) A performance bringing together first through eighth-grade students was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the year! (17) Seventh graders during a "bucket drumming" number.

## JANUARY



(18) Middle schoolers played water polo during PE class at neighboring St. Joseph's University. (19) Pre-k 4 students celebrated la Fête des Rois. (20) Our entire school community came together to complete various service projects benefiting local and regional charitable organizations during our annual Martin Luther King Day of Service. (21) Students prepared and decorated snack packs for families of sick children at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on MLK Day.

## Our 2017-2018 Year in Pictures

## Notre année 2017-2018 en photos

### FEBRUARY

(1) Students from pre-k 3 to grade 8 showed their Eagles spirit ahead of Super Bowl Sunday on February 4th.

(2) Capoeira Club was in full swing!

(3) Following a week of musical workshops, students took the stage with a group of visiting artists from France to perform the musical show *Zhong Yu*. The show was written specifically for our students and featured seven original songs.

(4) *Zhong Yu* author Elodie Perraud-Soubiran leads a writing workshop with fourth-grade students.



### MARCH

(5) Students participated in "Read Across America and France Day" in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday.

(6) The sumptuous birthday cake created by parent Robin Broughton-Smith.

(7) Winter Storm Toby brought more snow at the end of March, much to the delight of our students!

(8) Parents and teachers admired our students' projects during Science Fair Week.

(9) Our chess teams brought back two group trophies after competing in the State Scholastic Chess Championships in Gettysburg for the first time!



### APRIL



(10) Families and friends were invited to attend our Middle School students' performance of *Willy Wonka Jr.*—no golden ticket required! (11) After the show, middle schoolers taught our pre-k 3 students the "Oompa Loompa" dance. (12) Parent volunteers facilitated student conversations about varied works of art during "Art Goes to School" week. (13) Our middle schoolers attended the regional finals of the National History Bee, where five qualified for the national finals!

### MAY



(14) We came together to celebrate our 2017/18 school theme, "A Year of Adventure." (15) The adventure wouldn't be complete without newspaper hats! (16) Our pre-k 3 students had their first big show in the multipurpose room! (17) Twelve baby chicks hatched in our kindergarten classes. The chicks returned to their home at Quiver Farm after delighting our students for a week.

### JUNE



(18) Pre-k and kindergarten students enjoyed the sunshine during Game Day. (19) Kindergarteners visited Riverbend Environmental Education Center. (20) Our eighth graders received their diplomas and presented their class's iMovie in front of family and friends during our annual graduation ceremony. (21) Our artists-in-training showed off their masterpieces during a Gallery Show on the last day of Art Club.

# Spotlight on STEM

AS WITH LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE, when it comes to exposing students to the STEM fields—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math—the earlier, the better. At the French International School, STEM education begins in prekindergarten and evolves with our students as they make their way through the elementary grades and middle school. Below are just some of the highlights of our STEM program, a critical component in our mission to shape students into creative individuals, critical thinkers and open-minded communicators.

## Eureka!

Throughout their time at our school, students study the spectrum of the sciences from the physical sciences to the biological sciences. Traditional lab experiences are interwoven with web excursions and tools like Google Sheets, used for data tables and graphing and calculating statistics, to enhance the learning situation. Science teacher Mrs. Denny says: “‘Eureka’ moments for the students are so exciting when they make connections between concepts old and new.”

## From Hands-On Play with Tangrams to Coding

Our youngest students are introduced to technology through applications like the Osmo Tangram iPad app, which allows them to exercise spatial and visual problem-solving skills. The app provides students with visual and audio feedback thanks to an accessory that allows the app to “see” the children’s work. From third through eighth grade, students learn to code and follow a digital citizenship curriculum which encompasses internet safety, information literacy, creative credit and copyright and more.

## Projets interdisciplinaires

Les projets interdisciplinaires permettent aux élèves de découvrir les applications concrètes des notions étudiées en classe et sollicitent leur créativité tout en tenant compte de leurs intérêts divers. Annick Semenol, professeur de mathématiques au collège, en témoigne : « Le travail en projet est une activité pratiquée quotidiennement. Grâce aux projets, en lien avec la biologie, la nature ou l’architecture, nos élèves sont acteurs de leurs apprentissages. J'aime également stimuler les élèves avec des mini compétitions, je les vois alors donner le meilleur d'eux-mêmes et se passionner pour les maths. »



## La semaine des mathématiques

From March 12-16, Middle School students participated in “la Semaine des mathématiques,” an initiative of the French Ministry of Education. Sixth to eighth-grade students took part in different activities throughout the week, including a scientific conference, a national mathematical contest and other program-related projects.

## Coup de projecteur sur les STEM

TOUT COMME L’APPRENTISSAGE D’UNE SECONDE LANGUE, l’apprentissage des STEM (Sciences, Technologie, Ingénierie et Mathématiques) est d’autant plus fructueux qu’il est offert tôt. À l’École Française Internationale, l’initiation aux STEM est proposée dès la maternelle et s’enrichit à mesure que les élèves progressent en élémentaire et au collège. Voici quelques exemples de notre programme STEM, partie intégrante de notre mission qui vise à former des jeunes talents, dotés d’un bon sens critique et sachant communiquer avec une grande ouverture d’esprit.



## Construction de robots en briques LEGO®

Rassemblés en petits groupes, les élèves de CE1 utilisent les kits WeDo 2.0 de LEGO® Education pour construire leurs propres robots. Les enfants utilisent alors leurs connaissances en programmation pour télécommander les robots à l'aide d'une tablette. Clotilde Phelan, enseignante en CE1, nous fait remarquer que « la construction des robots permet aux élèves de travailler la représentation dans l'espace ainsi que les suites logiques de façon différente et ludique ».

## Science Fairs

Our annual Science Fairs are a tradition almost as old as our school itself. Early in the school year, students set out to investigate questions as diverse as, “What do plants like to eat?” and, “Is gum brain food?” Over the next several months, they will diligently test their hypotheses using the scientific method. Students then present their projects during our three Science Fairs in March. Middle School students also compete in the Montgomery County Science Research Competition and Delaware Valley Science Fair. This year, projects such as *How does the violin make music?*, *Vol-lego*, *That mushroom is a fun guy!* and *The adventures of the red blood cell* captivated and piqued the interest of students, parents and teachers alike.

## Not Just for Kids: Technology Series for Parents

Last October, we kicked off a three-part technology series for school parents with a cyber safety presentation offering tips for speaking with children and adolescents about being online. In November, parents were invited into the classrooms to learn how teachers are incorporating technology into their lessons with the support of our Classroom Technology Integration Specialist, Ellen O’Connell. The series concluded with a screening of the documentary film *Screenagers*, which delves into the implications of growing up in the digital age. The screening was followed by a discussion led by our Middle School students.

## Making Cross-Atlantic Communication Easy with Tech

In November, our third graders had a question and answer session via Skype with French explorer Alban Michon after watching the documentary film *Le piège blanc* chronicling his 2012 Arctic expedition. Thanks to one of our new SMART Boards®, everyone could see and be seen by the explorer at the same time!

# In Their Own Words: Student Reflections On “Sibling Life”

DID YOU KNOW THAT MORE THAN 60% OF OUR STUDENTS HAVE ONE OR MORE SIBLINGS WHO ALSO ATTEND OUR SCHOOL? To shine a light on “sibling life” at EFIP, we asked our graduates’ younger brothers and sisters to tell us about their siblings and what they like most about going to school together as older siblings move on to High School. Read on for their funny, touching, honest and unfiltered answers!



## TOUT SAVOIR SUR BENJAMIN

*D'après sa petite soeur Emma*

- “Il aime jouer au football.”
- “Il aime bien faire de l’anglais.”
- Dans le spectacle Willy Wonka, il a joué le rôle du journaliste.



## TOUT SAVOIR SUR ELIAS

*D'après ses petites soeurs Sarah & Anna*

- “Il est très rigolo, il a de l’humour.”
- “Il aime bien les maths et l’histoire-géo.”
- “Il aime bien jouer aux jeux de société en famille.”



## ALL ABOUT SARAH

*According to little sister Rachel*

- “She’s a really nice big sister.”
- Her favorite subject is English.
- “She’s always on top of everything, except waking up in the morning.”

“ ”

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT HAVING AN OLDER SIBLING AT SCHOOL?

- “Whenever I get [French] library books, he reads them to me.” —Viveca
- “Il peut me dire ce qu'il fait dans sa classe et me dire comment me préparer [pour l'année suivante]... Il me dit de lire beaucoup parce que ça va m'aider à connaître plus de mots de vocabulaire.” —Justin
- “I can always count on her.” —Rachel
- “Après l'étude, je peux lui demander s'il faut prendre la navette. C'est souvent lui qui détient les informations [à propos de la sortie des classes]...” —Arthur
- “Whenever he passes me in the hallway, I can say hi.” —Tessa
- “We take the bus together.” —Moussa

## Remarques d’élèves à propos de leurs frères et soeurs

SAVIEZ-VOUS QUE PLUS DE 60% DE NOS ÉLÈVES ONT AU MOINS UN FRÈRE OU UNE SOEUR FRÉQUENTANT NOTRE ÉTABLISSEMENT ? Pour mettre à l’honneur les frères et soeurs à l’EFIP, nous avons demandé aux cadets de nos élèves de 4<sup>e</sup> de nous parler de leur frère ou soeur et de ce qui leur plaît le plus à l’école. Lisez leurs réponses drôles, attendrissantes, honnêtes et sans compromis !



## TOUT SAVOIR SUR JÉRÔME

*D'après son petit frère Justin*

- “Il est très drôle, il fait beaucoup de blagues à la maison.”
- Sa matière préférée c'est les sciences.
- “On joue au foot et aux jeux vidéos ensemble.”



## TOUT SAVOIR SUR VICTOR

*D'après ses petits frères Arthur & Maxime*

- “Il est très soigneux dans son travail.”
- “Il est très intelligent en informatique et il peut m'aider si j'ai un problème.”
- Dans le spectacle Willy Wonka, c’était un “oumpy doumpy.”



## ALL ABOUT MAX

*According to little brothers James & Henry*

- “He’s smart.”
- “He made a computer and it glows and doesn’t run out of juice.”
- “He sometimes gives me piggyback rides...”



## TOUT SAVOIR SUR YASMINE

*D'après son petit frère Wassim*

- “Elle est gentille.”
- Sa matière préférée est le sport.
- “Nous allons à l’étude ensemble et nous étions tous les deux dans le spectacle Willy Wonka.”



## ALL ABOUT DJALILA

*According to little sisters Djeynaba & Leyla and little brother Moussa*

- “She likes to read and cook.”
- Sa matière préférée c'est les sciences.
- “Sometimes we cook crêpes together.”



## ALL ABOUT KADE

*According to little sisters Tessa & Viveca*

- “He’s very artistic, he likes drawing.”
- “He’s really good at math.”
- “He hates cheese.”

# Alumni News

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!** Whether they are in high school, college, or starting their professional lives, our alumni are fearlessly pursuing their passions, earning recognition for their achievements and leadership...and still finding time to give back to their alma mater!

After serving for two years with City Year in Arkansas, **ISABELLE WOZNIAK** (*Class of 2007*) moved to Nashville, TN, and recently completed the first half of her M.Ed. degree at Vanderbilt University. Isabelle writes: "I've had a lot of fun developing my craft as a teacher and ranking the city's best hot chicken joints!"

In April, **MARGOT NELSON** (*Class of 2012*) penned an inspiring op-ed on young adults and financial literacy for *Teen Vogue*. In the article, titled "Why Financial Literacy is So Important," Margot asserts: "I want to know what's going on around me, and my personal finances are no different. If I can understand how to manage my money, I can build a strong foundation for my personal and professional goals." Margot is a rising junior majoring in Professional Writing at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont.



**SANDRINE HAAB** (*Class of 2014*), while on a service trip to Rwanda, taught English to children in an orphanage.



In May, **ROBERT FLEMING** (*Class of 2015*) traveled to Colorado to compete in the Science Olympiad Nationals as a member of one of just two qualified teams from Pennsylvania. Robert, along with fellow alum **MARINA-LYS WACHS-LAURET** (*Class of 2015*) has been elected to the National Honor Society.

**SYDNEY CASEY-WILLIG** (*Class of 2017*) lead a team of ninth graders at Germantown Friends School to a gold medal in the Physics Olympics in the Trebuchet category. Sydney also starred as Queen Aggravain in the ninth-grade musical, *Once Upon a Mattress*.

**PETER MIHALY** (*Class of 2017*) had a busy first year at Archbishop Carroll High School! He joined the freshman crew team and was recognized for finishing one of the city's indoor rowing races with one of the top six all time best times rowed in the school's 50 year history. Peter is also part of Archbishop Carroll's jazz band and orchestra, and played percussion instruments for two school musicals this year. In February, Peter and fellow EFIP alum **KIEFER WOOD** (*Class of 2017*) took the stage during Archbishop Carroll's PatrioThon, a dance-a-thon benefiting the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The duo (Peter plays the drums, and Kiefer sings lead vocals) was a huge hit with the crowd of more than 300, and the PatrioThon raised over \$50,000 for CHOP!



## Nouvelles concernant nos anciens élèves



**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!** Summer, fall, winter, spring... Our alumni return to the French International School year-round to lend a helping hand, and we couldn't be more grateful!

**French for Fun Summer Camp.** Several young alumni helped with our French for Fun Summer Camp last July, much to the delight of our campers, who look up to them like older siblings. **(1)**

**Halloween Fair.** They may have graduated, but that doesn't mean they're too old to dress up! Our alumnae were all smiles while volunteering at our Halloween Fair last October. **(2)**

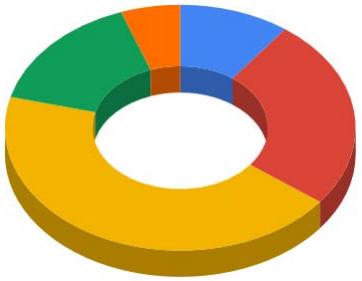
**"Beyond EFIP" Q&A Panel.** More than a dozen alumni returned to our Upper School campus on January 10th to speak with current students and their families about transitioning from EFIP to High School... and beyond! **(3 & 4)**

**MLK Day of Service.** Making food trays for local shelters, writing Valentine's Day cards for our friends at the Inglis House, assembling snack packs for families at the Ronald McDonald House... Our alumni are experts at helping with our various MLK Day projects, and their presence makes this day of giving back all the more special. **(5 & 6)**

# 2016-2017 Giving Report

TRUSTEES, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS, ALUMNI FAMILIES, FRIENDS, CORPORATE PARTNERS... We are immensely grateful to our community of donors for your invaluable support of our bilingual mission. Together, you helped us raise \$541,820 for our school during our 2016-2017 25th Anniversary Year. *Merci de votre soutien !*

## 2016-2017 Giving by Fund



### ANNUAL FUND

*Lead Donors (\$10,000 and above)*  
Anonymous

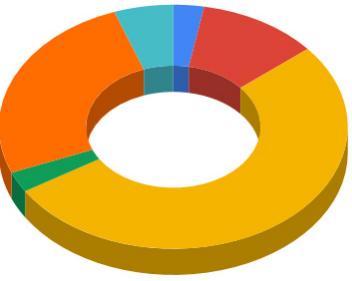
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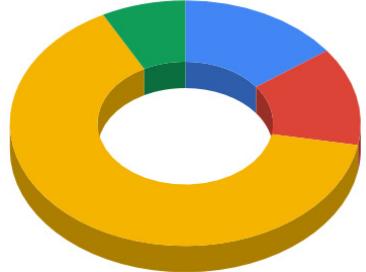
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## Rapport annuel sur les dons en 2016-2017

# 2017-2018 Giving Report

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OUR SCHOOL DURING OUR 2017-2018 "YEAR OF ADVENTURE," HELPING US RAISE A TOTAL OF \$331,557!

## 2017-2018 Giving by Fund



## ANNUAL FUND

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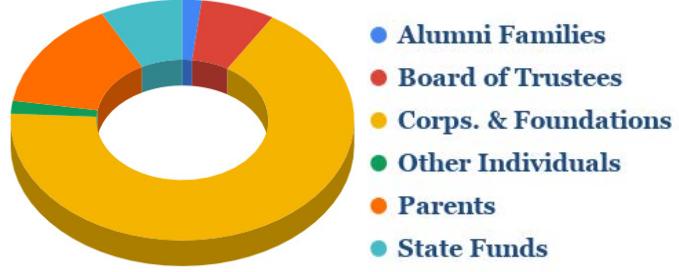
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- Beyond Borders Fund
- Restricted Gifts
- State Funds

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Timac Agro USA  
Deborah Willig & Kathryn Casey

## REMEMBERING MICHÈLE ROSEN

The French International School community was deeply saddened by the passing of Michèle Rosen on July 29, 2017. As a Founding Board Member of our school, Michèle shared the dream of bringing bilingual education to the Philadelphia area, but she did more than dream... she worked diligently to make it a reality. Along with advocating passionately for funding from corporations and others, she generously and repeatedly gave to our school to help us to become who we are today. Through her work as a member of the Board of Trustees, Capital Campaign Committee and Advisory Council, she served our school in exemplary fashion and will always be remembered as our beloved friend.



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