



LYCÉE FRANÇAIS DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

November 30, 2012

Dear Lycée Parents,

First of all, rest assured that your children are doing very well and classroom activities continue on target with quality, energy and enthusiasm. As you would expect, our wonderful teachers have been stepping up in a big way to lead the school. Lead teachers Audrey Chairamonte, Maxine Chollet, Christophe Vattement and Julie Benacourt have worked with Director of Finance Julianne Roucco to identify and solve any issues and ensure that the education, operations and finances stay on track. We have full confidence and trust in their ability to ensure the continued smooth operation of all campuses.

Based on criteria set by our Charter and other proposed criteria suggested by some of our teachers, we are delighted and grateful to have hired a new Academic Director and Interim CEO, Ms. Gisele Schexnider, who will start today, November 30th. Please join us in welcoming her at the meet and greet sessions we will have next week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3:30pm at the Patton campus, room 208.

Madame Schexnider has been mentioned and recommended highly as a potential leader by some of our teachers and others in the community, and some of our teachers are already acquainted with her, so we are anticipating a busy but smooth transition. Madame Schexnider has a Master's Degree in Romance Languages, is a French national and American citizen, and has a teacher and administrator background with many years experience in the United States and in France. She has a clear understanding of the value of the French immersion education, and important Franco-American establishments and organizations in Louisiana, in the U.S. and internationally. The Academic Director and Interim CEO will be responsible for overseeing the day to day operation and administration of the school along with leading our teaching staff to ensure that the education of our students remains at the highest quality and that the teachers are properly supported in all aspects of their jobs. She will be an advocate for the students, the parents and the teachers, while working with them to build a highly effective communication system and all stakeholders work together as cooperative team.

I want to share with you an additional important update. In coordination with the lead teachers, there will be staffing at the front desk at the Claiborne by the end of next week. Additionally, a receptionist for the Patton street campus will be hired as soon as possible to provide consistency at that position. This person will be tasked with maintaining the security of the entrances, answering the phone and providing support to all staff in the building. The teachers are working together to manage resources and positions efficiently, and greatly appreciate all of the support from parents in both time and supply donations.

Look for a follow up email with an announcement about the search committee that is being formed for the long term CEO position. There is no task more important than installing a strong, highly capable long term leader to move the school forward in fulfilling its mission. We will be asking all of you to participate in the process through forming the committee, recommending the potential candidates and in public forums. More details will be forthcoming as soon as the search committee is created and defines the process. The goal is to fill the position by July 1, 2013, but certainly if the ideal candidate is available before the end of this school year, we would all want to hire the CEO as soon as possible.

Please understand that the sudden resignation of Mr. Jean-Jacques Grandière in the midst of the Thanksgiving holidays was disappointing and unexpected for all of us. Out of necessity, board members have volunteered to step up in his absence, but it is not desirable for us to run the daily management of the school. The Academic Director/ Interim CEO, The Director of Finance along with the Lead Teachers, are

capably running the day-to-day operations going forward. The board's role is simply to provide support as needed. Dan Henderson and I will also be available to parents at the morning coffee from 8:45 to 9:30am on Fridays in room 208. Come by if you have any questions, concerns or just want to chat. If you have any questions for the new Academic Director/Interim CEO, you may write her at info@lfno.org. Her email address is being created and will be publicized when it is up and running.

We want to thank you for your patience as we work through the issues of this past week, as your continued support is greatly needed and much appreciated. We are all giving our best, and if we all work together, there is no limit to the success our school will achieve.

Cordially,

Dr. Jean Montès
Charman of the LFNO Board of Directors