



**International
School**
Los Angeles
**Lycée
International**

June 14, 2021

Dear LILA Community,

What a year! We made it through – together! Before I say anything else, I want to say THANK YOU to you, our LILA community, for your unwavering support. I am reminded of an expression Australians love to use: when the going gets tough, the tough get going! How true this has been for each and every member of our community: students, parents, faculty, staff, administration, and our school board. None of us signed up for the year that was, and its associated vicissitudes, but I honestly believe that our community is stronger than ever. We are so grateful to you for hanging in there with us. *Merci !* As we emerge from the pandemic, the LILA future is looking very bright indeed.

Campuses
Burbank
Los Feliz
Orange County
Pasadena
West Valley

And speaking of bright futures, heartiest congratulations to our seniors, the Class of 2021, who graduated on Saturday. The largest graduating class LILA has known, our 49 amazing seniors are a testament to our school's mission "...to develop bilingual critical thinkers who are open-minded, confident and caring, and equipped to thrive in a diverse, competitive world." It has been an incredible road for our seniors, and we celebrated them with warmth and gratitude. The remainder of our graduations take place this week, across a range of settings.

To our Kindergarten and 5th grade students, we look forward to celebrating this milestone with you. To our 6th-8th graders at Orange County, who will also be graduating, we say *félicitations*.

Farewells

As is the case every year, we say farewell to a number of teachers and teaching assistants who leave us for new professional endeavors and horizons. I would like to thank most sincerely everyone who is leaving LILA at this time. Thank you for your commitment to our school during this extraordinary year, and all our best wishes go to you as you embark on the next chapter of your lives.

At this time, I would especially like to recognize, thank, and honor a few employees who leave us:

Sylvie Damadyan who is retiring after 25 years of service to our school and to the students at our Los Feliz and West Valley Campuses. Thank you, Sylvie, for this amazing contribution.

Laura Roubicek who is retiring after 34 years of devoted service to our school and to our students. We are grateful for all that you have brought to LILA, Laura.

Finally, none of us would be here without Madame Pierrette Gaspard, co-founder of our school, whose vision, true grit, and unflinching devotion to our school since 1978 see her leave behind an unparalleled legacy. *Au revoir et merci pour tout, Pierrette.* We owe you a debt of gratitude.

School Administration

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Summer Campus Closures

A friendly reminder that, except for daycare in preschool and pre-Kindergarten, our LA campuses will not be offering summer programs this year. Our campuses will be closed so that we can complete important works such as the Burbank roof.

Back-to-School Info

Classes will resume for all students on **Wednesday, August 25**. As you know, tomorrow, June 15, is slated as the date for a full state reopening. We therefore anticipate a “normal” or “near-normal” reopening for the new school year.

- Buses between our campuses will resume.
- There will be no e-Learning offered next year.
- You will receive a more detailed update about back-to-school protocols in the week of August 9. At this time, we anticipate that our back-to-school protocols will be somewhat relaxed, and encourage all eligible students to be vaccinated over the summer break.
- Please [visit our back-to-school page](#) regularly throughout the summer for important documents and information for the year ahead.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You...

Thank you to our amazing faculty and staff whose tireless efforts have seen us ride out the pandemic safely, innovatively, and intelligently. A special thank you to my team for their phenomenal and relentless work over the last year, and to the Board of Trustees for their support and trust.

International School of Orange County

Following a three-year period of strategic transition, our OC Campus officially becomes the International School of Orange County this July. The new school will nevertheless maintain close links with LILA, of which it has been a part for more than 30 years. Mr. Pascal Stricher has been appointed as founding Head of School. We wish him and the OC community every success as they embrace life as an independent school.

To those families who are leaving us at the end of this school year, we extend our sincerest best wishes to you and your children for their new schools. To our returning and new families, we look forward to seeing you in the fall; there are more than 1,000 students starting the school year at LILA across our Los Angeles campuses.

Thank you, again, LILA. My warmest wishes for a summer break that is joyous; may we resume our pre-pandemic lives with grace and gratitude.

Michael Maniska
Head of School