



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

August 11, 2021

Dear LILA Community,

To all I extend a warm welcome to our 2021-2022 school year! To our 1,000+ students, new and returning alike, to our parents, our amazing faculty and staff and our extended LILA community, may this year be a year of fulfilment, healing, and replenishment for all.

As we continue to navigate the pandemic, the themes of well-being and social-emotional learning have emerged as being of paramount importance to school communities. Like many of you, I suspect, I was humbly reminded of this during the delayed 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo which took place over the summer. The bravery and candor of Simone Biles were truly inspirational, and underscore a couple of very significant things for us: setting students up for success means ensuring their physical, mental, and emotional well-being as an irrefutable point of departure in everything they undertake; and that empowering students to speak with confidence when they are not feeling well in those spaces is critical. We are grateful to Simone Biles for all that she has taught the world in recent days. This year at LILA, we are implementing a world-renowned social-emotional learning framework known as *Positive Discipline*. We will be sharing more with you about this whole-school well-being framework in the weeks ahead.

Campuses
Burbank
Los Feliz
Pasadena
West Valley

Back-to-School Protocols

The team and I have been busy preparing the year ahead, looking at how we can provide optimal safety while ensuring an environment which is conducive to learning, conscious of the age ranges of our learners (3-18 years old), as well as campus specifics. Some highlights of what you need to know are:

- We will require **ALL students** to present a negative PCR test taken no more than 72 hours before their first day back at school.
- All students and adults will be required to wear face masks.
- Quarantine requirements have not changed over the summer, so any unvaccinated student who has travelled out of state will not be allowed to return to campus without having observed the mandated quarantine period:
 - Without testing, or if tested positive: 10 days.
 - With a negative viral test result: 7 days.

Full details of the quarantine requirements can be found in the FAQ document linked below.

- Buses between Burbank and our elementary campuses will resume.
- We will not be running any field trips whatsoever for the remainder of 2021. This will be reviewed in early December for 2022.
- Unfortunately, we will not be able to host parent gatherings on campus for the remainder of 2021.

We have prepared a detailed FAQ document which [you can access here](#). Please take a few minutes to read it carefully.

School Administration

1105 W Riverside Dr, Burbank, CA 91506
tel 818-994-2961, fax 818-994-2816, www.internationalschool.la

Campus Back-to-School Zoom Meetings

Your campus teams will be reaching out to you directly with details of campus-specific Zoom calls early next week. These meetings will provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about back to school. Please keep an eye out for details of those meetings.

Burbank Roof and Campus IT Upgrades

I am pleased to report that the majority of the Burbank roof has been replaced over the summer, and that 22 brand new state-of-the-art interactive SMART Boards have been installed at Burbank in phase one of the new SMART Board rollout. Phase two will see the SMART Boards replaced progressively across our elementary campuses. I would like to thank our COO, Mort Haidarbaghi, and our Facilities Manager, David Fenard, for overseeing the Burbank roof replacement, and Stéphane Tixier, our IT Director, and his team, for leading the SMART Board upgrade project.

LILA is now an accredited member of the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

I am very proud to announce that, over the summer, LILA received confirmation of our full membership status in the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), for the maximum seven-year period through to June 2028. This is a great step forward for our school, which was ranked as “highly effective” or “effective” (the two highest rankings) on all of the standards against which we were assessed. Our CAIS accreditation is a joint accreditation with WASC, of which we have been members since 1992. I would like to take this opportunity to thank sincerely the many parents who took part in the various focus groups with the accrediting team during their visit in March. Thank you for your affirmation and support of the education we offer and the community we foster at LILA.

Class of 2021 Academic Highlights

Our 2021 academic results were nothing short of outstanding. Here is a snapshot of our students' performance:

Diplôme National du Brevet (DNB)	French <i>Baccalauréat</i> (FB)	International Baccalaureate (IB)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 33 students• 97% success rate• 91% <i>mentions</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 40% <i>mention très bien</i>○ 36% <i>mention bien</i>○ 15% <i>mention assez bien</i>• 94% <i>mention internationale</i> DNB-I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21 students• 100% success rate• 100% <i>mentions</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 33% <i>mention très bien</i>○ 38% <i>mention bien</i>○ 29% <i>mention assez bien</i>• 5% <i>félicitations du jury</i> (18+/20 mean)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 Diploma students• 100% success rate• 1 perfect score 45/45• 20% scores 40+ /45• 40% scores 36+ /45• 84% Bilingual Diplomas• LILA mean score: 35/45

New Faculty and Staff

With the start of the new school year, we welcome a number of new faculty across our campuses, Anglophone and Francophone alike. Details of the new faculty on each of our campuses will be communicated by your campus director. Thank you for your support as we help our new teachers to feel at home in their new school and commence their time as teachers in our community.

In addition, I would like to advise of the following recent appointments:

- **Leslie Galerne '97** who moves to the role of **Director of Advancement** this year;
- **Ben Nemser** who has commenced in the position of **Activities and Vacation Camps Manager**, based at Los Feliz;
- **Andrew Sobol** who has commenced in the position of **Athletics Manager**, based at Burbank.

Head of School E-péritif

I am looking forward to hosting a back-to-school Zoom meeting with parents from across our campuses. Please save the date for this meeting which will be **Tuesday, September 7 at 5:00pm**. I hope many of you will be able to join me for my E-péritif, during which I plan to talk not so much about COVID-19 protocols but about what is happening this year in the life of our wonderful school.

Best wishes to everyone at LILA for the school year ahead!

Michael Maniska
Head of School