



Welcome Letter from Michael Maniska, Head of School

Campuses
Burbank
Los Feliz
Pasadena
West Valley

Dear LILA Community,

Welcome to our 45th anniversary year in 2023-2024!

It was 45 years ago, right around this time that, in a modest house in the Los Angeles suburb of Van Nuys, the Collège d'études françaises (CEF) opened its doors. With a humble enrollment of only five students, three of whom were in fact the children of co-founder Monique Mickus, our school was founded. Within five years, the school welcomed 100 students who were learning French across the curriculum in a full-immersion bilingual model, and subsequently gained its initial French government accreditation in 1983. Today, our beloved school, LILA, the International School of Los Angeles, welcomes around 1075 students across four campuses, spans 15 years of learning, Preschool - 12th grade, and offers two world-class high school diplomas: the French Baccalauréat and the IB Diploma.

It is therefore with a sense of great excitement and celebration that I welcome you to our new school year! I extend a special welcome to the roughly 150 new students who will be joining us in 2023-2024, and equally extend a warm “welcome back” to our returning students. Whether you are a new or returning family, we look forward to seeing all our students on campus on **Wednesday, August 23**.

And in the spirit of celebration, let's honor our students who achieved stellar results in recent public examinations, as well as the superb college admissions achieved by our graduating Class of 2023.

Class of 2023 Academic Highlights

Congratulations to the Bac, IB and Brevet students who achieved sensational results in 2023!

Diplôme National du Brevet (DNB)	French <i>Baccalauréat</i> (FB)	International Baccalaureate (IB)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 35 students · 100% success rate · 60% mention très bien · 23% mention bien · 17% mention assez bien · 100% mentions · 86% <i>mention internationale</i> DNB-I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 24 students · 100% success rate · 33% mention très bien · 42% mention bien · 12.5% mention assez bien · 87.5% mentions · 50% OIB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 21 Diploma students · 100% success rate · Top score 38/45 · 33% scored 35+/45 · Mean score 32.1/45 (World mean 30.24) · 15/21 Bilingual Diplomas awarded · 1 Advanced Bilingual Diploma awarded



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Class of 2023 Post-School destinations

96% of the Class of 2023 will continue their studies in the Fall, with an impressive 92% of applicants from last year's graduating class having been accepted to one of the following: a Top 100 Global university; a Top 100 US university; or a Top 100 Liberal Arts College, based on US News rankings.

Our recent graduates have matriculated to a wide range of schools, including: UCLA (2), UC Berkeley (4), UC Santa Barbara, USC, University of Chicago, Loyola Marymount University, Claremont McKenna College, EDHEC, ESSEC, Les Gobelins, McGill University, and the University of Bristol, to name a few.

69% of the Class of 2023 has matriculated to colleges and universities in the USA, 13% to schools in the UK and Europe, 10% to France and 4% to Canada.

LILA has always been characterized by a culture of progress, innovation and nimbleness. Our educational momentum continues apace, and can be easily discerned when seen from the perspective of some key milestones our school will be celebrating this year ahead.

Some firsts to look forward to during the school year ahead

In addition to celebrating our 45th anniversary this year, here are some exciting firsts in 2023-2024:

- Our highest ever Back-to-School enrollment in Los Angeles, and on the Burbank campus
- LILA will be graduating its largest class of Seniors ever – 54 in total! (13 FB and 41 IB)
- Some of our French Bac students will be in the first cohort to take the *Bac Français International* (BFI) which replaces the *Option Internationale du Bac (OIB)*
- Our largest IB class ever will graduate with the IB Diploma, including our first cohort of new students who joined LILA in 9th grade to complete the four-year high school international track
- Italian is added to our curriculum in the international track at Burbank, with classes in 9th grade international track, 11th grade *Ab Initio* in the IB, and also as an extra-curricular offering in the Middle School Activities program.

Introducing LILA CARE

At LILA, students' wellbeing, safety and sense of belonging are uppermost in our minds. The team has been working tirelessly over the last year on refining our policies and practices. In order to complement the detailed procedures outlined in our Parent Handbooks, we have designed two visuals to make our processes transparent for all stakeholders. The first which can be accessed [here](#) introduces **LILA CARE**, an acronym we have developed, which situates our approach in the highly regarded CASEL core social-emotional competencies, and underpins our social emotional learning framework and the Positive Discipline philosophy we have adopted school-wide. The second 'Dealing with an incident' document, which can be accessed [here](#), sets out an overview of the actions we take across our campuses. We hope you find these graphics helpful. They will also be included in this year's updated Parent Handbooks.



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New Faculty

This new school year, we welcome around 15 new faculty members across our four campuses. Details of the new employees on each of our campuses will be communicated by your campus director.

Leadership Team updates

- This school year, **Mathieu Mondange** moves into the role of **Burbank Campus Director**. Mathieu will communicate details of the Burbank team with Burbank families.
- **Anneli Harvey** moves into the newly created role of **Director of Teaching, Learning and Professional Growth (P-12)**.
- We look forward to welcoming back **Nordine Bouriche**, Los Feliz Campus Director, in the very near future. Until the exact date of Nordine's return is confirmed, **Samantha Cutler** will continue in the role of **Acting Campus Director**.

Other key whole-school positions

- We are truly delighted that **Charlotte Weise-Andrade** has joined LILA on a full-time basis as our first ever P-12 School Counsellor (Social Emotional Learning). Charlotte's appointment marks a significant addition to our Social Emotional Learning provision.
- **Ben Nemser** has moved on to a new professional opportunity. We are currently finalizing the appointment of our new **After-School Activities and Vacation Camps Manager**.

Head of School Back-to-School Coffee

I invite all our parents, new and returning, to join me for an informal back-to-school coffee at our **Early Learning Center site** (2714 St George St, Los Angeles) on **Friday, September 1 from 8:30am - 10:00am**. I hope many of you will be able to join me, especially our new families.

Warmest wishes to everyone at LILA for our 45th anniversary year!

Michael Maniska
Head of School
August 14, 2023