

The World Meets France in Los Feliz: Lyc  e International de Los Angeles (Pre-K-12)

Description

Parlez-Vous Francais? Oui! At Lycee International de Los Angeles



Lyc  e International de Los Angeles, Los Feliz

  Bringing Up Bebe  , the bestselling book by Pamela Druckerman was the topic of a fabulous luncheon I attended recently, hosted by Lyc  e International de Los Angeles (LILA) and ArborBridge (formerly Launch Education Group) at [The Little Door](#). Before the event, I toured LILA, a wonderful, developmental Pre-K-12 in Los Feliz.



Elizabeth Chaponot, LILA head of school
and Christina Simon (photo:
www.miajphoto.com)

As we ate the Little Door's™ superb food, Elizabeth Chaponot, the French/American head of school at LILA, spoke about the differences between French and American education and how LILA achieves the delicate balance of blending the two educational influences and cultures.

Elizabeth is an experienced educator and a mom, with impressive credentials and a passion for education. Her family founded LILA, she's a graduate of the school and now she's continuing the tradition. Elizabeth pointed out that at the school, she approaches French parents differently than she does their American counterparts. With American parents, she told us, she often begins with talking about the child's unique qualities like their sense of humor or other characteristics. French parents, she said, want to know how their child is doing in school, but don't expect continual feedback on their child's attributes. American parents also place a premium on extracurricular activities like sports to a greater extent than many French parents. So, part of her job at LILA is to unify the distinct parenting and educational values of these two very different cultures.



Author Sarah Maizes at The
Little Door (photo: Mia J.
Photography)

Giving a quintessentially American perspective on the bestselling book, "Bringing Up Bebe," Sarah Maizes, author of [***Got Milf? The Modern Mom's Guide To Feeling Fabulous, Looking Great and Rocking a Minivan***](#), is a triple threat: mom of three, author and comedian. Sarah talked about writing the review of the book for the [**Today Show Moms**](#) and what she learned by reading it. She also talked about her own kids and the unique parenting challenges that come with twins and a daughter with Asperger's, who became the inspiration for her new children's book, [**On My Way To The Bath**](#) due out in June.



Juliette Lange, LILA admissions coordinator, Matt Steiner, Launch Education Group and Christina Simon at The Little Door (photo: Mia J. Photography)

Although my two years of college French are long forgotten, touring LILA with Juliette Lange, the charming and friendly admissions coordinator, I was pleasantly surprised that I recognized a few familiar phrases from days gone by, as ridiculously cute children darted by speaking the most adorable French.



Mia Johnstone (LA Private School Guide/photographer) and Christina Simon at The Little Door

LILA is a great option for families who are looking for a developmental dual immersion school. Students are taught to read, write and speak both French and English by the end of elementary school. However, the goal is to offer more than a mere knowledge of two languages. The ultimate goal is to form bi-literate students capable of functioning in two linguistic worlds, according to LILA. Families at LILA truly embrace French language, culture and diverse cultures at the school. A quarter of the school is comprised of French nationals and there are students from 48 nationalities.

Founded by Progressive educators in 1979, the school has grown to four campuses (Los Feliz, Pasadena, Orange County and West Valley). The school is accredited by the French Ministry of Education, The Western Association of Schools and Colleges and The International Baccalaureate.



In a Kindergarten classroom

LILA is a Pre-K-12, private school nestled on six acres in Los Feliz. The campus is instantly welcoming and low-key. It buzzes with with student excitement. The one-story buildings contain large, bright classrooms containing with smart boards. Teacherâ€™s assignments and the studentâ€™s work decorate the walls. When I arrived, the school day was in full swing.



The garden at LILA serves as a place of learning and inspiration

Sitting a the edge of the campus is a huge, vibrant school garden thatâ€™s part of a bigger community garden. This glorious greenery lends the school natureâ€™s greenery. Students help grow a wide assortment of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Itâ€™s a magical place where seedlings and plump, ready-to-pick fruit are examples of the kidsâ€™ efforts.



Earthly Delight!

Here are a few things to know about LILA:

- Learning is project based at LILA
- There are 2 grades per class, 450 students
- A new secondary campus is in the works in Burbank, to move the secondary campus to a new location
- The point of entry is Pre-K or K unless fluent in French
- Tuition is approximately \$14K per year for Kindergarten. Financial aid is available for up to 50% of tuition
- LILA is more than a language immersion program, it's a cultural immersion program
- Graduates from the school attend top U.S. and international colleges and universities, including Columbia, Stanford, NYU, Berkeley, UCLA, USC, Brown, McGill University, Oxford University, Sorbonne, Universite Paris and more
- LILA emphasizes community and the sharing of cultures



Oh, so pretty!

If you are considering a dual-immersion French-English school, visit LILA and see for yourself this unique, sprawling school on a gently sloping hill in Los Feliz. LILA puts a worldly spin on education! *Câ€™est magnifique!*

For more information, visit, [Lyc e International De Los Angeles](#)

Photos: [Mia J. Photography](#) and Christina Simon

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