

**NOVEMBER 2021**



**AUTUMN ISSUE**

# **SECTION INTERNATIONALE HIGHLIGHTS**



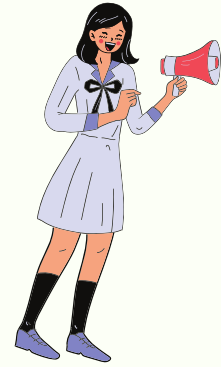
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# A Message from the Board



Dear Parents,

At the end of September, after the election of the volunteers at the AGM, the Committee elected the new Executive Committee (or Board).

Yvonne remains our President, and we are grateful to her for continuing the good work she has led over the past years.

Marie Carpenter has taken over the role of Secretary, keeping all the Committee well informed. Fabien Delanaud has taken over from Geofrroy Goffinet as Treasurer and is settling in well to this position. I am now Vice President and I am looking forward to working with the Programme reps and continuing the excellent work that Marie started with the procedures.

We hope that the various events which have taken place in person at the end of the last academic year and at the beginning of this year mark the beginning of an event-filled year for the Section.

*Lynne Mphande, Executive Committee Vice President*

# Admissions Information



## Admissions for Entry in September 2022–6ème

### Collège Pasteur, La Celle–Saint–Cloud

### Collège de la Quintinye, Noisy–le–Roi

It is that time of the year when our current *CM2* students start looking for *collège* options for September 2022, and we hope that the *Section Internationale* La Celle Saint Cloud-Noisy le Roi is one of those options. We offer a full-time integrated programme with 6 hours a week (4 hours of English and 2 hours of History-Geography) at both *collèges*, with students in *3ème* sitting the Diplôme National du Brevet with *mention internationale*.

If you wish to apply for a *6ème* place in one of our *collèges*, here are the important dates, which are valid for both *collège* programmes:

- Applications Online for September 2022 will open 3rd January 2022 (please do not submit before that date).
- Information Meeting: Monday 13th December 2021.
- Deadline for applications via Applications Online for *6ème*: 25th February 2022.
- Official Testing Date for *6ème*: Friday 11th March 2022 (afternoon – please note this date).

We do not practise “First Come, First Served,” so please ensure your dossier is complete before submitting, because you will be unable to modify it later on. We are conscious that the school reports for *CM2* will be available at the end of January; the deadlines have been determined to take that into account.



## Information Meeting for 6ème

This will be organised at Collège de la Quintinye on 13th December 2021 and will concern both *collège* programmes. This is the ideal time to visit the *collège* in Noisy le Roi, hear the teachers explain the curriculum and learn more about the Admissions process. We also hope Mr Bonnet will be able to present the school to you at this time. All questions are welcome, so please prepare a list beforehand.



## How to Apply

All applications go through the Applications Online, for which you should all have an account. You need to go back into your account and then "Add an Applicant." If you have difficulty accessing your account, please contact the Admissions Office. You can already open a new application and upload whatever you have available (*CM1* school reports, etc.) and we suggest that you start collecting the following documents now to avoid a last-minute panic:

- Letter of motivation written by the parents in English. This may be written with Word and exported to PDF without a signature. There is no need to print, sign, scan and upload. Let's keep it simple.
- School reports for *CM1* (reports for the whole year should be in ONE PDF document)
- School report for first trimester/semester for *CM2* (PDF document)
- Handwritten sample of written work in English, marked by the teacher: please follow your child's class work and homework closely in order to be able to submit a piece of work reflecting your child's level. This piece of work could be a book report, creative writing assignment, a series of diary entries, etc. We do not accept spelling or grammar exercises. We are looking to assess their level of vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure, general presentation and punctuation. You may submit several pieces of work, but only ONE PDF document. To reduce the size of the files, please scan in black and white.

You will also need to request a recommendation from Mrs Ruth Hasid, CM2 teacher. To do so, please log into your account and click on “Send Request” via the platform (see screenshot below). This can be found on the home page of the Application. Please do not wait until the last minute to send this request to Mrs Hasid. You should use the following email address:  
rhasid@sectioninternationale.org.

### Recommendation

Please click the Send Request button to send an electronic request to your child's English teacher. You will need to enter their email address and a brief note.

By sending this request, you are authorising the recipient to share information about your child with the Section Internationale.

You are also authorising the Section Internationale to share that same information with the teaching team, the head of the school requested, possibly the Inspection Académique, during the Admissions process.

☐ \* English Teacher Recommendation

Submitted by recommender on  
December 14, 2020 at 8:21 PM.

\* = Required Item

### Application and Testing Fees

When you are ready to submit your full application via Applications Online, you will be required to pay a non-refundable application fee of 105 Euros. This is to be paid online using a credit card (Visa or Mastercard). These costs are NOT included in the annual school fees.

Current students in the Section Internationale are NOT required to pay the testing fees of 35 euros. This waiver is only valid for children invited to sit the official test on Friday 11th March 2022. We therefore recommend that you save the date now and ensure that your child is available that day. It is a Friday afternoon and you will receive an official invitation to show your child's French school to justify the absence.



The test on Friday 11th March 2022 will comprise a written and an oral test:

- A written test of one hour and 30 minutes.
- An individual oral test of about 15 minutes

Following the tests, all dossiers (application/test papers) will be presented to the heads of both *collèges* before the Spring school holidays and results should be available before the end of April 2022.

Further details can be found on our website ([sectioninternationale.org](https://sectioninternationale.org) – Admissions – College Admissions). This page will be updated frequently so please visit it for the most recent information. Our website has a lot of information available, so we encourage you to visit it. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you do not find the answers to your questions.

Good luck!

*Kristina Abadie, Admissions Manager*

Tel: 07 77 70 34 37

Email: [admissions@sectioninternationale.org](mailto:admissions@sectioninternationale.org)



## **Administrative Contact Details**

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# Secondary News

## Our very own winner of the ASIBA Poetry Competition

We are proud to announce that Emma Goffinet\*, a *Section Internationale* student in *Première*, won the 2021 ASIBA Poetry Competition in the Junior category (*Troisième/Seconde*). Overall, 114 poets from 26 schools in 2 categories participated. In keeping with the times, the theme was “Masks”.

There were 18 judging panels and 1 overall judge, OIB Cambridge Inspector, Dr Celia O'Donovan, who said, “The theme of masks unsurprisingly triggered a number of very different individual responses. It has been, as always, a difficult task to select the winning poems. The poems in the final shortlist were of a high quality, and the young poets demonstrated considerable maturity in their use of language, metaphor and reference. The winning poems stand out because of their relevance to the theme, their emotional impact and the way in which they take the reader on a journey of the imagination. It has been a very enjoyable and moving experience reading the poems, and it is clear that the last year has given young people a real opportunity to reflect on life, love and literature.”

More details about the contest and the winning poems can be found [here](#).

*Debbie Rattier, English Teacher*

\*You can read Emma's winning poem on the following page.



# Secondary, continued

My Mask is My Battle

Darkness. Silence. The lyres explode.  
The curtain rises. Act One, Scene One.  
My dry lips struggle to move, paralysed by fear.  
I feel my sweat dripping down my mask.

It is a wooden mask of Agamemnon.  
His face is horror, as if struck by lightning:  
His jaw is dropped to the floor, his almond eyes are agape,  
His meticulously carved wrinkles exaggerate his fright.

A first *faux pas*... My mask attempts to slip away.  
I shall - I need to keep my balance.  
If the mask falls, I fall, drowning in an ocean of insults.

I am a proud Athenian actress, forbidden from her passion  
And my mask is my battle.  
I shall thus disguise my pain from this pathetic persecution,  
And keep my head up high for the new generation of women who will  
fight for their rights

The bottled-up anger starts to seethe.  
I look deeply into the audience and shriek “ἔγω ,Ἀγαμέμνων”\*

\*“I, Agamemnon” in ancient Greek

*Emma Goffinet, SI 1ère student and winner of the 2021 ASIBA Poetry  
Competition in the Junior category*



# Secondary News

## A Belated Celebration for 2nde Students



As everyone knows, 2020-2021 was another school year marked by Covid, making it difficult to organise potluck dinners and other social events. The 2nde class did manage to hold a potluck zoom in November 2020, but the usual warm and friendly ambiance just wasn't the same in a virtual setting.

In order to make up for this and celebrate the success of the 2nde students' IGCSE exams, a Garden Party was scheduled to take place at the end of June 2021. Once again impossible due to Covid, the party was postponed to 31st August 2021, providing us with an opportunity to have a joint end-of-school year and end-of-summer celebration.

A big thank you to Lani Tatard for organising and to Marie-Pierre, Richard and Théa Szczepanski for hosting!

*2nde Parents from 2020-2021*



On 31st August 2021, 2nde graduates could finally celebrate their successful results on the IGCSE exams. Better late than never!



# SECONDARY

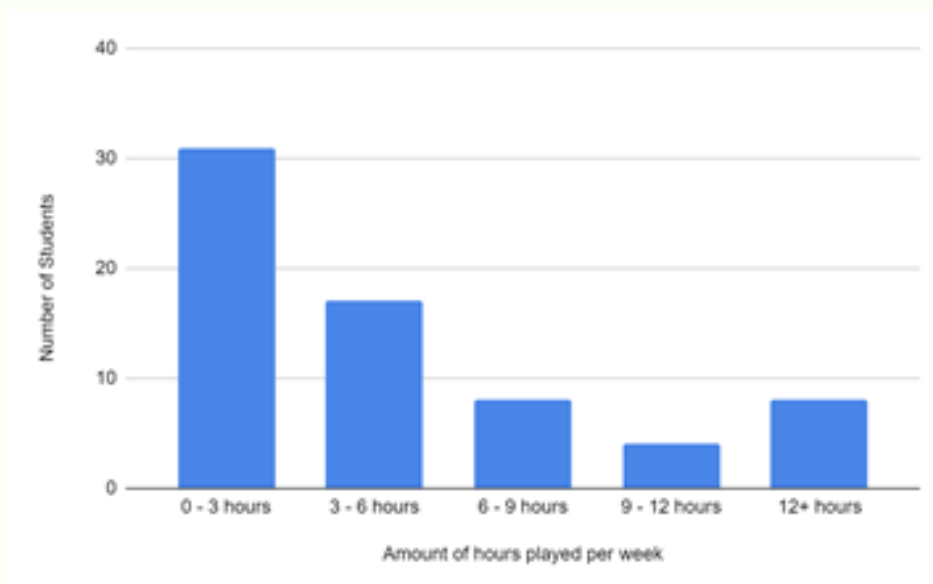
## Do we have a Section of video game addicts?



Video games are a divisive topic amongst parent and teacher groups. For some, playing video games is not a good way for students to spend their time as it makes them socially disconnected whilst exposing them to the wrong values. Others recommend video games as a mental health break as it relieves stress and helps students relax after their school work. There is an argument to say students can benefit and learn from video games as it improves their cognitive functions and improves valuable skills such as decision making and teamwork.

Our students have the challenge of balancing additional hours in school and more homework than their French counterparts whilst having to squeeze in some downtime. One message I hear from parents is that their children spend too much of this downtime playing video games. So, with more time on my hands after completing my Master's Degree, I thought I would attempt to find out how much time our students actually spend playing video games.

At Collège Louis Pasteur and Collège Jean-Baptiste de la Quintinye, 76 students of the *Section Internationale* completed an anonymous questionnaire to determine how much time they spend playing video games, when they commonly play, and why they do it. The contents and purpose of the questionnaire were explained to students, and some did not participate as a result. Here is what I found out.



Games are being played more on mobile phones than ever before, giving more access whilst out of the house. Apple made more money from video game sales than traditional console producers did in 2019.

*Continued on next page*

Our students still prefer playing video games on consoles, but playing on mobile devices came in second. Different consoles offer different types of games, and PCs often have specialised games, which could explain why our older students prefer them.

The average video gamer spends 8 hours 27 minutes each week on video games. Recently, China restricted children to just 3 hours of video games a week. This questionnaire simply asked students to select a time range (0-3 hours, etc.) corresponding to the average time they spend playing video games in a week. The majority of our students stated they play 0-3 hours a week, with a small number playing 12 or more hours. There is no definite answer to say which age group plays more than the other, and the children playing 6+ hours a week were split across the age groups. There is no real difference in who spends more time, but the girls in our Section spend more time playing video games than boys when they are younger. This changes by the time students reach *3ème*.

Not all of our students play video games, with 10.5% of respondents stating they do not play. 90% of children worldwide play video games, showing that SI students fit with the global average. The main time students choose to play is after school or at the weekend, with one student playing during the school day. Some students have the opportunity to go home for lunch, and therefore have the opportunity to play games. Finally, what is most interesting is why students choose to play. Students had to prepare short answers as to why they play video games. Some choose to play as they are bored when they get home from school. Others choose to play whilst they wait for their parents or are in the car or public transport.

Almost all students said they do it for fun. Students do this to relieve stress after a long week or for a short time after completing their homework. Keeping in touch with old friends and making new friends played a role in why students play games. Boredom was a small factor in why students choose to play, with most students saying they are kept busy with homework and activities outside school. Older students said it is a good way to keep in touch with friends they have made in other countries. Finally, several students said they played to improve their coordination whilst learning new skills from their games.

Our students play fewer video games than young people on average. They are conscientious about doing their homework and dividing their time. Some play video games for extended periods (12 or more hours), but all in this category said they do this to keep in touch with friends.

Our students have lots to say and enjoyed discussing their experiences. Each group who took part spent time looking at the results and discussing how they felt about what they saw. I enjoyed talking with them and thank them for taking part. It was evident students play games for fun and to communicate with others. An excess of anything can certainly have adverse effects, and it is essential to be attentive to how much time is spent playing video games. Their valid points about why they play video games and their honest answers show maturity in their willingness to discuss such a topic and learn from each other.

*Joe Shepherd, History-Geography Teacher*



# Primary News

back to  
School

September



The street in front of the Ecole Pasteur was filled with children and parents chatting and laughing on a sunny Wednesday morning. After a greeting by headteacher Ruth Hasid, the teachers began calling their students, starting with *Grande Section* and finishing by *CM2*.

Each teacher welcomed their students in their classroom and explained the year's programme to the parents. Many ears perked up when upcoming events like the Christmas Party and Book Day were mentioned! The teachers dismissed the parents, and students began their first day in class with their new teachers. Smiles and hugs abounded at noon as the children recounted their morning at SI!

Back to  
SCHOOL



Primary students were excited to enter the Integrated Programme at Pasteur this past September.



CP and CM1 pupils arrived at Pasteur, eager for their first afternoon of Externé English lessons on 7th September 2021.

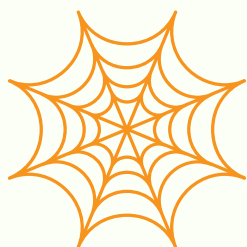


# Primary, continued

## Halloween Festivities



Lots of ghouls and goblins filled the hallways of Pasteur Primary on Wednesday 20th October! The CE2 class was filled with superheroes, witches and other scary creatures! The students enjoyed a Halloween feast, spooky music and fun trick-or-treat videos during snack time.



On the last Wednesday before the Toussaint break, the GS class celebrated Halloween with a show-and-tell about their costumes, a fun story of the *Ten Timid Ghosts*, and pumpkin shapes!

# PRIMARY

## Retirement for Martine Moustacas!

After many years at the helm of Pasteur Primary School, Martine Moustacas has taken her well-deserved retirement. Her farewell party on Monday 5th July 2021 was a joyful occasion with Mrs Anne-Sophie Maradeix's speech full of happy memories and funny anecdotes, but it was tinged with a little sadness, as a page in our history turned.



Mrs Moustacas came to Pasteur Primary School in 2008 after being Head of School at Le Nôtre Primary School in Le Chesnay-Rocquencourt. She accompanied the *Section Internationale* for the first opening of the primary integrated classes of CE2-CM1-CM2 in 2010-2011. The Section has continued to develop with her help, and we now have the full primary programme (CP though CM2, as well as the Externé programme). We are now also able to hold the Primary Wednesday Programme at Pasteur, which was not always the case. It has not been a smooth ride getting the *Section Internationale* programmes accepted within the school as the programme does require a great deal of flexibility on behalf of the French primary teachers with SI pupils in their classes, but it is fair to say that the *Section Internationale* is now an integral part of the school, and for this, much credit is due to Mrs Moustacas. Hats off also to Ruth Hasid and her fabulous team of teachers who navigate the flow each year with diplomacy and adaptability.

Mrs Moustacas has been replaced this year 2021 by Mr Goran Micic, coincidentally also the former Head of School of Le Nôtre Primary in Le Chesnay-Rocquencourt.

We wish Martine Moustacas a very happy retirement.

*Kristina Abadie, Admissions Manager*

## Primary Activities and Events



The students in the Primary Section are now settled into their new school year. They are all working hard and a routine has been established.

**After-school drama club:** this activity has started with 14 students from *CE2*, *CM1* and *CM2*. We have two actresses leading the drama club, from the theatre company, Drama Ties, on Tuesday evenings after school. We hope the students will enjoy this fun, English speaking, activity and we look forward to seeing the final performance sometime at the end of May or early June!

**November Scholastic Book Club:** students will be invited to select from the Scholastic Book Club catalogue. This is organised by the Section and parent reps. This gives the students the possibility to choose from a selection of current English books available on the



market: they are sent to the school and given out to those students who placed an order. The Primary Section will earn a commission from the total number of books ordered, enabling us to choose free books for the class libraries. This is an excellent way to make a Christmas gift whilst also supporting the Section!



# Primary Events, continued



**Christmas:** during this second part of the school term, we'll be preparing for the Christmas shows. We'll be asking the students to learn the words of the songs, so parents will be asked to help them with their lines at home!

There will also be a dress code: each class teacher will be communicating this to you.

**Please note the following dates, times and locations:**

Wednesday programme: Wednesday 15th December at Pasteur Primary School in La Celle Saint Cloud. (Students should arrive at 9 am with their costumes.)

The show will begin at 10:30 am, at which time one parent spectator per child (due to health restrictions and lack of space in the hall) will be invited to enter the school. Please note that masks will be required.

Integrated/External programme: Thursday 16th December at the Pavillon de Bois Blanc in La Celle Saint Cloud. (Students should arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm with their costumes.)

The show will begin at 7 pm, at which time parents (preferably one parent per child, due to space and health restrictions) will be invited to enter the venue. Please note that proof of a Covid vaccine or a recent negative test will be required, as will be masks.

The show will be followed by a potluck buffet, provided by parents. Parent Representatives will be sending out details closer to the date.

*Ruth Hasid, Primary Head Teacher*





# PRIMARY

## SI Volunteers



On Wednesday 22nd September 2021, the SI Primary Parent Representatives and Programme Reps for all three SI Primary Programmes (Integrated, Externé and Wednesday) got together for our first Primary Parent Rep Meeting of the school year.



The event was very jovial, friendly and exciting! Our new Reps were able to introduce themselves, join the SI community, learn about their Parent Rep roles and plans for the 2021-2022 school year, while our more experienced Reps were able to share their past experiences, their suggestions for this year, and provide tips to help our SI Community continue to flourish. We also had the privilege to have our SI President, Yvonne Rémond-Murphy, pass by to greet and support us.

Our 2021-2022 SI Primary Rep Team is responsible for making all of the Section's non-academic events happen. Like every year, the Team is constantly there to promote a feeling of community within the SI, to promote an English-speaking environment for our children through activities and events, and to serve as liaisons between the parents and schools as needed.

Each Class Rep will guide you throughout the school year so that each SI Primary child and family can make the best out of their SI experience. Hopefully, you have already had a chance to take part in our first non-academic SI events: our traditional Class Potlucks!

Wishing you all a wonderful school year, we look forward to meeting all of you and your children face to face in the weeks to come,

Sincerely,  
Your dedicated SI Primary Rep Team

# PRIMARY, continued

## Potlucks, Playdates and More!



Families from our SI Integrated, Externé and Wednesday Programmes got together on 17th October 2021 at Parc Aubert in Le Chesnay-Rocquencourt to celebrate our First SI *CM1* Potluck.

The event was a success: snacks, drinks, sun and good company! Children played ball games and built a hideout in the trees, meeting peers from all three *CM1* programmes. Meanwhile, parents enjoyed some relaxing chatting time. Some met for the first time and welcomed new SI families, while others had not seen each other in two years because of covid! It was a true pleasure to get together in person.

## In-person at last



*Above, left:* On 15th September, *CM1* Wednesday and Externé pupils had fun performing various acrobatic exercises and playing with cars during a playdate, while their parents enjoyed a good catch-up and shared stories of what it is like to live in France.

*Above, right:* On 29th September, some of the parents of the Wednesday *CE2* group got together for a casual dinner at a local restaurant, where the conversation ranged from how to maintain children's English levels to skateboarding and Halloween party ideas! Present were new SI parents Linda and John Hugh Tate and Emilie Raveleau Billiard, as well as *CE2* Parent Rep Gina Allomong-Cottet.



# SECTION NEWS AND EVENTS



SI Book Club members gathered at the first meeting of the school year on 8th October 2021.



SI parents enjoyed a first Night Out in Noisy Le Roi on 21st October 2021. Thank you to Louise O'Hara Roux for organising this event.



Thank you to parents for buying these lovely homemade decorative bottles, and helping earn 40 euros for SI!

**Interested in joining the book club or taking part in other Section gatherings and community events? Please check out the [SI Family Facebook group](#).**

**Details about how to access this group can be found on the back page of this Newsletter.**



# SECTION NEWS AND EVENTS, continued

## Back to School Picnic



Thank you to all the families who participated in our successful Back to School Picnic on 28th August 2021. We raised 245 euros from our book and magic bottle sale, with all funds being reinvested back into our wonderful organisation!

Mrs Semeria and Mr Schmidt from the *lycée* team gave us a very warm welcome.

Well done, Parent Rep team, for all the help setting up and making our event one to remember.

*Yvonne Rémond-Murphy, Section President*



# A Taste of Home

## Pumpkin Bread

Primary Teacher Sunny Hamichi enjoys baking in her free time. She has kindly shared one of her favorite seasonal recipes with us, so that we can all savor the taste of home-baked goodness this fall.

### Ingredients

**One (15-ounce) can pumpkin purée or  
425 g fresh Hokkaido squash purée**  
**4 eggs**  
**1 cup (220 g) vegetable oil**  
 **$\frac{2}{3}$  cup (166 g) water**  
**3 cups (575 g) white sugar**  
 **$3\frac{1}{2}$  cups (435 g) all-purpose flour**  
**2 tsp baking soda**  
 **$1\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt**  
**1 tsp ground cinnamon**  
**1 tsp ground nutmeg**  
 **$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp ground cloves**  
 **$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp ground ginger**



### Directions

- 1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Grease and flour three 7x3 inch (18 x 7.5 cm) loaf pans.**
- 2. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin purée, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans.**
- 3. Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.**

*Do you have a recipe you would like to submit to the Newsletter? Or is there a recipe from another SI family that you would like to share (with permission of course)? Please email it to: [mschmit@sectioninternationale.org](mailto:mschmit@sectioninternationale.org)*

# SECTION INFORMATION

## JOIN US!

Upcoming Executive Committee  
meetings  
(8 pm at Espace Jonchère or via Zoom):



18 November 2021

16 December 2021

20 January 2021

To participate, please email:  
[secretary@sectioninternationale.org](mailto:secretary@sectioninternationale.org)

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**Cover art: 'Forest of Beech Trees'  
(1903), by Gustav Klimt.**

## How can I stay informed about Section news and activities?

In addition to reading the *Highlights* Newsletter, parents are encouraged to check the Section website and Facebook pages regularly for updates. Please note that there are **two SI Facebook pages**: a public page, which displays official information and yearly events for the public, and a Family Facebook group for current SI families. The latter displays unofficial SI events, individual class gatherings, information about carpooling, babysitting, book club, book sales and other happenings that we prefer to keep amongst the SI community.

To gain access to the SI Families group, please send an email to Mrs. Yvonne Rémond-Murphy ([president@sectioninternationale.org](mailto:president@sectioninternationale.org)) or to your SI Programme representative and specify the email address associated with your Facebook account. You will then be sent a link to join.



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