

## ALUMNI PROFILE - STEPHANIE DACRUZ

Although **Stephanie Da Cruz** comes from an international, multilingual family, she didn't speak any French before starting at FASRI at the age of three. But she soon settled into school life and, over the course of eleven years, she formed lasting friendships - distinguishing herself as a visual artist and writer.

*"FASRI gave me an opportunity to experience and feel connected to a different part of the world through my bilingual upbringing," she says.*

In middle school, her class wrote and directed their own play for the end of the year show with French teacher, Mr. Mugnier and the experience is still one of her fondest memories. "We wrote a comedic play about cruise-goers falling overboard and landing on a deserted island," she says. "We had a lot of fun writing the play together in class and laughing at our own jokes. Performing that play was an amazing experience for me."

She believes her international education has given her an ability to communicate well with others through language and teamwork, an awareness of her impact on her community, and a strong understanding of herself. "FASRI has given me both an appreciation for language, and also the ability to secure opportunities based on that knowledge," she says.

Since graduating from FASRI in 2015, Stephanie has had a succession of opportunities come her way. "I completed AP Spanish, rounding off seven years of studying Spanish at FASRI and PCD. I was ahead in my math studies from FASRI, allowing me to reach AP-level math in high school. I also had an incredibly solid base for writing and presenting to my teachers, along with a strong work ethic which made my assignments better coming in," she says. She also grew considerably through her participation in sports, co-founding the PCD volleyball team and working as a swim instructor at the JCC.

Thanks to her exemplary academic record, Stephanie was inducted into the PCD Cum Laude society. She also distinguished herself in the arts throughout high school, taking second place in David Cicilline's 2017 Congressional Art Competition, and receiving three Scholastic Art Awards (one silver and two gold keys).

Now a freshman at Brown University, Stephanie continues to look for ways to push herself to expand on what she can do. She is excited to pursue a fruitful creative career and leave a lasting impression on the world in some way. "Ideally, I'd like to work in animation for a large studio, along the lines of Pixar or Disney," she says. "My ideal project would be to create my own story through my own animation studio." She is considering learning another language and seeking ways to make a difference in her local community.

Stephanie still uses her French with her family, with foreign exchange students and to interact with members of her international language program at Brown. "I am in touch with other FASRI alumni from both elementary and middle school," she says, "It is always a pleasure to see them and how they've grown alongside me."



Bénédicte Brouder, Head of School

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As we mark the 25th anniversary of FASRI, it is important to reflect on its growth in an educational landscape that has dramatically changed since its inception, and to recognize the entrepreneurial leap of faith that drove its birth. At the time, FASRI's founder was a forward thinker in her approach to teaching and learning practices. She believed not only in the benefits of bilingualism but also in outdoor play, hands-on activities and learning by doing.

Walking around FASRI's classrooms today, you can see these practices in action with engaged and happy children on task. Students are provided interdisciplinary units that render knowledge meaningful across subject areas and trigger curiosity and an inquisitive mindset, critical thinking, and problem solving. Experiential projects connect the classroom with the real world, for example, FASRI's exchange programs to France and Spain in middle school.

A bilingual education is a gift. I can personally testify of the benefits and competitive edge it gave to my three grown-up sons who were educated from K to 12th grade in French-American Schools, similar to FASRI. Their bilingual education helped them to make sense of the world through different lenses. It served them to become the confident, responsible and adaptable open-minded successful young men they are today.

With your support, FASRI has the capacity to be a trailblazer, with an innovative approach to education, in Rhode Island. The FASRI bilingual program efficiently allows students to grow into well rounded, resilient, and creative individuals with highly valued skills needed to navigate a complex and ever-changing interconnected world.

On behalf of all students who have walked through FASRI's doors, I would like to express our gratitude for your generosity over the years. Your financial support is instrumental in helping FASRI continuously develop its curriculum and enhance every child's learning experience. We kindly encourage you to stay engaged with our mission and continue your support.

As we kicked off our Annual Fund campaign with Giving Week, many of you have already renewed your commitment to FASRI with a financial contribution. We appreciate your generosity - thank you!

With warm regards,

Bénédicte Brouder  
Head of School



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
Annual Fundraising Gala  
At the Squantum Club

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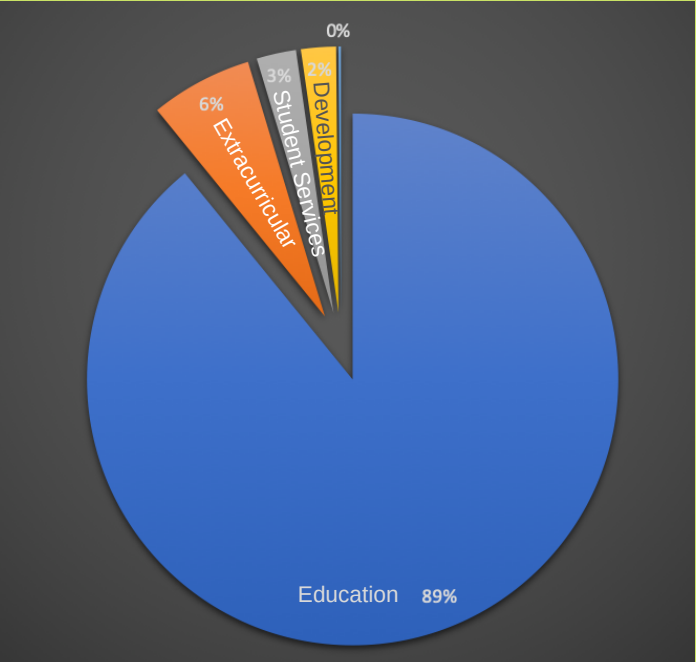
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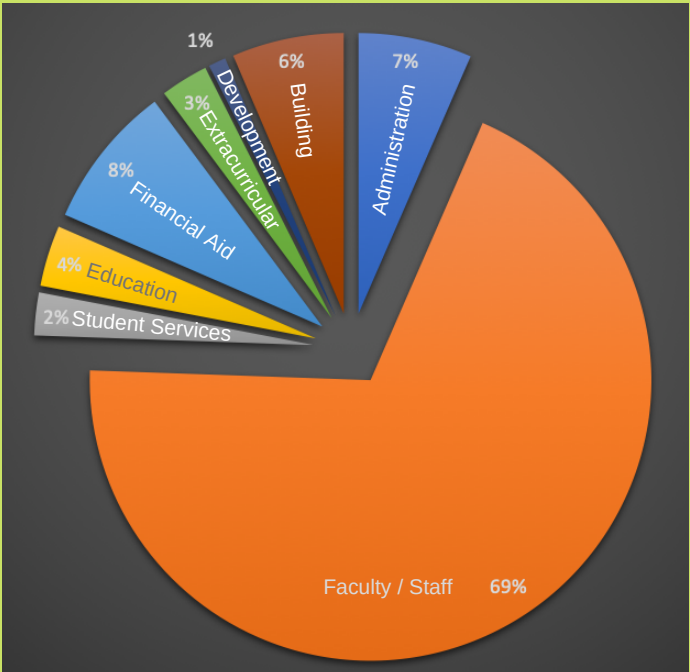
A bilingual education is a gift to young minds. Your contributions to FASRI help make this possible. Give at: [www.fasri.org](http://www.fasri.org). **Merci!**

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FY 2019 INCOME



FY 2019 EXPENSES




A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Located in the heart of Providence’s East Side, FASRI is a close-knit community that embraces core values of respect and openness to diversity. Globalism is woven into the fabric of the school, as learning in two languages truly encourages young minds to understand and experience the world with a variety of perspectives. Each day, your child journeys to France when stepping through the doors at FASRI, learning to effortlessly switch from English to French, as bilingualism becomes a part of their core identity as functioning citizens of the world.

As a community we aspire to ensure that our children approach the world in a knowledgeable, thoughtful and empathic way, so that they can adapt to the many challenges along their journey through life. With multilingual and multicultural abilities, our children are empowered to not only navigate the global world but to transform it for the better.

Research demonstrates skills such as creativity, empathy, and resilience are ever more instrumental for achieving success. At FASRI we strive to continually reflect, design and problem solve with a strong moral compass and a focus on cooperation. FASRI’s bilingual program creates opportunities for our children to thrive and blossom into confident, reflective, and responsible life-long learners, doers and leaders.

The gift of a bilingual education is an investment in our children’s future, and we, the Board of Trustees, applaud your commitment to our exceptional school. We are grateful for your support and generosity, as your donations will continue to enable faculty and staff, under the helm of our head of school, to strengthen the program and advance the mission and vision we so deeply believe in.

Respectfully,  
  
Martin Smick  
Chair of the Board of Trustees

