

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY NEWS

May  
2016

### INVITATIONS

*“Courage starts with showing up and letting ourselves be seen.” –Brene Brown, Daring Greatly*

Notes from the Leadership: *Kerri Fair, Principal*

**Group Soul.** Birds that stay together tend to survive together. Species of birds, such as starlings, that group and move as one large mass have a better chance at survival and a good life than those that go alone. Being in sync and sharing a common goal work to their advantage. I have always been fascinated by birds. Their colors, graceful flight, and unique songs have always been intriguing. During a recent weekend workshop at Shaw Nature Reserve on birding, I learned these facts and many others that helped me find even greater value in birds. Attending this workshop was a special treat, taking me away from my family for two days, so it surprised me that I felt so nervous and hesitant walking into the welcome center. Two steps in and I was back to the first day of college wondering which table I should sit at and who would be my roommate overnight. The morning began as most do with introductions and presentations. But then, we were invited to play a bird identification game. A name of a different bird species was taped to our backs and we had to ask each other questions with only a yes or no answer in order to figure out the bird. I was told I had the most difficult of the choices, the Eastern Phoebe, and this didn't help relieve my feelings of intimidation. I soon discovered that others in the group were novice birders like me, and the game became my entry towards belonging. **This was my invitation to be seen, if we consider the process Sarah has written about in the steps it takes to go from “being to belonging” within communities.**

A few years ago, I wrote an article for Book Source's monthly newsletter about “invitations to learn”. Many educators know them as provocations. **Invitations to learn are set up using simple materials that are organized beautifully to intrigue or entice students for further exploration and investigation.** Since they are invited to learn, not all students choose to use the materials or join in the free exploration. But, those that do begin to build background knowledge and build connections. This is how I felt when playing the birding game with strangers. **It gave me the courage to put myself out there to be seen and share how little I knew about birds with others.** Through the course of the weekend, I listened and learned from our guides, partnered with others to complete experiences, provided feedback that supported future curriculum development, and left feeling that I belonged with the other birders of the world. The journey to being a lifelong birder is going to take much longer than that, but finding a starting place was what prevented me from delving into it before.

I feel this experience can serve as a bit of a metaphor for parents at our school, especially for those parents new to our community. **I wonder, “what will be the invitation that brings those parents in, encourages them to get involved, entices them to come into the building more often or for the first few times?”** As adults associated with our school that values connection, community, and belonging, there are many ways to be involved, invested, and build relationships that extend past the school experiences we are working together to provide for our children. **We look forward to finding creative and innovative ways to invite our most treasured partners; you.**

#### THE SOULARD SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



## Our Calendar

- 5/27 Last Day of School
- 6/17 Soulard School @ Cardinals Game
- See last page for Camp Soulard info!
- 8/24 First Day of 2016-17 School Year!



## THE ALCHEMY ECOSYSTEM

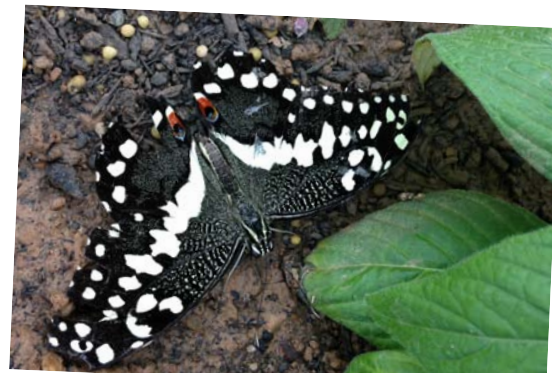
The Alchemy Class has been studying ecosystems and biodiversity. They recently took an all-day field trip to Lone Elk Park, The Butterfly House, and The World Bird Sanctuary to see real examples of ecosystems and find animals in their habitat.

"Elk is a mammal that gives birth. They eat grass and they have a backbone."  
Photo By: London



"I love how the bird looks. It has strong talons to grab tree branches. I like that its beak looks very strong so it can eat its prey."  
Photo By: Silas

"At the Bird Sanctuary I saw a beautiful snowy owl. A snowy owl has sharp claws and a sharp beak to eat its food."  
Photographed By: Eliza



"In our class we are learning about ecosystems. The butterfly is a big part of the ecosystem. If you take the butterfly away, everything will go wrong." -Lucy

## CASH BACK PROGRAMS

Remember that cash back programs are an easy way to support the school through everyday spending. The Soulard School participates in several cash back programs, including:

- ✓ Box Tops for Education
- ✓ Campbell Soup Labels for Education
- ✓ Schnuck's eScrip Community Cards

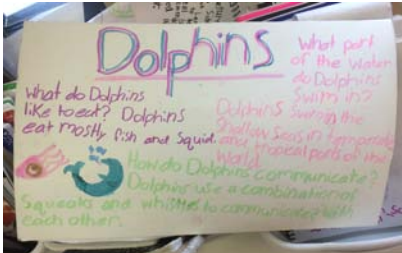
Cash Back Program Committee Chair Andrea Dunn helps coordinate these programs for our families. Stay tuned for her updates and announcements about how you can participate!



COLLECT FOR THE  
CULINARY ARTS  
PROGRAM!

# A CLASS OF GENIUSES

Inspired by author Daniel Pink, search-engine giant Google, and Soulard School Teacher Anna Lee, the Mosaic class started passion projects



Madelyn chose to design a poster to show what they learned about dolphins. She gathered her facts and added illustrations.

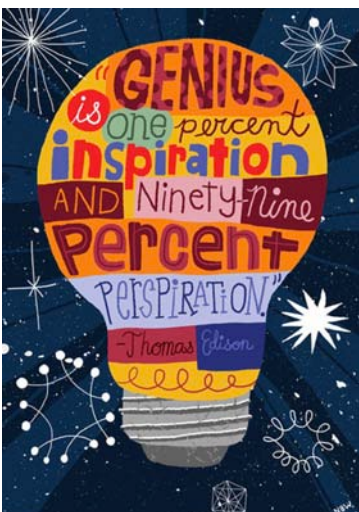
At a professional development centered on the idea of igniting students' passions for learning, Anna Lee was inspired by a concept called Genius Hour. Genius Hour is founded on the idea that **if individuals are given time to research or work on something that is completely of their own interest, they will be more motivated to learn and morale will increase as well.** Anna was excited to introduce it to her students. Each child was asked to brainstorm 8 things they really had an interest in. (Choosing a specific movie, television show, or game was not an option.) After they chose their topics, they visited the public library and were able to sit and read books that had been pre-pulled for them to browse. Then they took their books on the various topics back to school and used them to do research over the next few weeks. **As part of Genius Hour, you are expected to get in contact with an expert in our field of interest.** The students reached out to many different organizations and people and drafted emails with questions. As the email responses came back, they worked on representing their learning in any way they wished and prepared to present to the class.



Ivan made a sculpture to represent the Big Bang. He showed the tiny little spec that was the universe in the top picture, the explosion on the right, and the universe now in the bottom photo.

## ON THE MOVE IN AFTER CARE!

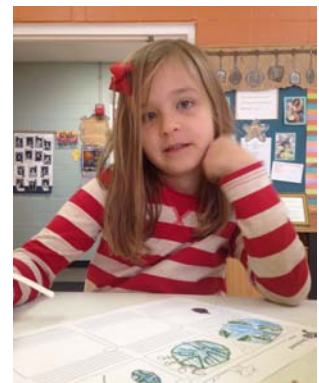
During aftercare this spring students have been learning about stop motion animation, Alexander Calder's sculptures and mobiles, and using their bodies to make music. For their mobile study they made flexible sculptures out of tissue paper, wire, and contact paper (center image). Each child made an individual piece of art which was then added to a collaborative mobile project now hanging in the McGurk's room. Check it out!



Joss building a character for his groups stop motion video.



Rownan, Joss, Will, Khepra and Luci working on the mobile



Frances working on her storyboard for the stop motion animation video.

## DRESSING UP WITH THE THRIVE CLASS



The Thrivers planted various herbs in the playground garden beds as a first step to their "Product Project" in Culinary Arts. Students worked in groups with one 5th grader acting as the project manager. Their task was to develop a healthy homemade salad dressing to market to families and the community. The 4th graders supported with marketing ideas, product design, while the 5th graders concentrated on recipe development. They've all learned that launching a product takes a lot of work and time! This year's 5th grade will leave a foundation as a legacy project for next years class to build upon. Work will continue next school year, along with exciting community collaborations. Extra herbs grown by the students were sold as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade plant sale the last week of school.

Tedda and Sorena checking on the herbs in the cold frames built as a legacy project by the 2015 graduates.



## PARENT BOOK GROUP

Parents and Teachers Learning Together

*The Quietude Pre-K classroom has always placed value on building strong relationships between parents and teachers.*

To help build and maintain partnerships with our families, we wanted an open forum where we could discuss and agree on ways to ensure consistency in our language, behavioral approaches, and motivators. The Quietude teachers created a monthly book club to offer round table discussions centered on early childhood. **Thanks to the participation of Subterranean Books** we received discounted prices on books such as "Raising a Self-Reliant Child" and "The Entitlement Trap". Connections were made! Parents, teachers, and administrators met to share ideas, real experiences, and strategies that have worked! Our joint efforts led to intimate reflections and finding support within each other while discussing the different family dynamics that makes our community so unique. The overall goal was meaningful dialogue that added a layer of depth in the foundation provided to our littlest ones!



# MADE TO PERFORM: D.I.Y. INSTRUMENTS

In Performing Arts all classes studied musical instruments, learning about what they are made of and how that affects the sound they make. After trying out and listening to various instruments, we began to explore making our own instruments in class and at home. The Thrive (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade) class participated in a design challenge to create their own instruments at home using found materials, and then presented them to the class; explaining how they made them and how to play them. The other students in the class played and explored each other's creations.

Jaxon created bottle maracas by putting various materials inside bottles. He was excited to learn how the type of bottle affected the sound created.



Chris made a set of chimes by suspending glass test tubes from strings mounted on a wooden frame. He added different amounts of water to each tube to create different pitches.



Colin made a bucket bass, a popular street instrument. He attached a rope to the bottom of the bucket and uses the bamboo stick to change the tension of the rope, which changes the pitch.



## HUMANS OF SOULARD SCHOOL



Based on the online portrait project, Humans of St. Louis (HOSL), the Mosaic Class (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) captured **The Humans of Soulard School**. Lindsay Toler, writer for the Riverfront Times, describes HOSL, "the idea seems simple: Take someone's picture, ask a few questions and post a photo and a quote online. But there's a secret ingredient -- a breath of inspiration... Call it taste. Call it perspective. Call it heart." The Mosaic students studied the concept, worked on their photography skills and partnered up to interview the Soulard School staff, with heart.



### WHAT IS SOMETHING HAPPY THAT HAPPENED TO?

"So, something happy that happened to me was that I always wanted a cat and I found a stray cat. I brought him home and he lived in my house. One day I came home from work and I was so happy to see him. He purred and he was happy to see me. He brought me a present. He went outside through the doggy door and then came in with the present. So I went in my room to check it out and it was a snake. A live snake slithering across the floor!" – Julie Radin

Interviewed & Photographed  
BY Caden & Arianna

Blake, Henry, Khepra, and Sophia hauling compost to add to the garden.

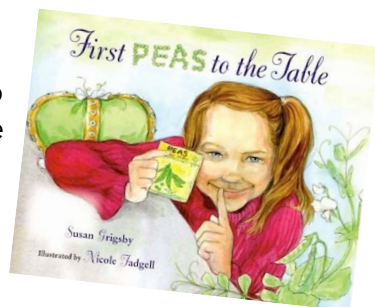
# THE MUMS DREAM OF PEAS

Our Kindergarten Class is Inspired to Grow!

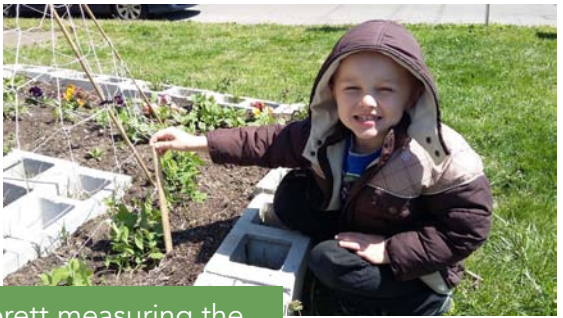
This spring the Mums read two wonderful books by Susan Grigsby, *In the Garden with Dr. Carver* and *First Peas to the Table*. These books inspired us to plant our own garden and see if we could grow some peas! First we had to brainstorm what our peas would need to grow. We decided we needed to enrich the soil with compost like Dr. Carver recommends. So, with help from Matt and Courtney, we hauled compost from the Soulard Community Garden and dug it into our garden bed. Then we looked at some ways to build trellises in *First Peas to the Table* and decided to make teepee style trellises. Several students thought the trellises would make good places to sit and read in the garden! The garden was ready, the trellises were made ... then we planted the seeds! While we waited for our peas to grow we learned about the parts of a plant and the lifecycle of a plant. Soon the seeds sprouted. We visited our garden as often as we could to measure how tall our plants were. We watched them move through their lifecycle and were excited to find flower buds then seed pods on our plants! The last week of school we got to pick and measure, weigh and eat our peas.



Charlene and Brianna making a trellis.



Clyve, Georgia, Stella, and Greta planting seeds.



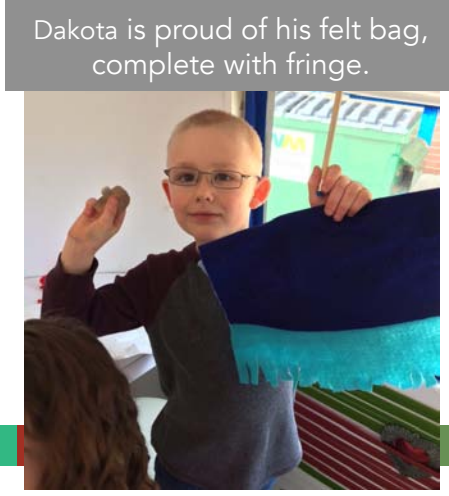
Everett measuring the baby pea plants.

## INVITATION TO ART

Artist Kim Hayes designed, The Kabine, a refurbished *Airstream Trailer* to bring art wherever she goes. This April, she brought it to TSS to work with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Mosaic Class!



Jesse receives assistance from Hayes.



Dakota is proud of his felt bag, complete with fringe.

## CABRINI SPORTS PROGRAM

The St. Frances Cabrini Academy Sponsors Club is a volunteer organization that plans and administers the athletics program for St. Frances Cabrini Academy. The Cabrini sports program is fueled by the diversity and energy of its student body. Given the opportunity to participate, practice, and play, Cabrini students can compete in the best sense of the word. The Sponsors Club's mission is to make those opportunities possible for all students.

The goals of Cabrini's sports program are simply to plan and coach teams well so that children will:

- ✓ Learn and enjoy the game
- ✓ Become physically fit and mentally alert
- ✓ Gain confidence and sportsmanship from competition
- ✓ Experience camaraderie, self-respect, and respect for others by belonging to a team

St. Frances Cabrini routinely fields teams that compete in leagues sponsored by the St. Louis Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Council (CYC) in the following sports: soccer, basketball, and baseball, as well as softball and volleyball.

The Soulard School is honored to partner with Cabrini to participate in their sports program, and so grateful for this opportunity for our students. To all of the wonderful coaches and parents who support this program each year with their time and coaching talents – THANK YOU!!



### 2015-2016 COACHES

- Kevin Croat
- David Tajkowski
- Sam Gonzalez
- DJ Wilson
- Jerry Green
- Demetrias Elston
- Sharonda White
- James Harding**
- Nick Reding**
- Brad White**
- Marcus Moomey**
- Rachel Kryah**
- Heidi Hoskins**



## MORE HUMANS OF SOULARD SCHOOL

### WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU HAVE EVER DONE FOR YOURSELF?



"The best thing I ever did for myself was go to college. A lot of my family members didn't go to college. A couple of my sisters didn't go to college. I made a decision to go to college so I had to think, "Can I afford this? Which school should I go to?" I decided to go to Webster University and I saved up to afford college all on my own. I went to Webster and I actually ended up doing my practicum for teaching here at the Soulard School so I definitely don't regret going to college. That's for sure the best thing I ever did for myself." – Melissa Uhl

Interviewed & Photographed  
By Emmett & Lydia



Travel the world without leaving the 'Lou! Camp Soulard will take you on an exciting journey around the world to explore the cultural, historical, culinary and scientific contributions of eight unique regions of the globe. Each week will be filled with games, cooking, building challenges, STEAM-related projects, crafts, and field trips. We will also relate our studies to current events and see how we can contribute as citizens of the world. There will also be plenty of free play, outside time, and water play, including weekly pool time at Gene Slay's Boys' and Girls' Club across the street!



1110 Victor Street, Saint Louis, MO 63104 \* (314) 865-2799 \* [www.soulardschool.org/camp-soulard](http://www.soulardschool.org/camp-soulard)



"The bald eagle is on the lookout for its prey." Photo By: Natalie

"A plant starts a food chain." Photo By: Ari



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