

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

October, 2011
www.soulardschool.org

head of school notes

Why do we call everyone a friend?

Our school has a commitment to community and we see that each day in our actions as well as our language. One of the many terms you hear around school is "friends," where in other schools you might hear "boys and girls," or "students." Over the years, some adults have giggled to us about the label. Some think it sounds too young and others just feel silly saying it. So why are we all friends here at The Soulard School? Is a school that is adamant about choice and individuality forcing children to be friends?

In using the label "friend," we are placing all members of our community on the same level and using the values found in friendship to help children build the strong, thoughtful community we all participate in.

A "friend" practices sympathy and empathy, desires what is best for others, feels allowed to be oneself, express one's feelings and make mistakes without fear of judgment. As friends, we acknowledge that we are sharing space together. If we said to children, "You don't have to be friends with everyone," we rob our community of the opportunity for mutual understanding, compassion and appreciation of others' perspectives.

If the conversation arises, ask your child to think of qualities they appreciate in a friend, and to consider how important it is to develop these qualities in themselves. With effort spent on our friendships, the sense of community blossoms effortlessly.

Our first newsletter of the year is filled with new and old friends so take a moment to read our teacher bios. What are friends doing in strings? Matt King tells us all about it. See photos of friends who gathered from all over the city for our annual Ride Your Bike To School Day. Enjoy!

- Sarah Christman, Head of School

oktoberfest

The Parent Association would like to give a heartfelt THANK YOU to the parents, family and friends who have volunteered to help

make Oktoberfest happen. Last year's Oktoberfest was the Parent Association's biggest fundraiser. We raised more than \$15,000. These funds went towards smart boards for the school (which will be installed this year), updating library equipment, gift cards for classroom supplies, field trips and assemblies, among other things. We would like to duplicate or better our efforts this year.

This year we are giving classrooms \$50 for each volunteer shift a teacher or teacher-recruit volunteer works and \$500 for fieldtrip fees to the classroom with the greatest rate of volunteer turnout.

Any one who hasn't signed up but finds you suddenly have some free time this weekend to help, please come on down. Any help is welcomed.

Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Lets have a great time and raise a lot of money for the building that houses the most important people in our lives.



Friday-Sunday, **October 7-9**, various times



Riders from the Tower Grove meet-up spot pull into the circle drive on Bike to School Day:

grandparent breakfast

We will be welcoming Grandparents on Monday, October 17th 8:30-10:00am, to honor their place in our community. After being buzzed in at the Victor

entrance, Grandparents will gather in the McGurk's Room for coffee and introductions and will then head to their grandchild/ren's room. Between 9:00 and 10:00 each class will rotate to the McGurk's Room for refreshments with their grandchild.

Grandparents are asked to RSVP to Eleanor by October 14.

Donations of baked goods/fruit plates would be very much appreciated. The Foodies will have a sign-up by the driveway door. Thanks in advance!

Monday, **October 17**, 8:30-10:00 AM

who we are



Sarah Christman
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Now with 10 years of Souldard School (including its predecessor The Little School) under my belt, I can see that we were destined to do great things. Community is very important to me and I am grateful to be a part of such a dynamic one. In my role as Head of School, I am able to see the continuity of our philosophy in action, whether it is observing a classroom, a class on a fieldtrip or the Parent Association

planning an event. Everyone provides perspective, takes responsibility and builds a meaningful experience at every level.

I have two very wordy degrees, a Bachelors degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus on Children in Group Settings from the Univ. of MO, Columbia. I continued on at Webster University and completed a Masters in the Arts of Teaching with an emphasis on Children's Creative Expression (pew!). During my Masters work I was able to explore my love of art and found ways to incorporate that into the school. Outside of school I enjoy going to art openings and exhibits, bragging about my husband Paul's amazing photography and walking the cutest pug in the world, Stella.

Kelly Bock
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Most of who I am and what I have learned in life has come from children. However, the majority of that learning has occurred during my adult adventures. At 17, I headed to Boulder, Colorado where I majored in Anthropology with a Pre -Med minor. I returned home to St. Louis and worked at the Pediatric Research Institute and Fisher Scientific. (I taught gymnastics and swimming to children on the weekends.) I opted not to go to medical school (reasoning that education would give me more time for a family) and moved to New York instead. I pursued my master 's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at NYU while working at Elliot's Gym and Studio of the Arts for Kids. There, I started a morning pre- school program call The Little School at Elliot's. I finished my studies with a semester at Oxford and a summer of traveling.

In 1997, I opened The Little School & Gym with my sister's help (Shannon Diamond: Max, Pre-K & Cooper, Nursery). Shortly thereafter, I began my doctoral studies in Foundations of Education at SLU. In 2004, Sarah Christman (then a teacher at The Little School) and I co-founded The Souldard School and its development became the topic of my dissertation. I currently live in Souldard with my husband, Charles, and our 4 children: Harry, Tedda, Will, and Frances. In my free time (yes, I do have some), I enjoy reading and writing, working on my quote collection, and going on family adventures.



Sarah Macfarlane
TEACHER, NURSERY

After finishing my Bachelors degree in Human Development and Psychology with a minor in Juvenile Justice, I was eager to begin my career working with children and families. Shortly after graduating from Wheelock College, I left my hometown of Boston for St. Louis, where I immediately grew to love this city full of warm people and great food. I began my career in

education working with newborns and infants, with a specialty in sensory integration therapy. I have continued growing as an educator while working with some of the Souldard School's youngest learners at the Nursery. This community is unlike any other and I am very excited to be a part of something so special. I can't wait to explore with this group and see where their interests will bring us. When I am not at school, you can find me lounging at home with my husband and our menagerie of animals, gardening, or reading.

Melissa Durant
TEACHER, NURSERY

I discovered the Souldard School while I was a resident in Tower Grove and immediately fell in love with being part of such a close community. I have a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education as well as a passion for working with children. I have spent time in the elementary and pre-k classrooms, but I have found my calling to work with toddlers. I spent my first 5 years in an early childhood Montessori environment, a philosophy I have brought to the Nursery at Souldard School. I am very spirited and love to be curious with my students. To me, toddlers are the most fascinating people to observe; I can never get enough of their ever growing ideas and curiosity!



Diana Giattino
TEACHER, QUIETUDE CLASS

I am thrilled to be a part of the Souldard School Community. I began teach Pre-Kindergarten in Manhattan six years ago and eventually traveled to Boulder, CO where I taught at Boulder Journey School, a Reggio Emilia inspired program. I received my MA from the University of Colorado at Denver in Early Childhood Education and moved to St. Louis for the opportunity to be

a co-teacher in the Quietude Room. I am enjoying my time living in the city, seeing live theater and music, practicing yoga, and being lazy in the beautiful parks of St. Louis.

who we are



Tammy Walls TEACHER, QUIETUDE CLASS

I am elated to be a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at the Soulard School! It is wonderful to be a part of this unique community and to work with such remarkable children.

I graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary

Education, with an emphasis in Art. Currently, I am attending SIUE's Master of Science in Education program in Curriculum and Instruction, with an emphasis on Early Childhood Education.

I have worked with children of all ages and abilities in a variety of capacities. Through my experiences I have learned to create family- and child-centered learning experiences that encourage cognitive, social and emotional development through active exploration, guided inquiry, and structured play.

During my spare time I enjoy playing guitar, sewing, gardening, and exercising. I feel that it is imperative to have interests and hobbies to enrich our lives and provide challenges to our minds and bodies.

Daniel Dockery TEACHER, QUIETUDE CLASS

My experience with the school community began more than a decade ago at The Little School, where I spent 7 1/2 enriching years. During that time I worked with the infants and toddlers in the nursery, the 3-5 year-olds in the Pre-K classroom, and headed the first after-care program for the Soulard School. After a brief hiatus from the colorful world of early childhood, I returned during the 2009-2010 school year as a substitute teacher. This is now my second year as one of three Pre-K teachers in the Quietude room.

Currently, I am facilitating the development of the Quietude Creative Studio into a dynamic and ever-evolving realm of creative challenges and artistic provocations. My co-teachers and I have begun transforming the space into a world of recycled, found, and "Why not?" materials, in which ideas are allowed to play out freely (often in real time). It has been organized with a thoughtful eye toward open expression, sensory experience, creation of all kinds, and building personal and community bonds through common goals in the pioneering spirit that is a hallmark of The Soulard School.

In my spare time I enjoy creating collages and mixed media paintings, walking and resistance training, reading, and listening to avant-garde jazz, new wave/post-punk, progressive rock, and various other types of music.



Laura Johnson TEACHER, MUMS CLASS

My teaching journey began as a preschool teacher, and after five years, I decided that I wanted to expand to other grades and went back to school to receive a degree in education. This past spring, I graduated from Maryville University with a master's degree in early childhood and a certification in gifted education. I have always believed in reaching the needs of each student and nurturing the whole child, and I was thrilled to discover The Soulard School and its philosophy that aligns with my own. I

am honored to return to the community as a kindergarten teacher in the Mums room and have another great year!

Lee Hahn TEACHER, MUMS CLASS

I am very excited and proud to join this amazing, close-knit community! I recently graduated from Webster University with my BA in Elementary Education and got married several weeks later to a man who has stuck through thick and thin with me over the past 9 years! I have worked in a preschool environment for the past 7 years, and am prepared for a different setting. I feel so lucky to be one of the Kindergarten teachers here at The Soulard School because I get to lay the groundwork for the rest of my students' lives. I get to be one of the very first teachers (besides pre-k of course) to instill values and implement TSS philosophies that I feel are essential not only to our community, but in today's world.

I have a hilarious 5 year old son, Jaxon, who keeps my life interesting and occupied at all times. He makes me view life in a whole new way and I am so thankful to him for allowing me the opportunity to see education through a parental perspective.



Brandy Wheeler TEACHER, ENIGMA CLASS

In the Enigma class this year, I will be co-teaching 1st and 2nd graders. While this is my fourth year of 1st grade, this is my first time working with 2nd grade and I am very excited. I love being in the classroom! It is amazing what children can accomplish in such a short time. Many come in beginning to read and write and leave reading chapter books and writing stories! It is so rewarding to make a difference and have my share of learning experiences too. I am also lucky to be a part of a community where

parents are involved with the school, not just their child's education, but the school as a whole. Together, the children and I create a classroom around their interests, respect, and integrity. When students are interested in a subject, they are more passionate about learning. That is what I am here to do, instill in my children the desire to learn.

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."

- John Lubbock

who we are



Kerri Fair

TEACHER, ENIGMA CLASS

This year I will be teaching first and second grade with Brandy in the Enigma classroom. This will be my fifth year at The Soulard School and my sixteenth year of teaching. Previously, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District, a classroom teacher in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO. I have taught grades K through fourth grade,

but second and third grades are where I have the most experience. As the Literacy Coach for the school I am able to utilize my experience as a reading specialist and my Masters in Reading Education for the betterment of the school and the students.

My husband, Clayton, and I are thrilled that our son, Colin, will attend Kindergarten this year. Our daughter, Audrey Rose, will join the Pre-K classroom. It will be wonderful to have them both in the same building. Our youngest daughter Emma, will continue at the Nursery. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

Laura Pupillo

TEACHER, ALCHEMY CLASS

Alchemy! I'm delighted to be entering my third year with the school as the second/third grade Alchemy Teacher & Math Specialist. This blend of ages holds a myriad of treasures that keep me engaged, inspired, and excited each day. I absolutely love observing the students as they enter the age of reasoning, an age that brings thorough, yet still imaginative conversations that tickle my thought process. As the school's Math Specialist, I find treasure in bringing the best tried and tested math practices to our school and facilitating the students in their paths as mathematicians.

In route to The Soulard School, I worked in the field of Early Childhood as a preschool teacher for eight years and as a parent educator through the Parents as Teachers Program. Additionally, I had the privilege to study under many great teachers at Missouri Baptist University & St. Louis Community College, as I completed my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and Psychology & an Associate Degree in Fine Arts.

When I'm not at school, you can find me either at home with my husband, Steve, and our wonderfully busy two year old daughter, Abigail, or dreaming about tall mountains, looking for new things to photograph, or hitting the trails on my mountain bike. I feel absolutely positive that this is going to be a great year for our class and the school and can't wait to inspire new fascinations within our delightful learners.



Nicole Post

TEACHER, MOSAIC CLASS

I am proud to be returning to The Soulard School for my fourth year in the Mosaic classroom. The first round of Mosaic graduates are off in many different middle schools this year and I am pleased to be helping the new 4-5th graders prepare for their eventual transition. At Webster University, I received my Bachelor's Degree in Education with a double major in environmental studies, and my Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in special education. I serve as the Special Education Consultant for the

school, leading a Care Team that supports differentiation and other individual learning needs in the classroom. Beyond teaching, I am an avid gardener and enjoy cooking delicious vegetarian fare from my garden and the different organic farms where I volunteer in the summer. My husband, Eric, and I live in Clifton Heights where we enjoy taking care of our two dogs, cat, and five chickens. In February we are expecting our first-born and are overjoyed for him to become part of The Soulard School community.

Mary Waskow

CULINARY ARTS INSTRUCTOR

My family joined the Soulard School community 7 years ago when our daughter, Paige, began kindergarten. Paige is now a 6th grader at Cabrini, and our son, James, is in 3rd grade at the Soulard School. I began cooking with students one day a week the first year of the school. I now spend three days a week at the school as the Culinary Arts Instructor cooking with students and teaching nutrition classes. I have a degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Process, with a Gifted Education certification. I previously taught fourth grade for two years and taught in the gifted program for three years in the Parkway School System. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, hiking and camping.



Matt King

STRINGS INSTRUCTOR

I have been playing and/or teaching the violin for over 20 years. I earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. I currently have a private studio, play in the classic country band Trigger 5, and teach strings at the Soulard School. This will be my 6th year at the school, so I hope that means I get one of the nice parking spots, as well as a spot at the Nursery for my son Everett. I stick around because I agree strongly with the educational environment of the school. I

enjoy the freedom given to the teachers, as well as working with the kind and eager to learn students.

who we are



Sarah Bliss

**STUDIO ARTS
INSTRUCTOR**

I have two daughters, Astrid in the second grade, and Mirasol in pre-k, this year will be our family's fifth year at the Soulard School. I found my way to the Soulard School from a chance encounter with Kristine Mothershead at a meeting about community gardening, and fell in love with the school immediately.

I am the Studio Arts Instructor for kindergarten through 5th grade. I have a BA in Studio Art and a BA in Secondary Art Education from Webster University. I have previously taught in Mehlville, Hazelwood, and at Chaminade College Preparatory School.

I am also the Director of South Broadway Art Project a nonprofit community-focused art studio that provides affordable and free art education programs. For the past eleven years I have been on a constant search to find the perfect balance of working as an art teacher and a professional artist, as I believe for me one cannot exist without the other.

I am excited and look forward to the many opportunities to make artistic connections with students and help them grow and learn about how art can apply to and enhance their own lives and the lives of their families and community! We have many exciting artistic plans and opportunities to look forward to this school year. Students will be participating in a St. Louis Art Museum partnership, working with The Pulitzer on a collaborative project, as well as working with the Resident Artists from South Broadway Art Project.

Catherine Hund

**OUT OF SCHOOL TIME
COORDINATOR**

I am excited about starting my third year at the Soulard School as the out-of-school-time coordinator, and am thrilled by the changes the new school year will bring. In addition to providing before- and after-school care and running the summer Camp Soulard program, I feel we are just beginning to tap the potential that non-school hours have on building community, supporting families and enhancing classroom learning---and our new Club Soulard program will be a great addition to our learning community. I have worked with children and families for more than 20 years in a variety of roles.



I have a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and I earned my Master's of Teaching from Webster University.

I live in Affton with my husband Rich and our two children, Amelia and Christopher. Although my children attend school in the Affton School District, they consider Soulard their "school away from school."



Sarah Henrich

ASSISTANT TEACHER

I attended Mizzou, where I earned a BS in Nutrition and Fitness. I spent my first two years after college teaching nutrition and fitness classes in various St. Louis Public Schools. I am currently studying for the GRE so that I can hopefully start working on my Masters degree in early childhood education in the summer of next year! My hobbies include knitting, sewing, running, yoga, and playing with my dogs.

Eleanor White

SCHOOL SECRETARY

I am a St. Louis native, growing up just around the corner from the school, in Lafayette Square. I attended Bard College, then received a Master's in Education Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Returning to St. Louis, I continued my education, receiving my certification in Elementary Education from Fontbonne.



After a few years of teaching at a charter school, I discovered the Soulard School, a place that looks just like my beloved elementary school. I am beginning my fifth year with the Soulard School – I taught kindergarteners and toddlers, and now I'm the school secretary.

Meanwhile, my son Emmett is in the Quietude Room and Theo is crawling around the Nursery.

upcoming field trips

10/6 – 10/7

Alchemy campout at Greensfelder Park

10/14

Alchemy & Mosaic Donald Danforth Plant Center World Food Day trip

10/21

Enigma (2nd grade only), Alchemy & Mosaic Wizard of Oz at the Touhill Performing Arts Center

10/27

Mums & Enigma (1st grade only) – St. Louis Symphony Orchestra – "Lemony Snicket's The Composer is Dead"

10/27

Alchemy & Mosaic – Litzinger Road Ecology Center

11/3 & 11/10

Mosaic History Museum Library

what we do

alchemy notes

In order to answer the question

"Where does our food come from?"

Alchemy students have visited
3 different farms in the past month.

At City Seeds Urban Farm, students learned how crops can be grown in an urban setting to help those who do not have access to fresh produce.



Bellew's Creek Farm gave the class an opportunity to harvest sweet potatoes which were grown organically.

Our last visit was to a conventional farm in Alhambra, IL which grows corn, soybeans and wheat. The class is now analyzing data collected from all three field experiences and discussing advantages and disadvantages of each farming method.



enigma notes



The Enigma class spent some time on fun and mathematical ways to expand on Ride Your Bike to School day. After collecting data about the bikes outside, the Enigma class made a graph showing how many wheels each bike used. These graphs can be found outside our classroom. Come check them out!

culinary arts recipe of the month

PUMPKIN-APPLE STREUSEL MUFFINS

2 1/2 cups	whole wheat flour
2 cups	sugar
1 tbsp	pumpkin pie spice
1 tsp	baking soda
1/2 tsp	salt
2	eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup	canned pumpkin
1/2 cup	canola oil
2 cups	peeled, cored and chopped apple
2 tbsp	all-purpose flour
1/4 cup	sugar
1/2 tsp	cinnamon
4 tsp	butter

1. Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a muffin pan.
2. In a large bowl, sift together whole wheat flour, 2 cups sugar, pumpkin pie spice, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, combine eggs, pumpkin and oil. Add pumpkin mixture to flour mixture, stirring just to moisten. Fold in apples. Spoon the batter into prepared muffin cups.
3. In a small bowl, mix together 2 tbsp flour, 1/4 cup sugar and cinnamon. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle topping evenly over muffin batter.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into a muffin comes out clean. **Yield:** 24 muffins

what we do

studio notes

Students school wide have been thinking, writing, and drawing about what is art and what is not art. We have definitely found that there are more things that ARE art or inspire art than that are not art. Students are making an art work that has images of what art is and what art is not art. This activity is bringing about some very interesting questions. Here are some examples of ideas that students have come up with so far:

What is art?

Taking things from around you and putting it together.

Miriam

Art is about expression, I think its ok if words are in art because its art itself.

Maxine

A cloud is art.

Gabe

Having, fun, drawing & doing what you want.

Astrid

Art is colors.

Pavil

Designing and making pretty wallpaper.

Isa

Write or draw anything that happened in your life.

Cambrea

Making Sculptures to put in a museum.

Xander

What is not art?

A white piece of paper is not art

Audrey

Something made in a factory

Kate

Soup is not art

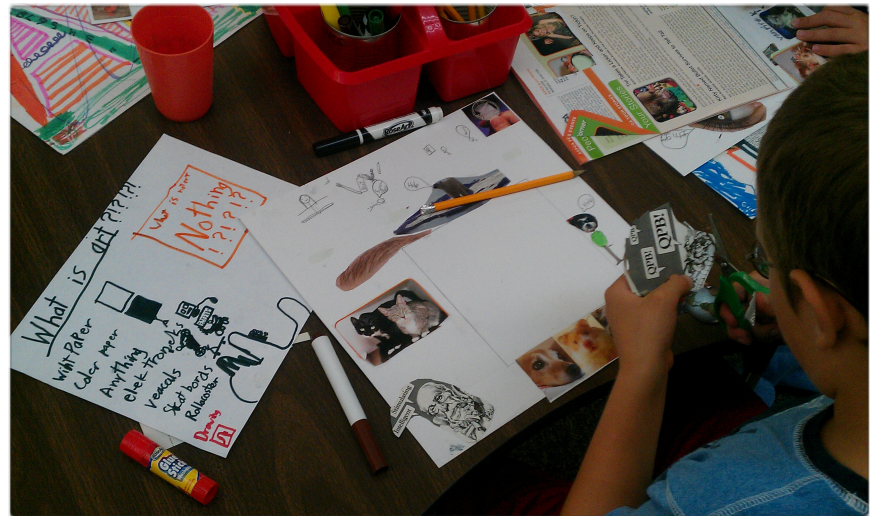
Cambrea

Dirt is not art

Enigma Class

TV is not art

Isaac



sign up party: arty party



ARTY PARTY: GINGERBREAD HOUSES & WINTER WONDERLANDS

DESCRIPTION: Create a one-of-a-kind gingerbread house or winter wonderland inspired from fairy tales and far away places. Guests are asked to bring one or two creative edible items to add to their creations. This is a

great parent and child activity (both must pay admission).

DATE & TIME: November 26th 12:30-3pm

COST: \$20

AGES: Young at art to the young at heart (Age Kindergarden & Up)

LOCATION: South Broadway Art Project 3816 S. Broadway 63118

HOST: Sarah Bliss

Saturday, **November 26**, 12:30-3:00PM

costume karaoke festival

Friday October 28th is our Costume Karaoke Festival! We are having a chili cook-off, face painting, pumpkin decorating and fun activities for everyone.

There will be prizes, good food and a chance to hang out and socialize!

Costumes are welcome but we ask that there are no weapons of any kind.

We are also planning a pumpkin carving contest.

So, be working on your pumpkin and bring it to the Festival for a chance to win a surprise!



Friday, **October 28**, 6:00 - 8:00 PM

what we do

performing arts

Performing Arts we started the year with a discussion about

What is music?

Some memorable responses were:

"Tambourine",

"Pretty noise", and

"It helps people go to sleep".

We have been listening to some very different styles of music and working on our critical listening skills.

The **Alchemy** and **Mosaic** classes recently went on a trip out in the neighborhood to find different sounds, both pre-existing and created by us. We made some very interesting sounds!

club soulard

Our inaugural session of specialty clubs started the week of September 19th. For this first round of specialty clubs we offered:

SCIENCE CLUB
DANCE CLUB
KNITTING CLUB
RUNNING CLUB
DRAMA CLUB &
READING CLUB

We hope to offer even more clubs in the spring as well as possibly starting a parent/family speaker series.

We are able to offer these clubs at little or no cost to our students because our school was awarded a Nonpublic After-School Grant. The generous support of the funders of this grant, the Mental Health Board, Incarnate Word Foundation, and Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis are making it possible for us to offer creative, enriching programming to better support our students and their families.

strings

In strings we have been getting used to playing the violin again. Be sure to bring violins and music folders every Wednesday.

Matt will be hosting a **VIOLIN OPEN HOUSE** each Thursday in October from 5:00 till 6:30 PM.

This can be a time to find out what is going on in your child's class, as well as, find out what they need to work on individually.

Please email him at matt.king@soulardschool.org to reserve a spot.

OCTOBER 6- Enigma
OCTOBER 13- Alchemy
OCTOBER 20- Mosaic
OCTOBER 27- Mums

parents' night out

PNO is a special evening of child care, offered at the school, for parents to sign their children up and have a night out on their own.

It is available to families with children ages 3 and up, siblings are welcome. From the child's perspective it is a pizza party so everybody wins at PNO! Depending on the number of children attending there are usually 2 teachers present.

We play in the gym, serve a pizza dinner and end the night with movies.

Diana and Daniel will be hosting the following dates:

OCTOBER 14
NOVEMBER 4
DECEMBER 2
DECEMBER 16

There is a minimum number of children required for each evening so please reserve your spots by emailing diana.giattino@soulardschool.org.

\$25 for 1 child | \$35 for 2 children | \$45 for 3 children

