

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

September, 2008
www.soulardschool.org

back to school!

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL ...

Welcome and welcome back! Thank you to all our students, families, teachers, and administrators for a great start to our 2008-2009 school year. Eleven years ago, four pre-k children first attended The Little School and Gym. Four years ago, fourteen elementary children first attended The Soulard School. Last week, our school and nursery started this new school year - 60 families and 95 children strong. We are a community of unique individuals celebrating a shared vision we experience daily. Please take some time to read about all the staff, teachers and administrators who bring their unique talents, gifts, and selves, to collaborate with one another to support this shared vision with and for your children.

- Kelly

“We are all affecting the world every moment, whether we mean it or not.
Our actions and states of mind matter, because we’re so deeply connected with one another.”

Ram Dass

HOMEROOM COORDINATORS | As we embark on the new school year, we’re looking to line up two parents from each classroom to serve as Homeroom Coordinators. It’s an invaluable role in helping the teachers because it allows them delegate the details of small tasks - anything from making library runs to lining up art supplies. Homeroom coordinators also facilitate parent-to-parent contact, like organizing chaperones/drivers for field trips and gathering gift money at the holidays. Not only is it a good way to get to know the parents of your child’s classmates, it’s an easy way to fulfill your monthly volunteer hours!

If you’d like to learn more about being a Homeroom Coordinator, call:

Amy De La Hunt – Martin’s mom
(for Nursery, Pre-K & Kindergarten)
314.771.6322
amy@delahunt.net

Shannon Chance – Lyndsay’s mom
(for Grades 1 - 7)
314.771.0882
spchance2001@yahoo.com

Parent Association Homeroom Support Co-Chairs



At the students’ first Friday Assembly everyone brought an index card with a message “What I liked about my first week of school.” Subjunctive student **Gabe** chose the always popular subject, recess. You can read the others hanging in the McGurk’s Room.

VOLUNTEER/COMMUNITY RALLY

Mark your calendar & watch for more information to come home about the Volunteer Rally on **September 24th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM**. This is a “party with a purpose” where parents get to learn all the different ways to help make this school great (and spend their volunteer hours!).

There will be food and drinks for the grownups and pizza & babysitting for the kids. See you there!



SCHOOL CLOSED | Just a reminder that school is closed on **Friday, September 26th** for Professional Development.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Soulard School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The Soulard School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

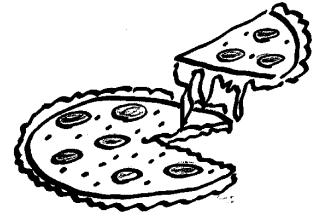


SOULARD OKTOBERFEST | We'll be looking for volunteers to staff a Warsteiner beer booth at Oktoberfest again this year. Oktoberfest is a fun way to get the name of the school out into the community, get to know other school parents, and raise money for the Parent Association.

Look for **sign-up sheets for volunteers at school** in the coming weeks and join us in serving (and tasting) some of the dozen draught beers that will be showcased at Oktoberfest.



FIRST TUESDAY COFFEES | Each month on the first Tuesday, the Parent Association or parents from one of the classes will host a morning coffee/get-together. These will **begin at 8:30AM** (not the 8AM as originally on the calendar). The next one is **Tuesday, October 7th**. Join us for some good company & great treats.



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

WHO is it for? Parents or children?
BOTH! This is a time for parents to have a night on their own! It is also a fun time for children from school and even friends of the schools.

WHO will be watching the kids?
Teachers from the school. Depending on the need, up to 3!

WHAT do I need to do?
Sign up (sign-up sheets will be on the main board by the Circle Drive entrance) or let Sarah Christman know. Children need to be older than 2 (2 year olds accepted as long as we have at least 4 of them). Sign-up quickly and often!

WHAT will they be doing?
Playing, eating pizza and watching movies. The perfect combination!

WHERE is it held?
At The Soulard School.

WHEN?
The first Saturday of every month from 5:30 to 10:30. Check the calendar for exact dates.

WHY?
Because we can and you deserve it.

HOW MUCH?
\$20 for one child
\$30 for two children
\$35 for three children

Cancellations by Friday @ 6PM so that you aren't charged, please.

STUDENT PICTURE DAY
is Tuesday, 9/23.

Family Picture Day
is Sunday, 10/19 in Tower Grove Park.

NORDMANN
PHOTOGRAPHY

always does a beautiful job.
We're lucky to have them.
Look for more info to follow.



WHO WE ARE

We asked our teachers and staff to tell us something about themselves and where they've been on their journey to The Soulard School. Here's what they've shared:

KELLY HOLLORAN BOCK | Head of School

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 (for a variety of reasons) 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, Nursery). Shortly thereafter, I began my doctoral studies in Foundations of Education at SLU. I currently live in Soulard with my husband (Charles), our 4 children (Madeline, Harry, Tedda, Will) and our very large dog (Boulder). In my free time (yes, I do have some), I enjoy reading, working on my quote collection journal, and going on family adventures.

NICOLE POST | 3rd/4th Grades (Mosaic) + Special Education Specialist

Hello! I am Nicole Post and am honored to be serving the third/fourth grade classroom for the 2008-2009 school year. I will also be fulfilling the role of Special Education Consultant, as my Masters degree is in special education. I acquired my BA at Webster University where I studied education and environmental science. Sustainability and gardening are passions of mine, and I have spent my past few summers working on a local organic farm. It is my privilege to begin my career in the unique and invigorating community of the Soulard School. I anticipate a phenomenal year of growth, inspiration, and learning with your child.



Recess in action. A group of students organize a game of soccer.

LYNN STEIN | School Assistant

For 25 years I was involved with teaching, caring for, and loving special needs children. First in New Orleans, my husband and I were Teaching Parents in a group home for boys with Autism. Because of my interest in Autism, we moved to North Carolina where I was involved with University of North Carolina program called TEACCH. I've been a Program Coordinator for a Group Home Program, and a teacher in a children's home. I was certified as a substitute teacher with NC public schools in a Special Needs classroom, Kindergarten and 1st grade. In 2004, I retired and went to the beach where my daughter and family were living. For the next 2 years I home schooled my grandsons, Zachery, Elijah, and Daniel Leslie. In 2006, I moved with the Leslie family to St Louis. When we found The Soulard School, I knew why we had returned to St Louis. This school is the perfect "fit" for the boys. They love the school and I love being a part of this unique learning experience..

ELEANOR WHITE | Nursery

Hi, I'm Eleanor White, and I'm teaching part-time in the nursery. Last year I taught kindergarten at TSS, but this year I'm mostly at home with my baby, Emmett. Before coming to The Soulard School, I taught at the Paideia Academy and Children's Enrichment Center. I have a BA from Bard College, an MA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and teacher certification from Fontbonne University. I grew up not far from TSS, in Lafayette Square, and now I live in my own rehabbing project in Tower Grove South. I love having time to spend with Emmett this year, but also remaining connected to the school. I look forward to visits to my old friends at TSS, as well as my time in the nursery.

WHO WE ARE

DANIELLE TAYLOR | Kindergarten (Subjunctive)

My name is Danielle Taylor and I am one of Soulard's newest teachers. I will be teaching kindergarten in the Subjunctive room. I studied and taught Montessori for 6 years as I earned my B.A. in Early Childhood Education specializing in Pre-K-3rd grade. I completed my student teaching in Sydney Australia in 2001. I completed 4 years of teaching in Memphis before relocating to St. Louis with my family. I have spent the past two years as the lead kindergarten teacher within the Charter School system. I am very eager to be a part of The Soulard School and the Soulard community. I look forward to a great year full of discovery and learning with your child!

LATANYA WASHINGTON | Nursery

LaTanya has years of experience in a preschool setting and with two children of her own she has developed the understanding and gentle qualities to support 2/3 year olds during this time of growth and dependency. She has been with the Nursery for a year now and is instrumental in developing our new Toddler Room.

KELLY ZUCH | Pre-K (Quietude)

I am Kelly Zuch, a new co-teacher in the Quietude room this year. I became interested in teaching through my experience as a youth and adult rock climbing instructor in Santa Cruz, CA. Upon moving to St. Louis I decided to pursue my teaching at an academic level and became a substitute teacher in the St. Louis public school system. After a year of that I decided that a more alternative form of education was where I wanted to put my energy. I assisted at the Shining Rivers Waldorf School for two years then became a lead teacher in a class of 2 1/2 to 4 yr. olds. I finished my Bachelors degree in a self designed major encompassing Art, Education and Spirituality at Webster University and received my Masters degree in Early Childhood Education with a focus on Waldorf Education from Sunbridge College. I am excited to join the Soulard School and expand my knowledge of a different style of education as well as connect to a community of families that resides in the city.

MARY WASKOW | Culinary Arts Coordinator

Mary Waskow has a degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Process, with a Gifted Education certification. Her experiences include teaching fourth grade for two years and teaching in the gifted program for three years in the Parkway School System. She enjoys cooking in her spare time. Mary and her husband Brent have two children who attend The Soulard School. Paige is currently in the third grade "Mosaic" classroom. James is five and began kindergarten in the "Subjunctive Room."

BRANDY HUX | 1st Grade (Enigma)

My name is Brandy Hux and I am the first grade teacher. I graduated from the University of Missouri St. Louis with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. This is my second year of teaching. Last year, I taught kindergarten at a charter school. I am excited to be a part of a community where parents are involved with the school and their child's education. I am also excited to help students create a classroom around their interests and respect. 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

At Art Smart, a Summer Camp designed by Studio Arts Teacher Genevieve Griffin, they studied primitive cave paintings then made their own primitive drawing and cave.



GENEVIEVE GRIFFIN | Aftercare Specialist (Pre-K) + Studio Instructor

Genevieve is new to The Soulard School this school year after starting last June working with the Pre-K campers over the summer. Throughout the year she will serve as the Studio Instructor and Assistant Teacher in the Quietude Room. Before coming to the school, she earned her undergraduate degree in Studio Art at Webster University. In addition to studying art in college, she has worked at White Flag Projects, a non-profit alternative art gallery, and at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis assisting the Education Department, along with showcasing her own work in several exhibitions.

WHO WE ARE

SARAH CHRISTMAN | Assistant Head of School + Early Childhood Specialist

I found my way to The Little School almost 8 years ago and am grateful to continue to grow with the schools. 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 (pewh!). During my masters work I was able to explore my love of art and found ways to pass on my learning to students in the classroom. This experience also gave me the foundation to develop The Soulard School's art program. My role now includes overseeing events, fundraisers and general community outreach. You will all be hearing from me throughout the year when I am rounding up volunteers so don't be afraid, that is why we call it FUNraising.

TIM KLIPPEL | 4th-7th Grades (Thrive) + Performing Arts Specialist

I am Tim Klippel, and this is my third year teaching the Thrive Room (grades 4-7) at the Soulard School. I'm very excited to be returning to the Soulard School, especially about my new role as the Performing Arts specialist. In addition to my role here at the Soulard School, I am involved in several arts organizations in the Metropolitan area. I am the Bass section leader of the Gateway Men's Chorus, and I play the trumpet with Band Together, a GLBT symphonic band. I recently moved to the Tower Grove Neighborhood of St. Louis City and am looking forward to being closer to our wonderful school and community.
Peace Love & Harmony! -Tim



The Thrive class studying statistics! What are the odds of a great year? 100%

STEFANIE BYRD | Nursery

My name is Stefanie and this is my 5th year as a teacher at The Soulard School. I began teaching in the Junior Pre-K class at the Little School & Gym and was the 1st grade teacher the past two years. This year I returned to the Toddler Room. I received my undergraduate in Elementary Education and am certified in both Early Childhood and Elementary Ed. Prior to that, I also served in AmeriCorps St. Louis for a year, tutoring 1st and 2nd grade students and facilitating after-school programs in an inner-city school. Currently, I am working toward a Master's degree in School Counseling. I truly believe in the importance of educating the whole child, which encompasses not only academic development, but social, emotional, and personal development, as well. I am very passionate about children and it is a gift and a blessing to be a facilitator in their education. Other things that I have a passion for include music, literature, nature, culture, and family. I have been married for a little over four years and have two adorable puppies named Buddy and Daisy. One day I hope to have children of my own!

KATIE CLANCY | Pre-K (Quietude)

What seems like ages ago, I told my disappointed father that I would not be continuing my Art Education degree, instead I would major in Photography. He peered down at me, chin to chest and asked many questions. The answers included: I want to live some of my life outside of the classroom first. I have subbed and observed classes and I think I will need to find a different route to teach art. Job? Don't know yet... He listened and watched and within a few years, stopped talking about teaching and became my biggest fan. Then I started at the Soulard School, a place full of people who have lived fascinating lives outside of the classroom. Last year, I discovered with Michael how transformative the classroom can be. I then spent the summer transforming in Mexico. I am very excited to teach and learn with Kelly, Michael, Genevieve and all of our friends this year. And of course, I am happy that I am making my dad proud on my own terms. :)

WHO WE ARE

EVELYN FOSTER | Nursery

Some of you may know Evelyn better as "The Baby Whisperer", a name bestowed upon her because of her inexhaustible patience and infectiously calm nature with the youngest members of our school. Evelyn has been with the school for 9 years and has seen many stages of growth beginning with one preschool room to now two buildings. Evelyn also has a granddaughter Kaithlyn, in the Toddler Room.

KERRI FAIR | Second Grade (Mum) + Literacy Arts Specialist

I'm Kerri Fair. This year I will be teaching second grade in the Mums room. This will be my thirteenth year of teaching. Previously, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood school district, a classroom teacher for seven years in the Kansas City area, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO. My son, Colin, will attend the nursery, as will his new baby sister, Audrey Rose. I look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of family and teachers. It is exciting to see the school grow.

MICHAEL FERRER | Pre-K (Quietude)

I came to early childhood education through the somewhat unusual route of art history and art theory. I feel strongly that encouraging artistic expression has much to contribute to more traditionally academic ways of teaching. Early childhood education is a good laboratory in which to research how those approaches might be combined. This is my second year at the Soulard School, and my first in the Quietude Room. I'm looking forward to spending this year with the friends I made last year, and to getting to know my newer friends better.

TERESA MULVIHILL | Principal

This year my title is Principal, but I joined this community as a mom. My daughter Maggie was at the Little School for two years before she began at the Soulard School in the founding kindergarten class. I was thrilled then, and I still am, to have found a school which so well reflects my personal philosophy of education and which provides such a wonderful place for my daughter to thrive. As a teacher I've experienced many different learning environments, including a rural

school in Iowa, an international elementary school in Tokyo, a Japanese elementary school, and work with the St. Louis Public Schools through the Botanical Garden. I worked for ten years at the Missouri Botanical Garden training teachers in science and math, and developing programs for children and families. My bachelors degree is in Elementary and Early Childhood Education, and I have a Masters degree in Asian Studies, having lived in Japan for eight years and traveled extensively through Asia. I love gardening and reading, and I'm learning to play the piano after school on Thursdays with Maggie and some of the other students. Maggie is in 3rd grade this year, and we are so happy to be a part of this amazing community!



and welcome to all the new summer babies.

Uriah Binder
Andi & Jay Binder

Miraso Bliss
Sarah & Tim Bliss

Hobbes Isaac
DeRigne Liebschutz
Lea Anne DeRigne & Robert Liebschutz

Audrey Rose Fair
Kerri & Clayton Fair

Ivan Pulsipher-Hufmann
Dawn Pulsipher & Jason Hufmann

Mini Jane Tabscott
Meredith & Dave Tabscott

Emmet White
Eleanor & Brad White

MELISSA MILES | Aftercare Specialist (Elementary)

Hi, my name is Melissa Miles and I am very excited to be part of the Soulard School community--I am enjoying my first year working in the aftercare program. My husband and I just moved to St. Louis from Michigan and I have been working on my Ph.D. in English (Rhetoric and Composition) from UT Arlington and have taught English, Humanities, and Philosophy at various colleges. During my time taking graduate classes in Texas, I also worked at the Fourth Street Project, a small private academic and therapeutic environment. While I was working on my B.A. Philosophy at Scripps College, I worked at the Mary B. Eyre Children's School, a lab school for the Claremont Colleges in CA very similar in philosophy to the Soulard School. I also have a Masters in Liberal Arts from Houston Baptist University. Currently, I live in Soulard with my husband, who is an English Professor at SWIC, my step-son Britin (7), my cats Milo and Catspurr, and our English Bulldog, Boss Hog Hurley.