

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

December, 2008
www.soulardschool.org

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL ...

More than 240 people shared in this year's Annual Feast of Thanks. Four years earlier, the Trinity Lutheran Church community generously allowed us to use the very same space to celebrate our first Feast with 40 people. Of all the unique elements of our school, **the Feast is one of my favorites.**

The Thanksgiving holiday in American culture has always been associated with gratitude for the harvest and celebrated on the last Thursday in November. However, the dates and location of the "first Thanksgiving" are a source of modest contention. Similarly, there is evidence that the cultural celebration of Christmas on December 25th, may actually have been chosen to coincide with the winter solstice; and is celebrated by Christians in honor of the birth of Jesus, though not necessarily his actual date of birth. In general, actual dates and times seem far less important than the purpose of the celebration. In fact, prior to 1750, our country observed a Julian calendar with eleven more days per year and a new year beginning in each March rather than the Gregorian calendar used today (and more commonly used by neighboring nations then.) Other significant religious and cultural celebrations such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa occur and are celebrated after Thanksgiving, before the start of a New Year.

The Season of Thanks always precedes the Season of Giving. This is in contradiction to much of our materialist culture where gratitude comes after receiving something. While the Season of Thanks is clearly an expression of gratitude for a bountiful harvest (and bountiful blessings), it is not coincidental that the Season of Giving immediately follows.

We all recognized this when we shared **Melody Beattie's** words at the Feast of Thanks:

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough, and more.

*It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order,
and confusion to clarity.*

*It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home,
a stranger into a friend.*

*Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for
today,*

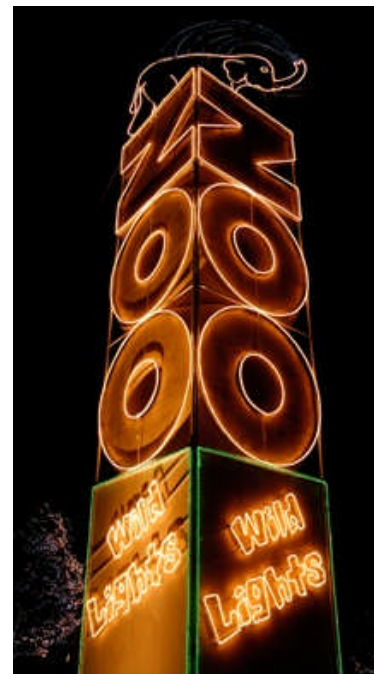
and creates a vision for tomorrow.

MITTEN TREE | We are still **collecting donations** for Trinity's Community Care Ministry who feed and clothe those in need more than ever in this time of year. Pastor Marth and the Trinity community generously welcomed us and continue to do so, please give generously. Please, look for a donations basket and hat & glove tree in our school.



WILD LIGHTS @ THE ZOO | Catch up with your friends over Winter Break with an outing at the Zoo. Soulard School friends will be checking out the Wild Lights exhibit @ the Zoo on

Monday, December 29th @ 6:30 PM



Meet @ the Zoo sign at the south entrance @ 6:30 PM to get the group rate (\$4/person). Regular admission is \$5/person.

OR

Join us later at the Lakeside Café. We'll have a table set up to warm you with hot cocoa and treats.

Compliments of the Social Events Comte.

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.

BUILDING & GROWING

ANNUAL GIVING

This month marks the beginning of our Annual Giving Program. Next week, you will receive a letter talking about the importance of this program and your participation.

★ **WHAT IS ANNUAL GIVING?** Annual Giving is unrestricted support for the school. It supports the operating budget. There are real costs of educating the children of The Soulard School that tuition alone cannot cover. All schools and many organizations have Annual Giving programs necessary to support the operational expenses required to maintain the programs and facilities for which they have become known.

★ **WHO SUPPORTS THE ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM?** Anyone can make a tax-deductible contribution to The Soulard School Annual Giving Program. The need for support goes far beyond the parent/family community; however, our goal is 100% participation from our families. Many corporate and foundation donors base their decisions to support places like The Soulard School on the percentage of participation among their own community.

★ **HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?** Like your talents and time, your financial contribution reflects your commitment and support of our school –
Where our children *experience an education that breaks through the traditional barriers* of teaching and learning;
Where our children are not only learning – they are *discovering, inquiring, and experiencing*;
Where our children are *thriving*.

Please give generously.



MOSAIC FOOD DRIVE | The **Mosaic classroom is hosting a food collection**, as the local pantries have exhausted their supplies and it's a great way for them to reflect about things they are thankful for. They have been writing about ways to give thanks so we decided to help in a way that directly benefits our community. We will continue to collect canned and boxed food items up **until the holiday break** in December. Items must be nonperishable, boxed or canned, and please try to pick healthy options. We are going to research the different places where we can donate the food and make a decision as a class. The **boxes will be located outside the classroom** and we will be using this as an opportunity to collect and graph data (types and amount of foods given).

If you have any questions about Annual Giving, please contact:

Alexis Mead (Rowan, 1st)
2008-2009 Annual Giving Chair
or

Kelly Holloran Bock
(Harry, 1st; Tedda, pre-k; Will, Nursery)
Head of School

STUDIO UPDATE | Over the past month in studio, the students have finished up the **construction of their clay sculptures** and assisted in creating festive decorations for the Feast of Thanks. After the sculptures return from being fired in the kiln, the students will proceed to paint the clay with dots to replicate the look of the glass mosaics on the Niki de Saint Phalle sculptures. In preparation of this, we will also take a look at the painting styles of Oceanic Artwork from the Pacific Islands and Australia. Much of the art from this region features colorful patterns along with dot painting.

In addition to working with clay, we are also discussing the concept of **using letters or words in artwork**. Some of the younger classes completed a project using their initials as the foundation for a repeating pattern. This experiment displayed how a letter is composed of lines to make a shape and can be used to create an abstract pattern. Other classes used the concept of a word web to create a drawing combining language and imagery.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

SOULARD SCHOOL WINTER MUSIC CONCERT



FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19
6:30 PM

@ TRINITY
SCHOOL

This year's concert will be **ON STAGE!** We will be performing at Trinity School (the same location as the Feast of Thanks) on **Friday, Dec. 19** beginning at 6:30 PM. All Strings students will perform, along with piano students, directed by Matt King. Back by popular demand will be a vocal performance directed by Tim! And the Pre-K will be performing, as well.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the program. **Grandparents, families and friends are invited** to join us (there is plenty of space), so save the date!! More information will be sent home as the date approaches.

Upcoming Events

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Thursday, January 8th @ 6:30 PM

Head of School, Kelly Bock, gives her annual report on where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. There will be a Potluck for the grown ups & the Parent Association will provide pizza & babysitting for kids. (A \$5/child donation is appreciated).

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 24th

This is an "all hands on deck" event and opportunity to showcase what a great school our kids have. There will be worknights on 1/13 & 1/22 to get ready. Watch for more information.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, January 31st

The 3rd Annual Soulard School Trivia Night is coming! Gather your table of 10 and get ready to put your thinking caps on. Watch for more information soon.

MORE FROM THE SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE | Join your Soulard School friends on **Tuesday, December 23rd @ 11:15 AM** for a pizza & jumping party @ Bounce U. The cost is \$10/child and there's availability for up to 35 kids. Watch for an e-vite soon from Diane Keagy & the Social Events Committee.



Shhhhh... Thanks to everyone who donated to the Holiday Gift Box Project.

Our families are truly generous. If you have any **non-perishable items** you would like to donate, the deadline is **Friday, December 12**. The **deadline for perishable donations is Wednesday, December 17th**. D-Day ("D" for Delivery) is Thursday, December 18th. Please contact Mary Waskow at bjwaskow@sbcglobal.net or Patsy King at nash804@yahoo.com with any questions.

UPDATES

GARDEN DAY THANK YOU

Dreary day turned bright with help from parents! Thank you to all the fabulous parents who turned out on that chilly November 15th morning! Our crew of 12 moved a mound of mulch, weeded, trimmed and planted bulbs for spring. Everyone had strong arms and good spirits. The **garden is now ready for winter rest.** We'll keep you posted on future work days. Remember (for a gardener) – “Spring is ALWAYS just around the corner!”



NURSERY UPDATE | Here is a brief update about the exciting and fun things that have been going on at the nursery these past few months. In the toddler room, we have been studying and **learning about many nature-related themes**, including insects, fall/autumn, forest animals, and camping. Throughout our studies, we read many books on these topics, learned some new songs, and participated in a variety of activities related to the themes. Some of the activities have included **nature walks, digging for worms** and bugs outside, **learning about composting** with a worm bin, examining plastic bugs with magnifying glasses, and exploring with leaves, sticks, sand, and dirt at the sensorial table. We also **turned our dramatic play area into a campsite**, complete with tents, a picnic table, nature puppets, flashlights, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. The toddler friends really enjoyed playing with the **flashlights** and it was often a favorite activity during choice time. The only thing missing in our campsite was a campfire, but we still **roasted marshmallows** anyway (pretend, of course)! The past two weeks, the kids had the opportunity to taste and explore with different fall fruits, such as squash, pumpkin, and pomegranate. They **carved the pumpkin** and counted the seeds, tasted the yummy pomegranate, and did a painting activity with decorative gourds and Indian corn. Over the course of the next month, we plan to spend time learning more about **animals and hibernation**, as well as different types of weather.

THANK YOU to all the families who donated items from the **Nursery Wishlist!** We received many of our wished-for items, including parachutes, games, puzzles, books, sandbox toys, tools, a CD player, digital camera, and a nice basketball hoop! The kids have really been enjoying these new additions to our space. **We appreciate all the gifts** and know they do, as well. *Thank you so very much!*



Miriam, Boston, Sophia & Gwynn hard at work during writer's workshop. They worked on books about Mo Willems' Pigeon, the ocean, and others of their own creation.



2008 FEAST OF THANKS

Another amazing Feast of Thanks! Thank you to all who came to celebrate with us this year and for your delicious contributions. Thanks you to Tim Klippel for the wonderful entertainment.



Scenes from the 2008 Soulard School Feast of Thanks ... for more pictures check out <http://paulnordmann.com/feast/> ... Thanks Paul!