

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

September, 2009  
[www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)

## back to school!

### from the head of school ...

These “Notes from the Head of School” typically are intended to extend elements of our philosophy into the larger world context; connect theory to application, and explore our community’s shared vision. It is part of the qualitative process that we continuously challenge, reflect, and evolve in our development as professionals, community members, and as humans. Throughout our growth, each year has been stronger than the one prior.

This year is no exception. Our teaching staff is larger but with **more chemistry** as a Professional Learning Community (PLC) than ever before. The administrative systems at programmatic and operational levels are organized and effectively adding a new dynamic of cohesion and stability. Our parent body, one of our most unique and greatest resources, is diving into this year with palpable energy and new levels of commitment. As was said earlier, these notes usually are meant to be informative in nature - this month, these notes are intended specifically to you - this year’s parent body.

Times are tough. Everyone has been affected by the recession. At The Soulard School, we have **never been intimidated by “uncertain times.”** Like most 501(c)3 organizations, uncertain times are common and “staying the course” is more about emotional perseverance than anything else. (Actually, 501(c)3 organizations are a lot like parenting - they require a high level of emotional perseverance and a high tolerance for uncertainty. Despite all the demand, the manual that should come with each child remains unwritten.) But I think it is more than that at The Soulard School. It is

different - especially in these times because **we get it.**

So, what is “it”? We get the fact that you are here by choice. Even with our sliding scale, it may have been a tough choice – one that others didn’t make. And while we all know that the right choice is not always the easy choice; people are forced to make tougher choices everyday. Many of you have graciously and candidly shared with me some of the struggles you have had and continue to experience. We get that you have to do things that other parents don’t have to do.

At our school, **community** is a big and real word that also means **cooperation, kindness, and kinship.** We are delighted and grateful you are here. We get what you have given to be here and want you to know that we’re in this together – and we’re going to give it back to you.

- Kelly



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## kick-off for annual giving

I’m excited to take on the role of project coordinator for the 2009 Annual Giving Campaign. We have some **very exciting news** to share in regards to the 2008 Campaign, along with our goals for 2009. Watch for more information during the Volunteer Rally on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

- Erin Scallions

### 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

## mosaic the serpent sculpture

Help us Mosaic the Nikki Inspired Sculpture at CMAC! During Studio last year, students learned about the art of Nikki de Saint Phalle. Every class had the opportunity to visit the marvelous mosaics created by Nikki while her work was on display at the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Students then created their own miniature Nikki inspired sculpture, and also had the choice to enter their sculpture in a voting process. Lilly Kitipitayangkul's (Mosaic Rm.) Serpent sculpture was chosen by the students to be constructed and installed as a playful work of art in the yard of the

school. Now it is time to bring this concrete sculpture to life with jewels, tiles and found objects! We would like to invite families from the Soulard School for Open Studio time at Cooled Matter Art Center, to take part in the process of mosaic-ing this larger than life sculpture. This open studio activity will give students and families an opportunity to understand and experience project-based learning, as well as being able to relate art inspiration to the final product. Open Studio at CMAC is part of a non-profit program we run called South Broadway Art Project which focuses on providing a creative outlet to the community as well changing lives through art. The

Open Studio dates will be **September 18th, October 2nd, and October 16th** from 5:30 – 7:30. Feel free to bring a dish to share as we will have a pot luck dinner while art making. There will be a sign up sheet in the McGurk's Room by the door for each open studio event and time. We would love to have donations of colorful tile, flat marbles, and interesting found objects to add to the "Serpent". Please take any donations you may have to Sarah Christman's office. CMAC is located at 3816 South Broadway, St. Louis Mo. 63118. 314-773-3633.

Thank you to our hosts and designers  
Sarah & Tim Bliss for helping to make this project possible.



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## vacation care

You will notice that Soulard School will not be offering Vacation Care over **Winter Break** for Elementary students. This is because the South Side YMCA offers care for ages 5-12yrs during those weeks for \$35 per day. We will let families know by January about Vacation Care plans during our Spring Break.

### My Y Time

The South City Family YMCA is providing full day camps when the local public schools are closed. The program is open to all students ages 5 - 12 attending local elementary schools. Please register 7 days in advance. All registrations received after 7 days will be subject to a \$10.00 late registration fee. Come play with us at the South City Family YMCA. Children should bring a sack lunch, swimsuit, towel and tennis shoes.

### Dates:

October 16 & 23  
November 11  
December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 & 30

Please pick-up a registration form from our service center or at your SACC site. Must have a minimum of 12 participants.

\$15 YMCA Member & SACC Participant  
\$25 Non-Member/SACC Participant  
\$30 Y Member/Non-SACC Participant  
\$35 Non Member/Non-SACC Participant

## picture day

Our school photos are done through Nordmann Photography who does an amazing job of capturing each child in a natural pose, using our beautiful Soulard neighborhood as a background. You will receive your order form September 11. Each student needs a form filled out. Families with multiple children may write one check but you still need to fill out one form per child. This year there are 2 days scheduled. **September 15**, they will be at the Victor campus. **September 16th**, they will be at the Nursery. Nordmann Photo also offers a Family Day in October if you would like to have your entire family photographed or have sibling pictures taken. You can see their work on their website at [nordmannphoto.com](http://nordmannphoto.com).

## grandparents breakfast

In our enthusiasm to celebrate the Grandparents in our community and host a breakfast at school as close to the Sept 13th recognized Grandparents Day, we overloaded our first full week of school. Realizing this was not the best choice, we have **rescheduled** the Grandparent Breakfast for Monday, **October 12**, 9-10am. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Lesson learned.

# events & happenings

## race for a child ... recap

On Saturday, August 29th, many Souard School students and families participated in the The Boy's Club 1st Annual Race for a Child. Among the many racers, Gabe Lenzen (1<sup>st</sup>) and Brent Waskow (Paige, 4<sup>th</sup> & James, 1<sup>st</sup>) finished third in their division as did Shannon Chance and Tim Chance, mother and grandfather of Lyndsay McGrath (3<sup>rd</sup>) who finished 1<sup>st</sup> against all other girls under 15 years! Note: Tim Chance has volunteered to start a running program with the students this year as part of the P.E. curriculum. Looks like he knows what he doing!



meet @ Holts  
(Wisconsin & Pestalozzi)  
at 1:30PM to bike over

## tour of missouri

Come spend Labor Day (September 7) cheering the world's elite cyclists at the Tour of Missouri, which will travel on Russell Boulevard, near the Souard School's Nursery Campus (2116 13th Street). The St. Louis Streets Department has given us the okay to close 13th street between Russell Boulevard and Ann Street. Children are welcome to bring their bikes and helmets and we will have the street to ourselves. The Tour starts at 2 p.m. The 75-mile circuit race starts near Citygarden and travels through Souard and Lafayette Square before looping back downtown. Bring a lawn chair and, if you wish, a treat to share.

We'll have beer and snow cones. Contact FUNraising Chair Diane Keaggy at [dkeaggy@gmail.com](mailto:dkeaggy@gmail.com) for more information and to let us know you are coming. To learn more about the Tour of Missouri visit [www.tourofmissouri.com](http://www.tourofmissouri.com).

## congratulations!



and welcome to all the  
NEW SUMMER BABIES!

**Frances Shannon Bock**

Kelly & Charles Bock,  
and Madeline, Harry, Tedda & Will



**Vera Kryah Burmeister,**

Rachel Kryah & David Burmeister,  
and Lev



**Margaret "Frances" Mooney,**

Kristen & Marcus Moomey,  
and Ella



**Abigail Josephine  
Catherine Pupillo,**

Laura Hansen Pupillo

## curriculum night

Join us Tuesday, September 22, 7:00-8:30PM. Research shows that one of the most important factors in determining a child's success in school is parent involvement. Curriculum Night is your best opportunity to understand your child's school day and how you can help in the learning process. Teachers in every classroom (Pre-K included) will walk you through a school day, share expectations for the school year, and give you specific information about how you can support your child. They are very excited to have this opportunity to meet with you at length and answer any questions you might have. This is a required meeting. In fact, we feel so strongly about every parent participating that we ask the Parent Association to make babysitting available, which is provided for a suggested donation of \$5 per child. Please arrive early, especially if you are dropping off children for babysitting, and meet in the McGurks Room (lunchroom) where we will have a general information session about school curriculum, including violin. We will begin promptly at 7:00. At 7:30 you will meet with your child's teacher in the classroom for information specific to that class. If you have more than one child, we suggest that one parent go to each classroom. We look forward seeing you then!

## student assembly Mondays

Student Assemblies have been moved to Mondays. This year K-Thrive will meet every Monday at 2:30 in the McGurk's Room. Each week the first 15 minutes of assembly will be the Administrative PowWow, a time for the administration to give students insight into our philosophy and language (i.e. respect, integrity, empathy and appreciation). Depending on the week, Peer Teaching will follow where students and classes will have the opportunity to share knowledge with one another through presentations or performances. Additionally, we will be scheduling guest speakers based on class studies or other relevant topics. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come monthly for our special Parent Assemblies, marked on the calendar, when students present their Birthday Books.

## 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 (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 & 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 Soulard School and its development became the topic of my dissertation. I currently live in Soulard with my husband, Charles, and our 5 children; Madeline, 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.

Lara Holley

### Toddler Room

I grew up in Kirkwood and upon leaving Missouri, continued my education at the University of Kansas where I found my two passions; Early Childhood Education and Jayhawk basketball. After completing my degree, I spent the next two years teaching in preschools in both Kansas and Missouri. After working for a few years, I felt compelled to continue my education. Searching for a program with an emphasis on children as competent individuals, community, and creativity, I found Boulder Journey School in Boulder, Colorado. I interned at Boulder Journey School for a year while earning my Master's in Early Childhood Education from CU Denver. After finishing my Master's in early August, I moved back to my roots in St. Louis and am excited about the upcoming school year, my first at The Soulard School!

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..

Evelyn Foster

### Infant Room

Some of you may know Evelyn better as "The Baby Whisperer", a name bestowed upon her because of her inexhaustible patience and infectious calm nature with the youngest members of our school. Evelyn has been with the school for 10 years and has seen many stages of growth beginning with one preschool room to now two buildings. Evelyn also has a granddaughter Kaithlyn, in Pre-K.

Sarah Macfarlane

### Quietude – Pre-K

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. Last spring I had the opportunity to become a member of the Quietude classroom and completely fell in love. The Soulard School's philosophy and environment 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 of young learners 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, which includes two dogs, two cats, and two ferrets.

Eleanor White

### Toddler Room

I am another St. Louis native, growing up just around the corner from the school, in Lafayette Square. I attended Bard College. Then, after a bit of work in daycare and early childhood, returned to school at the University of Wisconsin, where I received a Master's in Education Policy Studies. Returning to St. Louis, I again found myself working with young children, and went on to receive 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 third year with the Soulard School – I taught kindergarten for a year, and last year worked at the nursery part-time while caring for my (then newborn) son, Emmett. This year Emmett gets to join me at school!

# scenes from the first day...

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# who we are

Teresa Mulvihill

Principal

I joined this community as a mom 7 years ago when my daughter Maggie began at The Little School. She was there for two years before she began at the Soulard School in the founding kindergarten class, at which time I volunteered here teaching science classes. 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 4th grade this year, this is my 4th year as Principal, and we are so happy to be a part of this amazing community!

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 4th year at the school, so I hope that means I get one of the nice parking spots. 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.

Jason Schwartz

Thrive — 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> — 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>

As a life-long resident of the St. Louis metro area (Webster Groves) -- with a brief stint in Seattle notwithstanding -- I am honored to be included as a member of the select staff that is The Soulard School. I hope to prove myself as a valuable asset to this unique learning environment. My experience and education are as eclectic as the students and families with whom I will be working. I have completed over 200 hours of higher education, including a Communications Management degree from Southwest Missouri State, a comprehensive study of Psychology, Missouri state teaching certification, as well as having finished a large part of both a Masters degree in education, and state certification in gifted education. My entire teaching career was spent at Kennard Classical Jr. Academy, the gifted/accelerated magnet elementary school in the St. Louis Public School District, where I taught 5th, 1st, and 2nd grades. Prior to that, I nannied three teen-age boys for six years, performed almost every duty possible during several restaurant positions, and even moved furniture professionally. Interests beyond school include landscaping/gardening, writing, traveling, Cardinals baseball, and my two dogs, Rillo and Newton. Additionally, it is highly unlikely you will ever find a bigger St. Louis Blues hockey fan. Though it may seem cliché, today's children are tomorrow's leaders, and our future caretakers. As a society, we have a moral obligation and responsibility to them and to ourselves to guarantee that they have the best possible opportunity to succeed and flourish. I think being a teacher truly is the single most important job there is. I do not say that because I am one -- I am one because it is.

Nicole Post

Mosaic — 4th/5th Grade

I am proud to be returning to The Soulard School this year, as last year I enjoyed teaching third/fourth grade and I have the privilege of "looping" with those students. I acquired my BA at Webster University where I studied education and environmental science and my Masters of Arts in Teaching emphasis was Special Education. I will also be continuing in the role of Special Education Consultant, as I participate in a few graduate courses at Webster University. Beyond teaching fourth/fifth grade Mosaics, I am an avid gardener and enjoy cooking delicious vegetarian fare from my garden and the organic farm where I volunteer (Bellew's Creek Farm). My husband, Eric, and I live in Clifton Heights where we enjoy taking care of our two dogs, cat, and chickens (one of which was hatched and brooded by the Mosaics last year).

# who we are

## Kerri Fair

### Mum's — 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

This year I will be teaching third grade in the Mums room. This will be my third year at The Soulard School and my fourteenth year of teaching. Previously, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District, a classroom teacher for seven years 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 a reading specialist, I worked with struggling readers, but also trained elementary teachers in literacy education. 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 the preschool this year. It will be wonderful to have him in the same building. Our daughter, Audrey Rose, will continue to attend the Nursery. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of family and educators.

## Kerry Williams

### Subjunctive — Kindergarten

I graduated from Fontbonne University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, and an eagerness to begin teaching. With excitement leading the way and fresh knowledge backing me up, I landed my first teaching job in a Pre-Kindergarten classroom. For five months, my little explorers and I dove into a world of growing gardens, writing plays and building friendships. It was at this same project-based school where I then taught one year of kindergarten. Being driven by my students, I designed curriculum goals around the kindergarteners' interests and packed the year with discoveries on snails, abstract art, story-writing, boats and paper airplanes; just to name a few. It is my constant hunger for learning more, seeing more and being more that brought me to The Soulard School, which is a great match to her own personal and professional philosophy. This academic year, I will happily continue my work with kindergarten students here at The Soulard School. I hope to learn, explore and discover right alongside them.

Outside of the classroom I enjoy laughing with my family and friends, fall weather, children's literature and movie nights.

## Laura Pupillo

### Mum's — 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

This year I will be joining the Mums class as the second grade teacher. This will be my ninth year of teaching, but my first year as a second grade teacher. Previously, I was a preschool teacher for eight years and an assistant for two third grade teachers and a fourth grade teacher while I was completing my certification requirements. In May of this year, I completed my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education with a minor in Psychology at Missouri Baptist University.

In addition to graduating in May, I had my first child, Abigail. She has also joined the Soulard School family at the Nursery, where she will be attending during the day. Outside of school, I enjoy photography and hiking and dream of summiting new mountains. I am excited and eager to begin teaching in a school that is overwhelmingly supported by families and the community. I look forward to supporting your child's growth and hope to inspire new dreams and fascinations within your child!

## Sarah Christman

### Assistant Head of School

I found my way to The Little School almost 9 years ago and am grateful to continue to grow with the schools. As a Co-Founder of The Soulard School, I am delighted everyday to see all that we have become, together. 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 pass on my learning to students in the classroom. This experience also gave me the foundation to help develop The Soulard School's Studio Arts Program. I work closely with the Nursery and Pre-K classrooms as well as oversee events, fundraisers and general community outreach. 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.

## Diana Giattino

### Quietude Room — Pre-K

I am thrilled to be a part of the Soulard School community. I am a New Yorker from a large family of tap dancers which led me to teach dance to young children. While working for the family business, a dance studio on Long Island, I realized that teaching dance was not enough and that I wanted to work with young children on a daily basis exploring more than 'shuffle step.' I began my career as a Pre-Kindergarten teacher in Manhattan 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, trying to recreate my Mother's sauce recipes, practicing Bikram yoga, and being lazy in the beautiful parks of St. Louis.

## who we are

Brandy Hux  
Enigma – 1st Grade

I graduated from the University of Missouri St. Louis with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. This is my third year of teaching and my second year at The Soulard School. I am getting married this fall at a beautiful winery in Hillsboro. My fiancé and I are very excited! I am also excited to be a part of a community where parents are so involved with not just their child's education, but the school as a whole. My students and I will 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

In addition, we welcome

Ryan Edge,

Carrie Keasler

Studio Arts Instructors



Erin Warner

Performing Arts-Dance

Mary Waskow

Culinary Arts Instructor

My family joined the Soulard School community 5 years ago when our daughter, Paige, began kindergarten. Paige is now in 4th grade, and our son, James, is in 1st grade. 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.

*you oughta be in pictures ...*

- 1 Harry B. and Gabe L. revel in their victories at the Race for a Child
- 2 Lily K with her winning sculpture ... soon to be realized in full mosaic-ed glory (with your help!) in the garden
- 3 Shannon Chance and her dad, Tim, celebrate with Lyndsay M. at the Race for a Child
- 4 Helping the students learn more about each other during the first week of school, the Subjunctive class sits down to draw self portraits.
- 5 Laura & Kerri doing an interactive math lesson designed by Marilyn Burns, "What is the value of your name?" The students are assigning money value to the letters in their names.
- 6 Working in small groups with Diana, the Quietude class creates their self portraits with graphite pencils. They will build off of these as the year progresses.
- 7 Welcome to the new students and their families! Eris joins the Thrive Room.
- 8 Brandy and the Enigma Class discuss and build together the classroom expectations. #1 Be Respectful.
- 9 Eli Harris listens to his new teacher, Jason Schwartz, brief the students about what the year will hold.