

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

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

## from the head of school ...

We have successfully negotiated our transition first month of school. We look forward to eight months of growth in school-time, then three months of growth (and, hopefully, a bit more downtime) in summer-time. Then, less than one year from now, the process begins again. This cycle goes on and on, year after year, with no finish line. Yes; **life, learning and growth are all endless processes.** Children naturally love and thrive in this. Frequently, adults grow weary in it. "Mundane" and "monotonous" are terms that seem to be understood only with age. In fact, children relish hearing the same story or listening to the same book over and over again. Granted, children's learning process is quite different than that of adults. The nature of adulthood makes the learning process more difficult.

Children's process of learning through assimilation and accommodation is akin to the adult experience of metanoia. As children discover and make sense of their world, they reorganize their mental structures by relentlessly assimilating new information and then accommodating that by modifying their thinking patterns. The term "**metanoia**" means a shift of mind. Because children are constantly engaged in learning through a shift of mind, metanoia is a phenomenon reserved for adult thinking. To grasp the meaning of metanoia is to grasp the deeper meaning of learning, because **real learning involves a fundamental shift** or movement of the mind.

Real learning gets to the heart of what it means to be human. **Through learning we recreate ourselves.** Through learning, we become able to do something we were never able to do. Through learning, we re-perceive the world and our relationship to it. Through learning, we extend our capacity to create, to be part of the generative process of life.

At The Soulard School, **we are a learning organization** – an organization that is continually expanding its capacity to create its future. **Adaptive learning** (also known as survival) is important and necessary, but must be accompanied by **generative learning** – learning that enhances our capacity to

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Soulard Oktoberfest is **October 9–11** at Soulard Market Park! The Parents Association will **host the Beck's Beer booth** at Ninth and Lafayette streets. Oktoberfest is the **PA's biggest fundraiser** and this year we hope to raise **\$5,000**. That money will help the school cover programming and capital costs as well as fund social events like the Sock Hop. **Sign-up sheets** are located at the school's front entrance. Even if you picked a shift at the volunteer rally, please make sure to mark your name on the sheet. For more information, contact **Diane Keaggy** at [dkeaggy@keaggy.com](mailto:dkeaggy@keaggy.com) or 865-4878.

## grandparent coffee & cakes

We would like to **welcome Grandparents** on Monday, **October 12th** 9:00-10:00am, to honor their place in our community. After being buzzed in at the Victor entrance, Grandparents are welcome to go to their grandchild(ren)'s classroom from 9:00-9:20am for observation and a brief presentation. After that, similar to our Tuesday morning Parent Coffees, they will head down to the McGurk's Room for coffee, cakes and conversation.

Next week we will send home **official invitations**, each family will receive 2. Please let Sarah know if you need more and **R.S.V.P.** to her the number of grandparents attending. **Donations of baked goods** would be very appreciated, there will be a sign-up by the McGurk's door. Thanks in advance!



*Rafe and Reilly work together to create a treasure map at the easel*

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## events & information

### the president's address

The Mosaic and Thrive classes watched President Obama's live streamed speech to the nation's school children. In order to best personalize and **set into action his message** about personal **responsibility**, the students individually took notes as they listened and sought out the theme, or main idea. They then evaluated the speech in a small group, and used their notes to connect Obama's words to their specific academic experiences. After a whole-group discussion regarding the message within the speech, they created a presentation based on their information and conclusions.

Part of their school-wide presentation was geared toward encouraging their peers to **create personal goals** for their learning. The Thrive and Mosaic students were in the process of formulating their own goals, and some chose to share these later that week during the September 14th school assembly. Their **thorough analysis** and insightful choices in goal-setting **assisted their peers in understanding** the purpose of the speech and **inspired the process of developing goals**.

Here are some

#### goals developed by the Kindergarten

based on the Mosaic and Thrive presentation:

**Nicolas:** To learn more about how to use glue and use it more in class

**Mycah:** Learn 5 new yoga poses

**Daniel:** Practice calling class meeting

**Emily:** Do cheerleading and volleyball

**Isaac:** Learn how to knit



The Subjunctive class presents their goals at the September 14 assembly.



Jordan, Gabe, Luke & Everett figuring out a secret code in the book *Enigma* by Graeme Base. The Enigma Class read this book to better understand the name of our classroom and

ended up extending our learning by working in pairs to figure out the secret code.

### library corner

Welcome to the Library Corner! Each month, we will be **sharing news about the school library**, sending out occasional library requests, and talking about all manner of things bookish. This year we have another fantastic team of library helpers with great ideas and enthusiasm. Many thanks to everyone who signed up at the volunteer rally!

Each elementary classroom visits the library weekly, and the **books they check out will be coming home**. Please be sure your child brings their books back to school on their library day each week. If a library book gets lost or damaged beyond repair, we ask that you please replace it.

The **Book Fair** at Left Bank Books is fast approaching! This is a wonderful opportunity to support both our school and a cherished local bookstore, and we ask **all families to attend** sometime that weekend. Look for all the details in this month's newsletter (page 5).

In September, I had the pleasure of working with the Mosaic classroom as they put together their classroom library. Thinking about **how books can be organized** is fun and also mind-boggling. Do you organize them by color? By size? By language? By subject? Which subjects? I mean, if you think about it, isn't science in every subject? Should you follow the cosmic ordering principles of ancient Chinese libraries and organize them according to the rhyme of the titles? The options are endless. But in the end, the **students came up with a system that works well for them**, split into fiction and nonfiction, then webbing out from there. And they really got to know their books in the process. My personal favorite? The "Unusual" shelf, inspired by a Ripley's-Believe-it-or-Not-esque collection of odd-ball people that, quite fittingly, just didn't seem to fit anywhere else. Even Ms. Junie B. Jones makes an appearance here, making this "subject" a happy co-mingling of fact and fiction.

Word.

- Erin the Librarian

# events & information

## citygarden picnic

Join your Souldard School friends for a picnic at downtown's new sculpture park during the professional development day Friday, **October 9th** at 11AM. Feel free to come earlier or later and bring your own lunch or buy it at The Terrace View.



*we'll meet near Eros at the park's east end - Market & 8th St. @ 11AM*

another fun event brought to you by the PA Social Events Committee

## mosaic the snake

Sign up to help mosaic the Nikki-inspired serpent sculpture at CMAC!

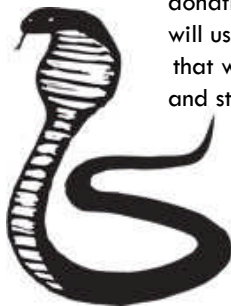
Lilly K's serpent sculpture - chosen by the students to be constructed and installed in the yard of the school - is coming to life! Sarah & Tim Bliss will be opening the CMAC Studio on **October 2nd** and **October 16th** from 5:30 - 7:30 so that school families can help bring this concrete sculpture to life! Feel free to bring a dish to share as we will have a potluck dinner while art-making. There are sign up sheets in the McGurk's Room by the door for each open studio event and time.

We would also 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.

Thank you also to the Taylor Family (Danielle, Allen, Bella and Jack) for donating \$250 to our Niki Project. We purchase materials sculpture last longer elements!



- Amy de la Hunt & the Social Events Committee



**All Souldard School Families get 15% off all the time.**

Just mention the school at check out to get your discount. Discount valid on regular priced items.

## spooky sock hop

Come in costume for a frighteningly good time at the Spooky Sock Hop on Friday, **October 30**, at the Souldard School. Bring a pot of chili or a side dish (cornbread, sour cream, grated cheese, etc.) for the potluck supper starting at 6 p.m. Entertainment includes a cookie decorating station, a dance contest and a sneak peek at the Niki-esque outdoor sculpture -- and everyone will have an opportunity to help mosaic the cobra's head that evening. The Parent Association's Social Events committee is seeking volunteers to help with decorating, kitchen duty and cleanup (signup sheets will be posted on the McGurk's room bulletin board, or you can e-mail [amy@delahunt.net](mailto:amy@delahunt.net)). There will also be a special pumpkin carving session after school during the last week of October. Watch the weekly newsletter for details!



## first tuesday coffee

Please join us at the first monthly coffee, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. **October 6th** in the McGurk's Room. Hosted this month by the Parents Association, the coffee is a great way to meet new families, catch up with old friends and consume large amounts of fat, sugar and caffeine! In an effort to eliminate Styrofoam from our school, we are asking families to donate any coffee mugs they may have sitting at home unused. We'll store them at the school for future use. For more information, contact Diane Keaggy at [dkeaggy@gmail.com](mailto:dkeaggy@gmail.com).



# events & information

## annual giving update

Annual Giving is starting to ramp up. The committee has been formed and consists of Kelly Bock, Erin Scallions, Erika Leslie & Jodi Shepherd-Broussard.

As mentioned during the Volunteer Rally, **100% of the School Board has pledged** to donate to Annual Giving.

While this is a wonderful verbal commitment, we cannot stress enough **how important it is for every family** to follow through and support the Soulard School Family. Regardless of the amount you donate, the commitment that you make to the school by donating, along with completing the referral cards, goes far beyond our monetary goals. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact Kelly or Erin.

We want to give a special thanks to the following fourteen families for **turning in their pledge cards** already!

Bock  
Buettner  
Burmeister/Kryah  
Corey  
Fair  
Goodwin  
Jarvis/Bohne  
Leslie  
Mothershead/Jones  
Nemens/Cortazzo  
Pendergast/Garvey  
Scallions  
Sherman/King  
Waskow

Pier & Michael Alsup (Board member)

So far, 30 families have **turned in referral cards**. This represents another big step towards achieving our goals. The larger we can make our distribution list, the higher chance we have in meeting our Annual Giving goal.

Annual Giving **ends 12/31/09**. Additional referral cards, as well as pledge cards, can be found in the McGurks' Room near the entrance door.



*Indya & Cozette enjoy the new sand & shade (and just being silly!). Thanks Landscape Crew!*



## landscape committee

### Keeping Soulard Looking Good

Thanks to a dedicated crew, the Soulard grounds stayed trim and in bloom this summer. We are certainly helping the goldfinch population with all the sunflower seeds our garden produces. The culinary beds are still flourishing with herbs and fresh veggies. And **the fish survived** another year of poking and prodding by the kids. I think we have a state record on a couple of forgotten sweet potatoes. Check them out next time you're at school! A special shout out goes to Willie Wilson, Katie Mack, Angela Cooper, and Amy Corey for your reliable hard work this summer. Also, a big thanks to Jim Mothershead (Grandpa Jim) for purchasing the new bench in our garden!

**Gateway Greening** has been a big supporter of our garden and this year awarded us the sand box improvements, planter boxes, and extra hoses. With Gateway Greening workers Jean and Jake, and assistance from Jay Gibbs, Katie Mack, and Lenny Jones, we installed some needed shade and loaded a **ton of sand** for the kids to play in (and track around school). We also **built the new planters** next to the arbor to ensure success with vines next spring. The landscape committee has big plans for this Fall. Please join us on our next workday **October 17** at 10 a.m. Even if you did not sign-up for this committee, **WE STILL WANT YOUR HELP!** If you have questions contact me at [lennykristine@yahoo.com](mailto:lennykristine@yahoo.com).

- Kristine Mothershead

## yard sale

Danielle Reamey and Heath Harris are organizing a **yard sale** to raise funds for the school. It will be held **October 24th** in the **driveway** of the school. If you have items you would like to **donate** please bring them by Friday October 23 after 3:30pm to the McGurk's room. They are also looking for help in pricing and selling on the day of. You will hear more from them soon.

## events & information

### congratulations to Matt!

The RFT named our very own Strings Instructor, Matt King, and his band, Trigger 5, Best Country Band (Traditional). Here's what they said:

"Heartbreak and Regret, concept album about the two sides to every "sorry story." The jokes mostly stop there, however, and the sound of seriously swinging, smooth shuffling and sometimes playful, sometimes poignant, always hard country songwriting takes over. Mike Heeter and Amy James share the vocal spotlight, but **it's the band that burns brightest**, with slap-bass, understated drumming and a triple-threat string attack of pedal steel, **fiddle** and unassailably twangy electric guitar."

Their cd is available on iTunes! Congratulations Matt!



### congratulations to Brandy!



to Brandy Hux, our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade/Enigma teacher, who will be marrying Chris Wheeler this Saturday. We wish them a fabulous wedding and beginning to a wonderful marriage!

### nursery wish list

At the Nursery, we are trying to **build up two collections** - a greater variety of outdoor toys and a pile o' dress-ups. We need your help - **do you have** any of the following lying around your house?

#### Outdoor toys

- Ride-on toys suitable for toddlers and two-year-olds
- Other outside equipment, such as basketball hoops, see-saws, etc.  
(We don't need any more slides or sandboxes, however.)
- Other items that might be fun outside, such as chalk, bubbles, balls, sand/water toys

#### Dress-ups

(in grown-up sizes, or "big kid" sizes)

- "Fancy" dresses (short)
- Skirts (esp. with elastic waist)
  - Vests
  - Suit coats
  - Hats
  - Shoes
- Uniform/career clothes (scrubs, lab coats, etc.)
- Halloween costumes (toddler/2-year-old sizes)
- Other costume items - fairy wings, masks, fancy necklaces or ties, etc.

Please bring all items to the Nursery (13th Street & Ann). Thanks!

- Eleanor and Lara

### book fair

Saturday, **November 14th**, 10AM-6PM

Sunday, **November 15th**, 11AM-6PM



#### SPREAD THE WORD!

Left Bank Books is hosting a Book Fair in support of The Soulard School on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14th and 15th.

20% of all designated purchases will be donated as store credit to acquire books for the school library and classrooms. Last year's Book Fair raised almost \$2,000 and collected over 50 book donations.

The Book Fair is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about the school. We will have an **information table** set up to answer questions about the school, and a wrap station to offer **free giftwrapping** for customers (with a donation jar at the table). Students are encouraged to help out at the wrap station.

**Storytime** for the kids is at 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM on both days, and there will be plenty of reading suggestions and school wish-lists to peruse.

If you are interested in **volunteering** for the book fair as a parent representative, a giftwrapper, or a storyteller, please contact Erin Quick at [erin.eq@gmail.com](mailto:erin.eq@gmail.com).

**Order forms will be sent home** in mid-Oct. for families to pre-order books they would like to purchase at the book fair.

**Tell your friends and family** to get some of their holiday shopping done and support our school at the same time!

## events & information

### School pictures are online!

To see your child's photos, go to [www.nordmannphoto.com](http://www.nordmannphoto.com). Click on "view your photos" and enter the password "Soulard". Remember, DO NOT order your photos online. Call John @ Nordmann (783.0300) and let him know the image number of the picture (or pictures – depending on the package you purchased) you would like.



NORDMANN  
PHOTOGRAPHY

### october art experiences

#### Every Sunday at the St. Louis Art Museum

<http://saintlouis.art.museum> /Autumn Arts

The air is getting cooler, leaves are changing colors, squirrels are hiding acorns, and the Museum is ready to celebrate the season with a month of fall art activities. Every Sunday in October, you and your family can see and make artworks using beautiful fall colors, explore autumn landscape paintings, and picture some of the creatures associated with the season.

#### October 25: Hayride Tours of Art in Forest Park

Bundle up and hop on a hayride wagon for an autumn tour of sculpture in the park. Museum tour guides will point out the sculptures and tell some fun facts along the way. Rides will last approximately 30 minutes. They are free and open to families with children 4 to 12 (no strollers). Space is limited; ride tickets will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event and will be available at the Family Programs tables beginning at 12:00 pm. No more than five people per family.

#### Chess & Art - Two opportunities to learn about

artist Marcel Duchamp, who left the art world to begin a career in chess and the 2009 U.S. Women's Chess Championship held in St. Louis this year. Both venues are offering these events in conjunction with the St. Louis Chess Club.

Saturday October 3 2-6pm @ the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis [www.contemporarystl.org](http://www.contemporarystl.org)

Wednesday October 14 6-8pm @ The Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum [kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu](http://kemperartmuseum.wustl.edu)

#### Saturday, October 31, 1:00-4:00PM @ The Contemporary

Come down to the Contemporary to enjoy hands-on art activities while exploring the exhibition *For the blind man in the dark room looking for the black cat that isn't there*. The afternoon will be filled with fun opportunities for families to create art together while learning about contemporary art. Activities include face painting, decorating black cat masks, and more. Children are welcome to come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Every child in costume will be entered in a raffle to receive a special prize!

### from the head of school ...

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... create. For children, generative learning is instinctual. Over the course of a lifetime, throughout different life stages, motivation and purpose affect learning capacity. Generative learning, which frequently diminishes in life stages after early childhood, brings a new capacity for directing the course of action in one's own life and the lives of others in middle adulthood. Viewed in this way, it is easy to see the connection between the motivation of parents with preschool / elementary age students and the impetus for the development and support of The Soulard School.

Fortunately, **your efforts in supporting the school equally support your child(ren).**

One such effort - getting back into the routine of school - can take some time. But as we roll into October, on time arrival, homework, violin practice and other school related responsibilities should be well established parts of daily life again for you and your child(ren). While adjusting or re-adjusting may be a challenging process in the first month, our 102 self-assured, happy students (and 4 babies) remind us that the process can also be exciting and joyful.

- Kelly

NORDMANN  
PHOTOGRAPHY

### Soulard Family Days 2009

In our outdoor studio garden.  
October 17 & 18th • Appointments Required  
\$25 Session

7714 big bend • st. louis, mo • 63119 • (314) 783-0300  
[www.nordmannphoto.com](http://www.nordmannphoto.com)

# 2009/10 calendar

Don't Forget ... School will be **closed** Friday,  
**October 9th** for Professional Development.  
 Join your friends for a picnic @ Citygarden instead!

## OCTOBER 2009

* 2	F	5 :30 – 7 :30 PM	Mosaic the Snake @ CMAC (3816 S. Broadway)
6	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee – hosted by the Parent Assoc.
<b>9</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – Professional Development Day</b>
* 9	F	11:00 AM	Citygarden Picnic sponsored by Social Events Cmte.
9-11	F-SU	(various shifts)	Oktoberfest
10	SA	5:30 – 10:30 PM	PNO – Parents Night Out
12	M	9 :00 – 10 :00 AM	Grandparent Coffee & Cakes
* 16	F	5 :30 – 7 :30 PM	Mosaic the Snake @ CMAC (3816 S. Broadway)
* 17	SA	10:00 AM	Landscape Committee Workday
17-18	SA-SU		Family Picture Day @ Nordmann Photo
* 24	SA	tba	Yard Sale to benefit the school
* 26	M	2:30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
27	TU	6 :30 PM	Parent Association Mtg.
30	F	6:00 PM	Spooky Sock Hop

## NOVEMBER

2	M		Annual Giving Kick-Off
3	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
7	SA	5:30 – 10:30 PM	PNO – Parents Night Out
<b>13</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – Records Day</b>
14-15	SA-SU		Book Fair @ Left Bank Books
16	M		Parent Association Meeting – OPEN
20	F		Feast of Thanks
20	F		End of First Trimester
* 23	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
23-25	M-W		Parent/Teacher Conferences
<b>26-27</b>	<b>TH-F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – Thanksgiving</b>

## DECEMBER

1	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
5	SA	5:30 – 10:30 PM	PNO – Parents Night Out
* 14	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
18	F		Holiday Strings Concert
<b>21-Jan 1</b>	<b>M-F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>Winter Break Victor Campus – Closed</b>
<b>23-25</b>	<b>W-F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>Winter Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed</b>
31	TH		Annual Giving Campaign ends
<b>30-Jan1</b>	<b>W-F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>Winter Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed</b>

## JANUARY 2010

5	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
6	W		Open House Work Night
9	SA	5:30 – 10:30 PM	PNO – Parents Night Out
13	W		State of the School
<b>15</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – Professional Development Day</b>
16	SA		Trivia Night
<b>18</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
19	TU		Open House Work Night
23	SA		Open House
* 25	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

## FEBRUARY

2	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
13	SA	(various shifts)	Mardi Gras
<b>15</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – President's Day</b>
* 22	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
<b>26</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>	<b>School Closed – Records Day</b>

# 2009/10 calendar

## MARCH 2010

2	TU	8:30 AM
9-11	TU-TH	
12	F	
15-19	M-F	all day
17-19	W-F	all day
* 29	M	2 :30 PM

+

First Tuesday Coffee  
 Parent /Teacher Conferences  
 End of Second Trimester  
**Spring Break Victor Campus – Closed**  
**Spring Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed**  
 Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

## APRIL

tba		
2	F	all day
6	TU	8:30 AM
22	TH	
26	M	2 :30 PM

Parent Association Elections  
**School Closed – Professional Development Day**  
 First Tuesday Coffee  
 Teaching Peace Parade  
 Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

## MAY

tba		
4	TU	8:30 AM
14	F	all day
20	TH	
24	M	2 :30 PM

Soulard Soiree  
 First Tuesday Coffee  
**School Closed – Records Day**  
 Student Art Show & Strings Assembly  
 Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

\* event added/changed this month

+ mandatory attendance

## a first for culinary arts!

Last week we had a Culinary Arts first. While looking through cookbooks to plan their meal for the following week, the chefs felt that what they were looking for was not to be found. Their next step became the Culinary Arts First: an **original menu planned by Isabel, Paige and Maxine**. "All three of us really like pasta so we just decided to make up our own recipe," explains Isabel. "We kind of thought from all the meals we have made and **we kind of know alot** about spices and ingredients, you can just kind of figure out what needs to go in there," added Paige. They didn't stop at the pasta, the chefs went on to try adding cinnamon to their apple, pineapple and grape salad. The three agreed that adding the cinnamon to apples was a good fit but the grapes and pineapple were a chance. In the end, **fellow students were complimenting the chefs** on their meal. Chef Maxine remembers, "People commented on us. They said, 'Maxine your food is great!' and 'You need to teach us how to make cinnamon on those apples.'" **Nutrition and meal planning classes** lead by Culinary Arts Instructor, Mary Waskow, **set the foundation** for the students to explore their understanding of food and cooking. She opened the door for this Culinary Arts First and the chef's opened a door for their peers.

### MENU

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mozzarella, Basil and Tomato Sauce  
 with Bow Tie Pasta  
 Fruit Salad  
 Steamed Broccoli and Carrots



Paige, Maxine & Isabel are happy to describe how they came up with their original menu – a Culinary Arts first.

### 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.