

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

December, 2009
www.soulardschool.org

from the assistant head of school ...

The school recently held a **Middle School Forum** and assembled a panel of experts to **help parents make informed decisions** as they prepare to transition their children into middle school. The panel included **John Vatterott**, founder of Access Academy, **Tom Nolan**, Executive Director of Access Academy, and **Heather Hageman**, a Little School Alumna who shared insight and perspective on her daughter's recent middle school transition. The discussion was lead by parent, **Patsy King** (Isabel, Mosaic and Kate, Enigma) and parents in attendance had an opportunity to ask questions about the process,

- What are my middle school options?
- What should I ask the middle school?
- What should I be asking of our school?

How will this emotionally affect my child (friendships, socially)? These questions were not just answered; they were discussed. Parents and Soulard School Administration listened to the experts and to each other.

This night was what we hope will be **the first of many Roundtable Discussions**, giving members of our community the opportunity to support, listen and participate in thought provoking conversation. The **roots of our school began this way**; this was just the first time we literally sat around a table. Reflecting on our organic process, Post Dispatch writer **Bill McCellan** in 2005 likened it to the distant past,

"Imagine what it was like around here 200 years ago. What did people do for schools? Probably nothing until a critical mass was reached. I like to think that people would have met at a local public house to discuss the idea and start making plans."

Our first roundtable was in a pub, then we moved to the tiny tables of The Little School to build a Parent Association and monthly newsletter. Now, we continue to organize **electronic roundtables on our website** by offering blogs. These conversations have been organized and/or led by administration, staff and parents equally. Through matching partners for education, social critic and educator **Ivan Illich** proposes, *"The most radical alternative to school would be a network or service which gave each individual the same opportunity to share their current concern with others motivated by the same concern."*

At the Volunteer Rally, a handful of parents filled out a **survey of roundtable discussions ideas**. Their responses included:

- ★ raising a spirited child;
- ★ book discussions based on parenting, nutrition, discipline, pop culture, moral intelligence; and
- ★ bring us back to the pub to study brewing beer.

By leading or attending, **you are actively participating in our philosophy** and creating the climate of our culture and environment.

- Sarah Christman



Design Studio with Subjunctives: a finished butterfly fish by Isaac. See page 4 for more details.

pre-k vacation care

The school will be offering Vacation Care for Pre-K children of families with **two working parents** or **single parent** households that do not have time off over the Winter Break.

Monday, December 21 - Tuesday, December 22
Monday, December 28 - Tuesday, December 29

What you need to know:

To attend, you **must reserve space** for your child by **December 9th** and include **payment in full**. After that time, staffing will be set and space will be limited. We are offering **space for 8-10 children per day** and priority is given to students' regular schedule.

Cost: \$35 per day

Hours of Operation: 8:00am-5:00pm

Please **bring snacks for morning & afternoon** (if your child stays past 4:00pm)
Please **bring a brown bag lunch**.

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events & information

byline ... acadia broussard, thrive



Every Monday afternoon, just before students of The Soulard School head home, Kelly Bock, founding head of the school, addresses them on topics integral to the philosophy of the school.

She explains the school's philosophy, respect ("Look smart! Sit proper!") and recent or upcoming school events. She also discusses responsibilities, reflecting, gratitude and empathy, philanthropy and the concept that **being treated fairly is not equal to being treated the same.**

In an assembly on fairness, Kelly demonstrated her point with student Colin F, a preschooler. Using several containers, Kelly explained to him that each contained three cups of water. She then poured the water into different containers with various heights and thicknesses, leaving each three cups full. Each time she poured she would ask him which had the most water in it, and each time Colin answered with the tallest. The older children knew that all were equal.

She then showed a picture to the gathered students and asked them to raise their hands if they saw a young woman. Lyndsay M is one of many who raised their hands. Then Kelly asked the students to raise their hands if they saw an old woman. Eris F and others raised their hands. The truth is, both were hidden in the same picture.

This was Kelly's way of demonstrating that **everyone is different, and therefore thinks differently.** Sasha M, a fifth grader in the Thrive room, said that she "liked the way Kelly used a visual aid. It made her point easier to understand."

Following the demonstration, Kelly explained that everyone needs to be treated according to their own needs, and although that doesn't always mean the same, **students are always treated fairly, and that is the important thing.**

open house

The annual Soulard School Open House will be Saturday, **January 23** from 1-4 p.m. This is our opportunity to share our school with the larger community. Parents and students act as ambassadors to show guests around and answer questions. Please **plan to be available to help** with the event that day and/or to prepare for the event on our work nights. There are many ways to be a part of this event, from bringing in snacks to cleaning, so keep an eye out for sign-up sheets and more information.

Work Nights: **Wednesday, January 6**
& Thursday, January 21



new time!



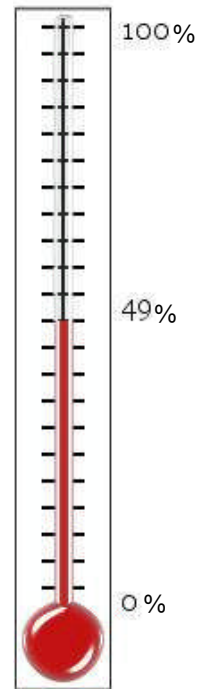
winter concert

Students have been working hard to prepare for this year's Winter Concert which will be held on Friday, **December 18** beginning at **6:30 p.m.** All students will perform, including pre-k. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Grandparents, extended families or friends are invited to attend. We recommend **4 guests per student** (besides parents), but we don't want to leave anyone out, so please follow the instructions for **RSVP** (in today's Weekly Update) to give us an idea of how many people will be in attendance. The concert location will be announced shortly.

annual giving update

Annual Giving Ending Soon -LET'S SEE 100%

Our Annual Giving drive will be wrapping up on at the end of the month on the **31st of December.** We want to thank **49%** of the school (listed below) for donating/pledging but are still hoping to reach our goal of 100% Family Participation. If you've been looking for a pledge form you can find one in the McGurks room near the exit door. To donate, simply fill out the form and place it in Kelly's inbox. Voilà - Your commitment to the school has now been pledged. If you have any questions regarding Annual Giving, please contact Kelly Bock. She will also be able to give you information on last year's campaign, such as where the funds were placed and the plans for this year's campaign. Whatever contribution you make will **allow The Soulard School to continue to offer sliding-scale tuition and additional expanded programs.** Best of all, your pledge shows a commitment that goes beyond monetary donations received - **It shows a commitment to the future** of The Soulard School.



- Erin Scallions (Gwyneth- Chrysanthemum)

Blasingame/Smith	Gibbs	Miller
Bliss	Goodwin	Mothershead/Jones
Bock	Holt	Nea
Buettner	Jarvis/Bohne	Nemens
Burmeister	Koester	Panzeri
Caramane	Lenzen	Quick/Harris
Cooper	Leonard	Scallions
Corey	Leslie	Sharpe/Schmitz
DeLaHunt	Mack/Hartzler	Sherman/King
Fair	Marshall, Julie	Tabscott
Garvey/Pendergast	McGrath/Chance	Waskow
		White

events & information

Litzinger Road Ecology Center

This fall, the **Thrive and Mosaic classes** visited the Litzinger Road Ecology Center, “an outdoor laboratory for ecological education, research and restoration in the heart of metropolitan St. Louis.” The trip was part of an exercise in observing and recording data in nature.

“This unit of study is a good example of place-based education: a framework that ‘encourages teachers and students to use the schoolyard, community, public lands, and other special places as resources, turning communities into classrooms.’”

<http://www.litzinger.org/200911.pdf>

from the LREC Newsletter

Last spring, I had the privilege of partaking in a midday meal at the Soulard School. In addition to planning the meal, helping to prepare the food, and serving and cleaning up afterward, students of various ages and grade levels engaged me in a most interesting conversation about the community life of the school. I felt I was dining in the home of old friends. Not only does the Soulard School turn its community into a classroom, it turns its classrooms into a community. ☺



subjunctive's design studio



During Studio, the Subjunctive class has been creating aboriginal inspired interpretations of the ocean animals they are studying. They used their knowledge of color mixing and line families to design their

uniquely patterned and colorful creatures. In the photos you can see how the project progressed over the last month.

Noah and Atticus focus intently on their creations.

Parker cutting out his hand drawn crab with a design penciled in.

Myciah filling in the design on his sea turtle with hand mixed paints.

password-protected parent area @soulardschool.org

Beginning in late January we will unveil the password protected area of our website. Prior to the release each family will receive a user name and password. Enhanced features included in this area will be:

- Blog Areas
- Classroom Newsletters
- Classroom Information
- Photos and more!

We will provide information & specifics with your user name and password notification. Support will be provided if you have specific questions or any technical difficulties. Look for more communication from us in January!

- The Communications Committee- Rhonda Holt, Heath Harris & Sarah Christman

events & information

library corner

The book fair last month was a wonderfully busy weekend! We raised almost **\$1,600** in book credit for the school, \$50 in raffle money for library supplies, and collected well over 60 book donations for classrooms and the library. Congrats to Bill Keaggy, one of the three raffle winners, who scored a copy of *Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl and two movie passes to see the film at The Chase cinema! Many thanks to Left Bank Books for their continued support of our school. And thank you to everyone who came out to the book fair and made it such a great success.

The Library Corner is now featured on the school's website! You can find the link in our "About the Soulard School" section. I will be posting to it a few times each month, so check it out regularly for library news, book recommendations, and other reading delights.

St. Louis's literary happenings are abundant, StudioSTL being one of its many gems. In case you haven't come across them yet, they are a literary arts center for students (and sometimes adults, too!). Their mission? To help youth ages 6 to 18 discover, develop, and celebrate their individual voices through writing. Here, here! Among their many programs, they host Saturdays at the Studio, a series of spot-on writing workshops led by creative types from a variety of professions - all for FREE! If you are interested in signing your kiddo(s) up for either of the December workshops, please call or email StudioSTL (314-289-4080, info@studiostl.org) to register in advance. We would love to have the students bring their experiences back to share with their classrooms as well, and possibly display their stories/writings in the library. Note that the age ranges for the workshops are somewhat flexible. If you have a student who is just under or over the age range but you feel they would really enjoy and do well at the workshop, sign 'em up.

Word. Erin the Librarian

STUDIOSTL | URBAN ALCHEMY: ART INTO WORDS Saturday, December 12

12pm - 2pm @ Pulitzer Foundation For the Arts
Amy Broadway, Pulitzer; John Pankey, Architect
Ages 14 to 18

What were they thinking? Ever wonder how critics criticize? How do writers look at art and put abstract concepts into words? How do writers describe art while respecting the artist? How do writers deal with abstract concepts that seem to defy description? StudioSTL writers will take a stab at all of these questions and more with an incredible personal tour of the Gordon Matta-Clark exhibit on urban landscapes. We'll jot notes, chat, and pen our personal reactions to the most important question of all: What do WE think?



The second grade Mums use their measurement skills to measure the size of the keelboat, Lewis' and Clark's boat, 55-feet long, 8-feet wide.

trivia night

Trivia Night!

When: Saturday, Jan. 16

(doors open at 6 p.m. questions start 7 p.m.)

Where: Mad Art Gallery, 2727 S. 12th Street

How much: \$250 for a table of ten

More info: Contact Sarah Christman,
sarah.christman@soulardschool.org

Are you smarter than a Soulard School student? Find out at the annual Trivia Night, one of the year's best parties. We are working on some very fun and exciting categories and not one of them will demand knowledge of advanced calculus or obtuse historical dates. Beer and wine are included and pizzas from Joanie's may be pre-ordered. Feel free to bring your own snacks. First prize is a party for 20 at our favorite restaurant, McGurk's. Second prize is \$125. We are working on some very fun and exciting categories.

STUDIOSTL | SUPERHERO SNAPSHOTS

Saturday, December 5

10am - 12pm @ StudioSTL

Jeff Weigel, Cartoonist & Superhero Master

Ages 6 to 10

Look! Up in the SKY! It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a ??? ! Join us to

craft your very own superhero complete with awe-inspiring powers. Jeff will draw and show our youngest writers what it takes to pack a punch with super characters. Then, we'll make a deck of SUPERHERO! trading cards to share our best word powers!

2009 feast of thanks



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.

2009/10 calendar

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	*6:30	Winter Concert
21-Jan 1	M-F	all day	Winter Break Victor Campus – Closed
23-25	W-F	all day	Winter Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed
31	TH		Annual Giving Campaign ends
30-Jan1	W-F	all day	Winter Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed

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
15	F	all day	School Closed – Professional Development Day
16	SA	*6:00 PM	Trivia Night
18	M	all day	School Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
*21	TH		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
15	M	all day	School Closed – President's Day
22	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
26	F	all day	School Closed – Records Day

MARCH 2010

2	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
9-11	TU-TH		Parent /Teacher Conferences
12	F		End of Second Trimester
15-19	M-F	all day	Spring Break Victor Campus – Closed
17-19	W-F	all day	Spring Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed
29	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

APRIL

tba			Parent Association Elections
2	F	all day	School Closed – Professional Development Day
6	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
22	TH		Teaching Peace Parade
26	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

MAY

tba			Soulard Soiree
4	TU	8:30 AM	First Tuesday Coffee
14	F	all day	School Closed – Records Day
20	TH		Student Art Show & Strings Assembly
24	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

* event added/changed this month + mandatory attendance

culinary arts

black bean dip

We have used it a couple of different times this year: as a dip with tortilla chips and veggies, as well as the filling for some yummy quesadillas.

- 1 medium red onion
 - 2 (16oz) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
 - 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
 - 1 tbsp fresh lime juice
 - 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
 - 1 garlic clove, peeled
 - 1 tsp cumin
- In a food processor, puree all ingredients. Serve with tortilla chips and vegetables.