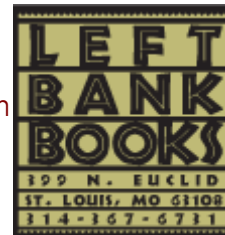


# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

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

## BOOK FAIR

Saturday  
November 14<sup>th</sup>  
10AM-6PM



Sunday  
November 15<sup>th</sup>  
11AM-6PM

### SPREAD THE WORD!

Left Bank Books is hosting a Book Fair in support of The Soulard School on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, at their Central West End location.

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.

Be sure to check out the Librarian's Book Fair Pick, *The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo. Left Bank Books will be giving away a free print signed by the author with the purchase of this book, while supplies last.

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).

Thank you to all the families who turned in their book order forms! All books will be available for pick-up 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!

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Lily K & Elijah L further their study of ecology with a site analysis at The Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in Ladue.

### from the head of school ...

As we head into November, we head into the holiday season. 'The holidays' conjure up a wide array of feelings ranging from excitement to dread. This usually is closely linked to each individual's feelings about large groups, preparation, child-care, travel, and in-laws. And while 'the holidays' may include celebration, the term 'celebration' does not include the negative association that can accompany the holidays. Fortunately, the (holiday)

Season of Thanks always precedes the (holiday) 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. Melody Beattie says:

*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.*

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

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# events & information

## library corner



The library is in full circulation, with stacks of books each week to prove it. I hope you have been enjoying your children's library books with them. Thank you for helping them to return their books each week on their library day. And thank you to all of our library helpers keeping those shelves organized and full of books.

Starting Monday, November 9th, the school's [website will include the Library Corner!](#) You will find the link in our "About the School" section. Check it out regularly for library news, book recommendations, and other reading delights.

The [Book Fair](#) at Left Bank Books is next weekend. This is one of the main ways we develop our library and classroom collections, and we [ask all families to attend](#) sometime that weekend. Look for all the details on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of this month's newsletter.

Occasionally, the Library Corner will feature a book too good not to share. This month's selection is also my [Librarian Book Fair Pick](#), Kate DiCamillo's highly awaited new novel *The Magician's Elephant*, beautifully illustrated by Yoko Tanaka. This winter tale, set in the city of Baltese in the 19th century, tells the story of a young orphan named Peter who cannot resist the impossible words of a fortuneteller in the marketplace. And when a magician's magic goes terribly wrong, the fortuneteller's nonsense begins to make sense, sending Peter out into the cold world to find the sister he has lost. DiCamillo brings the timeless themes of hope and faith to her magical prose, giving us a fairy tale that is familiar enough to bring comfort, and fresh enough to bring joy. While geared toward children ages 8-13, it will certainly be enjoyed by folks as young as 4 and as old as they come. Pick this book up at the Book Fair next weekend, and you will receive a [free print signed by the author](#) (while supplies last, of course).

*"You said you could not understand her."  
"I understand how to open a door," said Sister Marie gently.*

- Erin the Librarian

Word.

THANK YOU!

to all the parents who poured beer @  
**Oktoberfest** and sold castoffs (and  
treats – thanks, Thrivers!) at the **Yard**  
**Sale**. Together, they raised over  
**\$5500.**

These are dedicated funds for the teachers to  
choose extra supplies for their classes, and to  
let the PA do all its good PA work.

FUNraising ... **Schnucks** eScrip

Schnucks eScrip Community Card Program, an effortless way to raise money for our school. Every time you use your Schnucks Community Card, The Soulard School will receive up to 3% of your purchase. We challenge everyone to try and get 5 of your nearest and dearest friends and family to pick up a card and activate it for The Soulard School.

Cards are going home **November 12** or please see Sarah Christman or Katie Mack for extra cards. If you already have a card **DON'T FORGET TO SHOW YOUR CARDS WHEN YOU MAKE A PURCHASE!**



To further their studies of ecosystems, the Thrive and Mosaic classes enjoyed a beautiful autumn day at The Litzinger Road Ecology Center in Ladue. Groups of students analyzed a site of their choosing, comparing and contrasting biotic and abiotic elements contained within those sites. Then, they compared their sites with other groups', and formulated conclusions. The classes will attend two more trips to the LREC this winter and spring, to extend their comparisons across seasons.



## events & information

... continued from page 1

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.

At The Soulard School we focus on celebrations rather than holidays. So, as folks all around us head into the holidays, we come together at our Annual Feast of Thanks to celebrate, with gratitude, the many, many people who make our school possible. In our first year, 40 people attended the Feast. Last year, we outgrew our humble beginnings with nearly 350 people in attendance. It was a little crowded; we could have used a little more food; and finding a bigger venue was a challenge – but of all the unique elements of our school – The Feast remains a favorite. So, mark your calendar (November 20th); take the day off; bring a dish; and come celebrate.

- Kelly

### MIDDLE SCHOOL FORUM

On Wednesday, **November 18**, parents & guardians are invited to join Tom Nolan and John Vatterott, Executive Director and Founder of Access Academies, respectively, for the first Soulard School Middle School Forum -- an introductory meeting to open the dialogue about middle school. Come with your questions, or if you aren't yet sure which questions you should be asking. The Forum will begin at 6:30 PM, following an abbreviated Open PA Meeting which begins at 6PM.

### note:

The administration is working with the Health Department to be able to make the H1N1 vaccine available to students. Watch for more information coming home soon.

### 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.

For more information about the School Age Child Care, contact Cheryl Roe or Susan Asmus at (314) 644-3100. Registration forms are available at the South City YMCA Service Center or you can request to have one emailed directly to you.

#### 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

### parent-teacher conferences

Parent Conferences are scheduled for Monday, **November 23** through Wednesday, **November 25**. This year we are implementing a new format which will create the opportunity for a collaborative conversation with clear goals and strategies for supporting your child in her/his learning. Based on input from parents, teachers and administrators, we have revised the report form so that it is clearer and more concise.

Please arrive by your scheduled time. We have allotted time for you to read the report and fill out a form. Specific instructions will accompany the Administrative Weekly Update on November 20.

Remember! The #1 factor in how well children do in school is parental involvement. Thank you for your cooperation!

## events & information

### feast of thanks

The Feast of Thanks is fast approaching. This is a time for us to recognize and thank everyone who has supported the school. The

Feast will be held on Friday, **November 20**. This year's feast will look slightly different than previous years in the following ways:

🍁 With so many people to thank, we have had to relocate the Feast from last year's location. Details on the new venue will be sent home soon. The meal will be served at 12:00 pm.

🍁 Invitations will be coming home soon. Due to space, we are limiting the Feast to immediate families. We are also sending personal invitations to special guests. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly or Sarah.

🍁 On the day of the Feast, please pick up your children from school by 11:30 to drive them to the event. If you are unable to attend, please ask an extended family member to escort your children to the event. This allows us to properly thank and show appreciation to our teachers as well.

🍁 We ask each family to provide a dish (or more depending on the number of children). Look for an email from Sarah Christman explaining what to bring.

🍁 The Feast will end after 2:00 pm. Therefore, all parents are welcome to take their children home after the festivities. If your child will be returning to school, please let teachers know asap.



### spooky sock hop ... recap

We had an excellent turnout at the costume party on Oct. 30! Thanks to the letup in the rain, the kids were able to run around and do the **dance contest** outside. When they got cold, there were more than a **dozen kinds of chili** inside, along with punch and cookies and tattoos and more. The centerpiece of the outdoor scene was the **cobra's head mosaic** project -- Tim and Sarah Bliss brought over the final piece of the outdoor sculpture that will be installed in the schoolyard, and many students took a turn at the mosaic.

The Social Events committee extends special thanks to them for putting that activity together, as well as to McGurk's for the adult beverages, to John Holt for supplying the sound equipment, and to everyone else who helped with entertainment, setup and cleanup.

### Fitz's field trip ... upcoming

Come see how Fitz's makes its famous rootbeer during a **free tour** on Friday, **November 13** (the school's next professional development day). We'll hear a presentation about the history of root beer and Fitz's operation, then have an

opportunity to **watch Fitz's vintage bottling line** in action. Afterward, the staff will get us started on a "Star Search" along the St. Louis Walk of Fame on Delmar

Boulevard. Participants are welcome to **come back for lunch** at Fitz's afterward (see the menu and pricing at [www.fitzsrootbeer.com](http://www.fitzsrootbeer.com)).

The tour begins at 9:30 a.m. and lasts around 45 minutes; the Star Search and lunch can be done at your own pace. The tour is limited to 25 people, so please e-mail [amy@delahunt.net](mailto:amy@delahunt.net) or call 771-6322 to sign up.



- Amy de la Hunt



*Kate S finds the perfect cobra to complete her Cleopatra costume at the Spooky Sock Hop. Too bad it weighs about a ton!*



# 2009/10 calendar

## NOVEMBER 2009

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
* 12	TH		<b>Schnucks escripts cards go home</b>
13	F	all day	<b>School Closed – Records Day</b>
* 13	F		<b>Fitz's Field Trip (sponsored by PA Social Events Cmte.)</b>
14-15	SA-SU		Book Fair @ Left Bank Books
* 18	W	6:00 – 6:30 PM	Parent Association Meeting – OPEN
* 18	W	6:30 PM	Middle School Forum
20	F	* 12:00 PM	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
26-27	TH-F	all day	<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		Winter Concert
21-Jan 1	M-F	all day	<b>Winter Break Victor Campus – Closed</b>
23-25	W-F	all day	<b>Winter Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed</b>
31	TH		Annual Giving Campaign ends
30-Jan1	W-F	all day	<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
15	F	all day	<b>School Closed – Professional Development Day</b>
16	SA		Trivia Night
18	M	all day	<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
15	M	all day	<b>School Closed – President's Day</b>
22	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
26	F	all day	<b>School Closed – Records Day</b>

## 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	<b>Spring Break Victor Campus – Closed</b>
17-19	W-F	all day	<b>Spring Break 13th St Campus (Nursery) – Closed</b>
29	M	2 :30 PM	Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

\* event added/changed this month + mandatory attendance

A group of eager families turned out on a recent Friday night at the Bliss' studio to "mosaic the snake." The kids added a small fortune in pennies while the adults tackled the detail work. We'll be excited to see it put together in the yard.

Don't Forget ...  
School will be  
**closed**  
Friday,  
**November**  
**13<sup>th</sup>** for  
Records Day.  
Join your  
friends for a  
tour of Fitz's  
instead!



# 2009/10 calendar

## APRIL

tba

<b>2</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>
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
<b>14</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>all day</b>
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

## annual giving update

Next week, students will begin their own participation in our Annual Giving campaign. During Monday's student assembly, Kelly will address the importance of philanthropy and the structure of the students' participation in the campaign. (Coins only will be collected, counted and computed.) At the assembly, students will brainstorm how they might come to possess coins they can bring in to contribute. For example: finding them on the sidewalk, in the couch cushions...from a percentage of their allowance, earning them from doing extra chores around the house, etc. This activity will add to the "100% participation" we are trying to achieve.

Special thanks to the following families/board members who have donated/pledged. Annual Giving will end on December 31. Please get your pledge cards in as soon as possible.

Alsop (Board)	Leonard
Bock	Leslie
Buettner	Mack/Hartzler
Burmeister/Kryah	Marshall, Julie
Caramane	McGrath
Corey	Miller
DeLaHunt	Mothershead/Jones
Fair	Nea
Garvey/Pendergast	Nemens Family
Gibbs	Panzeri
Goodwin	Scallions
Grady (Board)	Sherman/King
Holt	Waskow
Jarvis/Bohne	White



Luke H enjoys showing his grandfather, Manvel Holt, how well he can read at last month's Grandparent's Coffee.

## winter concert

This year's Winter Concert will be held on Friday, December 18

beginning at 7:00 p.m. All students will perform, including pre-k. Refreshments will be served after the concert. Grandparents and extended families are invited to attend. More details will be sent home as the date approaches.

SOULARD SCHOOL  
WINTER MUSIC CONCERT



### 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.