

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

April, 2010
www.soulardschool.org



April 10th @ 6:00 PM

The Orchestra Benefit Concert

@ Atomic Cowboy is fast approaching...

Performers: keep up the practice to prepare. Rehearsal with the band is on Thursday, April 8th 6pm, at the school. You need to be at The Atomic Cowboy @ 4:30pm day of the show (dinner provided for the performers).

Guests: Please *rsvp* to matt.king@soulardschool.org and let him know how many in your group will be attending.



Live auction items you want to know about. Gather your friends or family and start making plans for.....

-  A one week stay in 2 bedroom condo in **Breckenridge, Colorado**. Walking distance to slopes and shopping.
-  A one week stay in a 4 bedroom home with a pool in **Scottsdale, Arizona**. Convertible included!
or ...
(for the really lucky)
-  A one week stay in a 4 bedroom home with a pool, on the beach in **Costa Rica!**

this friday

Get **creative** during **Open Studio** at **CMAC**
(Cooled Matter Art Center)
Friday, April 2, between 1 and 3 p.m.

Sarah and Tim Bliss are inviting **Soulard School** students and parents for an open studio event as part of their nonprofit *South Broadway Art Project*. Everyone is welcome to work on **mosaics** for Froggie Park or **clay tiles** for a sculptural bench at Minnie Wood Playground.

Open studio admission for our group is **free!** However, if you'd like to make a **\$5 or \$10 donation** toward the public art efforts, it's always appreciated.

Drop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m. at CMAC, **3818 South Broadway** (just south of the fountain where Jefferson, Broadway and Chippewa intersect).

Visit <http://cmacstudio.org> to learn more about the studio and our generous hosts (the parents of **Astrid** in the Subjunctive Room and **Mirasol** in the Nursery).

This event is brought to you by the **Parent Association's Social Events Committee**. For the coming school year, the Social Events Chair will be a PA Board member for the first time. If you're interested in *organizing the fun*, contact Amy De La Hunt at amy@delahunt.net.

this saturday Soulard Spring Spruce Up

This Saturday, join us pull weeds, plant plants, sow grass seeds, spread mulch, and do other things that make our schoolyard look good! We will be there from **2:00 to 4:00**. Bring shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, pick-up trucks and beer.

Email Kristine at lennykristine@yahoo.com if you can come.

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events & information



soulard school is having a COW!

electronics recycling drive

Friday, April 16

To be even "Greener" the Soulard School will hold a "pre-recycle drive" on Friday April 16th. Do we have a few parents that have a larger vehicle that would volunteer their time and vehicle to pick up the items at the school Friday afternoon then make the delivery to Kirkwood High School sometime on Saturday? This would save gas and time for everyone. Please contact Jason Schwartz, Thrive teacher, if you can help with the pre-recycle drive.

then ... Saturday, April 17,
9AM – 4PM

free!

PLEASE JOIN THE SECOND ANNUAL Electronics Recycling Drive at Kirkwood High School "It's Easy Being Green" Earth Day Collection Event Accepted in any condition:

- Computers, laptops, keyboards and more!
- TVs, VCR players and tapes, stereo equipment, etc.
- Cell phones, mP3 players, etc.
- Blenders, microwaves, toasters
- Refrigerators, washers/dryers, dishwashers
- Batteries, lawn equipments, old tools
- Anything else with a plug or a switch or that once used batteries.

There are two websites that will provide more information concerning the ERD: www.integrationcontrols.com/erd - or- www.witsinc.org. Also, you may call 314-821-3400 for questions or to volunteer.

soulard school birthday party!



Friday, April 16
6:30-8:30 PM

Join us for the 2nd Annual Soulard School Birthday Party Potluck. There will be fun and games and (of course!) cake & ice cream.

The Soulard School Parents Association wants to save you some money! We are purchasing from locally raised, grass-fed COW from Missouri's American Grass Fed Beef to sell to our families. You will be able to buy different cuts of beef for less than you pay in the stores and farmers markets. We will have everything from ground beef to stew meat, to steaks and roasts. Look for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the McGurk's Room starting Thursday, April 1st. The meat will be delivered in the beginning of May, and payment will be due at pickup. Checks should be made payable to the Soulard School Parents Association. Sign up will be for a limited time, and it's first come, first serve so sign up early for any cuts you want. All proceeds will go directly to the Soulard School. If you have any questions, contact Eric Nemens at ejnemens@yahoo.com.

Why American Grass Fed:

- * American Grass Fed beef is lower in overall fat, saturated fat and calories than grain-feed beef and it provides more omega-3 fats.
- * American Grass Fed Beef cows never receive synthetic growth hormones or antibiotics. Many scientists argue the overuse of antibiotics in farm animals leads to the development of treatment-resistant strains of pathogens.
- * American Grass Fed ranchers practice a holistic approach to farm management which sustains and nourishes the environment through restoration and soil improvement techniques.
- * American Grass Fed cattle forage freely and are never held in confinement.

student art show

Thursday, May 20, 6:30 PM

Mark your calendar to come enjoy the last event of the year! All the school's families (extended welcome too) gathered together to revel in the student's studio creations and be surrounded by music, vocal and violin. Student Art Show & Spring Concert @ Mad Art Gallery

soulard soirée

SIGN-UP PARTIES

Help us get ready for The Soulard School Sign Up Parties 2010!

What is a Sign-up Party?

It's a Party and a FUNraiser for The Soulard School all-in-one.

How does it work?

Parents and supporters of The Soulard School put on events that are open to the people who sign up for them. The people who sign up pay a set fee to participate. The party presenters fund the event, and the fee each party-goer pays is a donation to the school. Anyone in The Soulard School Community can sign up, just check any age limits. Each party will be tailored to a group, so if you, your kids, your parents, or a fun friend fit that group, then sign 'em up!

Who Sponsors the Parties?

Anyone who wants to! The above parties were funded by the parents/educators, and in some cases had assistance from the companies involved.

You can sponsor a party, or get together with other parents (i.e. Parents in each classroom could sponsor a party to meet the interests of that class' students.)

If you have an idea for a party, let us know. If you want to help sponsor a party but don't have an idea, let us know. We will help coordinate parties and their presenters. If you know of a business, venue or group that would be willing to donate anything for a party (a space, tickets for an event, beverages, etc.) let us know that too!

What kind of parties do we want?

Think of what would be fun for pre-schoolers and their families, 10-year-olds, Dads, Couples, Grandparents, or anyone in between. Ideas can come from anywhere. Do you have access to a back-stage tour? Know how to make jewelry and want to host a beading party? Handy with a cocktail shaker? Has your neighbor talked about teaching kids to juggle? Again, ideas can come from anywhere.

The most successful parties have been experiential in nature (learning *and* doing). The party size can be anywhere from 4 people to 25, or more, depending on the venue and nature of the event.

Examples of previous parties:

"GNO" Girls Night Out – for the Over 21 Crowd. Three cars loaded with female partygoers departed from The Soulard School to SkyZone in Chesterfield where they jumped, flipped and bounced in a big room made entirely of trampolines. The thirsty crew then went to McGurks' Public House in St. Peters for a fine dining experience where they took free reign of the food and drink menu. \$60 per guest

**PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW AT
WWW.SOULARDSCHOOL.ORG**

another good time to benefit the **SOULARD**  **SCHOOL**

DONATIONS

How does a Soulard School student play hookie? They dig in the dirt, shop at the market, play at Pontiac Park, perform at Mad Art, swim at The Boy's Club and dine at McGurk's! So Come to McGurk's May 8th a play hookie like a Soulard School Student!

We are still looking for items and EXPERIENCES that contribute to our theme: Play Hookie With The Soulard School. What kinds of things did you do when you played hookie? Do you have any contact at businesses that capture the sentiment of our theme? Please contact Sarah Christman for donation forms. Any help is welcome and appreciated.

Would your business or employer consider purchasing an ad in our auction program? \$100 for 4x5 \$200 8x5

Movie Passes
Meals with friends
Memberships
Parks & Recreation
Overnights
Ticket Sales

Thanks to **Carla Gibbs** who is purchasing a gift certificate to Ginger Bay to donate to the auction! Many others are working hard to secure donations.

Rooftop Wine Tasting – Guests gathered a relaxing September evening with a full view of South St. Louis from the rooftop deck of The Jefferson Underground Building. They enjoyed a multi-course wine tasting with delicious food pairings. Complete with a Sommelier showcasing an array of wines from Robbler Vineyard, to enhance the experience. \$30 per guest

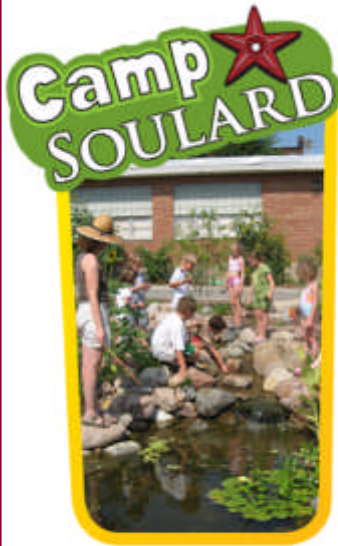
Make Your Own Marionette- Children ages K-4 gathered at CMAC to create, create, create! A rock star, a clown, a hippie, a chef, a ballerina, a dog, and a skate boarder are just a few of the wonderful moving puppets made at this exciting art party. Bring your own ideas and imagination, lunch provided! \$25 per guest.

Who can I talk to for more information?

Beth Hyser – bahyser@att.net, (314) 608-8299 or Sarah Christman at The Soulard School

events & information

camp soulard

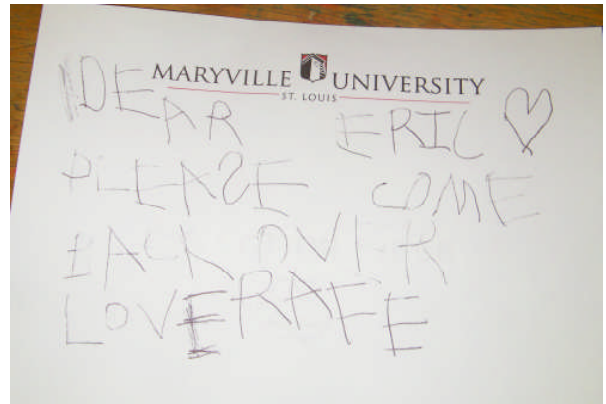


make your
summer plans
now!

you can leave
registration forms
+ payment outside
Kelly's office

THE 1110 Victor St. 63104
SOULARD SCHOOL

pre-k letter writing



The children in the Pre-K Quietude Room have taken their interest in writing to a new level as they share a new **passion for corresponding** through letter writing. Lately, we have had some classroom **parents volunteer their time to read** a book to the class. This inspired children to invite them to come back and read again. Here is a photo of Rafe's letter on donated stationery from a Soulard School family. He requested that Eric, Jameson's Dad, visit our class and read to us again.

Each child has a classroom mailbox separate from their cubby. They enjoy receiving letters so please send one in if you would like.



*Cozette studies
Lev's
determination
in writing a
letter to his
parents*



mary beth wallace

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

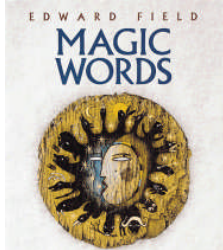
Before last year, Mary Beth Wallace had no connection to the Soulard School, despite living one and a half blocks away. Following a fundraiser at McGurk's Irish Pub, she became "impressed and intrigued with the school," especially its Culinary Arts program, and fervently wanted to volunteer in the kitchen.

Since January of this year, she has given the school three or four hours of her time each Wednesday. After enthusiastically telling her friend, Earline Burke, about her volunteer work, and "how much fun it was," Earline began volunteering on Wednesdays as well.

Mary Beth says she is amazed at Soulard School's Culinary Arts instructor Mary Waskow, and how she can come up with so many meals that are "amazing tasting and healthy." She likes that she can walk through the school and "see children playing the violin, children off to the side in groups doing independent work and such things that aren't offered in most public schools, like cooking. And everyone just seems so happy all the time."

Mary Beth has lived in Soulard for seven years. In addition to volunteering at the school, she is a member of the Soulard Garden Co-Op and the Soulard Restoration Group. Soulard is such a great place for her because of its proximity to other neighborhoods like Benton Park and Lafayette Square, and she thinks that the Soulard School is a "great addition to the community."

events & information



Magic Words

Eskimo (anonymous)
Translated from the Inuit
by Edward Field

In the very earliest of time,
when both people and animals lived on earth,
a person could become an animal if he wanted to
and an animal could become a human being.
Sometimes they were people
and sometimes animals
and there was no difference.
All spoke the same language.
That was the time when words were like magic.
The human mind had mysterious powers.
A word spoken by chance
might have strange consequences.
It would suddenly come alive
and what people wanted to happen could
happen—
all you had to do was say it.
Nobody could explain this:
That's the way it was.



kindergarten spider study

After reading *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White, Subjunctive students began discussing and asking questions about Charlotte's own kind; spiders. Students set to work outlining questions and began researching arachnids using a variety of resources and media. Students sculpted spiders using clay to show the body parts that make a spider a spider- not an insect.

Ask a Subjunctive student about spiders and you're sure to get a mouth-full:

"Water spiders have hair on their legs that collect air bubbles to help them under water."

Parker announces after reading a book about spiders.

"Some spiders blend in with things to protect themselves from predators so they can't see them." Enzo says.

"I know that spiders have eight legs and insects have six!" Daniel adds.



This research has led students into a new field of study. They're now collecting insects outside to study different types and classifications.

library corner

April is National Poetry Month! Huzzah! Though I like to think of this as more a reminder month; a cause for celebration, and a gentle finger on our chins pulling our faces back to some poems. While there are myriad ways to bring poetry into the forefront this month, like so much in our learning lives, poetry is something to experience all the time, not just in April.

In fact, I had the pleasure of **teaching poetry to the Mosaic class** in February and March. These eager readers delighted in poets as varied as William Shakespeare and Jack Prelutsky. A particular favorite read was Alastair Reid's *Ounce Dice Trice* (with drawings by Ben Shahn), a fun word-play book that is itself an "odd collection of words and names, to amuse and amaze you." The students gave a wonderful poetry reading featuring their own work, and will get to talk more about poetry with poet Joshua Kryah, who will be visiting this month.

Here in Missouri, we honor the legacy of poetry and its place in our community. The Governor has recently appointed our **state's second Poet Laureate, St. Louis's own David Clewell**. A poet who believes the oldest job of the poet is to tell history, he wants "people to look at poetry outside its usual context." He is very good at helping people do this, and Missourians are the better for having him at this post. **Stay tuned for information about a possible visit** from him in the coming school year.

Poetry books will be featured in the library this month, and I encourage all families to **take some time to read poems with your children** as they bring some of these books home. If you or your children find a poem you love, carry a copy of it with you on April 29th for Poem In Your Pocket Day, and share it with others. Better yet, try to commit it to memory so that you can carry it with you always. And if you would ever like poetry reading suggestions, I am happy to share:

erin.quick@soulardschool.org

2009/10 calendar

APRIL

* 1	TH	all day
2	F	all day
* 2	F	1:00 – 3:00 PM
* 3	SA	2:00 – 4:00 PM
6	TU	8:30 AM
10	SA	6:00 PM
* 14	W	7:00 PM
* 16	F	all day
* 16	F	6:30 – 8:30 PM
* 17	SA	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
21	W	6:30 PM
22	TH	* 10:30 AM
26	M	2 :30 PM

Grass Fed Beef Sale begins – see sign-up sheet
School Closed – Professional Development Day
 CMAC Open Studio Time
 Spring Spruce Up Garden Day
 First Tuesday Coffee
 Orchestra Benefit Concert @ Atomic Cowboy
 Roundtable Book Discussion – Under Pressure
 Electronics “Pre-Recycling” Drive @ SS
 SS Birthday Party
 Electronics Recycling Drive @ Kirkwood HS
 Parent Association Elections
 Teaching Peace Parade
 Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)

MAY

4	TU	8:30 AM
8	SA	5:00 – 9:00 PM
14	F	all day
20	TH	* 6:30 PM
24	M	2 :30 PM
* TBD		7:00 PM

First Tuesday Coffee
 Soulard Soiree
School Closed – Records Day
 Student Art Show & Strings Assembly @ Mad Art Gallery
 Student Assembly – Families Invited (+ birthday books)
 Roundtable Book Discussion – Proust & the Squid

* event added/changed this month

+ mandatory attendance



puppy mill cruelty prevention act

Missourians for the Protection of Dogs is spearheading a new, citizen-backed ballot initiative – The Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. The measure will improve the lives of dogs in commercial breeding operations in Missouri. Specifically, the measure will require large-scale dog breeding operations to provide each breeding dog under their care with the basics of humane animal care. The website for more information is <http://www.missourifordogs.com/>

Please see Jason Schwartz, Thrive teacher, if you are a Missouri registered voter and would like to sign a petition.



roundtable book discussion

Our first Round-Table Book Discussion was a great success. Please join us for the remaining discussions of the school year.

Wednesday, April 14, 7:00 PM

We will discuss Carl Honore’s book Under Pressure. In his words, "It’s about how the pressure to give our children the best of everything and make them the best at everything is backfiring on kids, parents and society as a whole. We feel we have to push, polish and protect our offspring with superhuman zeal - or else we’re somehow falling down on the job. I hope that readers will come to the end of the book and breathe a huge sigh of relief. Especially parents. I want to inspire readers to ease off and find the natural balance between doing too much and too little for children."

late May (date TBA)

We will be reading Proust and the Squid: Where did this unlikely skill called reading come from? What happens in our brain when our eyes scan a line of type? Why do some of us, or some of our children, find it difficult to process the visual information held in words? Marianne Wolf, a professor at Tufts University and director of its Center for Reading and Language Research, offers explanations for all these questions, but with an emphasis that is "more biological and cognitive than cultural-historical."

teaching peace parade

Thursday, April 22
10:30 AM

*"Teaching peace all the world around.
You and me every city every town."*

Soulard School families and friends are invited to join us for our Annual Teaching Peace Parade. It will be on Earth Day, Thursday, April 22 leaving school around 10:30 a.m. We will parade and sing the Teaching Peace song along 12th Street to McGurks, where we will sing for our friends at McGurks and thank them for the food they provide for us. The whole school will be participating, so plan to join us!

