

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

May, 2010
www.soulardschool.org



The Quietude class performs at the Spring Concert & Art Show at Mad Art Gallery

head of school notes

During an assembly this month, I read I'm In Charge Of Celebrations by Byrd Baylor to the students. It is the story of a young girl who creates her own celebrations based on treasured experiences. She dances on Dust Devil Day and sleeps outside during The Time of The Falling Stars. We talked about what we celebrate and why we have traditions at The Soulard School. Then we brainstormed all the unique celebrations and traditions that we have accumulated as a community. It was a very long list and when we thought we were through, we thought of more. Each student then reflected on the list and wrote down which was their favorite and why. There were some popular ones like Feast of Thanks, Field Day, Sock Hop, and the 100th day of School. There were also several nods to Ride Your Bike to School Day (because it is sustainable), Grandparents Day, Birthday Book Assemblies, family style meals, trash can dance, and yoga.

This year we added one more celebration,

graduation. The graduates had already been informed that they could wear whatever they chose for graduation, that it should be a reflection of their individuality. Days later, one red cap and gown was found discarded behind a different school. It was brand new. It still had the tags on it. I wondered about the individual for whom it was intended. Did he miss his graduation? Was she ineligible to graduate? Or, was the tradition and celebration of graduation meaningless for that student? This **cap and gown** - deemed worthless by one person - became a symbol of accomplishment for 11 people. They were invited to use it or not. They could do something collectively or individually; it was left up to them. They took turns wearing it. Each put it on, held up their diploma, smiled in their accomplishment, and passed the cap and gown to the next friend so he/she could do the same. Then, when the entire class of 2009-10 was presented to the audience, these eleven **huddled like a team and collectively threw their one cap into the air in celebration**.

Throughout the year in our assemblies we've explored the ideas of responsibility and reflection; fairness and equity; gratitude and empathy; and philanthropy. Our students have repeatedly demonstrated the willingness and capacity to reach further for themselves, their community, and their world. When the students threw the red cap into the air, it may have seemed simple - Don't all graduates throw their caps in the air? Yes, hundreds gather and throw hundreds of caps, and say, "Look out world here I come." Soulard School graduates, creating their own tradition and celebration, said, "Look out world here WE come!" They expressed themselves in their own attire while simultaneously sharing one cap and gown. That is the reach of potential so often untapped in children - **we can honor individuality while simultaneously building community**.

- Kelly Bock

last day festivities



Don't forget **sunscreen** (applied before drop off + more for later), **swimsuit**, **water shoes**, **change of clothes**, **water bottle** (elementary only), & **bring a sack lunch**

see page 8 for more details

in this issue last day festivities p.1 head of school notes p.1 soiree recap p.2 camp soulard p.2 class notes p.3-5 graduates p.3 library corner p.6 2010-11 calendar p.7-8 last day festivities (cont.) p.8 welcome Everett King p.8

events & information

SOULARD SOIREE



recap

Who knew playing hooky could pay off? Well, Saturday May 8th The Soulard School showed them how it's done! This year our annual Soiree themed, *Come Play Hooky with The Soulard School*, raised **\$46,000** for the school. But I guarantee you; none of the soiree committees were goofing around. In every aspect – soliciting, selling tickets, decorating and welcoming our guests that evening – **every volunteer involved made the night a complete success.**

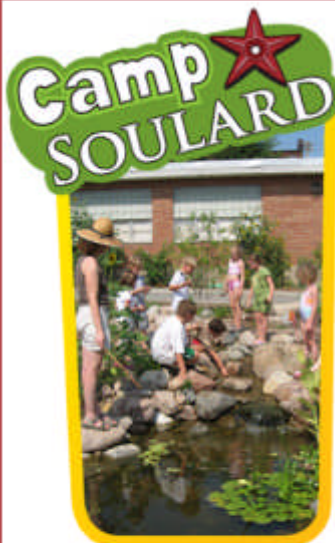
Thanks to the Solicitors for finding those unique items that captured our hooky playing hearts. A special thanks to **Diane Keaggy** and her amazing decorations and hosting committees, **Patsy King** and the bundlers who worked their magic, **Rhonda Holt** and her crew made the coming and going a breeze. Each year our school community shines bright and shows what true collaboration, with a little dash of hooky, can accomplish.



Revelers enjoying the annual Trash Can Dance to celebrate a truly bang-up job reducing the school's lunch waste this year.



camp soulard



Camp Soulard is once again THE place to be this summer! Our one and two week camps are founded on the good ol' days of summer. Remember your lemonade stand, playing in the creek, making up your own games and changing the rules... pitching a tent in the backyard and catching lightning bugs... and creating the messiest art projects only the outdoors would allow.

June 7-11 Games, Games, Games: Beyond the board- all the outdoor favorites including those with water and an opportunity to make up plenty of your own.

June 14-18 & 21-25 The Science of Summer: Why does a lightning bug glow? What makes pink lemonade pink? The fastest way to homemade popsicles.

July 12-16 & 19-23 Neighborhood Ecosystem: Exploring our place in the natural world. How can we be good citizens of a neighborhood as well as our ecosystem?

July 26-31 & Aug 3-7 Open-Air Studio Arts: ...wet wild messy and creative... tie-dye, sun-prints, mud painting... sandcastles, squirt bottle paints...paper mache...

August 9-14: Urban Camping: Explore the art of camping: building a shelter, pitching a tent, preparing meals outdoors, hiking and developing navigation skills.

One-Week Sessions: \$145 Two-Week Sessions: \$280

You may sign-up for half of a two-week session.

Camp Soulard is open to students entering Grade 1 through Grade 6. All camps are held from 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday. Early Morning Care is available at 8:00am at no charge. Extended Day is available until 6:00pm at \$55 per week.

there's still time to make summer plans @ Camp Soulard!

THE 1110 Victor St. 63104
SOULARD SCHOOL

Camp SOULARD

For more information and registration visit us at www.soulardschool.org or call Catherine @ (314)865-2799

class notes



Enigma

The Enigma class ended our year **studying animals**. We recently visited the Saint Louis Zoo and took a class, *Who Eats Whom?* In the class, we learned about **food chains and producers, consumers, and decomposers**. After class, we walked around the zoo and took notes on our favorite animal. Back at school, we **documented what we learned** by writing reports from our notes and **presented them** to each other.

Quietude

In the past month the Quietude Class began a **study of Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf"**. We enjoyed learning more about the orchestra and how each instrument represented a different character in the story. The children **illustrated their favorite scene** from the story and **presented their work** to the class.

Subjunctive

This month the Subjunctive Class has been busy digging for insects on the play scape, feeding tadpoles in the classroom, and releasing butterflies raised from caterpillars. These **little critters have been a high focus point** for the Soulard School Kindergarteners, and have helped us learn a lot too. Observing the changes a caterpillar goes through first-hand has **helped students identify the different stages from egg to adult**. We've seen a tadpole grow legs and lose its tail within the month too. To end our year we'll research and answer a recent question brought up by a Subjunctive student: What's the difference between a frog and toad?

Nursery

The toddlers have spent the past few weeks **exploring water**. We read about different animals that live in the ocean and ponds, explored toy fish in the sensory table, and **created an ocean animal mural**. We then turned our focus to boats. We enjoyed **trying out our own paper boats** (a la *Curious George Rides a Bicycle*) in the water table, though we were just as happy splashing the water with our hands!



class notes

Congratulations to the 2009-10
Soulard School Graduates!

JUSTICE BINDER
ACADIA BROUSSARD
JACKSON GIBBS
STEVEN GIBBS
JINA HAN
AMY HAN
ELI HARRIS
STEAM KOESTER
ZAC LESLIE
MIRABI MOSLEY
SASHA MOTHERSHEAD



Thrive Class self portrait display at the Spring Concert & Art Show

Thrive

As some of you may know the graduating Thrive class had a **lock in (sleepover at the school)** Friday the 21st to celebrate their success and growth as a class. The Thrivers played games, watched movies, listened to stories, roasted marshmallows, ate way too much food; pretty much **did everything but sleep**. "I felt like I was in a sugar coma!", said Thriver **Justice Binder**.

The whole thing **couldn't have happened though if it hadn't been for the amazing parents and teachers that volunteered** to buy food or stay up and watch the Thrivers. **Matt King**, strings instructor, stayed the entire time even after breaking his foot during the first few hours. **Sarah McFarlane** and her husband **Alex** drove over at two in the morning. Many of the parents stayed until about 11:30pm and **Jason Schwartz**, Thrive teacher, stayed the whole night.

The lock-in was a great success. **Mirabai Mosley** said, **"It was the greatest thing that happened in the history of the Thrive class."** Hopefully this starts a tradition and all the future graduating classes will get to have one as well.

Mosaic

We are the Mosaic class and we have been collecting cans for a **food drive**. We provided food for **Operation Food Search**, a non-profit organization that distributes food to the hungry. We calculated that 27% of the Mums donated, 0% of the Thrivers donated, 92% of the Mosaics donated, 40% of the Kindergarten donated, and 58% of the Enigmas donated. Altogether, there were **132 cans and boxes** in between all of the classes. Last year, we did another food drive for O.F.S. It's kind of **become a "tradition"**.



class notes

Students from the Mums class had the opportunity to visit the Mangia Pasta Factory to learn about making fresh pasta. Students helped make pasta and then packaged their pasta to take home. Everyone enjoyed lunch at Mangia Restaurant afterwards. Many thanks to David Burmeister and Rachel Kryah for offering this special trip!



MUMS

The Mums have been working all year saving money in our savings account or for our own use. But then stopped to consider, *What about everyone else?* As well as, *what does it really mean to be a Philanthropist?* Through a three week study, the Mum's found out just that. We divided into small groups and researched interest topics around the school. Using that information and donated money, we purchased a gift from the Thrive store to help each class with their study. It didn't stop there, we also learned that you can be a philanthropist by volunteering not only money, but also time in the form of volunteer work and with homemade gifts. Each group decided to not only purchase a gift, but to also teach a lesson and make a homemade gift. The lesson learned in the words of a Chrysanthemum: **"Philanthropy means that you're using your time to do something great for someone so they can be grateful."** -Maxine

Strings

We had an exciting year with the new Souldard School Orchestra. They played a show with my band, Trigger 5, and raised \$700 to buy music stands and other equipment. Since many of our orchestra members are graduating there will be auditions next fall for all students 2nd grade and older. Next year the orchestra will be playing Irish music at McGurk's and return to play with my band in the spring.



library corner

Hard to believe, but the end of the school year is here! That means it is time to return all school library books (if you haven't already). Please help your kiddos gather their books, as they can be very good at hiding under beds, in cars, even on your own bookshelves! All library books should be returned by the last day of school. If you find stray books over the summer, or have any questions about what books your readers might have checked out, email me at erin.quick@soulardschool.com.

Speaking of summertime... Really, isn't summertime one of the best times to read? You take your book to the pool, or down by the Mississippi, or under a tree at your neighborhood park, or in the car on a long road trip, or by the campfire, or even in your bed when you are supposed to be sleeping! It's hot and a little bit lazy, and you can read and read and read.

Well, here are some titles that you and your kids might enjoy over the next few sunny months! The age ranges are approximations - you know your readers best. I have thoroughly enjoyed *all* of these books myself, even though I am technically "12-and-up."

0-3 yrs.

Charley Harper's ABCs
Charley Harper's 123s

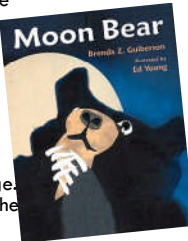
Board books for teething! I just love Charley Harper. His illustrative style is colorful, playful, and inspired by the natural world. These books are full of well-defined shapes and lots of color contrast. His style is perfect for for babes!



The Lion and the Mouse

by Jerry Pinkney

This book is one of those amazing illustrative feats, telling a story through its pictures alone. There is no text in this version of the classic fable. The pictures do all the work. This is not a board book, so you will want to be mindful of this when sharing it with littluns. But the pictures are so rich, and toddlers will love to help put the story they are seeing into words of their own.



3-5 yrs.

Moon Bear
by Brenda Guiberson

Meet the Moon Bears, a beautiful Asiatic species that is endangered. This book delivers a simple conservation message. The text is spare, written as question-and-answer, filled with the details of a year in the life of the Moon Bears. Wonderfully illustrated by Ed Young.

All Alone

by Kevin Henkes

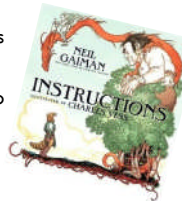
Kevin Henkes first book is a treasure. In it, he explores the quiet, contemplative moments of childhood, when we are alone and can do all sorts of things - pretend, observe, imagine. Though we come back to our friends and our families, those moments alone can be as special as the moments we share with others.

5-8 yrs.

Instructions

by Neil Gaiman

Summertime is a time of adventure and exploration. Schedules are looser, schoolwork is a ways off, and kids are creating worlds all their own. Gaiman's picture book *Instructions* is exactly that - a short guide for any adventuresome journeys to be had this summer.



Ounce Dice Trice

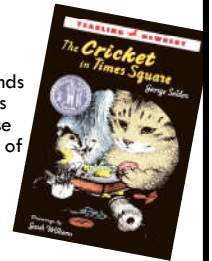
by Alastair Reid

What a fun word-play book! So this isn't exactly poetry, and it isn't exactly a dictionary. It is more like a collection, full of lists of delicious words - old, new, and imaginary! This book is great fun to read aloud, moving associatively on the sounds and cadences of language. Made even more interesting by the drawings of Ben Shahn.

The Cricket in Times Square

by George Seldon

A classic. Chester Cricket, originally from Connecticut, winds up in Times Square one day via a picnic basket. He takes up residence in a newsstand, and there befriends a mouse and a cat. The country cricket goes on a small adventure of his own in the big city, learning about friendship, playing music, and finding his own way home.



8-12 yrs.

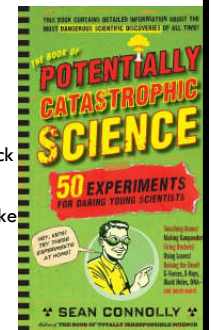
Word After Word After Word

by Patricia MacLachlan

School days have become monotonous for a group of fourth grade friends. Until Ms. Mirabel visits their class and shows them the magical, transformative power of words. These young writers then begin to find their own stories, writing to change their own lives. A lovely book from award-winning MacLachlan.

The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science: 50 Experiments for Daring Young Scientists
by Sean Connolly

Summer! Science! Experiments! Explosions! Sort of... The author of *The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science* is back with another book full of experiments to engage young folks' scientific curiosity. This book covers the history of science, and the experiments in it are meant to illustrate key scientific principles. Sure to be some fun with this one.



12-and-up

The Cardturner

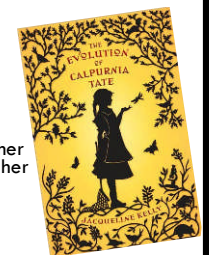
by Louis Sachar

What a delightful surprise this book was. Sachar has crafted a complex, engaging story about chance, family, perception, the generational divide, and the card game bridge. When Alton's blind great uncle Trapp needs someone to help him play bridge, Alton is recruited for the job. At first, it appears to be the Alton's most deflating summer yet. But throughout their time together, Alton becomes intrigued with bridge, and all the subtle relations it has to his own life.

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

by Jacqueline Kelly

Being a young girl at the turn of the 20th century was a whole different world. Callie, the only girl in a family of seven children, is a budding naturalist. She enjoys being outdoors, examining plants and bug, taking notes, while her mother wants her to learn how to become a lady. When her grandfather gives her a copy of Darwin's *Origin of the Species*, the world opens up for her, bringing with it the inherent confusion of coming of age in a society that expects you to be something other than what you are.



For more reading suggestions, check out the Library Corner on the school's website throughout the summer, where I will post titles each month. And be sure to sign your young readers up for the St. Louis Public Library's summer reading program! Go to www.slpl.org or visit your local branch for more info. Happy reading!

Word.

Erin the Librarian

THE SOULARD SCHOOL

2010/11 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 2010

18	W	9:00 – 10:00 AM	Meet Your Teacher
20	F		Welcome Back BBQ
24	Tu		1st Day of School
28-29	Sa-Su		Festival of Nations

September

6	M		School Closed- Labor Day
9	Th	6:30 – 8:00 PM	+ Volunteer Rally
17	F		School Closed- Professional Development
21	Tu	7:00 – 8:30 PM	+ Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night
27	M	2:30 PM	Assembly: Birthday Book

October

5	Tu		Parent Coffee
8-10	F-Su		Oktoberfest
15	F		School Closed- Professional Development
18	M	8:30 – 10:00 AM	Grandparent Breakfast
25	M	2:30 PM	Assembly: Birthday Book
29	F		Sock Hop

November

1	M		Annual Giving Kick-Off
2	Tu		Parent Coffee
12	F		School Closed- Records Day
19	F		End 1st Trimester
19	F		Feast of Thanks
22-24	M-W		+ Conferences: Parent & Teacher
25-26	Th-F		School Closed- Thanksgiving
29	M	2:30 PM	Assembly: Birthday Book

December

7	Tu		Parent Coffee
20-31	M-F		School Closed- Winter Break

January 2011

4	Tu		Parent Coffee
13	Th		+ State Of The School
14	F		School Closed- Professional Development
17	M		School Closed- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
22	Sa	1:00 PM	Open House 1 pm
31	M	2:30 PM	Assembly: Birthday Book

February

1	Tu		Parent Coffee
14	M		School Closed- President's Day
25	F		School Closed- Records Day
28	M	2:30 PM	Assembly: Birthday Book

* event added/changed this month

+ mandatory attendance

THE SOULARD SCHOOL

2010/11 SCHOOL CALENDAR

March				
1	Tu			Parent Coffee
5	Sa			Madri Gras
8-10	Tu-Th			+ Conferences: Parent, Teacher (& Student K+)
11	F			End 2nd Trimester
14-18	M-F			School Closed- Spring Break
28	M	2:30 PM		Assembly: Birthday Book
April				
1	F			School Closed- Professional Development
5	Tu			Parent Coffee
22	F			Teaching Peace Parade
25	M	2:30 PM		Assembly: Birthday Book
May				
tba	Sa			Soulard Soiree
3				Parent Coffee
13	F			School Closed- Records Day
23	M	2:30 PM		Assembly: Birthday Book 2:30pm
27	F			Last Day Of School

* event added/changed this month

+ mandatory attendance

last day festivities: field day + portfolio + ice cream social

Our last day of school will be celebrated on **Friday, May 28** with a variety of activities for students and families. Elementary students will begin the day with our tradition of a **Field/Water Day at the park**. Students should wear a **swimsuit** under clothes, bring a **change of clothes**, and wear **shoes that can get wet**. Please **apply sunscreen/block** before drop off, and send more if reapplication is necessary for your child. Pre-k students will have their Field/Water Day on the school grounds and should also wear a swimsuit and sunscreen, etc. Both groups of students will be picnicing outdoors for lunch. Please **send a sack lunch**. Elementary students should also bring a **refillable water bottle** for a drink, pre-k students will use their school cups so they do not need a drink.

At **3:00 p.m.** parents and families are invited to classrooms for an end of the year, **portfolio viewing celebration and thank you's** to teachers. At **3:30** all students, teachers and families will enjoy an **ice cream party outside**. Join us for a fun celebration of a great school year!



At the last day celebration, the students will enjoy an Ice Cream Social courtesy of the administration. The party is a thank you for the students' hard work and selflessness in contributing to this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

Way to go Soulard Students!
Enjoy that party – you've earned it!