

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

September, 2010  
[www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)

## back to school!

### from the head of school ...

*"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work & give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."*  
Antione de Saint-Exupéry

Welcome and welcome back! This year we welcomed 17 new families and 23 new students or siblings to The Soulard School. Last year, members of our unique Thrive class graduated. This means that now in our 6th year, the founding students and families – our “engine class” - have become the elders of the school. While many of them were in the original kindergarten/1st grade class that began on the sidewalk in 2005, this doesn't necessarily mean that they or their families were any less nervous than those parents of the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students headed off to school for the very first time. Akin to the analogy between our school and Saint-Exupéry's ship, Andre Gide said, **“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.”** During those first days of school (or maybe first few weeks,) I wonder...Who is the ship? Who is the shore? And who is the one with courage? Perhaps your child is; or you are; or likely and best - we all are. It was a busy first week and a great one. On behalf of the staff, we are honored and excited to embark on this year's adventures with all of you.

Welcome and welcome back.

- Kelly



Keep  
an eye out...  
**Annual Giving**  
is set to leave port  
**November 1st.**

getting right to work...



Amon designs a prop to extend upon a play plan.

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### 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.

## events & happenings

### roundtable book discussion

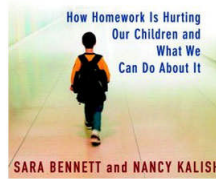
*Does assigning fifty math problems accomplish any more than assigning five? Is memorizing word lists the best way to increase vocabulary — especially when it takes away from reading time?*

**Tuesday, September 28th**

Join fellow TSS parents for a discussion of [The Case Against Homework](#).

The time our children spend doing homework has skyrocketed in recent years. Parents spend countless hours cajoling their kids to complete such assignments—often without considering whether they serve any worthwhile purpose. The truth, according to Sara Bennett and Nancy Kalish, is that there is almost no evidence that homework helps elementary school students achieve academic success and little more that it helps older students. Yet the nightly burden is taking a serious toll on America's families. It robs children of the sleep, play, and exercise time they need for proper physical, emotional, and neurological development. In *The Case Against Homework*, Bennett and Kalish draw on academic research, interviews with educators, parents, and kids, and their own experience as parents and successful homework reformers to offer detailed advice to frustrated parents. You'll learn which assignments advance learning and which are time-wasters, how to set priorities when your child comes home with an over-stuffed backpack, how to talk and write to teachers and school administrators in persuasive, non-confrontational ways, and how to rally other parents to help restore balance in your children's lives.

### THE CASE AGAINST HOMEWORK



### curriculum night

Join us **Tuesday, September 21, 7:00–8:30PM**. Research shows that one of the most important factors in determining a child's success in school is parent involvement. Curriculum Night is your best opportunity to understand your child's school day, and how you can help in the learning process.

Teachers in every classroom (Pre-K included) will walk you through a school day, share expectations for the school year, and give you specific information about how you can support your child. They are very excited to have this opportunity to meet with you at length and answer any questions you might have.

This is a **required meeting**. In fact, we feel so strongly about every parent participating that we ask the Parent Association to make **babysitting available**, which is provided for a **suggested donation of \$5 per child**. Please arrive early, especially if you are dropping off children for babysitting, and meet in the McGurks Room (lunchroom) where we will have a general information session about school curriculum, including our extended core.

We will begin promptly at 7:00. At 7:30 you will meet with your child's teacher in the classroom for information specific to that class.

If you have more than one child, we suggest that one parent go to each classroom. We look forward seeing you then!

### partnering with metro

Thanks to the hard work of parent, Rachel Kryah and TSS staff, the TSS was awarded a grant from the Missouri Arts Council to partner with Metro Theater Company. The grant allows both the Alchemy (2nd/3rd) and Mosaic (4th-6th) to study with a teaching artist and delve into history using improvisation, role-playing and creative problem-solving. The Alchemists will focus their time on the voyage of Mayflower and Plymouth Rock. The Mosaic class will explore the Civil War and Missouri history & government as they prepare for their trip to Jefferson City. We are very excited for the opportunity to work with Metro Theater and thankful to Rachel for all her hard work in making this possible.



### student assembly Mondays

Student Assemblies are on **Mondays** from 2:45 – 3:15 PM (unless otherwise noted). This year K-Mosaic will meet every Monday in the McGurk's Room. Each week the first 15 minutes of assembly will be the Administrative PowWow, a time for the administration to give students insight into our philosophy and language (i.e. respect, integrity, empathy and appreciation). Depending on the week, Peer Teaching will follow where students and classes will have the opportunity to share knowledge with one another through presentations or performances. Additionally, we will be scheduling guest speakers based on class studies or other relevant topics. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come monthly for our special Parent Assemblies, marked on the calendar, when students present their **BirthDay Books**.



# events & happenings

## volunteer rally

Thursday, September 9th  
6:30 – 8:00pm  
Mandatory Meeting

As a part of our philosophy and approach to building a collaborative, connected community, each family is asked to volunteer 3 hours a month. This event is to help families find opportunities that match their interests, abilities and schedules. We will begin the night with an introduction to Basecamp (see below) then invite parents to walk the volunteer tables, talk with representatives from the different committees, ask questions and SIGN-UP! To get you started we ask you to choose one committee that is Soiree related and one other. Throughout the year committees will need volunteers to cover shifts or bring a baked good so please be open to supporting other events throughout the year to get those hours in.

The night will include a pot luck for the adults. We ask that each family to bring a dish, no specific assignment. Child care will also be provided by the Parent Association, for students and siblings 2 years and up, with pizza, milk and juice served. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Keep an eye out for the Committee Descriptions for the Volunteer Rally. They're coming home Tuesday.

## basecamp intro

Because the Soulard School is a volunteer-based organization, Basecamp will greatly help the parents and the staff organize our committees, communicate and track all of our hard work. At the Volunteer Rally, Andrea Dunn and Sarah Christman will present an overview & tutorial of Basecamp showing how easy and time saving this new system is. Please be sure to arrive on time as this presentation will start the evening off.



Lucca at the easel.

## picture day

Our school photos are done through Nordmann Photography who does an amazing job of capturing each child in a natural pose, using our beautiful Soulard neighborhood as a background. Be sure to return your order form by picture day to save \$\$



on your orders. Tuesday, September 8th they will be at the Victor campus and Friday, September 10th they will be at the Nursery. You can see their work on their website at [nordmannphoto.com](http://nordmannphoto.com).

## nursery wish list

As we start the school year, the Soulard School Nursery is looking for the following gently-used items. Maybe you have some sitting around your basement or attic you could pass along. Items can be dropped off at the Nursery (2116 S. 13th St.) or at Eleanor's desk in the office at the "big school."

- Mini fridge
- Doll house furniture (for large-sized house)
- Full length mirror
- Used printer
- Used video camera
- Baskets (non plastic)
- Textured balls
- Wall clocks
- Little potty for potty training
- Board books and other infant/toddler/2-year-old appropriate books

## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual grandparent breakfast

Monday, October 18th

Grandparent Breakfast is a way for us to welcome student's extended family to experience our school day. The breakfast begins at 8:30am as we welcome the grandparents in the McGurk's Room. At 9:00am they may join their grandchild(ren) in their classrooms, after which, everyone will return to the McGurk's Room for more snacks and coffee. We will be send invitations out the last week of September so please be sure to get Eleanor addresses.



# who we are

We asked our teachers and staff to tell us something about themselves and where they've been on their journey to The Soulard School. Here's what they shared:

**Kelly** Holloran Bock

**Head of School**

Most of who I am and what I have learned in life has come from children. However, the majority of that learning has occurred during my adult adventures. At 17, I headed to Boulder, Colorado where I majored in Anthropology with a Pre -Med minor. I returned home to St. Louis and worked at the Pediatric Research Institute and Fisher Scientific. (I taught gymnastics and swimming to children on the weekends.) I opted not to go to medical school (reasoning that education would give me more time for a family) and moved to New York instead. I pursued my master's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at NYU while working at Elliot's Gym and Studio of the Arts for Kids. There, I started a morning pre-school program called The Little School at Elliot's. I finished my studies with a semester at Oxford and a summer of traveling. In 1997, I opened The Little School & Gym with my sister's help (Shannon Diamond: Max, Pre-K & Cooper, Nursery). Shortly thereafter, I began my doctoral studies in Foundations of Education at SLU. In 2004, Sarah Christman (then a teacher at The Little School) and I co-founded The Soulard School and its development became the topic of my dissertation. I currently live in Soulard with my husband, Charles, and our 4 children; Harry (3rd), Tedda (KG), Will (Pre-K), and Frances (Nursery). In my free time (yes, I do have some), I enjoy reading and writing, working on my quote collection, and going on family adventures.

**Eleanor** White

**School Secretary**

I grew up just around the corner from The Soulard School, in Lafayette Square, and went to an elementary school that was much like our school. Later I attended Bard College, then the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I received a Master's in Education Policy Studies. I then went on to receive my certification in Elementary Education from Fontbonne while working in the field of early childhood. After a few years of teaching at a charter school, I discovered the Soulard School, a place that fit perfectly with my own educational philosophy. In my three previous years at the Soulard School, I taught kindergarteners and toddlers. This year I am shifting my focus from the classroom to the office, helping us all stay more organized as the school secretary. My son, Emmett, enjoys attending the Nursery with all his friends, while baby boy #2 is due in December.

**Lynn** Stein

**School Assistant**

I am very happy to be back at The Soulard School for my fifth year of working with the exceptional staff and students in this unique learning environment. I knew when my grandchildren came to this school that it was a great fit for them, but little did I know how much I had to learn. I have gained knowledge, understanding, and hope at recess and in the classrooms. I hope my contributions have been and can continue to be of value to this unique approach to education. My oldest grandson graduated sixth grade and moved on, however, we have a new baby girl at the nursery, so I should have another 10-12 years to continue this journey with all of you.

**Evelyn** Foster

**Nursery Teacher**

Some of you may know Evelyn better as "The Baby Whisperer", a name bestowed upon her because of her inexhaustible patience and infectious calm nature with the youngest members of our school. Evelyn has been with the school for over 10 years and has seen many stages of growth beginning with one preschool room to now two buildings.

**Melissa** Durant

**Toddler Teacher**

I am very excited to be a new member of Soulard School! I have a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education and a passion for working with children. I am very spirited and love to be curious with my students! I previously worked with children from 6 weeks to 6 years of age over the past five years at Hope Montessori Academy. I am looking forward to continuing the comfortable and fun learning environment that Soulard School Nursery and created. To me, toddlers are the most fascinating people to observe; I can never get enough of their ever growing ideas and curiosity!

**Sarah** Macfarlane

**Toddler Teacher**

After finishing my Bachelors degree in Human Development and Psychology with a minor in Juvenile Justice, I was eager to begin my career working with children and families. Shortly after graduating from Wheelock College, I left my hometown of Boston for St. Louis, where I immediately grew to love this city full of warm people and great food. I began my career in education working with newborns and infants, with a specialty in sensory integration therapy. Last spring I had the opportunity to become a member of the Soulard School community and completely fell in love. The Soulard School's philosophy and environment is unlike any other and I am very excited to be a part of something so special. I can't wait to explore with this group of young learners and see where their interests will bring us.

I became a member of the SS community in March of 09, when I had the opportunity to work in the Pre-K room. For the past year and change I have enjoyed working with the 3,4,5 year olds and have learned a lot about my co-workers and the community we are a part of. While I will miss my kids from last year, I am very excited to be working in the nursery. Prior to the Soulard School I worked in a day care in Maryland Heights. I was primarily an infant/toddler teacher, and I have missed working with this age group. I look forward to a great year of learning and growing with your child.



# who we are

**Dan** Dockery

**Quietude Room – Pre-K Teacher**

My experience with the school community began more than a decade ago at The Little School, where I spent 7 1/2 enriching years. During that time I worked with the infants and toddlers in the nursery, the 3-5 year-olds in the Pre-K classroom, and headed the first after-care program for the Soulard School. After a brief hiatus from the colorful world of early childhood, I returned last winter as a substitute teacher. I am happy to reconnect with the community and join the Quietude room as one of three Pre-K teachers for the 2010-2011 year.

Currently, I am facilitating the development of the Quietude Creative Studio into a dynamic and ever-evolving realm of creative challenges and artistic provocations. My co-teachers and I have begun transforming the space into a world of recycled, found, and “Why not?” materials, in which ideas are allowed to play out freely (often in real time). It has been organized with a thoughtful eye toward open expression, sensory experience, creation of all kinds, and building personal and community bonds through common goals in the pioneering spirit that is a hallmark of The Soulard School. In my spare time I enjoy creating collages and mixed media paintings, walking and resistance training, reading, and listening to avant-garde jazz, new wave/post-punk, progressive rock, and various other types of music.

**Matt** King

**Strings Instructor**

I have been playing and/or teaching the violin for over 20 years. I earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. I currently have a private studio, play in the classic country band, Trigger 5, and teach strings at the Soulard School. This will be my 5th year at the school, so I hope that means I get one of the nice parking spots. I stick around because I agree strongly with the educational environment of the school. I enjoy the freedom given to the teachers, as well as working with the kind and eager to learn students. This year I am also happy that my son, Everett, will be at the Nursery while I teach.



*Etian's Dad (Justin Fay) reading to the Quietude Class.*

**Laura** Johnson

**Mosaic – 4th/5th/6th Grade Teacher**

I am honored to join the Soulard School community as a teacher in the Mosaics' room. Having just finished student teaching in the fourth grade, I am prepared to jump into the new school year. Previously a preschool teacher, I bring with me the philosophies of reaching the needs of each student and nurturing the whole child. I recently completed the bachelor's portion of a five-year master's degree program at Maryville University and will graduate next spring. For my master's research project, I will determine the effectiveness of integrating movement with reading comprehension processes in a local classroom. Aside from my studies, I enjoy photography, especially taking pictures of my precious puppy. My favorite thing is to watch her chase other puppies at the dog park!

**Nicole** Post

**Mosaic – 4th/5th/6th Grade Teacher**

I am proud to be returning for a third year at The Soulard School. I have had the privilege of teaching in the blended Mosaic classroom each year, which has ranged from 3rd through 6th grade. I also serve as the Special Education Consultant for the school. I acquired my BA & MAT at Webster University, where I studied special education and environmental science. Beyond teaching, I am an avid gardener and volunteer on various organic farms each summer. I enjoy cooking and eating delicious vegetarian fare with my husband, Eric. We live in Clifton Heights where we enjoy taking care of our two dogs (Gizmo & Toby), cat (Tuco), and three chickens (Gertrude, Esther, & Kahlah) [which was inspired by egg hatching/brooding with the Mosaic class two years ago!]

## who we are



*Indya, Clio and Abby explore the materials in the studio.*

### Sarah Christman

#### Assistant Head of School

I found my way to The Little School almost 10 years ago and am grateful to continue to grow with the schools. As a Co-Founder of The Soulard School, I am delighted everyday to see all that we have become, together. I have two very wordy degrees, a Bachelors degree in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus on Children in Group Settings from the Univ. of MO, Columbia. I continued on at Webster University and completed a Masters in the Arts of Teaching with an emphasis on Children's Creative Expression (phew!). During my Masters work I was able to explore my love of art and found ways to pass on my learning to students in the classroom. This experience also gave me the foundation to help develop The Soulard School's Studio Arts Program. I work closely with the Nursery and Pre-K classrooms as well as, oversee events, fundraisers and general community outreach. Outside of school I enjoy going to art openings and exhibits, bragging about my husband Paul's amazing photography and walking the cutest pug in the world, Stella.

### Kerry Williams

#### Subjunctive – Kindergarten Teacher

I graduated from Fontbonne University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, and an eagerness to begin teaching. With excitement leading the way and fresh knowledge backing me up, I landed my first teaching job in a Pre-Kindergarten classroom. For five months, my little explorers and I dove into a world of growing gardens, writing plays and building friendships. It was at this same project-based school where I then taught one year of kindergarten. Being driven by my students, I designed curriculum goals around the kindergarteners' interests and packed the year with discoveries on snails, abstract art, story-writing, boats and paper airplanes; just to name a few. It was my constant hunger for learning more, seeing more, and being more that brought me to The Soulard School last year, which is a great match to my own personal and professional philosophy. This academic year, I will happily continue my work with kindergarten students here at The Soulard School. I hope to learn, explore and discover right alongside them. Outside of the classroom I enjoy laughing with my family and friends, fall weather, walking, children's literature and movie nights.

### Laura Pupillo

#### Alchemy Room – 2nd/3rd Grade Teacher

Alchemy! Yes, this year I am one of the teachers for this year's second and third grade Alchemy class. This is my second year with the second and third grade students, but my tenth year in education. My past experiences in education were focused primarily in early childhood, but switched quickly to elementary during the completion of my undergraduate degree. During my adventure in becoming a certified teacher, I had the privilege to study under many great teachers at Missouri Baptist University as well as two wonderful third grade teachers during my student teaching. I also had the opportunity to deepen my understandings in art through an associate's degree I obtained through St. Louis Community College. When I'm not at school, you can find me either at home with my husband, Steve, and my beautiful one year old daughter, Abigail, or dreaming about tall mountains and looking for new things to photograph. I feel absolutely positive that this is going to be a great year for our class and the school and can't wait to begin inspiring new dreams and fascinations within our classroom of eager learners.

### Diana Giattino

#### Quietude Room – Pre-K Teacher

I am a New Yorker from a large family of both educators and performers. I studied Theatre and History as an undergraduate which led me to work as a casting assistant for major Broadway productions. I most enjoyed my time spent on the projects that involved children so I decided to take this reflection seriously and leave the industry for an early childhood teaching position at a school in Manhattan. I learned of the Reggio Emilia Approach while I began working on my evolving philosophy of education and I was smitten. I left New York for Colorado where I had the opportunity to work at Boulder Journey School, a Reggio Emilia inspired teacher training program, as a Pre-K teacher and earned my Masters from the University of Colorado at Denver in Early Childhood Education. I am now in my fourth year of teaching and I am proud to be part of the team of educators at the Soulard School.



# who we are

## Sarah Bliss

### Studio Arts Instructor

I have two daughters, Astrid in the first grade, and Mirasol at the nursery, this year will be our families fourth year at the Soulard School. I found my way to the Soulard School from a chance encounter with Kristine Mothershead at a meeting about community gardening, and fell in love immediately. This year I will be the Studio Arts Instructor for Kindergarten thru 6th grade. I have a BA in Studio Art and a BA in Secondary Art Education from Webster University. I have previously taught at Oakville High School in the Mehlville School District, Elementary School in Hazelwood, and Chaminade College Preparatory School. I have recently opened South Broadway Art Project a non-profit community focused art studio that provides affordable and free art education programs. For the past ten years I have been on a constant search to find the perfect balance of working as an art teacher as well as a professional artist, as I believe for me one cannot exist without the other. I am excited and look forward to the many opportunities to make artistic connections with students and help them grow and learn about how art can apply to and enhance their own lives and lives of their families!

## Brandy Hux

### Enigma – 1st Grade Teacher

I graduated from the University of Missouri St. Louis with my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education. This is my fourth year of teaching and my third year at The Soulard School. I love being a part of a community where parents are involved in school, not just their child's education, but the school as a whole. Every year is new journey as the students and I learn new information and experience new things together. We begin by creating a classroom around their interests, respect, and responsibility. From there, we can begin growing as learners and people. As we explore interests and learn through experiences and games, they become more passionate about learning. That is what I am here to do, instill in children the desire to learn.

*"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn." - John Lubbock*



*Measuring Math The Enigma's are measuring themselves with a partner to see how tall they are. This will go in their time capsule so at the end of the year, they can see how much they've grown.*

## Tina Offner

### Music Instructor

Growing up in St. Louis (Central West End), I am excited to be working in one of St. Louis' most vibrant, culturally diverse neighborhoods. I studied drama, music and dance at St. Louis University, UMSL, Fontbonne, University of Georgia, and University of Washington, where I received my B.A. After doing some professional theatre and singing with a few vocal groups, I began raising my three children. When my youngest was in first grade, I returned to school to obtain teaching certifications in drama and music (Drury University, UMR). Recently, after becoming an empty-nester, I returned to school and have just completed an M.A. in Theatre Education from Fontbonne University. I have been teaching performing arts for the past fifteen years in a variety of school settings, sizes and age levels (Pre-K thru 12) including urban, suburban, rural, public, parochial and private schools in the Midwest, west coast and even overseas.

When not teaching or going back to school, I like to perform and work behind the scenes in local community and professional theatre and music venues. My latest projects have been writing, directing and performing a two-woman play about Mary Todd Lincoln and her dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, (my thesis project) and singing with a jazz ensemble.

## Mary Waskow

### Culinary Arts Instructor

My family joined the Soulard School community 5 years ago when our daughter, Paige, began kindergarten. Paige is now in 5th grade, and our son, James, is in 2nd grade. I began cooking with students one day a week the first year of the school. I now spend three days a week at the school as the Culinary Arts Instructor cooking with students and teaching nutrition classes. I have a degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Educational Process, with a Gifted Education certification. I previously taught fourth grade for two years and taught in the gifted program for three years in the Parkway School System. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, hiking and camping.

## who we are

Lara Holley

Quietude Room — Pre-K Teacher

I grew up in Kirkwood and upon leaving Missouri, continued my education at the University of Kansas where I found my two passions; Early Childhood Education and Jayhawk basketball. After completing my degree, I spent the next two years teaching in preschools in both Kansas and Missouri. After working for a few years, I felt compelled to continue my education. Searching for a program with an emphasis on children as competent individuals, community, and creativity, I found Boulder Journey School in Boulder, Colorado. I interned at Boulder Journey School for a year while earning my Master's in Early Childhood Education from CU Denver. After finishing my Master's last year, I moved back to my roots in St. Louis and came to the Soulard School. I worked in the Nursery and was fortunate enough to be able to move up to the big school with some of them. I am thrilled for the upcoming year in the Pre-K room and am excited to see the children grow.

Catherine Hund

Out-of-School-Time Coordinator

I have worked with children and families for 20 years in a variety of roles, including as a state social worker, a parent educator for Parents as Teachers, and a school-age facilitator for area school districts. I have a BS in Sociology and a Masters of Teaching from Webster University. I am married, live in Affton, and have 2 kids, who also count Soulard School as part of their learning community. My goal for out-of-school-time is that it be consistent, engaging, and supportive of the Soulard School philosophy. I hope it will act as a bridge between home and school for families and teachers.

Kerri Fair

Alchemy Room — 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

I find myself as the senior teacher at the school this year. This will be my fourth year at the school and fifteenth year as a teacher. It is a pleasure to be back. This year I will be teaching second and third grade in the Alchemy classroom with my co-teacher Laura Pupillo. Previously, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District, a classroom teacher for seven years in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO. I have taught grades K through fourth grade, but second and third grades are where I have the most experience. As a reading specialist, I worked with struggling readers, but also trained elementary teachers in literacy education. As the Literacy Coach (training other teachers in literacy education) for the school, I am able to utilize my experience as a reading specialist and my Masters Degree in Reading Education for the betterment of the school and the students.

My husband, Clayton, and I are thrilled that our son, Colin (4), will attend the preschool, again, this year. It is wonderful to have him so close. Our daughters, Audrey (2) and Emma (3 mos.), will attend the Nursery. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.



## camp soulard

In my family we measure the success of a summer day by how much mess they have made, the dirtier the kid the better the day. By that measure, Camp Soulard was a rocking success this summer! We spent our days exploring Pontiac Park, painting with mud, playing in the pond, making lemonade, tie-dying, catching June bugs, and finding other ways to make the most of the warm summer days, invariably making a mess of ourselves but having a lot of fun in the process.

We also took advantage of the great resources in our neighborhood by going on a brewery tour, visiting Gus' Pretzels, and meeting local business owners (Jess at Benton Park Café and Vince at Vince's Market). We learned a lot about our community and how we are a small but significant part of where we live.

Summer is a great time to apply what we have learned during the school year, expand and explore ideas, and experience new things. I count myself very lucky to have been a part of Camp Soulard and a small part of summer for so many great kids



# 2010-11 calendar

## September 2010

3	F		Ride Your Bike To School Day
6	M		<b>School Closed- Labor Day</b>
8	W	9 am	Picture Day- Victor Campus
9	Th	6:30-8pm	Volunteer Rally
10	F	9am	Picture Day- Nursery
11	Sa	5:30-10:30 pm	Parents' Night Out
17	F		<b>School Closed- Professional Development</b>
21	Tu	7-8:30pm	Parent Orientation/Curriculum Night
27	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book
28	Tu	evening	Roundtable Book Discussion

## October

5	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
8-10	F-Su		Oktoberfest
13	W	1:30pm	<i>Tomato Plant Girl</i> Metro Theater Production Hosted by Mad Art
15	F		<b>School Closed- Professional Development</b>
18	M	8:30-10am	Grandparent Breakfast
25	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book
29	F	6:30pm	Sock Hop

## November

1	M		Annual Giving Kick-Off
2	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
12	F		<b>School Closed- Records Day</b>
19	F		End 1st Trimester
19	F		Feast of Thanks
20-21	Sa-Su	Noon	Left Bank Book Fair
22-24	M-W		Conferences: Parent & Teacher
25-26	Th-F		<b>School Closed- Thanksgiving</b>
29	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book

## December

7	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
TBA			Winter Concert
20-31	M-F		<b>School Closed- Winter Break</b>

## January 2011

4	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
13	Th	7-8pm	State Of The School
14	F		<b>School Closed- Professional Development</b>
17	M		<b>School Closed- Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
22	Sa	1-4pm	Open House
31	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book

### Parents' Night Out Saturday September 11 5:30-10:30pm

PNO is a special evening of **child care**, offered at the school, for parents to sign their children up and have a night out on their own. It is available to families with **children ages 3 and up**, siblings are welcome. From the child's perspective it is a **pizza party**, so everybody wins at PNO! Depending on the number of children attending there are usually 2 teachers present. We play in the gym, serve a pizza dinner and end the night with movies. This month Sarah Christman and Diana Giattino will be hosting.

The cost is \$20 for 1 child, \$30 for 2 and \$35 for 3. To reserve your spot email Sarah Christman by the Thursday before and cancellations need to be made by Friday morning to not be charged.

### culinary arts

### homesteader cornbread

- 1 1/2 cups cornmeal
- 2 1/2 cups
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup canola oil

1. Preheat oven to 400. Grease an 8x8 inch pan or cast iron skillet.
2. In a small bowl, combine cornmeal and milk; let stand for 5 minutes.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Mix in the cornmeal mixture, eggs and oil just until moistened. Pour batter into prepared pan.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 30-35 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

# 2010-11 calendar

## February

1	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
5	Sa		Trivia Night @ Mad Art
18	F		<b>School Closed- Records Day</b>
21	M		<b>School Closed- President's Day</b>
28	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book

## March

1	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
5	Sa		Madri Gras
8-10	Tu-Th		Conferences: Parent, Teacher (& Student K+)
11	F		End 2nd Trimester
14-18	M-F		<b>School Closed- Spring Break</b>
28	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book

## April

1	F		<b>School Closed- Professional Development</b>
5	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
22	F	10:30am	Teaching Peace Parade
25	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book

## May

3	Tu	8:30am	Parent Coffee
tba	Sa		Soulard Soiree
13	F		<b>School Closed- Records Day</b>
23	M	2:30pm	Assembly: Birthday Book
25	W	6-8pm	Student Art Show & Concert @ Mad Art
27	F		Last Day Of School: Field Day & Portfolios

## 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. In addition to the newsletter, you can visit the school's website ([www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)) to find our online Library Corner. It features a blog, information about birthday books, a Librarian's Pick-of-the-Month, and much more. To find this, go to our "About the School" section on the website and click on "Library Corner."

Each elementary classroom visits the library weekly, and several classes have already begun their library days. The books that students check out will be coming home, as you may have already noticed. Please be sure your child brings his/her books back to school on their library day each week (see below). If a library book gets lost or damaged beyond repair, we ask that you please replace it.

### Library Day Schedule:

Mums (K) - Thursday  
 Enigma (1) - Thursday  
 Alchemy (2-3) - Wednesday  
 Mosaic (4-6) - Tuesday

Next Thursday is the volunteer rally, and we will have a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in becoming a Library Helper. There are several ways to be involved, depending on your schedule. So whether you have meticulous tendencies or just plain love books, stop by and talk with me that night for more info.

This week, I had the pleasure of leading each classroom through a library orientation in order to familiarize students with the books and how to use the library. While I was reminded of how tedious it can be to learn about organization (as one student put it, "Do you enjoy shelving books?"), I was also reminded of how wonderfully natural it is for us to want to organize information ("Where are the princess books? Why don't you put them all on the same shelf?"). I was delighted to find that, after discovering we have French dictionaries in the library, several students decided they want to learn French and promptly checked them out. Library magic! I am really looking forward to getting to know these young readers throughout the year.

Word.  
 -Erin the Librarian