

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

January, 2012  
[www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)

## state of the school

The state of education in St. Louis is in turmoil: failures, closings, lawsuits...So far, new charters have been pushed as the only solution for public options. But, increasingly parents are demanding "choice" in education. 69 districts nationwide desegregate by socioeconomic. California has approved "The Parent Trigger" bill (albeit still with too many hurdles). The 69 districts report significant improvement with the new model; and California is the first to publicly recognize the power and importance of parents. Components of The Soulard Model do both.

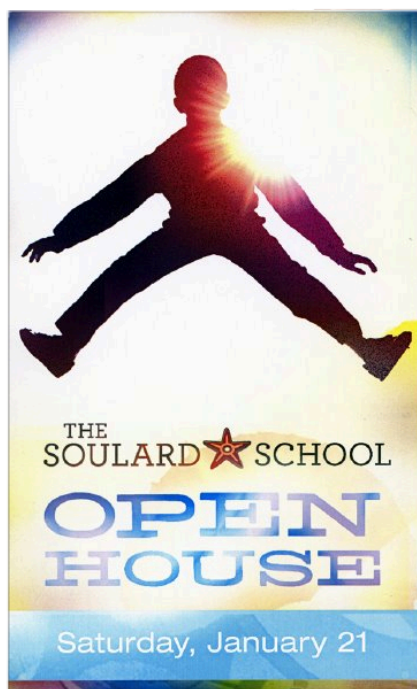
The Soulard School has quickly gained attention because we have created a model that demonstrates how a school can be accessible to all and produce excellent results - with a per student budget equal to that of many public school districts. **Parent involvement at The Soulard School is not just important, but is required for our model to work.**

Now in our 7th year, the State of the School meeting will examine how we have arrived here and what will be necessary as we move into the next phase of our strategic plan. This is one of our mandatory events because we all are stakeholders in the education of our children.

Thursday, **January 12**, 7:00 - 8:00 PM

**\*\*Babysitting provided by the PA for a suggested donation of \$5/child\*\***

*On our trip to the St. Louis Art Museum, the Mums look at a photograph of Monet's pond in Giverny; France at the entrance of the Water Lilies exhibit.*



## open house work night

Thank you to everyone who turned out for the First Work Night. What a great start! But, if you couldn't make it, don't despair.

Join us for the **Second Work Night**

Thursday, **January 19**

3:30 - 9:00 PM

(come ANYTIME

for as little or long as you can).

The PA will have pizza and drinks to help feed hungry appetites.

## trivia night

**Are you smarter than a Soulard School student?**

Find out at our annual Trivia Night, one of the year's best parties. We are working on some very fun and exciting categories and not one of them will demand knowledge of advanced calculus or obtuse historical dates. Beer and wine are included and pizzas from Joanie's may be pre-ordered. Just follow these 6 simple steps and you too can trivia:

- Step 1** - Reserve your table online [www.soulardschool.org/trivia-night](http://www.soulardschool.org/trivia-night)
- Step 2** - Gather 10 of the smartest friends you can find.
- Step 3** - Ask them if they want to order Joanie's Pizza To Go and show them the menu.
- Step 4** - Call or email your pizza order 865-2799 or [sarah.christman@soulardschool.org](mailto:sarah.christman@soulardschool.org)
- Step 5** - Collect \$ from each person.
- Step 6** - Arrive between 6 and 7 pm Saturday, January 28th for the greatest trivia night experience you can imagine!

**\*\* See page 8 for details on Daniel & Diana's Trivia Night PNO\*\***

**WHEN: SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2012 · DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM, QUESTIONS START AT 7 PM**  
**WHERE: @ MAD ART GALLERY · 2727 S. 12TH STREET IN SOULARD**

**LET US PICK YOUR BRAIN!**

@ THE SOULARD SCHOOL'S ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT JANUARY 28

THE SOULARD  SCHOOL

Join us at one of the year's best parties. Our trivia categories are consistently fun, fascinating, and just a little different (and none of them require calculus or knowledge of obscure historical dates). And hey, beer and wine are included and you can arrange to pre-order pizzas from Joanie's.





# school notes

## re-enrollment dates

Friday, **January 20**  
Re-enrollment Applications Due  
Monday, **February 14**  
Admission & Sliding Scale Consideration (FFCP) Deadline

## Gratitude ...

David White with Capstone Press, Inc. publishing company generous donated five cases of assorted books for our library. (And bonus: they are almost all hardbound which ensures a longer life for them!)

capstone

## club souldard

Our second round of clubs begins the week of January 16 and will run for 8 weeks.

Susan Marino, one of our Quietude parents will be offering a **FITNESS CLUB** for preK - 1st grade and another Fitness Club for 2nd grade and up.

Justin Ivan Brown will be retuning with his **DRAMA CLUB**, Acting Up, for students in 2nd grade and up.

Laura Johnson will be running a Creative Problem Solving Club, called **CREATIVE CONVENTION** for 2nd and 3rd graders in conjunction with the Gifted Resource Council. The students in this club will train to compete against other students in the St. Louis area.

**KNITTING CLUB** returns for friends in first grade and up with Tracy Yates.

And last but not least, Erin Quick and Amy Corey will offer a **BOOK CLUB**, which will focus on reading and discussing great books.

Registration for these clubs will officially begin Monday, January 9, but if you have any questions contract Catherine at 314-600-5255, or stop by before or after care.

## mums (kindergarten) class notes



*A few of the sketches from Hugo, Nigel, and Abby.*

After **studying** the pond ecosystem, the Mums visited the Art Museum to explore Monet's paintings of his pond. We **searched** for patterns, shapes, and colors in *Water Lilies* and *Blue in Harmony* and pointed out the natural elements depicted in *Water Lilies, Triptych*. Then, we "jumped" into the painting and **imagined** what else we would see at Monet's pond, **drawing** them in our sketchbooks. Before leaving, we **pretended** a treasure chest sat at the bottom of the pond and reached our hands inside to pull out something special. During Writers' Workshop, we **journalled** about our treasures.

## enigma (1st/2nd) class notes

### Enigma Study of the Human Body

Wiggly teeth. When you are six, seven, and even eight those little baby teeth start wiggling and falling out. Our first and second grade students were beginning to really lose some teeth and wondered about this process and other interesting facts about the human body.

So, we branched off into a full study of the human body.

With the interest of teeth already in place, we began by studying the skeleton and bones which led to other systems of the body. To help make this new learning more concrete, we had students make paper cut outs of their bodies (smaller versions of themselves). While studying each system, we asked students to either draw or make a three dimensional representation of the system or important organ within the system on their paper body. In this way they could **extend their knowledge**, have **educated dialogue** about the body part/system with other friends, and **remember where the organ or system was located** in the body and how it worked with/ among other parts.



# school notes

## mosaic (4th/5th) class notes



### Mosaic Water Studies

Mosaics began a water study a few months ago starting with explorations about the water cycle. Through visits to the Litzinger Road Ecology Center they learned about watersheds. A guest speaker from MSD shared information about water quality issues, including pollution and runoff water. Students went on a sewer walk in their neighborhood to investigate the places where the rain water travels and learn about flooding prevention. We followed a drop of water through the water cycle and asked, "Where does water go once we use it?" On our most recent field trip, we toured the Bissell Point Wastewater Treatment Plant and sought to answer that question. Students learned about wastewater and the different cleaning processes it goes through before returning to the Mississippi River. After realizing how much time and energy goes into cleaning wastewater, we began exploring water conservation. Students are now considering ways they can protect water in their own community.



## parent association notes

The Parent Association is happy to share that we raised upwards of **\$15,000** at Oktoberfest. This is thanks

to all of your volunteer efforts. The School has begun to see the fruits of our hard work. Thus far funds raised have been put towards having the carpets cleaned over Christmas break, educational speaker fees to address the school, school stamps for the office and library, web hosting and holiday gift baskets for the staff. This is in addition to our ongoing commitment to fund the upgrade of library equipment. We also voted to donate \$1000 to the school annual giving campaign on behalf of the Parent Association.

We announced further application of funds at our last open PA meeting. Congratulations were given to the Quietude class as the winner of our classroom volunteer incentive contest for Oktoberfest. They received \$800. This reflects the \$300 maximum for volunteers recruited and the \$500 contest reward towards class field trips for having the highest volunteer turnout. We also announced that every classroom earned \$300 for recruitment of volunteers. P.E, After Care, Culinary Arts, Care Team, Studio Arts, Handy Helpers, the Library and Office received \$100 to \$200 for their volunteer hours as well.

The last open PA meeting included the introduction of a suggestion box, now located in the hall outside of the Richter room. We received some great suggestions to explore from the suggestion box. We are actively investigating the possibility of purchasing a snow blower or snow removal service to help us this winter and a lawn mower service, replacing the tables in the McGurk's room, and purchasing a shed to house lawn equipment. The suggestion box will remain there for your suggestions. Please share with us what you would like to see at our school.

Finally the Parent Association would like to give a great big THANK YOU to Eric Nemens and Pi for arranging to have the Pi truck at the school at our last open PA meeting. Families in attendance were able to assemble their own pizza and cook it on site in the Pi truck. It was delicious, not to mention the proceeds charged by the PA went directly to the school. 2011 brought great things for Soulard School and I know that with our continued dedication and efforts 2012 promises to be even better. Happy New Year!

Michele Rigsby, Parent Association President and Fred & Ada's mom.

"There was a big round thing and it had rocks in it and it would take the rocks and pull them out so the water would become clean. – Susan & Gianni

"The dirty water comes from sinks, toilets, and showers."

– Miriam

"If we didn't have treatment plants our water would be all murky."

– Harry

# 2011-12 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS

Thank you all for making this year our most successful Annual Fund Campaign ever with contributions totaling \$46,080! The Annual Fund financially supports our innovative model. The sliding scale used in our Soulard Model ensures that all students have access to a high quality education and demonstrates the possibility for school success in a true socioeconomically diverse population.

## LEADERSHIP DONOR (\$10,000)

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Andrew O'Brien

## MAJOR DONOR (\$1,000 - \$4,000)

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Soulard School Parent Association  
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**100%  
PARENT  
PARTICIPATION**

again!

**{ RAISED }  
\$46,080!**

the most successful campaign in TSS history

## FRIEND DONOR (UP TO \$99)

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## THE FOUNDING DONORS LIST

A big thank you also to those who help The Soulard School build capacity through very generous multi-year pledges.

## FOUNDING DONORS (\$10,000 - \$25,000 PER YEAR)

The John and Joan Vatterott Foundation  
Dr. William Danforth  
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The Saigh Foundation



# 2011-12 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN DONORS

## FRIEND DONOR (UP TO \$99)

(continued)

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## THE GRANDPARENTS

Special thanks to our grandparents.  
This group contributed more than \$10,500 to our  
Annual Fund and, thanks to an anonymous donor,  
these donations were matched dollar-for-dollar!

### GRANDPARENT SCHOLARS CLUB

Elizabeth Ballard & John Murray  
Jan & Wilson Beckett  
Joan & Al Durbin  
Ann & Jim Garvey  
Martha & William Gavin  
Virginia & Earl Heitzenroeder  
Jim Holloran  
Anne Coggan Johnston  
Larry McClure  
Jim Mothershead

### GRANDPARENT DONOR

Suzanne & Paul Baldon  
Dottie & Ken Bini  
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Louise & Paul Cameron  
Roben Campbell & David Fay  
Lois Kelly Coder & Tom Coder  
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Ruth Killeen  
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Kristie & Andrew Lenzen  
Jayne & David Leonard  
Inge & Eric Mack  
Susan Mack  
Linda & Jeff Mitchell  
Lois & Robert Mueller  
Barbara Musterman  
Rina & Tony Panzeri  
Nancy Rutherford  
Robin Scott  
Suzanne & Tom Stecher  
Carolyn White  
Nancy & Norman Woldow

*Thank You!*



*We had our winter concert at historic Trinity Lutheran Church in December.  
The students loved performing in such a wonderful venue, and the concert was well attended.*

There are some exciting activities planned for the spring-students will be learning about sound and designing their own musical instruments. We will be learning about the nature of sound, radio, and light waves and take a trip to KDHX to see a radio station in action.



# school notes

## alchemy (2nd/3rd) class notes

At The Soulard School we talk about community quite a bit. What does the word mean? What does it look like to have a strong community within our school? We're fortunate to be part of our school community that we all work hard to build, and are also fortunate to be part of a larger community that supports our school and students. **During the month of December we asked of our community and we also gave back.**

**Thinking about giving and practicing giving was very much a theme** in The Alchemy Class this past month. We practiced giving with simple acts such as collecting cans for the **food drive** and we collected box tops.

The Alchemy students were invited by American Eagle Credit Union to hold a **muffin sale to raise money for an overnight at Shaw Nature Reserve.** They worked hard to prepare for the sale and had high hopes of raising a third of the money needed for the trip. Instead we made a full 100% thanks to the generous employees at the credit union. Not only did the **Alchemists earn all the money needed**, the Credit Union requested we visit more often.



After the bake sale **we had a desire to give back.** We planned to build our partnership with the credit union in the coming months, but were eager to give back sooner. We decided to **visit Allen Market Lane, the local senior community, to read and play games with the local resident seniors.** Both of these adventures definitely deepened our roots in our classroom community, but more importantly, left us feeling more connected to our place we call home. It seems with every meeting or partnership, we find a new friend waiting to be part of our great community.

**I wonder, who will we meet next?**

## GLScrip

\$296 raised so far

## Book Fair

\$1200 in book credit from Left Bank Books, plus 60 books purchased by families and friends to donate to the school.

## Food Drive

546 pounds of food collected for Operation Food Search (more than twice our total for last year)

## Box Tops

for Education

more than 2100 box tops collected so far, for a total of \$210.



# school notes

## studio notes



### One For Me, One For Someone In Need - Part 1

In honor of celebrating the season of giving, the Enigma, Alchemy, and Mosaic classes are working on a community service art project. We brainstormed and made lists about handmade items that we could sew or knit for someone in need that they might really need. We came up with ideas like a collaborative quilt, socks, hats, gloves or mittens, stuffed animals...

The first, second, and third grades voted to design and sew their own stuffed animals. With a nearly unanimous vote, the Mosaic class independently came up with the idea of making mittens. Students are making two stuffed animals, or two pairs of mittens with the thought of making one for them self, and one for someone else. Students are making their creation with upcycled fabric remnants donated by a local dry cleaner. Next week each class will vote on the charity they will donate to as well as if they will sell their item and donate the money, or just donate the handmade item.

## nursery notes

We have been keeping busy at the Nursery! In the fall, we focused on studying the colors around us. In the classroom we **sorted** colored shapes, **stacked** colored blocks, **molded** different colors of play dough, and **searched** for colored pieces in the sensory table. We **gathered** the leaves outside and **organized** them into buckets of yellow, green, and brown. We **glued** our leaves onto a mural now proudly hung in the classroom. We have also enjoyed taking warm weather walks and **pointing** out all of the colored doors in the neighborhood. In the studio, our favorite activity is to finger paint, **mixing** the colors. We have enjoyed **making color recognition** a part of our daily adventures at the Nursery.



## phys. ed. notes

As we head into the new year, P.E. is excited to announce that we are now **utilizing the facilities at Gene Slay's Boys' Club** of St. Louis for 1st-5th grades.

This allows us to focus on a wider range of sports and activities, including  
**soccer,**  
**kickball,**  
**softball,**  
**basketball, and**  
**field sports.**

For our younger students we continue to hold P.E. on campus with an emphasis on activities, games, and obstacle courses that encourage growth and team building while providing well-rounded assessment opportunities. Moving forward we will continue to emphasize the importance of "unplugging" for students and to show that physical activities can indeed be incredibly FUN.



# school notes

## quietude (pre-k) notes



In Pre-Kindergarten we spent much of Autumn studying the beautiful books and illustrations of Lois Ehlert. We were inspired by the leaf collection that she shares in *Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf*. As a class we collected a variety of leaves, scanned them, then spent our morning meetings learning to identify which trees they came from. Once we had our facts together, the children worked hard writing out a label for each leaf. In following their interest in leaves, the children were motivated to work hard on these leaf labels, eventually creating a leaf counting book as a gift to the children in the nursery.



## PNO for trivia night

Daniel and Diana are running Parent's Night Out at school during TRIVIA NIGHT.

Saturday, **January 28** from 6pm - 11pm.

PNO is a special evening of child care, offered at the school, for parents to sign their children up and enjoy a night without worry. 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. We may have room for friends of the Soulard School as well. There is a minimum number of children required for each evening so please reserve your spots by emailing [diana.giattino@soulardschool.org](mailto:diana.giattino@soulardschool.org).

\$25 for 1 child | \$35 for 2 children | \$45 for 3 children

## culinary arts recipe

### Loaded Potato Soup

4 (6 oz)	red potatoes
2 tsp	olive oil
1/2 cup	onion, chopped
1 1/4 cup	chicken or vegetable broth
3 tbsp	flour
2 cups	1% low-fat milk
1/4 cup	reduced fat sour cream
1/2 tsp	salt
1/4 tsp	black pepper
3 slices	bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/3 cup	shredded cheddar cheese
4 tsp	green onions, thinly sliced

1. Pierce potatoes with a fork. Bake in the oven at 400 until soft. Cut in half; cool slightly.
2. While potatoes cook, heat oil in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Add onion; saute 3 minutes. Add broth. Combine flour and 1/2 cup milk; add to pan with 1 1/2 cups milk. Bring to a boil; stir often. Cook 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in sour cream, salt, and pepper.
3. Coarsely mash potatoes, cutting skins into small pieces, and add to the soup. Top with cheese, bacon and onions. Yield: 4 servings.