

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

April, 2013
www.soulardschool.org

head of school notes

MOTIVATION & CHALLENGE

In January's newsletter I wrote about the power and importance of motivation. In our last newsletter of the school year you can see what a motivated community we are through: field trips, culinary clubs, driveway assistants and even a peek at what our motivated alumni are up to. What is also present are **the habits that are encouraged along the way**:

reflection |ri'flekSHən| noun

1. serious thought or consideration: he doesn't get much time for reflection. an idea about something, esp. one that is written down or expressed: reflections on human destiny and art.

See also:

*The Annual Teaching Peace Parade (p.3),
Positive Integers (p.2),
Echo & Narcissus (p.4) and
The Alumni Corner (p.5)*

evaluation |i'valyoo,āt| verb

1. form an idea of the amount, number, or value of; assess.

See also:

*Literacy Workshop (p.3) and
The Library Corner (p.7)*

connection |kə'nekSHən| noun

1. a relationship in which a person, thing, or idea is linked or associated with something else. The action of linking one thing with another.

See also:

*Cinco de Soulard (p.1),
Studio Arts (p.4),
Rube Goldberg (p.4) and
Jefferson City (p.2)*

Want to try an exercise on motivation & challenge? See page 7.

- Sarah Christman, Head of School



*Thrivers test out the Supreme Court judge's perspective during their trip to Jefferson City.
For more, see page 2.*

connect

soirée

Our evening soiree is now an afternoon fiesta!

Bring your friends to Cinco de Soulard, a day of mingling, Mexican food and margaritas on McGurk's newly expanded patio.

In addition to the **expansive buffet** and **open bar**, revelers will have the opportunity to bid on great silent and live auction items, including **getaways to Mexico, Colorado and Arizona**. The party also offers an array of fun **sign-up parties** for kids and grown-ups including an overnight **slumber party** at the school and annual **foodie feast**, always a sell out. Four lucky winners will go home with one of our **raffle baskets**, each loaded each gift certificates and goodies, each valued at \$600 or more. Raffle tickets cost \$10 each or six for \$50.

Tickets are \$40, \$15 less than last year's admission. Families are asked to purchase

four tickets, so bring your friends! Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to help keep the school affordable for our diverse body of students.

What Cinco de Soulard

When 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, **May 5**

Where John D. McGurk's, 1200 Russell Boulevard

How much \$40 for Soulard School Families



SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS PLUS SIGN UP PARTIES
BUFFET & BEVERAGES WITH ADMISSION
PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW: SOULARDSCHOOL.ORG

classroom notes

reflect

positive integers

Circles and connections have been a defining part of this school year—how students support each other through Buddy Circles; how we nurture the growth of our philosophy in students through our student committees; and most recently, how students develop a feeling of “wholeness” through Positive Integers.

Integrity is an essential part of our language and culture, and we often think of integrity as a positive attribute and associate it with honesty and strong character. Integrity actually comes from the same Latin root as “integer”—the mathematical term for whole numbers. Quite literally, integrity means “whole” or “complete.” With the true meaning of “integrity” in conjunction with the mathematical term “integers,” Positive Integers was born.

The Alchemy and Mosaic classrooms have been monitoring their level of integrity several times a day since January. They understand that their choices (acting with or without integrity) can figuratively add to a day or take from a day. Practicing empathy, respect, responsibility, and gratitude can make a person feel and interact positively; while the absence of those traits certainly lends itself to negativity.

In consistently adding to their day and to our community, the students have connected paper links to represent the “wholeness” and “completeness” they are nurturing within themselves and sharing with others. Together, the classrooms have connected 1,000 chain links! The chain link will be featured in our Peace Parade on April 22nd.



The Thrive Class with Missouri Representative John Wright

learn about the historic architecture of the city as they pondered the essential question: "Why is the state capitol located in Jefferson City and what made this a good area for settlement?"

Now that the Thrive students have arrived back in St. Louis, they have been commissioned with the task of presenting their expert knowledge to the school at a future assembly in order to prepare younger students for their upcoming chance to enjoy this upper elementary tradition!

connect

thrive notes

ALL ABOARD TO JEFF CITY!

Cross-curricular connections, student driven fundraising and an interest in Missouri government and history led the Thrive class all the way to the Jefferson City this month! At the end of March, Thrive students boarded a train to embark on a day's adventure to visit the state capitol. While there, students had the opportunity to meet and converse with Missouri State Representative John Wright, who is currently championing education policy in Jefferson City. Students had many questions for the legislator including, "What was the first bill you worked on after joining Congress?" and "Why is the Missouri congress divided into two chambers?" Students also toured the State Capitol Building, the Governor's Mansion and the Supreme Court, where they had the opportunity to meet with a Missouri Supreme Court Judge who discussed the procedures of the court system in Missouri. Throughout the trip students had the opportunity to explore the Jefferson City area geography and

extra! extra!

reflect

teaching peace

Our annual Teaching Peace Parade will be held Monday, **April 22** from 2:30 - 3:15PM. This annual event celebrates the Soulard School values of respect, gratitude, responsibility and philanthropy, as well as commemorating Earth Day. Family members are invited to join us as we march from school through the neighborhood to McGurk's and back, singing our "Teaching Peace" song and waving banners and signs about peace. What does peace mean to you?

end of the year

END OF THE YEAR EXTRAVAGANZA!

Join us for an end-of-the-year spectacular, as performers across the grade levels showcase their studies and talents on Wednesday, **May 15** at Mad Art Gallery (2727 S. 12th St.) from 6:00 - 8:00PM. Part 1 will feature 2 plays from our Club Soulard Acting Club featuring our Club Soulard Dance Club, as well as a pre-k vocal performance and a demonstration by the Club Soulard Cup Stacking Club. Part 2 will include violin, vocal and rhythm performances by the elementary classes, as well as a celebration of our 5th grade graduating class. While you're there, check out some great art that has been created in our Studio classes this year. Grandparents welcome!

evaluate

workshop with kerri

FREE SATURDAY WORKSHOP from Kerri Fair our Curriculum Specialist

A cozy chair and a good book on a rainy day are nice, but when shared with your child the time is priceless. Have you ever wondered what magical things happen in the classroom that inspire your child to read and wished you could have that magic for yourself? I'd love to demystify what happens in the classrooms and share strategies and tools you can use right at home with similar results. Both you and your child can enjoy reading together, talking about books like old friends! Please join me for a free Saturday workshop (free babysitting provided) on **April 13th** from 9:30 – 11:00AM. The school will provide coffee and a few snacks, and there will be a gift drawing for a copy or two of the book we will use in the workshop. All strategies covered can be easily adapted for nursery through upper elementary children, so please come even if your child isn't reading, yet!

parent association

MISSION The Soulard School Parent Association works to enhance the educational experience of our children by supporting the overall mission of The Soulard School, encouraging communication among students, faculty and parents, and carrying out specific projects that benefit the school. An important aspect of the PA is building a sense of community through volunteer work, fundraising and special events. All parents and guardians are members of the Parent Association and are welcome at both General and Officer meetings.

NEXT MEETING The next PA General Meeting is on Tuesday, **April 16th** at 6:30pm in the McGurk's Room. Enjoy snacks, drinks and good company with other Soulard School parents as we look ahead to next school year. Childcare will be provided for a small donation.

AGENDA On the agenda for the evening are our annual PA Officer Elections for open positions (TBA in Friday Notes). PA officer terms are 2 years, and responsibilities include monthly Officer meetings, volunteering at Oktoberfest, and other responsibilities unique to each position. If you are interested in learning more about the PA and how you can get involved, please join us.

GRASS FED BEEF For the 5th year, the Parent Association is offering a healthy, unique fundraiser. Instead of selling candles or gift wrap, we are selling a locally raised, grass-fed cow from Missouri Grass Fed Beef. Our grass-fed beef sale is a fundraiser that supports both the school and a local, sustainable cattle farmer. Place your order online today! To order simply log onto Basecamp and go to the ON-General project. Beef sale order instructions are listed in the Writeboard tab, including available cuts, and payment & pickup information. You can also order on behalf of coworkers, friends and grandparents too!

SOULARD CONCERT BOOTH This summer the PA has a new fundraising opportunity! We have been invited to host a booth at the Soulard Concert Series at The Soulard Farmer's Market. Concert dates are: **June 8, July 20, August 17, and September 14.** All concerts are free, and are family and pet friendly. Details about this event will be forthcoming, and we will be putting out a call for volunteers. So stay tuned for more info in Friday Notes over the next few weeks.

NEW DONATIONS And speaking of fundraisers, our Oktoberfest funds are continuing to support some exciting improvements at the school! In addition to the Comet, our school playground will also be getting new rope for the spider web, a climbing area, tall pylon soccer goals, hopscotch and foursquare game markings, and a new bike rack installed. We have also made our 3rd annual contribution to the school library's 5-year library project to upgrade to an integrated library system (ILS) in the 2015-2016 school year.

All of this is made possible by the wonderful time and work put in by YOU, our amazing parents. Thank you for all that you do for our community! See you on April 16th!

classroom notes

connect

studio notes



Joss and Rowan stop to sketch Rousseau's jungle plant study.

RAINFORESTS

The French painter Henri Rousseau found inspiration for his lush jungle paintings through books and visits to the Botanical Gardens in Paris. The Mums class used Rousseau's creative process to create a tropical rainforest scene: during our visit to the Climatron at the Missouri Botanical Gardens, students made detailed drawings of the four layers of the rainforest.

Back in the classroom, students made both group and individual drawings from their sketches for each layer of a rainforest. Then we arranged and combined these drawings to create a three-dimensional rainforest. During this process, Mums learned that scenic paintings are usually composed with a foreground, middle ground, and background to give a sense of depth, which roughly corresponds to the layers of a rainforest.

- Studio Instructor Carrie Keasler

gods, and that there were stories to tell us about these gods. We studied the Roman myth of Echo and Narcissus, which features Jupiter and his wife, Juno. The study became more elaborate when we considered the intriguing fate of the now-invisible Echo, who is only able to repeat the last words that another speaks, and Narcissus, who was turned into a beautiful flower. The class played reflection games and sang echo songs. We also created our own collaborative artwork celebrating the narcissus flower. Each child made a unique flower, then "planted" it near a quiet pool that was designed by the entire class.

connect

enigma notes

SIMPLE MACHINES

We've been pushing and pulling our brains trying to make work easier with our study of simple machines! Because losing teeth is such an important aspect of first grade, the interest of this study began by inventing a machine that would help us to pull out our teeth easily. We deepened our investigation by defining machines and how they help us make work easier. Eventually, we condensed each invention and categorized it into one of six types of simple machines: an inclined plane, wedge, wheel and axle, pulley, lever, and/or screw.

Diving a little deeper, we broke up our study and focused on each one of the six simple machines individually. Parents became involved and were able to provide demonstrations showing us how simple machines work. We went scavenging and found simple machines around our school. We also built machines out of blocks and books for some hands-on learning.

We are going to extend our study by focusing on Rube Goldberg and his devices and incorporation of simple machines in order to create our own Rube Goldberg devices.

reflect

quietude notes

ECHO AND NARCISSUS

The second trimester was a time for making connections in Pre-Kindergarten. We learned that the planets of our solar system (with which we became familiar during the first trimester) were named after Roman



Ayler puts the finishing touches on her hand-made Narcissus flower and adds it to the reflecting pool.

extra! extra!

Camp SOULARD



Summer Fun in the City

Camp Soulard is once again THE place to be this summer! Our camps will unplug summer and bring it back to the way it used to be. Remember your lemonade stand, playing in the creek, making up your own games and changing the rules, running through the sprinkler, pitching a tent in the backyard and creating some of the messiest art projects only the outdoors would allow? Camp Soulard will bring back some of those activities and more with all of the spirit.

Camp Soulard has two sessions: Junior Camp for students entering 1st and 2nd and Senior Camp for students entering 3rd grade through 5th. All camps are held from 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday. In addition to theme activities, each week may include water play, cooking, art activities, neighborhood walks and explorations in our garden.

June 3-7 & 10-14

Urban Camping

June 17-21 & 24-28

Let's Put On a Play!

July 15-19 & 22-26

The Science of Summer

July 29-August 2 & August 5-9

Upcycling Studio

reflect

alumni corner

Once a Soulard School student, always a Soulard School student. We want to highlight the ways our alum are using their great Soulard School lesson to effect their current schools and what unique experiences they are a part of.

Quinlan Holt | Class of 2011

As a dance student at GCAA, I have been fortunate enough to have been included in many dance residencies. My favorite so far has been with Pilobolus. They taught me to make my movements represent something and be loose and sometimes comical or abstract. Another time myself and some other dance students were lucky enough to be taught part of a dance straight from the musical *Wicked!* The woman who taught us had been one of the dancers and understudied for *Nessarose* for several years. Each residency or visit was really fun.



Quinn (left, rear) participating in the Pilobolus workshop.

Sasha Mothershead | Class of 2010

Hi, I'm Sasha. I graduated from The Soulard School in 2010. Since then I've been a student at McKinley Middle school, and next year will be going to Metro High School. Currently I'm participating in a program at the Contemporary Art Museum (CAM) called LEAP. I love this program because its very creative, I get to meet new people with the same interests, and work with upcoming artists. This semester we are focusing on designing an abandoned area called Pruitt Igoe. We have made architectural plans and built our structures out of the amazing materials at LEAP and are now taking a field trip to go look at the sites. This summer I am hoping to continue my art studies at the Trinity College in Texas with the Duke TIP program. I feel The Soulard School really sparked my creative interests in the arts, and I am excited that I am able to continue on with my learning.

Sarah Hyser | Class of 2011

We are lucky to have Sarah join us each afternoon at TSS as a Counselor In Training (CIT). Sarah supports our Club Soulard program and mentors our Pre-K and Elementary students in the TSS style. "Its fun for me because I get to be both a mentor and a friend to the students," says Sarah Hyser in true TSS fashion.

Lyndsay McGrath | Class of 2012

Soulard School alum Lyndsay McGrath was chosen by the teachers of Grand Center Arts Academy as one of three 6th graders (out of about 80) to be part of a student lead anti-bullying alliance club. They and the representatives from 7th-9th grades meet once a week to discuss & evaluate how they can prevent bullying in their school. These students were chosen for their strong leadership skills & sense of self, skills nurtured here at The Soulard School!

Isabel Sherman | Class of 2011

Hi, I'm Isabel. I graduated from The Soulard School in 2011. I'm now at The College School, and in 7th grade. During my time at The Soulard School, I was always encouraged to be myself, a lesson that every student at TSS is taught. I believe that inspired me to do what I love: acting. This year, I performed the role of Charlie in my school's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Next year, I will be performing a Shakespeare play. I also play lacrosse, and recently sang with a friend before the school community for an Art Share.

Email info@soulardschool.org to register.
See page 6 for camp details.

classroom notes

mosaic notes

TIME FLIES

Time is flying across the Mosaic room. During writer's workshop we wrote about an imaginary train trip across North America. In order to arrive timely we learned about standard, pacific, and central time zones. During the planning process we created a map and legend with their specific route. Along with that, we learned details of telling time to the hour, half hour, quarter hour, minute, and second. We also did a home study to determine how many and what kind of clocks were in their daily environment. We were looking for analog and digital; however, some students found Roman numerals on the clocks. We expanded our studies to learn about the history of Roman numerals and how to identify the symbols. We experimented with craft sticks and tooth picks to create a variety of patterns for better representation and understanding of this system. We completed the time study with equations involving time; converting hours to minutes and determining total minutes from larger whole numbers to hours and minutes.



Reilly and Sorena creating Roman numeral symbols.

alchemy notes

PACK YOUR BAGS... Imagine you had the opportunity to create your very own country. What would it look like? Would it be mountainous or flat? What type of climate would it have? What plants would grow and which animals would roam? Well, the Alchemy class is in the process of creating unique countries for Continent Alchemy.

In preparation for our Continent Alchemy project, we have explored the Earth's major biomes— locations, climates, and ecosystems characteristic to each. We have discussed various plant and animal adaptations that enable their survival among the elements of their environment. Topography has also been a focus as we investigated landforms and bodies of water that shape the Earth. We will use our research along with our knowledge of 2-D and 3-D geometric figures to determine the shape, terrain, climate, and geographical location of our country. After creating our country, we will work as a group to piece together our countries to form a continent full of unique structures and biodiversity. So grab your passport and start planning your trip!



June 3-7 & 10-14

Urban Camping Explore the great outdoors without leaving the city! This 2-week session will focus on outdoor camping in an urban setting. Campers will learn skills such as fire building, orienteering, outdoor cooking, and creating shelter. Outdoor and camper safety will be taught throughout the session. Campers will navigate our neighborhood and find the wild in our urban world. All our new skills will come together for an urban overnight camp-out on our own school playground.

June 17-21 & 24-28

Let's Put On a Play! During this session campers will learn about a variety of performing arts. Campers will work with real local performers and performance teachers to explore dance, music, and theater. Campers will write a script, design sets and costumes, rehearse and perform a play that they will perform on the final day the 2-week session.

July 15-19 & 22-26

The Science of Summer Research the science behind your favorite summertime activities! Experiment with physics by building simple machines, damming creeks, and flying kites. Study botany as we identify the plants of the area and explore a pond. Experience chemistry in the kitchen planning and preparing snacks and treats while making predictions and documenting the process. Walking trips to local parks and community gardens will provide an opportunity to see the scientific and natural world around us.

July 29-August 2 & August 5-9

Upcycling Studio Be a part of the latest craze in art – upcycling. Campers will turn found objects, recycled products, and thrift-store finds into beautiful and useful works of art. Campers will create sculptures, wearable art and jewelry, as well as collaborative projects. The summer weather will allow us to move outside and create big, messy works of art too!

extra! extra!

THE FOUNDING DONORS LIST

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

FOUNDING DONORS (\$10,000 - \$25,000 PER YEAR, UP TO 4 YEARS)

The John and Joan Vatterott Foundation
Dr. William Danforth
Lance Callis
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2012-2013 MAJOR DONORS MAJOR DONORS (\$5,000 - \$25,000)

Anonymous
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Lance Callis
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NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April is here, with all the usual signs of spring: gusty winds, shorter shadows, muddy shoes... and poems. After all, April is National Poetry Month. Established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets, National Poetry Month's aspires to, among other things, "introduce more Americans to the pleasures of reading poetry." Poetry Month is not just for poetry lovers. It is for everyone, young and old.

evaluate

library corner

Children are in many ways natural poets. They often still believe in magic - or at the very least, wonderment, which is a crucial element of poetry. My old teacher was fond of saying that "poetry

makes you slow down," and though kids seem to have boundless energy, they don't have the demands of adulthood distracting them as we do. Their distractions are different. They often stop us in the middle of our mad dash to peer at things, to pick things up and pocket them, to (thank heavens) make us late. Kids love images and surprises, and they can often think metaphorically about their world in remarkable ways - all qualities that make poems memorable and fun. Like most things, if kids get to enjoy poetry early on, they will probably enjoy it all of their lives.

Throughout April, several classrooms will be exploring poetry, both as readers and writers. I will have the pleasure of working with many of them this month, alongside Pam Garvey and with visits from other poets in our school community. Poetry collections will be featured in the library, and the Mosaic class will be memorizing poems they love and sharing them with other classrooms during their Poetry Run. Here are [some opportunities to bring poetry into your home this April](#), and throughout the year:

[Attend a children's poetry event at your local library or bookstore.](#)

[Listen to poetry read aloud, and read poetry to you children.](#)

Poetry is meant not only to be read, but to be heard. The St. Louis Storytelling Festival (May 1st-4th) is an excellent opportunity to hear both stories and poems read aloud. Additionally, many children's poetry collections include CD's of the poems read by poets and other performers.

[Memorize a poem that you love, and share it with your child; then have him/her do the same.](#) Memorizing poetry is not rote work. We know dozens and dozens of songs by heart - they stick with us. Poems are a lot like songs, and memorizing one you love means that you have it with you always, whenever you want to draw upon its wisdom or joy.

[Write a poem with your child.](#) Even if you don't write poetry, write a poem with your child anyway. Writing poetry with children can be a very rewarding experience, and often children will have us thinking about something in an entirely new way in the process. For some good ideas and instructions, author & poet Georgia Heard has some wonderful books about writing poetry with children.

[Have poetry books in your home.](#) Whether you check them out from the library or purchase them for your home, keep poetry books around for you and your kids to explore. The St. Louis Public Library branches have extensive collections, as do local bookstores like Left Bank Books. The Greater St. Louis Book Fair is coming up April 25th-28th, and is a great resource with a wide selection of books for young and old.

Word. Erin the Librarian

#4 Motivation and challenge

Cognitive scientists have found that we feel motivated when we value what we're trying to learn and we believe we can succeed if we try. That combination is what makes all of us want to start something and want to keep at it when it gets hard.

An Exercise

Pick something you enjoy doing and want to get better at. Think about what makes you interested. Check all the boxes that apply.

It looks like fun

- It seems like something you can probably do
- It involves people you want to be with
- Success doesn't all depend on you
- No one will be judging you, so the stakes are low

The activity has an audience that matters to you

- At school or work
- Among friends or family
- In a public place

You have a personal interest in getting good at it

- To express yourself
- To grow into who you want to be
- To feel the pleasure of mastering new challenges

Is there someone you know, a mentor or teacher, that will be able to support and encourage you—to break things into small steps, do it with you, praise your successes and show you how to do better?

- I will need help finding a mentor/teacher
- I know someone who could be a mentor/teacher, but I don't know if they are willing
- I'm set

How would you rate your confidence that if you practice hard, you'll succeed at the activity you named? Pick a number from 1 to 5, with 1 "not at all confident" and 5 "fully confident." _____

development updates

STEAM LAB Full STEAM Ahead!

Phase 1 of our STEAM Lab project, with a focus on renovations, has been extended to continue through the summer, and is expected to be completed by August. After those final renovations, we will be ready to move into Phase 2, with a focus on furnishing and build-out. A big THANK YOU to Dr. William Danforth, the Norman J. Stupp Foundation and everyone who has supported our STEAM Lab campaign!

Please continue to spread the word and invite others to visit our STEAM Lab microsite to hear our compelling story!

www.soulardsteam.org



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming fundraiser events:

9th Annual Soulard Soiree
Cinco de Soulard
Sunday, May 5th
2pm - 6pm at McGurk's

Soulard Concert Series
Jun. 8th, Jul. 20th, Aug. 17th,
& Sept. 14th
at The Soulard Farmer's Market
- This is a Parent Association fundraiser (see pg. 3). Stay tuned for more details from the PA.

BOX TOPS

Our last Box Tops collection brought in over 2000 Box Tops - wow! We are now only about 1000 Box Tops away from our goal of 5000. Once we reach that mark, we will be buying the first iPad for the STEAM Lab. Keep checking with neighbors and grandparents and bring in as many Box Tops as you can find. Box Tops are collected on an ongoing basis by classroom teachers, and our final due date of the school year for turning in Box Tops will be announced later this month. Thanks to Development Committee Member Dave Stefacek for all his hard work on coordinating this! And thanks to everyone for all your efforts toward reaching our goal!



ANNUAL GIVING 2012-2013

This year's Annual Giving campaign was our most successful one to date, raising over \$51,000 to help support our sliding-scale tuition model and general operations of the school! This includes almost \$20,000 from our amazing grandparents, and over \$22,000 from our extended St. Louis community - wow! THANK YOU so much to everyone who contributed to make this the best Annual Giving campaign yet!

MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

For the 3rd year, The Soulard School has been awarded an Arts in Education grant from Missouri Arts Council for \$1,700 to support our partnership with Metro Theatre Company. Thanks to Development Committee member Rachel Kryah for all her hard work and success on this grant each year!

RECENT FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Annual Giving 2012-2013: \$51,525
Mardi Gras: \$2,900
Trivia Night: \$4,000
St. Louis Bread Co. Partners in Education Fundraising Night: TBA

← Thank you to our many supporters and partners. →

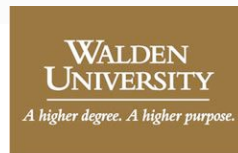
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A Place to Go... A Way to Grow

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