

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

October, 2013
www.soulardschool.org

leadership notes

CONNECTION

Connection; much meaning and significance in one single word. Brene Brown, author of *Daring Greatly*, defines connection as, "the energy that is created between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued: when they can give and receive without judgement." She goes on to then define belonging as, "the innate human desire to be part of something larger than us." At the beginning of each school year and throughout, it is important to us that our students begin to feel not only connected to each other and their classroom teacher, but also to begin to feel a sense of belonging within our school. Part of what makes our school unique, in my opinion, is that **connection is in everything we do**. From connecting school subjects to real world applications, to connecting with our neighborhoods and families in meaningful and creative ways. Before the school year began, the staff came together to get connected by participating in a common experience. We began professional development with an amazing race where teachers worked together in teams to achieve common goals. One of the goals was to take pictures of a set number of letters, using found items in the environment. When the teams returned they looked at the individual letters and realized they spelled one single word; connection.

Additionally, **we strive to help parents and families not only feel connected to the school, but to each other**. Coming together as volunteers with a common goal to better your child's learning environment, in whatever way that might be, often fosters that feeling of belonging. Sharing stories of growth, milestones, or simple parenting tips (even in quick conversations in the hallways) with each other builds connections that may last a lifetime.

When children come to our school every day, it is our collective responsibility to help them feel connected. We listen, we encourage them to voice their thoughts and feelings, and we show them that they are valued by encouraging them to be active participants in their own learning. It is our hope that they, in turn, develop a sense of belonging to something bigger; a place where everyone is heard, accepted, and valued. The place where they spend so much of their time and energy should matter, and **we want the children to feel that they are so connected that they leave a mark on the school that stays long after they do**.

- Kerri Fair, Principal

McGurk's proudly presents



mark your calendar!

CLOVERS & STARS

... An Irish Music and Dance Festival ...

to benefit

THE SOULARD SCHOOL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Two Performances: 3pm and 7pm

Doors open 30 minutes before each performance at



Author Barney Saltzberg visited The Soulard School this week and shared his book, *a little bit of OOMPH!*.

parent association notes



HARVEST FESTIVAL | Soulard School families are invited to celebrate the changing seasons together at our annual Harvest Festival. The Parent Association is sponsoring the party, which will be held this year at The Rock Church (2420 S. 12th, across the street from school) on Friday, Nov. 1 from 6:00 - 8:00. Activities will include a **potluck chili cook-off, as well as crafts, dancing and more. Costumes encouraged!**

Friday, **November 1**, 6:00-8:00 PM

reading is FUNdamental



WHERE Left Bank Books Central West End location (399 N. Euclid Ave. 63108)

WHEN

Saturday, November 23rd, 10am - 6pm
Sunday, November 24th, 11am-6pm

WHAT Left Bank Books is hosting a Book Fair in support of The Soulard School on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 23rd and 24th, at their Central West End location. **20% of all designated purchases will be donated as store credit to acquire books for the school library and classrooms.** Last year's Book Fair raised \$1,200 and collected over 70 book donations. The Book Fair is our library's main fundraiser, and is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about the school. We will have an **information table** set up to answer questions about the school, and a wrap station to offer **free gift-wrapping** for customers (with a donation jar at the table), with a **raffle** to boot!

Left Bank Books will be putting our Book Fair up on their website, featuring our classroom wish lists. This means that friends and family, near and far, will be able to participate - either online during the month of November, or in person during our Book Fair weekend. Pre-orders will be submitted through this online book fair, and instructions for this will be emailed to families once it is up on their website. All books will be available for pickup at the Book Fair. Tell your friends and family to get some of their holiday shopping done and support our school at the same time!

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) to find our online Library Corner ("About The Soulard School" section). It features a blog, information about birthday books, a Librarian's Pick-of-the-Month, and more.

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

LIBRARY DAY SCHEDULE | Each elementary classroom visits the library weekly. Classes began their library days in September, so you have probably seen books coming home. 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 as that you please replace it.

Many thanks to everyone who signed up on the Library and Book Fair committees at the Volunteer Rally! I am looking forward to working with everyone throughout the school year.

BOOK FAIR | The Book Fair at Left Bank Books is coming Nov. 23-24. This is a wonderful opportunity to support both our school and a cherished local bookstore, and we ask all families to attend sometime that weekend. As our library's main fundraiser, this event allows us to continue developing our magnificent collection.

AUTHOR VISITS | We recently had the wonderful opportunity to host two authors! Arthur Geisert visited our school on Sept. 20th to share his new book Thunderstorm, a wordless picture book that depicts a storm rolling through a Midwestern farm. And on Oct. 16th, Barney Saltzberg gave a spectacular presentation on his new book A Little Bit of Oomph!, which included some musical numbers and impromptu art-making. Both visits allowed students to see how authors & illustrators create their unique books, and we want to thank Left Bank Books for bringing them to our school!

MEGA READ | Oct. 16th also kicked off The Mega Read: The Soulard School Million Minute Reading Challenge! Sponsored by the Aftercare Program and the Library, this challenge is designed to support literacy, build vocabulary, inspire learning and cultivate a love of reading, and is open to all Soulard School parents, students and teachers. The goal? To collectively read 1,000,000 minutes this school year! You can help make it happen by documenting your children's reading at home - as well as your own! Information letters and reading calendars went home with students and will also be emailed to parents. Contact Emily Bryan (emily.bryan@soulardschool.org) or Erin Quick (erin.quick@soulardschool.org) with questions.



classroom notes

quietude notes

CASTLES | In studying about castles, we learned about the importance of moats. We created a hands-on learning experience by [forming our own moat](#) in our sand box (above). Children built a sand castle and then dug a trench around it. We then filled it with water and saw how a real moat works! We also added a moat to our Pre-K castle (below).

Last week, our class worked diligently to get the [castle painted](#) and ready for what was to come next. This week, we glued bricks on to our castle, cut out windows and doors, created a drawbridge, and [designed our own flags](#) to adorn the castle with. Be sure to peek in to the Collage Studio and check out our class castle!

Our most exciting event of the school year (so far) was a [royal visit from the Queen!](#) Her name was Queen Signy of Saxony (a cast member of the St. Louis Renaissance Faire). As the children interviewed her, she shared a lot of information with us about her kingdom. We were able to see (and touch!) a real knight's gauntlet, swords and crossbows. Thanks, Queen Signy, for coming to visit our classroom!



mosaics notes

VOLCANOES | This year in second grade we are taking time to explore volcanoes and all that comes along with them. We [traveled through the earth's crust](#) via videos, books, and pictures, and explored the earth's mantle, outer core, and inner core. Once we learned about all of the different layers, we popped back up through the crust to explore the different types of rocks that we could find there. We [became scientist and explored the rocks](#) in our own

school garden, created our rocks in our classroom, and were even lucky enough to have many different specimens of rock brought to our classroom to observe and discuss. Our exploration of the crust, including our rock study, brought us back to volcanoes. We are going to begin to take a closer look at the parts of a volcano, the different types of volcanoes, and where we find them. There is so much to learn through our study of volcanoes and we are looking forward to [becoming Soulard School's volcano experts!](#)



classroom notes

enigma notes

MAP INVESTIGATION | Map investigation has been the highlight of our subject studies in the Enigma class. We began exploring maps by viewing different types and [creating our own vocabulary](#) regarding similarities and differences within these maps. We created map booklets to highlight this vocabulary, and extended our study to reach personal levels by [drafting maps](#) of our rooms at home and the classroom. Going cross-curricular, Carrie (Studio instructor) walked the students around Soulard in order to make their own street maps and we have used these maps when we venture out to places in Soulard such as Pontiac Park and The Soulard Market. We also took a special field trip to the Zoo, where we split into two groups and [used maps to find each group](#) at a certain meeting spot (under the Sea Lion tunnel). After the Zoo, we wound up eating lunch at the John F. Kennedy pavilion, where we went on a treasure hunt to find yet another map!! We will continue this investigation by researching different animals from the 7 continents and presenting each at a future assembly.

alchemy notes

METEOROLOGISTS | Chief Meteorologists Alchemy Keeping You Informed

Alchemy has been exploring weather and climate patterns as well as hazardous events that occur from severe weather. We have discussed the importance of recording these patterns across different times and areas so that predictions can be made about what kind of weather might happen next. We have [identified the key elements](#) that meteorologists study—precipitation, wind, and temperature—and what instruments are used to collect data for each of these elements. Our friends will be [creating their own rain gauges and anemometers](#) to measure rainfall and wind speed as well as recording daily temperatures for several weeks. We will then [use this data to prepare a detailed weather report](#) and compare it to the annual averages for this time of year.

The Alchemists will then research a variety of natural hazards that result from severe weather including thunderstorms, blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods. Our friends will then [apply what they have learned by teaching a survival class](#) for a weather hazard and designing a safety shelter as protection from this dangerous event!

mums notes

FIVE SENSES | In the Mums classroom, we are exploring our five senses through [hands-on experimentation](#) and interactive books and materials. Each of the five senses is tied to a specific part of the body. The ears, eyes, nose, mouth, and hands help us to experience our world. In conjunction with our study of Grossology, we talked about the unpleasantities that go along with each of the sensory parts of the body. We learned that [even the gross and embarrassing functions of our body are essential and completely normal, and even quite fascinating](#). Mucus, commonly referred to in its many forms as boogers, ear wax, and phlegm, may not be suitable for a dinner table conversation, but they work to keep germs and pollutants from entering our bodies. A giant nose, mouth and tongue, and ears are on display in our classroom. We learned about the different ways our senses help keep us out of harm's way and enable us to enjoy the world around us.

We also have discussed [Tall Tales](#) and among these, [Johnny Appleseed](#). We will be visiting Mills Apple Farm as a class to [learn more about apples, using the same principles of respect for all living things](#) as Johnny Appleseed used. We will be reflecting on our trip by discussing the smells, sounds, sights, tastes and textures of Mills Apple Farm.



studio notes



SITE-SPECIFIC ART | The Thrive students have been thinking about and [designing artwork that is appropriate for a certain site in the Soulard neighborhood](#), similar in spirit to the site-specific artwork of Christo/Jeanne-Claude and Andy Goldsworthy. Thrivers are hoping that the lives of both people and animals will be enriched by the sculptures that they have designed. The students have created drawings and models and are currently asking for permission to install these sculptures nearby. Once permission has been granted and supplies secured, students will begin construction.

classroom notes

phys ed notes

The **goal** of physical education in general terms is for **kids to explore a variety of activities and learn to move well so that they develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to become active adults**. By using the Missouri Grade Level Expectations and the National Standards for Physical Education, we've been covering standards for general movement, social skills, and sports-related fitness while establishing procedures that keep everyone safe during high energy activities or trips to the field or park.

In PE class during the first trimester, we've been working **playing cooperative games** to show how everyone can be active and included while working on **developing various skills** like throwing and catching. Team challenges have included tossing a stuffed animal (or 2 or 3) around a circle without it touching the ground or having blindfolded students navigate a "mine field" by listening to their classmates' directions. We've also **explored static and locomotor movements**. Younger elementary students practiced skills like skipping while older elementary students worked on their dodging skills. All classes have the format of "warm up, low-high energy, cool down" so they **learn to respect their bodies' needs** and how to **avoid injury**.

With the heat finally subsiding, we're spending more time outside. Please make sure children wear proper footwear and clothing on their PE day so they can fully enjoy all our activities.



nursery notes



The children at the Nursery have been **exploring the outdoors** during this beautiful fall weather. The toddlers explore during walks around Soulard **collecting fallen pieces of nature**. In the yard we cut down our sunflower stalks and dissected the flowers picking out sunflower seeds. We collected Locust

seed pods from down the street and **created music shakers with the seeds**. Picking out all of those seeds was a lot of work! Nature has also been brought into the Nursery Studio. The children have **created murals painting with leaves, sticks, and anything natural** found outside. The babies have also been getting in on the outdoor fun. They spend time outdoors everyday crawling in the grass and pushing around toys on the driveway. Our **next big outdoor adventure** will be held in two weeks, our **annual walk to the Soulard Market for pumpkins**.

classroom notes & more

thrive notes

CAMPING | Community building, karst formations, watersheds and human environmental interactions lead Thrive students on a camping trip all the way to Onondaga Cave State Park this month! During our visit to the park, students had the opportunity to [explore Onondaga Cave](#) while [learning about cave ecosystems and formations](#). Students also [participated in a rock hunt](#), [nature art creations](#) inspired by Andy Goldsworthy, a [park ranger discussion](#) with Ranger Shaw, [bat and fish observations](#) on the Meramec River and [reflective journaling](#) in their science notebooks. Our evening ended with students' [creative campfire tales](#), [marshmallows and roasted apples around the fire](#). Through this experience the Thrive classroom utilized [communication and cooperation](#) to develop a [stronger sense of community](#).



OKTOBERFEST RECAP | Soulard Oktoberfest (Oct. 11-13) was a great success for the Parent Association. More than [50 parents, teachers, and friends](#) of the school turned out to help sling beer. The final totals are still being calculated, but the PA [raised more than \\$9,000!](#) Thanks to all who helped! The money will go to the many projects the PA funds, including classroom activities, playground upgrades and family social gatherings.

FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Over the summer, we received some exciting news! We were awarded a grant by a generous, anonymous foundation donor who believes in our mission and supports our work, and this seed money allows us to complete the STEAM Lab Renovation Project! We have begun to see the room take shape over the past few months and plans are underway for furnishing the lab throughout the fall.



We are incredibly grateful for this generous gift and want to say thank you to everyone who has supported the STEAM Lab campaign, including *Dr. William Danforth* and the *Norman J Stupp Foundation*.

Additionally, the *Moomey family* has contributed their time and architectural talent in helping us to plan and design the build-out of the lab. Thank you, *Kristin* and *Marcus*! We are thrilled to complete this renovation project and look forward to further development of the lab and STEAM program.

www.soulardsteam.org

who we are



Sarah Christman
INTERIM
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

I found my way to this community almost 13 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 University of Missouri, 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 gave me the foundation to help develop The Soulard School's creative side. I value the relationships built in our close community students, staff and parents. The experiences we have each year are authentic and create the life-long learning we strive for. 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.

Kerri Fair
PRINCIPAL

Just as we hope to create life long learners in our students, we strive to inspire and challenge our teachers to be wholehearted and passionate about learning. It will be my goal as principal to support both students and teachers on this journey



this year. Before coming to The Soulard School, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District for three years, a classroom teacher for seven years in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO my first year as an educator. While teaching at The Soulard School, I have been a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and instructional specialist. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and now have seventeen years of experience as an educator "under my belt". I hold a Masters in Reading Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

My husband, Clayton, and I are also parents of three Soulard School students. Our son, Colin, is a second grade Mosaic student. Audrey, our oldest daughter will be a Mum in the kindergarten classroom. And, finally, our youngest daughter, Emma, will join us at "the big school" in the Quietude pre-k classroom this year. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

Eleanor White
COMMUNICATION & BUSINESS
MANAGER

I am a St. Louis native, growing up just around the corner from the school, in Lafayette Square. I attended Bard College, then received a Master's in Education Policy Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Returning to St. Louis, I continued my education, receiving my certification in Elementary Education from Fontbonne. After a few years of teaching at a charter school, I discovered the Soulard School, a place that looks just like the elementary school I attended and loved as a kid. I am beginning my seventh year with the Soulard School – I've had several positions at the school, teaching the kindergarteners and toddlers and working in the office. This year I am officially Operations and Communications Manager. Meanwhile, my son Emmett is in Kindergarten this year (!) and Theo is at the Nursery.



Haley Biehl
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

I am thrilled to join The Soulard School full-time as the Assistant Principal of Student Affairs, and expand my role to support this community in new ways. I started my journey in education as a teachers' aide with the Illinois Center for Autism, and quickly realized that nurturing the growth and development of my students was more rewarding than working as a freelance journalist. I returned to school and received a Masters in the Art of Teaching in Special Education from McKendree University. I was then hired at the Illinois Center for Autism as a teacher in the transitional program. Following that I taught for two years as the Primary Behavior Support Teacher in Belleville, IL before marrying my wonderful husband, Jason, and making St. Louis my home. I am so fortunate to grow and learn with The Soulard School, and am looking forward to building on the experiences from last year. Outside of school, I love to travel with my husband, spoil my boxer, Louie, and get into misadventures with my sisters.



Erin Quick
DEVELOPMENT & EVENTS
MANAGER

Excited by the school's grassroots beginnings, my family eagerly joined the school in 2006. I have a BA in English - Creative Writing with an emphasis in Poetry, and a certificate in Women's Studies from Webster University. I have been a bookworm all my life, and am committed to building community through literature. I managed at Left Bank Books for four years, and have volunteered in the school's library since 2006 when a couple of us were asked to help build it. My role volunteering as Librarian has included opportunities to teach poetry units & library lessons, coordinate author visits and host storytime with Club Soulard. Last year, my work in fundraising and community outreach for the school led me into development, and this year my role has continued to expand. As Development & Events Manager, I will be taking our incredible story out into the larger world, putting my library research and writing skills to use on strategic planning, relationship building, campaigns and grant writing to help make all of our meaningful work here possible.

I am a poet at heart, and outside of school you will find me writing poems and attending poetry readings. I love exploring the city with my partner Heath and making art with Audrey (Thrive) and Ezra (Quietude). I also enjoy traveling, gardening, collecting old dishes, and of course, bedtime stories - most especially From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler.



who we are



Sarah Henrich
NURSERY

I attended Mizzou, where I earned a BS in Nutrition and Fitness. I spent my first two years after college teaching nutrition and fitness classes in various St. Louis Public Schools. I am currently studying for the GRE so that I can hopefully start working on my Masters degree in early childhood education in the

summer of next year! My hobbies include knitting, sewing, running, yoga, and playing with my dogs.

Melissa Durant
NURSERY

I discovered the Soulard School while I was a resident in Tower Grove and immediately fell in love with being part of such a close community. I have a degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education as well as a passion for working with children. I have spent time in the elementary and pre-k classrooms, but I have found my calling to work with toddlers. I spent my first 5 years in an early childhood Montessori environment, a philosophy I have brought to the Nursery at Soulard School. I am very spirited and love to be curious with my students. To me, toddlers are the most fascinating people to observe; I can never get enough of their ever growing ideas and curiosity!



Sheri Mancuso
NURSERY

As a veteran educator, I have taught Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, Kindergarten and most recently Second grade. I have served on the steering committee for Independent Schools Association for the Central States, Missouri Voluntary Accreditation and as a National Validator for the National

Association of Education for young children. I am also certified with Missouri Parents as Teachers in Special Education. I have a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from Webster University and have furthered my studies in numerous continuing education classes. I am thrilled to be working in the nursery and nurture one of the important beginnings at a school with high standards and community involvement. I am looking forward to incorporate what I have learned as a Program Coordinator for an Infant/Toddler Center any my love for children. In my spare time I enjoy reading, nature walks, swimming, traveling, and theatre. I take pleasure in visiting with my daughter in Los Angeles and spending time with my six brothers and sisters, seventeen nieces and nephews and friends.

Richard Cohen
PRE-K / QUIETUDE

I have been an early childhood professional for 26 years. I began as a classroom teacher for my first six years. Following that, I served in a variety of leadership positions in the early childhood field, most recently leading national non-profit organizations in Washington, D.C. I am also a popular keynote speaker at early childhood conferences around the world (please visit richardcohen.com to learn more). I returned to my hometown of St. Louis in June to care for my mom. I am beyond excited to return to the classroom after twenty years and spend my days singing, dancing, pretending, playing and making lots of messes with your children!



Bethany Burress
PRE-K / QUIETUDE

My name is Bethany Burress, and I am very eager to be joining the Soulard School as a Pre-K teacher. I have my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Family and Child Studies from Eastern Illinois University. Upon graduation, I spent a brief time teaching in Illinois until my husband and I moved to Memphis, TN.

While in Memphis, I taught toddlers and Pre-K and enjoyed the experience and knowledge I gained while working in very diverse classrooms. My husband and I spent 4 years in Memphis during which time my daughter, Holland, was born. We have recently relocated to the area, and I am happy to be joining the Soulard School team. I am extremely excited for the upcoming year and all of the wonderful learning opportunities we will get to embark upon together. I look forward to getting to know each and every family and working together to ensure the children thrive and blossom in the Pre-K classroom. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Soulard School community, and I know this year is going to be a great one!

Jenna Morrison
PRE-K / QUIETUDE

I attended Mizzou, where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Education, as well as minors in Psychology and Sociology. During my time in Columbia, I was a nanny for multiple families. I also worked in a Montessori preschool, as well as Mizzou's Child Development Lab, so I have a variety of child care experiences! I finished my education after completing student teaching at The College School, where I developed a love for the Reggio Emilia curriculum. I am so grateful and excited to start my first year of teaching at such a wonderful school, and I cannot wait to work alongside my new teaching team to guide the children in their learning experience.



who we are



Courtney Brown
KINDERGARTEN /
MUMS

I am so excited to be back at the Soulard School. This is my second year of teaching in this wonderful community, and my first year teaching Kindergarten. I am loving every minute of it so far! I was immediately

drawn to the nurturing environment at TSS and the emergent curriculum. I believe that when students are given the autonomy to suggest to their educators what they wish to learn, they feel ownership of their learning, and are more likely to be fully invested in the subject matter. I graduated from Saint Louis University in 2007 with a B.A. in Communications and a Psychology Minor and attended Fontbonne University for my postgraduate studies, where I earned my M.A. in Teaching in December of 2011. Currently, I am certified in elementary education (grades 1-5), and I plan to earn my early childhood certification as well sometime during this school year. Outside of teaching at The Soulard School, I am an avid runner, and I participate in many local 5k and 10k races each year. Over this past summer, I took up kick boxing. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that I enjoy such a "tough" activity. I also enjoy writing and traveling. I live in the Central West End, and share my home with a cat named Larry. Although I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I now proudly call St. Louis my home -- so much that when it comes to baseball, I am a Cardinals fan.

Michelle Steele
KINDERGARTEN / MUMS

My name is Michelle Steele and I am extraordinarily excited to be welcomed into the Soulard family! My daughter has attended Soulard since last year, and I have tutored here for the past two years, while in school at Webster. My degree is in Special Education and Elementary Education and I am having a wonderful time with my new class. I begin my Master's program in August in Mild and Moderate Diagnoses. My daughter and I just moved to Tower Grove and I cannot wait to get to know my neighbors. We love the Soulard community and we feel fortunate to be included!



Lee Hahn
1ST GRADE / ENIGMA

I am very excited and proud to be able to continue my life-long learning journey with this amazing community and these personality-filled students! I have a wonderful husband, a hilarious 7 year old (Jaxon in the Mosaic class), and a new baby (Linkyn at the Nursery). I am a family oriented person, who is occupied at all times by the interesting aspects that they bring to my life. My children make me view everything in a different light and I am so thankful to them for allowing me to view education through a parental perspective. I have a BA in Elementary Education from Webster University, but am certified to teach birth through sixth grade. I have an emotional attachment to all of the students here at the school, and I love being able to implement TSS philosophies that I feel are essential for a prospering generation.



Anna Lee
2ND GRADE / MOSAIC

I am so excited to be back at the Soulard School as the new second grade teacher! My teaching journey that led me to this point started at Mizzou in 2006 where I studied psychology. Shortly after graduating from there in 2010, I began working for the special school district as an aid and interventionist for a few students throughout their days. I loved being in a school environment and working with the children so much that I knew I wanted to become a teacher. I quickly enrolled in Webster University, where I received my Master of Arts in Teaching in 2012. Luckily, during my time at Webster, my student teaching brought me to the Soulard School. I became a Mum in kindergarten for two months in the fall of 2012 and really fell in love with the school and the philosophy. I am thrilled to be back this year as the second grade teacher in the Mosaic room! Other than teaching, I love to spend time with my family and friends. We go to as many Cardinals' games as possible and always have a great time together!

Mary Waskow
2ND GRADE / MOSAIC

I am excited to return to the Soulard School staff this year. After teaching Culinary Arts for 7 years and taking a year off, I am returning as an assistant teacher in the Mosaic, Thrive and Quietude classrooms. The Soulard School has been an incredible place both for my family and for me professionally. I received both my Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Elementary Education at Maryville University with a Gifted Education certification. I taught in the Parkway School District for 5 years before having children. My daughter, Paige, was in the very first kindergarten class at The Soulard School and is now in 8th grade at McKinley. My son, James, is a 5th grader in the Thrive class. In our spare time, my husband and I enjoy camping, hiking and gardening.



who we are



Courtney Keefe

**3RD GRADE /
ALCHEMY**

I am delighted to be teaching the 3rd grade Alchemy class again this year! I feel incredibly lucky to be a part of this amazing school and to have the opportunity to

work with such remarkable children. I attended undergraduate at Loyola University New Orleans where I received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After Hurricane Katrina, I migrated to Miami, Florida for two years before returning to St. Louis to attend graduate school at Lindenwood University where I received my Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education.

One of my goals as an educator is to inspire a love of learning in my students, as I share my passion for learning with them. I believe that teaching is more than a sacred responsibility; it is a privilege. When I am not at school, I can be found spending time with my family, friends, and beloved canine companion Chloe, curled up with good book, chasing pavement at various city parks, or exploring anything that piques my curiosity—most recently, the field of meteorology.

Brandy Ray

**4-6TH GRADE /
THRIVE**

I am grateful that I found The Soulard School community shortly after moving to St. Louis, two years ago. From the moment I walked through the school doors, I was immediately drawn to the sense of community, empathy, and wonder that the school fosters in its students, staff, and families. I knew right away that this is the soil where I wanted to plant my roots as a teacher and a learner.

I am excited to spend my second full year as a Thrive classroom teacher. On my way to a career in education, I obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Central Oklahoma, where I studied journalism and public relations. While living in Oklahoma, I worked as a reporter until I got married and moved to Portland, Or. In Oregon, I attended Portland State University where I received a Masters in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. During graduate school, I had the opportunity to student teach in both kindergarten and fourth grade and in the spring of 2012, I began to call The Soulard School my home. When I am not teaching, I enjoy reading, attending live music events with my husband, Joshua, and any experience related to the outdoors!



Ann Luciani

4-6TH GRADE / THRIVE

I am so excited to be a part of the Thrive classroom this year! While I am new to teaching in the Thrive classroom, I am not entirely new to The Soulard School. I first learned about The Soulard School when I worked as a literacy tutor through Webster University's Student Literacy Corp. I knew this was the school for me when I walked in on my first day and saw the kindergartners crab walking down the hall! After graduating in December with my master's degree in elementary education, I

was fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn with the wonderful Enigma students as a long-term substitute. I am even more fortunate to be teaching at a school that embodies a philosophy that matches my own.

Teaching is a second (and final!) career for me. My first degree was in business, majoring in finance with a minor in economics. I worked for 10 years in the insurance and securities business until I decided to stay home with my two children. I first realized I wanted to pursue a career in education after volunteering in my children's schools and teaching preschool music for three years. I truly feel I was called to be a teacher.

Both my children are in college now and my husband and I enjoy running, going out to dinner, and traveling to our cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula every summer with our dog and kids. Now that we are empty nesters, my time and energy is dedicated to helping instill in my students a lifelong love of learning. I look forward to making this the best year possible for the Thrive learners.

Emily Bryan

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME-
COORDINATOR**

I'm Emily Bryan, the new Out-of-School-Time Coordinator. I started back in May and jumped right into directing Camp Soulard. After a fabulous summer of acting, science experiments, ice cream, and good old fashioned camp crafts, I am looking forward to a year full of fun in aftercare and clubs. I have a bachelors' degree in art history but even as I pursued that I knew I wanted to work in education. Back in 2007 I came to the Soulard School to teach art and do aftercare, and while circumstances took me away in 2008, after a few years full of adventures--working in a museum, living abroad, having 2 kids--I couldn't stay away from this great community and I'm so happy to be back!



Simiya Sudduth

AFTERSCHOOL ASSISTANT

I am a mother, visual artist and educator. I earned a B.F.A in Sculpture from Webster University and I have exhibited my work on the local and national level. With 6 years of experience working as a teaching artist, I have worked with urban youth of diverse backgrounds at a variety of institutions in St. Louis and on the East Coast. My recent work includes a community-arts based residency with The City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program and Teaching Artist position with Asian Arts Initiative in Philadelphia.

who we are

As an educator I am a firm believer in adult supported, child directed learning. I love to see children authentically interested in what they are learning and doing and The Soulard School encourages that empowerment within students. I am new to TSS and I am excited to work with youth as an Aftercare Assistant!

When I'm not working with youth or making art, I enjoy spending time with my family, sewing, knitting, building things, urban gardening and cooking. I am a lifelong student of holistic and simple living.

Lisa Berman PHYSICAL EDUCATION

After joining The Soulard School community last year as a parent, PA social coordinator, lunch room volunteer and sport stacking afterschool instructor, I'm excited to teach PE to all the elementary school kids this year. I've been teaching in a variety of settings since I was in college many long years ago and eventually earned an M.Ed. in Literacy, Language and Cultural Studies. My most significant education credits include teacher and administrator at the South Shore Charter Public School for 6 years in Massachusetts and then outreach coordinator at the Saint Louis Zoo for 6 years until I decided to leave full time work to focus more on our family. I also currently run a program called Club SLLIS at the St. Louis Language Immersion Schools on the weekdays they don't have school. Most kids also think of me as the "Sport Stacking Lady" since most of my shirts have cups on them and I do love to stack! I'm looking forward to introducing this sport to all Soulard School students this winter.



Matt King PERFORMING ARTS & STRINGS INSTRUCTOR

I have been playing and teaching violin for over 20 years. I started learning violin at school in third grade, and love teaching at a school that starts in Kindergarten with the violin. I received a

Bachelor in Music from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 2001, and joined the Soulard School in 2007, where I currently teach violin and performing arts. I have a son who just started here in Pre School, and I am thrilled to now be a parent at the school as well as a teacher. I also have a 2 year old daughter at the nursery.

Carrie Keasler STUDIO ARTS INSTRUCTOR

I am excited to return as the Studio Arts teacher at The Soulard School and to collaborate with classroom teachers to create authentic learning experiences for our students. I feel that our school's mission is to nurture personal, creative and intellectual growth for students and teachers alike. This sense of community and care is palpable when you walk through the halls and talk with one another.

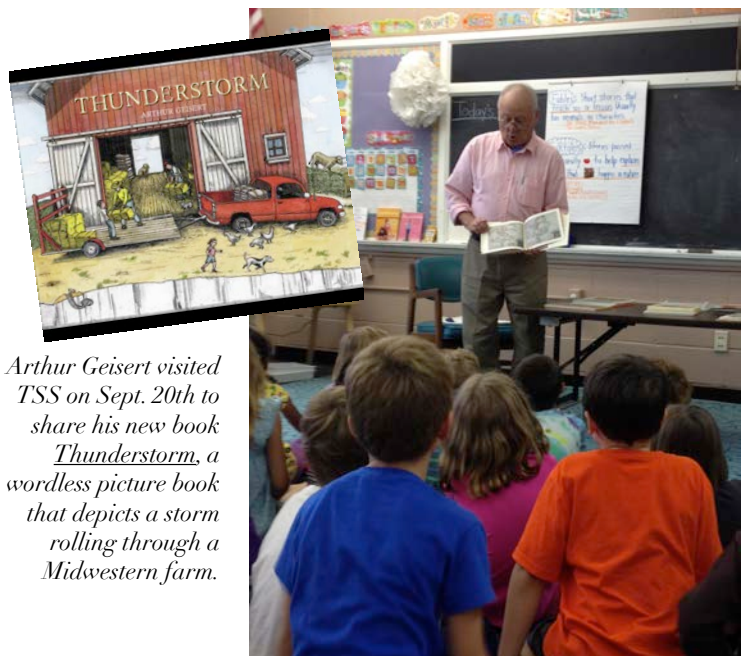
I initially studied art (with an emphasis in printmaking) at The University of Dallas. After moving to St. Louis, I began working with young people through arts related organizations, but felt a calling to be in the classroom on a regular basis. In 2012 I completed Missouri certification in Art k-12. I am so fortunate to be a teacher and learner in The Soulard School community.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy working on my artwork, reading, watching movies, and studying yoga.



Travis DeRousse CULINARY ARTS INSTRUCTOR

I'm very excited about the opportunities awaiting me this year at Soulard School. I am not only continuing my work as the Physical Education instructor, but I am also leading the Nutrition and Culinary Arts courses. I consider myself incredibly fortunate to work with so many amazing kids in such a unique way. I'm looking forward to further developing these programs as well as helping maintain our school's environment of awesomeness. Earlier this year I completed my master's degree in elementary education, which was quickly overshadowed by the fact that my wife and I welcomed our first child, Oliver, last December.



Arthur Geisert visited TSS on Sept. 20th to share his new book *Thunderstorm*, a wordless picture book that depicts a storm rolling through a Midwestern farm.

development updates

During the past 8 years, The Soulard School has emerged as a leader in education innovation. Through innovative programs, relevant community partnerships and authentic learning experiences, we are redefining education with our model. Our students know they can have an impact, and our graduates go out into the world demonstrating this. Not only do they do very well academically, we consistently hear about their confidence, participation, compassion and creativity.

Our role in education innovation goes beyond our approach in the classroom, and our Equitable Tuition Program is the clearest demonstration of this. Despite the resulting annual shortfall, we refuse to sacrifice what is in the best interest of our students. Our school serves as an example of the profound and real possibilities of a community dedicated to educating its children. Soulard School families and staff have helped to build and shape and energize our school from the beginning. The community makes the school what it is.

Last year, a Development Committee of parents, teachers and administrators was formed to ensure our unique school's long-term viability. This year, *Sarah Christman* and *Erin Quick* lead the committee in taking our compelling story out to the larger community. This section of the newsletter will feature our fundraising efforts and the generosity of our donors - those who believe in our mission and support our work. For their gifts, and for your gifts, we are grateful. We could not do what we do without you.

THE FOUNDING DONORS

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

FOUNDING DONORS (\$10,000 - \$40,000 PER YEAR, UP TO 4 YEARS)

Joan and John Vatterott Family
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Andrew O'Brien
Today and Tomorrow Education
Foundation
The Saigh Foundation

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Property Assessment Review, David &
Lucy Dempsey
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ANNUAL GIVING 2013-2014

All hands on deck! Keep your eye out for the November launch of our Annual Appeal.

Annual Giving directly supports our Equitable Tuition Program, and *last year was our most successful year to date*: more than \$51,000 raised and 100% family participation! Let's make that happen again!

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Sarah Christman, Co-Founder & Interim
Executive Director
Eleanor White, Communications & Business
Manager
Erin Quick, Development & Events
Manager
Nathan Beckett, Parent & Board Chair;
and Parents: *Andrea Dunn, Todd Frankel,*
Michael Harrold, Rachel Kryah, Dave
Stefacek

CASH BACK PROGRAMS

Cash back programs are an easy way to support the school through everyday spending. The Soulard School participates in several cash back programs, including:

Box Tops for Education
Schnuck's eScrip Community Cards
Target REDcard Take Charge of
Education Program
Great Lakes Scrip (GLScrip) Program

Development Committee member *Dave*
Stefacek coordinates these programs for our families, so stay tuned for his updates and announcements!

Thank you to our many
supporters and partners.

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