

THE SOULARD* SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

Notes from the Leadership

by Kerri Fair, Principal

“No more pencils, no more books, no more...”, you have heard the rhyme (and maybe even said it yourself at least once in your life). I feel proud and confident when I say that most of our students don’t end the year feeling this way. **We have worked diligently to ensure that our students not only learn what is needed and beyond, but that they feel they are important to our very community; every single student.** So, when a student came up to me in the hall last week and asked, **“Kerri, why can’t we go to school all of the time?”**, I was not completely surprised. I think, though, that my answer back was a bit of a shock to her. I replied, “Oh, but you can! When you grow up, become a teacher!”

reading long lists of professional books they never had time to get to during the school year, excursions to potential field trip destinations to scope out all of the possible learning outcomes and potential pitfalls, and attending summer workshops.

Many of our teachers have chosen on their own to attend professional development opportunities over the summer so that they may come back in the fall renewed, rejuvenated, and full of new ideas to implement. As with many other professions out there, teachers are dedicated to the craft and find such experiences fulfilling and rewarding. That isn’t to say you won’t find members of our staff relaxing and enjoying their families and friends! We all need time to unwind. But for the teaching profession, school is very often “all of the time.”

I’d like to highlight a few professional development opportunities our staff are attending over the summer. Below is a short description of those I know about. This does not include continuing education courses teachers are taking towards a higher degree.

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Soulard School

Volunteers of the Year:
New Family:
THE MANLEYS
Returning Family:
THE MCGRATHS

Parent Association

Volunteers of the Year:
Parent:
REBECCA ANDREWS
Teacher:
MATT KING

Thanks for everyone’s hard work, time and dedication to our school!



The traditional idea of a teacher’s summer is of extended vacations, time spent relaxing by the pool, or a variety of other leisurely activities. In reality, though, the summers are the best opportunities for teachers to grow as professionals through

Congratulations to our **CLASS OF 2014**



Jesse Mulherin, James Waskow, Harry Bock, Olivia Linde, Ella Moomey, Liam Keaggy, and Gianni Panzeri

Our graduates, as described by their peers, are:

thoughtful, creative, experiential, smart, readers, leaders, friendly, awesome, fearless, funny, happy, crafty, and not afraid of snakes!



Notes from the Leadership,

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Summer Professional Development Opportunities our staff are attending:

- Two intensive week-long workshops with the Litzinger Road Ecology Center entitled “Sustainable School Yards” and “Effective Outdoor Learning”
- One week-long workshop lead by staff at the Opera Theater of Saint Louis called “Music! Words! Opera!”
- Two three-day workshops from the Missouri Botanical Garden called “3-R’s” (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and “BiodiverseCity: Nature in our Neighborhood” (with a STEM connection)
- Four staff members will attend the Summer Institute for Arts Integration (COCA)
- A three-day workshop that shares how to integrate art into curriculum with the STEAM movement.
- Other short workshops include teaching Handwriting Without Tears curriculum, robotics, and science/math related instruction.

Our Friends in the Nursery



The toddlers have had a blast studying Sea Creatures during our last month of the school year. They especially love learning all about the ocean from our very informative library books, putting together some complex sea puzzles, and creating all kinds of sea creatures during art studio time.

The infant classroom space has been remodeled as more and more activity is happening. Along with more space for gross motor activity some daily activity includes trying crayons, sorting shapes and stacking cups (in order). It is very exciting to see all the rapid development and engagement in simple games and songs. Believe it or not the babies, now young toddlers are putting a few toys away in baskets before we transition to outside time. Of course, they are quite motivated to go outside and wait anxiously by the door.



STEAMFest 2014

STEAMfest is our favorite way to end the school year. It is a culminating event that integrates science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics with overall studies from the year. This year, our third annual STEAMfest, entitled “Physics through the Ages”, was no exception! Students were grouped into families of mixed ages and rotated through five different experiences. Each letter from STEAM was represented. Staff leading science activities focused on the physics of bubbles; where students made special bubble snake makers and bubble wands.



Our technology group learned about flight and how machines have changed through the ages. Students were encouraged to make their own paper flying machines. Our budding engineers created catapults in even smaller groups; learning from other engineers from the past through video and experimentation.

Did you know that there are many physics concepts behind the creation of the mobile? The arts group tried to balance mobiles using a variety of items found at home and in school. Finally, during the mathematics session, students performed a variety of physics related tasks and added the element of speed to make them even more interesting. Then, the day closed with a catapult competition to see which student made catapult could project a marshmallow the farthest. This event exemplifies our focus on building community, collaboration, and integration.



Alchemy: Plant Predictions

Is it possible to predict what a plant will look like just by making observations about the appearance of its seed? Are there other factors that play a role in a plant's development and life cycle?

The Alchemy class has been investigating these questions during our latest Subject Studies unit about inherited traits of plants and how the environment can affect the traits that develop. We began by making observations about 4 different "mystery herb" seeds (i.e. size, shape, color, texture, etc.) and brainstorming ways to provide ideal growing conditions for our herbs. Our goal was to use the data we recorded over the course of two weeks to figure out what our mystery herbs were—Lemon Basil, Cilantro, Chives, or Curled Parsley.



The Alchemy takes a studio related field trip to Bill Christman's studio.

The Alchemists then had the opportunity to put our deductive skills to the test during our recent visit to Litzinger Road Ecology Center by studying seeds of native plants and using these astute observations to compare to the grown plants found out in the prairie, woods, and creek! The trip was a success and we may very well have some Gregor Mendel protégés in Alchemy!



The Mosaics: Native American Studies

The Mosaic class spent a great deal of time constructing their own learning about Native Americans. We researched tribes by groups, and created our own non-fiction books to share our learning with others. Topics we focused on included the food tribes ate, what they lived in, how they traveled, artifacts they made, and different jobs of the tribes.

To extend our learning, we traveled to Cahokia Mounds, where students saw re-created villages and tribes. We were able to see the artifacts made by the people who lived in the land and connect it to the learning we had done in the classroom. We had so much fun making the connections, seeing real artifacts and the lifestyle of Native Americans.



Anna Forbes playing with Native American games at Cahokia Mounds.

Library Corner

Hard to believe, but the end of the school year is here! That means it is time to return all school library books. Please help your kiddos gather their books, as they can be very good at hiding under the beds, in cars, even on your own bookshelves! All library books should be returned by the last day of school, but if you find some stragglers over the summer please bring them by the school office and drop them off. If you have any questions about what books your readers might still have checked out, email me at erin.quick@souldarschool.org and I will get you the titles.

I also want to give a big SHOUT OUT to all of the Library Helpers this year! THANK YOU so much for all of your efforts and time spent in the library throughout the year keeping up with circulation. The collection continues to grow and the library has looked fantastic all year! I look forward to working with you all again next year!

Summer reading programs began in May all around St. Louis. Althea Georges, our SLPL school rep, delivered [St. Louis Public Library Summer Reading Club](#) booklets and forms to all of our students. Extra copies are in the office if your young reader needs another, and you can visit your local SLPL branch for more info. Additionally, Missouri Botanical Gardens is offering a summer reading program: [“Tales and Trails”](#) couples reading with outdoor activities and nature exploration. Visit MoBot’s website to learn more. missouribotanicalgarden.org

Word.
-Erin the Librarian



Camp Soulard

At Camp Soulard, our playground is the city of St. Louis! Get ready to explore, build, experiment, create, and devour all this great town has to offer. Our themed camps take advantage of our proximity to the Historic Soulard Market, AB-InBev Brewery, several city parks, and so much more to give campers the chance to unplug summer and get their hands dirty, all while learning new skills and making new friends.

[Download the brochure & application to mail in.](#)

Camp Soulard is open to students entering Grades 1 - 6.

All camps are held from 9am-3pm, Monday through Friday.

Camp Soulard
Early Childhood & K-6
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. weekdays

One Week Session \$175
Two-Week Session \$325

Early morning care is available
at 8:00 a.m. - no charge

Extended Day is available until 6 p.m.

Urban Camping

June 2-6 & 9-13

Explore the great outdoors without leaving the city! This camp will focus on outdoor camping in an urban setting. Campers will learn skills such as fire building, orienteering, outdoor cooking, and creating shelter. Outdoor camper safety will be taught throughout the sessions. Campers will navigate our neighborhood and find the wild in our urban world. We will take field trips to Club So III Climbing Gym and city parks, and all of our new skills will culminate in a campout in our tents at the Soulard School!

Camp: Construction

June 16-20 & 23-27

Who doesn't love building a cushion fort or creating worlds with Legos? This camp will fuel that instinct for innovation through individual and team building challenges that utilize everything from the lowly toothpick to pool noodles, the contents of the recycling bin to a pile of sheets, and even our own playground. We will also hear from local architects, design our dream houses, and take a walking tour of Historic Soulard architecture. A trip to the quintessential architectural feature of St. Louis, the Gateway Arch, will cap our construction experience!

Science of Summer

July 14-18 & 21-25

What happens in your body when it's hot and you play a rousing game of capture the flag? How fast do tadpoles turn into frogs? What do seeds look like underground when they're starting to turn into plants? What seasonal fruit combinations make the best smoothies and popsicles? These are just a few of the questions we will explore during the Science of Summer. We'll head to nearby parks, as well as to the St. Louis Science center and the A-B/InBev Brewery to experience science and talk to experts.

Upcycling Studio

July 28- Aug 1 & Aug 4-8

Be a part of the latest craze in art and design--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! We'll take field trips to the Upcycle Exchange on South Grand and the St. Louis Art Museum.

Be A Camp Soulard Counselor!

For students entering 7th-12th grade

[Download Brochure](#)

Camp Soulard seeks enthusiastic, energetic, creative, and compassionate young people to serve as counselors this summer. You will gain valuable work experience by working independently, with partners, and as a larger group of leaders to develop activities, organize groups of campers, attend to specific needs of campers, and assist camp staff in staying organized and on schedule. Your contribution is vital to the life of Camp Soulard, so please fill out an application today! These positions are volunteer, much like an internship. Counselors will need to turn in a \$25 fee per week to cover their training, daily snack, and any field trip expenses. If they are in need of aftercare, the \$60/week fee applies the same as for campers.

You may also call or email:

Emily Bryan

Out-of-School-Time Coordinator

emily.bryan@soulardschool.org

(314)865-2799

Grants Awarded

The Soulard School is incredibly grateful to the following foundations for supporting our innovative educational programs:

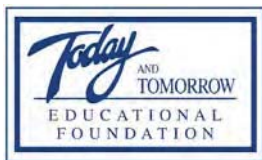
The Saigh Foundation
AUGUST 2013: **\$10,000 grant**

theSAIGHfoundation.org

Play It Forward, John V. Rudebeck Foundation
OCTOBER 2013: **\$500 grant**



Today and Tomorrow Education Foundation - tuition support
NOVEMBER 2013: **\$17,000**
MARCH, 2014: **\$19,000**



Deaconess Foundation
DECEMBER, 2013: **\$5,000 grant**



Missouri Arts Council
MARCH, 2014: **\$1,800 grant**



Soulard Swing

What a fantastic event! We enjoyed our 10th Annual Soiree: Soulard Swing in April, which has received tremendous reviews! Thank you so much to all who helped make this such a memorable event, including event sponsors John D. McGurk's, Missouri Foundation for Health, and Soulard Restoration Group, our wildly popular auction item donors, and the amazing parents who led and volunteered on event organizing committees!

We raised over \$38,000 thanks to their efforts and the generosity of all of our



In the Community

We are grateful for our fantastic community that is always finding new ways to support our work with St. Louis families. In May, The Royale raised \$300 at an event and decided to donate these funds to The Soulard School! A huge THANK YOU to Steve Smith and The Royale for this gift, and a special thanks to our new Board Member Jay Delong for bringing this opportunity to us. What an incredible city we share - we are so proud to be a part of it.

giveSTLday WHAT CAN WE DO IN A DAY?

On May 6th, in honor of Greater St. Louis Community Foundation's 100th birthday, they and other foundations throughout the Metro area asked, How much can St. Louis give in a day? It's no secret that St. Louis is one of the most charitable cities in the country, and this day of online giving was no exception. #GiveSTLDay was a huge success, with **over \$1 million raised for over 500 St. Louis area nonprofits, including The Soulard School. We received \$625 in gifts, several of which will be matched - THANK YOU** to all of our donors and those who spread the word about us for this event! We constantly marvel at the generosity and dedication of our families, who truly are the foundation and continued source of energy for the school.



GREATER SAINT LOUIS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Remember that 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 Cards
- Target REDcard Take Charge of Education Program

Thanks to our Very Generous Donors

We are profoundly grateful to those who help The Soulard School build capacity through very generous pledges and gifts.

FOUNDING DONORS

(\$10,000 - \$40,000 per year, up to 5 years)

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(\$500 - \$1,000)

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*2 yr Scholar's Club Member
 ** 3 yr Scholar's Club Member
 *** 4 yr Scholar's Club Member

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