

THE SOULARD* SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

OCT
2019

BE STRONG, BE PROUD, BE FREE

Notes From The Leadership: Sarah Christman, Executive Director

Be Strong, Be Proud, Be Free. These are the first words many of us see as we enter the building each day, displayed on a mural created by our students last year with local artist De Nichols. Our guests are greeted by this message, as are our neighbors and passers by. These words, written by a Soulard School student and chosen by our community, send a message: this is who you can be, this is what we want for you and for our school.

We have spent this past year living this message. In our transition to a charter school, we have been all of these things. Strong as we traverse change. Proud as we celebrate this amazing school we have developed and free as we give ourselves the space, respect and trust to make this change.

This message is an invitation. Bring these qualities with you. Pack them in your backpack; put them in your pocket and join us as we explore them. Be ready, make them a part of you.

Author Priya Parker, who writes about making meaningful gatherings, poses this question, "Why are we coming together, what do we care about and how do we focus the light on that?" Each time we come together, and for all the many reasons we come together, consider bringing one of these words with you.

This message is our message. It is who we are when we gather, whether we are a student in a classroom, a teacher and parent in a meeting or a parent volunteering. These qualities are ways we encourage our community to show up.



*read all
about it!*

PAGE 2

Book
Fair

PAGES

3-7
2019-20
Staff

PAGE 9

Culinary
Arts

PAGE 10

Quietude &
Mosaic
Experiences

PAGE 11

PA
Events

OUR CALENDAR

- 10/21 Grandparent Coffee 8:30-10am
- 10/29 Birthday Book Assembly
- 11/1 Irish Music Benefit Show 8pm
- 11/5 Parent Coffee
Hosted By The Mosaic Class
- 11/8 School CLOSED - Records Day
- 11/9-10
Book Fair @ Subterranean Books
- 11/14 PA Meeting 6pm
- 11/15 End of Trimester 1
- 11/15 PA Harvest Party
- 11/22 Lunch of Thanks
- 11/27 School CLOSED - Conferences
- 11/28-29
School CLOSED - T-Day Break
- 11/26 Birthday Book Assembly



@ Subterranean Books
6275 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130

Saturday, Nov. 9th 11AM – 6PM
Sunday, Nov. 10th 12PM – 6PM

The Soulard School receives 20% of qualifying sales to purchase books for our school and classroom libraries.

Raffles! Free Gift Wrapping! Treats!

We hope to see you there

subterranean
BOOKS



**BIKE
TO
SCHOOL
DAY**



MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2019-20 STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

**Sarah Christman, Executive Director & Co-Founder**

When I began my career in education I started with the youngest age group, preschool. I knew then, and now, how vital and meaningful this foundation was and felt it would be a place to make a positive impact. Little did I know when I found my way to this community years ago what an opportunity for impact I was walking into. As a Co-Founder of The Soulard School, I am delighted every day to see all that we have become, together. It has been an educator's dream to be a part of building a school that has layers

of community, integrated curriculum and innovative approaches. I value the relationships built in our close community of students, staff and parents and know what we are accomplishing reaches well beyond our school. This will be my first year as a Soulard School parent - my daughter Jude joined the Nursery and the ranks of Soulard School students!

**Kerri Fair, Principal**

Just as we hope to create lifelong learners in our students, we strive to inspire and challenge our teachers to be wholehearted and passionate about learning. It is my goal as principal to support both students and teachers on this journey. Before coming to The Soulard School, I was a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO, a classroom teacher for seven years in North Kansas City, and a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District for three years. While teaching at The Soulard School, I have been a

classroom teacher, literacy coach, instructional specialist, and principal. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and am now in my twenty-fourth year as an educator, and thirteenth with The Soulard School. I hold a Master's degree in Reading Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and many hours towards a Ed. Specialist's Degree in Educational Leadership through Webster University.

My husband, Clayton, and I are parents of three children; two Soulard School alumni (Colin and Audrey), and a daughter in Thrive (Emma). We look forward to another wonderful year part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

**Eleanor White, Communications & Operations Director**

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 elsewhere, I discovered the Soulard School, a place that looks just like the progressive elementary

school I attended and loved as a kid. I can't believe this is my thirteenth year with the Soulard School! When I began, I taught kindergarteners and toddlers, but I've been in the office for the past nine years. My son Emmett is a TSS alumni at McKinley this year and Theo is in 3rd grade. I live in Shaw with my husband Brad, the kids, a big brown dog named Rufus and our hedgehog, Rose.

**Haley Biehl, Assistant Principal**

Every child learns differently, and it is our charge as educators to show regard for and to reflect on how students express themselves academically, socially, and emotionally. In turn, we adjust our approach and interactions to ensure the child is feeling supported and respected. Now entering into my eighth year here, I am thrilled to continually support and grow with this community.

While my initial bachelor's degree is in journalism, I started my journey in education at the Illinois Center for Autism, and quickly learned that nurturing the development of my students was far more rewarding than working as a freelance journalist. I returned to school and received my Master's in the Art of Teaching in Special Education, and continued as a teacher at ICA before joining the Behavior Support team in Belleville, IL, where I taught 1st through 3rd grade. I found my way to The Soulard School when I married my wonderful husband, Jason, and made St. Louis my home. We are parents to a very inquisitive two-year-old, Autumn, who loves to play and explore at the Nursery. Outside of school, I enjoy teaching fitness classes at CC Fly Fitness, spoiling our boxer dog, Louie, and getting into misadventures with my friends and family.

**Patsy King, Development Assistant**

I joined The Soulard School community eighteen years ago when my daughter, Isabel, started in the Nursery at the Little School. She's now a college sophomore. A few years later she was followed by her sister, Kate. I knew that in the Soulard School I had found a place that was dynamic and inspiring and warm and wonderful. I spent their early/elementary years organizing and helping out wherever I could - PA President, Open Houses, the newsletter, you name it. When Sarah asked if I was available to help

out in the Development Office this year, I was thrilled to be back in the building!

I'm originally from St. Louis. I spent several years in Chicago (B.A., Loyola University) and Madison, Wisconsin (Masters in Public Policy/Policy Analysis, U of W-Madison). My husband, Steve Sherman (former Soulard School Board President -- it's definitely been a family affair!), and I live in the Shaw neighborhood. Though primarily a stay-at-home mom, I've had a variety of jobs over the years - bookseller, family law paralegal - that draw on my love of project management. In my free time I love to travel, ride my new e-bike, check out new restaurants and movies, and volunteer with a non-profit that brings authors and books to underserved schools.

**Kimberly Shead, Development Manager**

I am a native to St. Louis but have had the wonderful pleasure of residing in great cities such as Dallas, Charlotte, Nashville and Los Angeles, where I gained invaluable experience in the nonprofit, television and marketing industries. My midwestern sensibilities and love for family compelled my move back to the Gateway City. I was blessed to be raised in a very loving and supportive home by my aunts who instilled a strong work ethic and spirit of volunteerism in me. I saw how they worked tirelessly in the field of

education to better the lives of children and youth, as well as gave any extra time to volunteering and serving our community. I believe these values are what influenced my decision to seek out an organization such as The Soulard School. It fills my heart with joy to know that I am doing work that will truly make a difference in the lives of children and our community.



Kristen Hood, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

I am so excited to be joining The Soulard School as the school social worker this year! Prior to coming on board at The Soulard School, I worked as a trauma-focused therapist for multiple Children's Advocacy Centers in Missouri and Illinois. I continue to see adults and children as a therapist in Creve Coeur, outside of my time at The Soulard School. I love being able to create safe spaces for people who may be dealing with a variety of challenges and feelings. I am thrilled to be able to continue helping kids develop skills to cope with difficult situations in my work at school. Prior to beginning my career as a therapist, I attended Greenville University and Southern Illinois University.

I currently live in St. Louis with my husband, Nathan, and my cat, Newton. Nathan and I are licensed foster parents and may or may not have amazing children in our home at any given time. I love to run, play tennis, golf, ride my bike, go hiking, and spend time with my family in Illinois and Montana.

NURSERY TEACHERS



Jessica Thenhaus, Infant/Toddler Teacher (Sprouts)

I am originally from New Orleans and have called St Louis home for more than twelve years. It was not easy to leave New Orleans but I was lucky enough to find a second home in St Louis. I have many years of experience working with kids ages birth -10 yrs including owning an in-home daycare. Since starting at The Soulard School, I have worked as the Pre-K aftercare teacher and the Pre-K summer camp assistant. I am very excited to be a part of the Nursery Team for my second year as a Nursery Teacher. I am

proud to be a part of The Soulard School, a school that has such a strong connection to the people within its community. In my spare time I love to be exploring outdoors with my husband and two dogs.



Kathie Mallman, 2s Teacher (Sprouts)

I am so thrilled to begin my fourth year at The Soulard School. This is my first year teaching two year olds at the nursery and I'm so excited to see what this year will bring to me. I'm so lucky to be teaching my own son this year, Louie, and I'm glad he gets to experience the joy of The Soulard School. I have always enjoyed being a part of such a warm and welcoming community here at The Soulard School- and I'm so glad my family is able to experience the love here. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Education from

Webster University in 2014. After spending several years working in an early childhood center, I found my true passion for engaging young children through problem solving experiences. It is truly amazing to watch children learn something for the first time, while also supporting their learning in the process. Outside of teaching, I love spending time with my husband Mike, my 10 year step son Aiden, and my 2 year old son Louie. We spend our time outdoors, watching movies, and cooking delicious food together! I am grateful to be apart of such an amazing community, and I cannot wait to see what this year has in store for me!



Keyanna Seals, Nursery Assistant/Aftercare Teacher (Sprouts)

Hello all! This is my first year supporting The Soulard School at the Nursery. I always knew I wanted to work with children. I decided to direct my focus on at-risk youth while completing an Undergraduate program at Columbia College. My major is Human Services with a double minor in Sociology and Criminal Justice. As I am ending my college career, I am happy to build my experience working with young children, and am amazed by how much experience I've gained already this fall. A few of my hobbies include: reading, watching tons of documentaries, and trying different ways to improve my physical health.

PRE-K TEACHERS



Jenna Morrison, Pre-K Teacher (Quietude)

I am beyond excited and grateful to have the opportunity to continue my adventures in teaching Pre-K at The Soulard School! I earned my Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Throughout my time at Mizzou, I was a teacher in a Montessori classroom and in the University's Child Development Lab. Additionally, I completed my student teaching experience at The College School in Webster Groves, where I discovered the school's Reggio Emilia inspired curriculum. Having been exposed to these various curriculums has helped me to develop my own unique teaching philosophy, which I have been able to put into practice and expand upon in the Quietude classroom. I strive to pass on my love of learning to the children by encouraging them to explore their individual interests through our play-based, inquiry-based curriculum. Outside of school, my family just moved into our first house in the Lindenwood Park neighborhood. In our free time, Dan and I enjoy taking Maeve, 2, and Beau, 3 months, on new adventures around the city, having dance parties, playing with our dogs, Pippa and Carl and spending time together outdoors. The Soulard School is like a second home to me, and I'm ready to take on my seventh year here with the new Pre-K team!



Dorie Ranheim, Lead Pre-K Teacher (Quietude)

I am thrilled to join The Soulard School after recently graduating from Saint Louis University with a doctorate in Education. During my time at SLU, my research focused on teaching strategies for early childhood, including the creation of a blog, playfulinvitations.com, meant to inspire adults to playfully teach foundational math skills using natural materials. While at SLU I had many opportunities to support undergraduate students as they learned about early childhood education and practiced

teaching in local schools. I continue to work closely with SLU faculty to provide teacher training.

Before pursuing my degree at SLU, I spent many years as Education Program Manager at The Magic House where I created art, music and education programs for young children and families. I am certified to teach Early Childhood Education, and hold a Masters Degree in Child Development from Chicago's Erikson Institute, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (with a focus in child development) from Loyola University Chicago. My entire career has been spent working with children and families in a variety of settings including hospitals, children's museums and schools. I live in the Shaw neighborhood with my daughters, Inga (5) and Freya (3.5), and my musical husband, Bjorn.



Maggie Hurst, Pre-K Teacher (Quietude)
I'm so excited to finally be working my dream job in the Quietude room! Six years ago, as an OT student at SLU, I observed in this classroom and realized that teaching preschool was my true passion. Since then, I've supported Haley as a literacy tutor for elementary students, subbed all grades, and taught all levels at the Nursery. In May, I graduated from Webster University with my Masters in Teaching Early Childhood Education with an emphasis in Special Education. While at Webster, I also studied the Reggio Emilia approach to early education with intensity. After graduation, I was able to visit Reggio Emilia, Italy to learn new techniques and observe in their preschools. I believe every child has infinite potential and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together as a community this year in Quietude.

I live in Soulard with my husband, Hugh, and our cat, Rex, and we love to spend time enjoying everything this neighborhood has to offer. When the school day ends, I run a small hand embroidery business and love to relax outside with a book.

ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHERS



Amy Cross, Kindergarten Teacher (Mums)
I have been at The Soulard School since the 2012-2013 school year and have taught in the Quietude classroom and Pre-K summer camp as well as kindergarten. This is my fourth year co-teaching in the Mums kindergarten room with Julie. My passion in life is working with children. They bring smiles to my face every day as I learn as much from them as they do from me. I am originally from the St. Louis area and graduated from UMSL with a degree in Elementary Education. While attending UMSL, I lived in Benton

Park and really fell in love with the local community. After graduating, I was fortunate enough to travel extensively while living in Europe, Asia and Latin America. I taught English in a public all-girls school in South Korea. At that time, I volunteered at an afternoon program for economically underprivileged 4- 6 year olds. Although I always knew I wanted to teach, that was the first time I felt passionate about an age level - early childhood. I went on to the Dominican Republic where I was given the opportunity to work with preschool students again at Punta Cana International School. I stayed there four years before returning to St. Louis. Now, I am living in the Soulard neighborhood with my ever growing family - James, Dakota (6th grade), Cameron (2nd grade) and Pickle (our dog). I look forward to continued growth within an amazing environment where I see children being inspired and encouraged to live in such a positive, respectful way! In all my travels I found the uniqueness of individuals is what makes the world wonderful. I look forward to teaching in a way that helps students love themselves and appreciate others.



Julie Radin, Kindergarten Teacher (Mums)
Joining the community at The Soulard School was a dream come true for me. In my years as a teacher, I have learned the value of allowing student curiosity to guide the curriculum, so I am happy to be a part of a school that embraces this philosophy. I have over 20 years of teaching experience at various grade levels. I earned my Bachelor of Science in Education from Missouri Baptist University. I have continued growing as an educator through professional development workshops and participating in professional learning communities.

In my spare time I enjoy taking long walks through city neighborhoods, catching up with friends in coffee shops, and reading with my dog curled up beside me.

Mem Fox, one of my favorite authors, perfectly described how I feel when she wrote; "I like children. I like them very much. I have enormous respect for their intelligence and ability, and high hopes for their future."



Bethany Burress, 1st Grade Teacher (Enigma)
I am incredibly grateful to begin my seventh year of teaching at The Soulard School. The Soulard School's philosophy and view of education is what initially attracted me to this community, and I am thrilled to be a part of such an innovative and imaginative environment. I have my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in Family and Child Studies from Eastern Illinois University. I have been teaching young children for over 10 years, and I love that every day is a new adventure for both myself and the kids. Outside of teaching, I love spending time with my two daughters, Holland and Harper, and my husband, Joe. We enjoy camping, dancing, and gardening together. I look forward to getting to know each and every family and working together to ensure the children thrive and blossom in the Enigma classroom. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Soulard School community, and I am excited for the new adventures this year will bring!



Anna Austin, 1st Grade Teacher (Enigma)
I feel so lucky to be beginning my seventh year at the Soulard School. I was introduced to this school during my student teaching while getting my Master of Arts in Teaching degree from Webster. I spent the fall of 2011 in the Mums kindergarten class and was able to return in 2013 to teach those same students as second graders. Being able to teach in this community has been so incredible. Before starting my teaching career, I earned my undergraduate degree at Mizzou (Go Tigers!). I have been married 2 years and have a 9 year old stepson, Luke. We live in Ballwin with our dog, Franklin. Our favorite things to do together are to travel, go to the pool, create art, and play games. I am looking forward to learning, growing, and laughing our way through first grade this year.



Julia Knarr, 2nd Grade Teacher (Alchemy)
I'm so excited to be joining the incredible staff here at The Soulard School this year! I was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. I attended Lindbergh High School, and then Lindenwood University in St. Charles. I graduated with a BA in elementary education and early childhood with certification in both. I taught general studies at Epstein Hebrew Academy for 3 1/2 years in the Preschool and at the 2nd grade level. I was a Preschool director of a summer camp for 2 summers, and I taught the children's programming at a local religious organization for the last 3 years. I'm incredibly passionate about education, and I firmly believe in the importance of first building close relationships with every student and creating a warm, loving, and safe classroom climate. I have lived in University City for 3 years, and when I'm not in school I love traveling, eating amazing local food, drawing, and lettering.





Lauren Wadsworth, 2nd Grade Teacher (Alchemy)
This will be my second year at The Soulard School, and I'm so excited to continue to get to know my students and learn alongside them. Prior to beginning my journey into education, I worked with a performing arts company based out of South Africa where I coordinated and taught drama workshops to Middle and High School students. I graduated from Missouri Baptist in 2017 with a degree in Elementary Education. Currently, I call Tower Grove home, and when I'm not teaching, I enjoy taking my pug, Tsitsi, on long walks around the neighborhood.



Rob May, 3rd Grade Teacher (Mosaic)
Born and raised in Kansas City I attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City earning a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art. After years of working as an artist and a musician I decided to switch gears and become a teacher with the hope that I could be an instrument for positive change in the world. I moved to St. Louis in 2012 and enrolled in the teacher education program at Webster University. Four years later I completed my Master of Arts in Teaching and was offered a full-time teaching position at the Soulard School. As I begin my fourth full year of teaching at TSS I look forward to new adventures and opportunities for growth alongside our students.



Phillip McFarlane, 3rd Grade Teacher (Mosaic)
I am very proud to be a part of the experienced and capable team at the Soulard School. In the past, I have been a professional actor working primarily with children's educational programs, violence prevention, AIDS education, and children's literature. I have worked as a Montessori educator for 18 years, working with both elementary and middle school students. I was also a theater director for 8 years during which I wrote, produced and directed 3 operettas with 70 little Montessorians. I have my BA in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University and a degree from NAMTA in the Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. When not teaching, I enjoy playing the guitar, gardening, adding to my vinyl collection and working as an advocate for children.



Anna Elwood, 4th Grade Teacher (Thrive)
This is my fourth year as part of The Soulard School community, and I absolutely love being one of the teachers in the Thrive classroom! I feel extremely privileged to teach, grow, and learn alongside our fourth grade students. I love project-based learning and focusing on the uniqueness of all learners, and I am always excited to continue my own lifelong learning journey! I have BAs in Elementary Education and Spanish from William Jewell College, as well as a Master's degree in Elementary Education with a focus on Reading from UMSL. After finishing undergrad, I was fortunate to teach abroad for two years in southern Spain. It was amazing, and I love incorporating my travels into the classroom! I have been back in St. Louis teaching elementary-aged students since 2011.

I am married to my best friend and the love of my life, Nathan! I love spending time with him and with our adorable pup, Rogue. In addition to spending time with family and friends, I also love speaking Spanish, traveling, and cheering on the Cardinals. I look forward to new adventures awaiting us this year and hope to ask questions, take risks, and dream big with everyone at The Soulard School!



Sydney Freukes, 4th Grade Assistant Teacher (Thrive), PE Assistant, Beforecare Teacher
This is my first year working at The Soulard School. I completed a practicum as a Webster University student here in 2017, and I am ecstatic to be back! I am doing Beforecare, teaching Thrive in the mornings, and assisting Lisa with P.E. in the afternoons. I love being able to teach children and to watch their minds grow!

I graduated from Webster with my BA in Elementary Education in December 2018. Prior to my work with elementary students, I worked in early childcare for 6 years. I look forward to continuing my education in the near future.

I was born and raised in St. Louis, not far from Soulard. Outside of school I spend a majority of my time with my boyfriend, Jacob, and his 4 year old son, Greyson! I love to read, cheer for the Blues and the Steelers, go to concerts, and spend my weekends at Lake of the Ozarks. I also have two cats, Piper and Boots, and a dog named Oakley.



at the Soulard School annual staff kickball game



Brad Gordon, 5th Grade Teacher (Explorer)

I can't reiterate enough how happy I am to be part of The Soulard School. I have taught for 16 years now, and I can honestly say that this is the most caring and nurturing environment for kids I have ever been a part of.

I grew up in Southern California in the suburbs of LA. I moved away and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education from the University of Tennessee. From there, I spent nearly a decade teaching in Las Vegas. I have been in St. Louis for six years now, and have grown to love it here. I live across the river in Collinsville with my wife, Lorrie, and our kids (Scott, Ryann, Ethan, and Emma).



Holly Laws, 5th Grade Teacher (Explorer)

This is my first year teaching at The Soulard School and I have felt so welcomed by the staff, families, and students! I was born and raised in St. Louis and graduated from Nerinx Hall High School (go Markers!). I earned my degree in Elementary Education from Loyola University Chicago with a focus on social justice education and completed my student teaching at Ogden Elementary, an International Baccalaureate school in downtown Chicago. After graduating in May, I decided that I wanted to begin my teaching

career in my hometown, and I could not be luckier to start in a learning environment as unique as TSS!! As a teacher, I am passionate about inquiry/project-based learning and I believe that the heart of a safe classroom environment is creating a trusting relationship with my students. Outside of school, I work as a professional fiddle player and you can find me playing at many of the Irish spots around town with my sister, Ashby. I also enjoy playing ultimate frisbee in my free time and playing with my two dogs, Ellie and Paco.



Alex-Anne Troxel, Strings & Performing Arts Teacher

As a second generation musician and third generation youth educator, I'm so glad to be a member of The Soulard School staff as Strings and Performing Arts Instructor. I received my Bachelor of Music in viola performance in 2014 from Southeast Missouri State University. I have extensive training in the Suzuki Violin Method, studying Books I, II, and III at the University of Memphis (2014-15), and Book IV at Otterbein University (2016). I received my Elementary Education certification in August 2018, and in June 2019 I

completed Level 1 Orff Schulwerk training at UMSL.

In addition to teaching at TSS, I perform with the Saint Louis String Quartet, the Keough String Quartet, and the Matt McCallie Jazz Orchestra. I am also part of the music ministry at St. Peter Church in Kirkwood playing the weekly contemporary mass on Sunday evenings as well as special holiday masses.

I live in Affton with my wife Nicole and our daughter Tallis, who turns one in December. In our spare time we love trying new restaurants, thrift shopping, and chasing a now-mobile baby around!



Sarah Kate Buckles, Culinary Arts Teacher

This will be my fifth year at The Soulard School. I have worn many hats during my time here and this year I'm so glad to finally be sporting *la toque blanche* as Culinary Arts and Nutrition Instructor. I won't lie, this is my dream job, the one I've wanted since I first toured the school when my son was in preschool.

I am so excited to bring my own flavor to this job and look forward to cooking delicious, healthy, from-scratch meals with your kiddos as they explore the world through food.

My background is very diverse. I have a degree in Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management, but I spent ten years working with not-for-profits in many different capacities. I've been a roller derby league president, a booker for an all-ages nightclub and art gallery, and a grocery co-op manager. I have worked as a caterer, a camp counselor, and a restaurateur. All these different jobs have given me an appreciation for the ever-evolving organism that is the city of St. Louis and a strong drive to be involved in changing this city for the better and helping bring colorful and exciting events to the community.

I live in Fox Park with my husband Matt Thenhaus, our son and TSS alumnus Joss, and a flow of houseguests and visitors. We travel every chance we get and often host friends and family visiting from all over the world. You can also find me on Cherokee Street divining the future at The Fortune Teller Bar, the fine local watering hole my husband owns.

EXTENDED CORE TEACHERS



Lisa Berman, Physical Education Teacher

This is my seventh year as The Soulard School's physical education teacher. I have an M.Ed. in Literacy, Language and Cultural Studies and have taught for more than 20 years in both formal and informal settings including the first K-12 charter school in Massachusetts and at the St. Louis Zoo. I am also the Director of USA Sport Stacking and the Head Coach for the USA Sport Stacking Team as well as all the State Teams. A few evenings each week, I volunteer as the sport stacking coach and DANCEPL3Y instructor at Concordia Gymnastic Society. My kids, Holly and Darius, are Soulard

School graduates. Holly is a sophomore at Metro Academic and Classical High School and Darius is in sixth grade at Grand Center Arts Academy. My husband, Alex, is a Wash U Physician in the Neurology Department.



Extended
Core
Curriculum
Night!



Thanks to our STEAM, PE, Studio, Strings and Culinary teachers for creating experiences for parents and students to engage in learning together.



Erin Turner, Culinary Arts Assistant

I am not much for writing or talking about myself. I have been a bit of a jack of all trades in my career with jobs centering in or around a kitchen. After helping out in the TSS kitchen as a volunteer and spending time in the halls last year, I knew this was the place I needed to be. As this is my first year at the school I am learning so much so quickly about what it means to teach children. I have discovered that it is more than just cooking food to eat. This is about crafting skills for a life to truly live.

I have two children, Adelaide (Quietude) and Arthur. We spend our time exploring the Saint Louis area and love snuggling while watching a movie with a big bowl of popcorn coated in brewers yeast with the hot sauce close by for sprinkling.



Joe Ploch, Aftercare Coordinator

"I'm tired and my beard hurts!" As a St. Louis native and father of four awesome kiddos who attend(ed) TSS, I am proud to have had the opportunity to assist in various afterschool clubs and activities over the years. With Sarah Kate taking on the Culinary Arts Program, I was afforded the opportunity to transition to the role of Aftercare Coordinator. I also assist in Pre-K with transitions and classroom quiet times and have been working to implement specific educational needs for students

with IEPs under Haley's guidance. I am planning on continuing my education at Webster University later this year, completing a degree in education. The Soulard School has made such a huge impact on my children's lives. I am excited to be able to step into more roles at TSS, with the goal of continuing this impact for others



Cass Blackwood (she/her), Aftercare Teacher

I fell in love with the Soulard School a few years ago when my nephew landed here and it became the refuge he needed to flourish. I'm so grateful to this community for that and I'm incredibly excited to be joining the Soulard School as an aftercare teacher and hope to flourish here as well. I've spent my life working in a wide range of jobs including construction, animal care and theater. I have spent the past 5 years raising my kids, helping my friends raise their kiddos, and working on my teaching certificate

to add to my B.A in Studio Art and Technical Theater. I live a hop and skip away in the Fox Park neighborhood with my amazing partner James and my littles Owen (5) and Arlo (2). In the bits of free time I find I love to garden, cook, play board games and create things in all-sorts of ways.



Jill Humphries, Aftercare Teacher

I joined the Soulard School community this summer supporting summer camp, and am so happy to continue getting to know the students, staff and parents as an aftercare teacher. My knowledge of children comes from more than 30 years of working as a caregiver and parent. Over time, I've developed a complex, three-tiered system:

1. Be honest (no patronizing)
2. Be kind (save yelling for safety/urgent situations)
3. Be the boss (live up to friends' trust by setting an example)

Any of my aftercare friends can confirm that I sing too much, sprinkle everyone with a healthy dose of Spanish, and am often the first person to get dirty on the playground. I've been enjoying getting to know the aftercare students' parents, and look forward to growing these relationships as the school year progresses.



Jacci Ross-Hertel, Studio Arts Teacher

I first learned about the philosophy and teaching methods at the school through a former Soulard School family. Heading into my third year at TSS I am very excited to continue to collaborate with the classroom and other extended-core teachers, as well as the creative minds within our student-body.

Originally born in St Louis, I grew up in Columbia, Missouri and moved north to Kirksville to attend Truman State for my BFA in Visual Communications. I

returned to St. Louis and felt unfulfilled in my career path so I decided to go back to my happy place and attend graduate school. After earning my Master's in Ed and Art (K-12) certification through Fontbonne University, my husband and I picked up and headed to St. Petersburg, Florida where I taught Art for 5 years at a public elementary school. I returned to St Louis in 2013 and began exploring a non-traditional teaching path including working with Springboard St. Louis, teaching summer and afterschool programs at The College School, teaching private art classes, and joining the staff of The St. Louis Art Fair. Three years ago, I also had an opportunity to pursue a certification in Kids Yoga and Mindfulness through Southtown Yoga studio, This course has fit well into my curriculum and the practices of The Soulard School as well as helped inspire my work with bringing intentional mindfulness practices into Studio Art.

Outside of my extreme passion for the arts; I love to travel, try new restaurants, see live music, and exercise. Other than that, I am usually chasing my rambunctious toddler around the house, watching my daughter's living room performances, or collapsing in exhaustion with my husband.



Courtney Keefe, STEAM Teacher

I am incredibly excited to tackle the role of STEAM Instructor yet again this year! Collaborating closely with classroom teachers and students alike, I am looking forward to the awesome learning experiences and projects we will be creating together as we continue to embrace the Makers Movement as we engage in both Design Thinking and the Engineering Process. Think, Design, Make, Build, Tinker, Improve!

It's hard to believe that this is my eighth year with The Soulard School and my sixth as the STEAM instructor! I feel extremely lucky to be a part of this special community and have the opportunity to work with such remarkable children. I attended undergraduate at Loyola University in New Orleans where I received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After Hurricane Katrina, I migrated to Miami 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 Jewel, curled up with a good book, tending to my garden, trying out new recipes, or exploring anything that piques my curiosity.



GARNISHED WITH GRATITUDE & GIVING

This year The Soulard School has received a generous produce donation from **The Tom Lange Company**. Each Monday morning they deliver all the fresh fruits and vegetables we need to make lunch for the entire week, and our students from all classes help to prepare the produce for cooking and serving. Our friends snap green beans, wash grapes, slice apples and cucumbers, peel carrots and potatoes, chop broccoli and cauliflower, mince onions and dice bell peppers. Having students assist in the preparation of vegetables and fruits for lunches helps with mastery of fine motor skills, facilitates the growth of empathy, fosters a sense of community and encourages team building and problem solving between peers. Most importantly, it helps raise student self-esteem and engenders a feeling of pride in our friends as they learn that they are capable in the kitchen.



The real-world skills they are learning will stay with them when they go home and out into the community after graduation. The ability to plan, purchase ingredients for, prepare and serve a meal that is healthy and delicious is the goal for all of our students.



RECIPE CORNER with Chef Sarah Kate Buckles

One of the options our produce donation has allowed us to provide is a choice of fresh green salad several days a week. Many of our friends take seconds on salad, so I've included the recipe for Balsamic Vinaigrette. This light and yummy dressing is the perfect accompaniment to mixed greens.

Balsamic Vinaigrette

Ingredients

- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil
- ½ cup balsamic glaze (Trader Joe's makes a pretty good one)
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic or 1 TBS minced fresh garlic
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dijon mustard
- salt and pepper to taste



Directions

Step 1: Place all ingredients EXCEPT olive oil in a blender on low and slowly drizzle the oil in until the dressing reaches a smooth consistency.

Step 2: Toss with mixed greens or any salad of your choice.

Keeps well in a sealed mason jar in the fridge for six weeks.

Trust me, your kids will eat salad with this on it.



Instagram

Follow us on
Instagram!

@soulardschool

DOCUMENTING OUR EXPERIENCES

– QUIETUDE Pre-K –

Recently our books, conversations and center provocations explored the concept of light and shadow. Students discussed how shadows are created using light and then tested their theories using multiple materials. The use of projection brought this concept to life in our classroom.

"The shadows are when you are in the sunlight."



What do you know about shadows?
"You only can use light to make them."

– MOSAIC 3rd grade –

Blake and Raleigh check their seeds for evidence of sprouting.



Mosaic students participate in daily yoga practice.

Aunjel draws and records plant observations at the outdoor classroom.



Otis and Cy collaborate on a design challenge in STEAM.



The Pasta Sale Fundraiser

starts 11-1-2019

Pasta order forms go out

November 1st,
are due **November 15th,**
with delivery to school on **November 21st**



You're invited to the Annual Harvest Party

WHEN

Friday, **November 15th**
6:00-8:30pm

WHERE

South Broadway Athletic Club

WHAT

Potluck Soup Cook-Off w/ prizes!
Bring a soup or a side dish.
Dance Contest! Costume Contest!
Kid drinks provided. Cash bar.

A Message From The President

It's been a great first trimester at Soulard School. Thanks to everyone who's signed up and volunteered for the PA committees.

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosted a welcome potluck to gather project and event ideas for the community, and it was a welcoming and warm event. Please look for your next opportunity to participate.

Thanks, see you in the hallways!

- Samantha Fisher

2019-20 PARENT ASSOCIATION

Co-Presidents: Samantha Fisher
Vice VP: Annie Lehrer
Treasurer: Heather McCorkle
Secretary: Rachel Kryah
Social Events Coordinators: Annie Lehrer, Angela Wildermuth
Room Coordinator Coordinator: Jim Noonan
Room Coordinators:
Nursery: Anna Blaser, Jacci Ross-Hertel
Quietude: Anne Kraus, Nathalie Mackie
Mums: Jacalyn Wood, Shunique Conners, Adam Smith
Enigma: Joanna Rosenthal, Aundrea Wooldridge
Mosaic: Annaliese Giordano, LaDawn Jones
Alchemy: Jim Noonan, Angela Wildermuth
Thrive: Kendra Smith, Morgan Cameron

Thanks to all the parents who volunteered at the Soulard School Oktoberfest tent 10/11 & 12. Gratitude to **Annie Lehrer** and **Martin Casas** for coordinating this fundraiser for our school



OCTOBER 11 & 12, 2019

2019-20 Annual Appeal Kick-Off: 15 Years Strong & Proud

This year's campaign will be celebrating The Soulard School's 15 years of successful students, community and unique approaches to learning. We could not be more proud of our alumni and our environment.

A gift to the Annual Fund is an investment in our school and mission to serve all students. Gifts to the Annual Fund are especially beneficial as they allow us to address the school's most pressing needs and to provide the flexibility to seize unique and important opportunities.

Strong support of the Annual Fund reflects the community's belief in school's mission and the desire to sustain it for future generations. Every gift is a vote of confidence in our learning environment and our quest to deliver a high quality, integrated learning experience for the St. Louis area.

CLOVERS & STARS

7th Annual Irish Music and Dance Festival
to benefit

THE
SOULARD ★ SCHOOL

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 1, 2019

Doors 7pm • Concert 8pm



THANK YOU!

To our many partners and supporters!

