

THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

October, 2012
www.soulardschool.org

head of school notes

COMING FULL CIRCLE

Circles and spirals are shapes and design elements that have always spoken to me. They represent connectedness and the continuous nature of life and learning. This year we continue to build layers of circles to ensure the school's success at its many levels.

Our first set of circles incorporates old and new. We have always had a strong Parent Association that organizes and supports families, staff and students. Last year, our staff built committees based on the PA's model: Outreach, Social, Documentation and Organizing. This year our students have been brought into the fold. On Monday October 15th during our usual assembly time, students held their first committee meetings. Their committees are based on the framework of essential understandings we use to discuss the school's philosophy with our students. **The four student committees are: Gratitude & Empathy; Responsibility & Integrity; Reflection and Philanthropy.** Through these circles our students are able to contribute to the larger goals of our school.

A second set of circles that have been set into motion is our **Buddy Circles**. They are beginning with an eye to new members in our school, as a way to "host" students still getting to know the ropes. The structure for these circles is based on the Circle of Friends approach in which:

"Those in the peer group are encouraged to look at their own behavior and also to develop an understanding of the focus child's behavior and challenges in order to develop strategies and practical solutions to help the individual. It is not an approach to provide instant friendship, but over the course of meetings, it is hoped that the focus child will be able to build closer and better relationships with other children." (Barratt et al).

In future Buddy Circles we hope to support a range of social needs. We know in this circle all members will benefit. Skills practiced will build their social-emotional awareness and will be transferable in other social contexts.

Coming full circle. In all of these groups, committees are overlapping, and spiraling circles whirl around creating the community that connects us. As a tree adds rings each year, **we learn ways to broaden our reach into the community, share responsibility and reinforce our commitment to each other.**

- Sarah Christman, Head of School

Inspired by their study of the solar system, the Quietude Classroom created "Huge Jupiter." Check it out in the main hallway. And see page 2 for more.



development updates

See page 11 for Development Committee updates on how our community is coming together to ensure the school's long term viability.

And a shout out to *Laura Pupillo* who won a \$20,000 grant for the school and her continuing education!

p.a. open meeting

The Parent Association invites you to our next open PA meeting on Thursday, November 8th at 6:30 in the McGurk's room.

We will share the outcome of our efforts at Oktoberfest, the winners of the Oktoberfest volunteer incentive contest for classrooms as well as discuss current and future spending of PA funds.

Food and beverages will be provided.

Please look for more information in future Friday notes. We look forward to seeing you there!

- Michele Rigsby (Fred and Ada's mom) and PA

Thursday, **November 8**, 6:30 PM

grandparent breakfast

We will be welcoming some very special members of our community this coming Monday, October 22 8-10am for our annual Grandparent Coffee & Cakes.



Monday, **October 22**, 8:00 - 10:00 AM

classroom notes

nursery notes



At the Nursery, we have been using our hands as well as brushes to paint wooden 3D shapes. Once our shapes dry, we add them to our building center where we continue to be creative with constructing structures.

alchemy notes



What an amazing opportunity! The Alchemy class was invited to partake in a promotional video for the grand re-opening of the St. Louis Central Library! A film crew from Toky Branding + Design came to The Souldard School to interview us about how the many resources and educational opportunities available at the library have impacted and enhanced our learning experiences. And that's not all! We also have the honor of being among the first people to see the library before it is open to the public! (See Library Corner on page 10 for more details about this exciting opportunity for our students).

strings update

GREEN EGGS AND HAM

The Mums, Enigma, and Mosaic classes recently went to the St. Louis Symphony, where we heard a variety of musical styles. Their favorites by far were 'Green Eggs and Ham' and 'Clapping Music'. Clapping Music was written by minimalist composer Steve Reich, and is performed without instruments. **The students were very excited to see this unconventional performance.** The concert ended with a musical adaptation of Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham by Robert Kapilow. The Orchestra provided the music and three singers acted out the book. It was wonderful for the kids to be exposed to musical theatre through a piece with which they are already familiar.



quietude notes

THE SOLAR SYSTEM

The Pre-Kindergarten has been studying our solar system, beginning with the formation of the sun in the Milky Way galaxy. We have learned about Mercury's cold nights, the greenhouse effect on Venus, Earth's yearly orbit of the sun, the two moons (Phobos and Deimos) of Mars and the grand scale of the giant gas planet, Jupiter.

We were inspired by Jupiter's massive size and decided to create our own HUGE JUPITER by collaborating on a large 40" x 56" collage. We each cut, pasted, and painted until our beautiful work was ready to share with the school. A photo of it is on page 1 of this newsletter. You can check it out in person in the hallway!

classroom notes

mosaic notes

The second grade students in the Mosaic room have been learning about some of the **effects the drought** caused this past summer. The students were presented with several options through discussions and overwhelmingly decided to **take care of the**

hummingbirds. We learned that the conditions for pollinating plants were not as available to them as they were preparing for their migration miles and miles away to cross the Gulf of Mexico and onto Central America.

We **investigated** ways to help them. The students **observed** the pond and play area for plants they may be attracted to. We **identified** several and also put up a feeder outside our classroom window. We used tally marks to **document the**

frequency of visitors. Over a three

week period we charted 54 sightings. We heard from around the school that many more visitors appeared. It was very exciting. Some of the **interesting facts** we learned and **experimented with** were:

A hummingbird beats its wings 60 to 80 times per second in normal flight:

- We timed ourselves for 60 seconds and found it impossible.

While a hummingbird is at rest, its heart beats about 250 times per minute; while it is in flight, its heart beats about 1,220 times per minute:

- In class we measured our heart rate resting and compared the difference after we did 25 jumping jacks. Although not comparable to the hummingbird it was a good lesson showing how your heart rate changes with exercise.

The hummingbird study acted as a **bridge to extend learning** opportunities in all the curriculum areas. We finished by returning to the pond to **create** rhyming poems.



mums notes

As the weather began to change, the **Mums used their five senses to explore the world around them**. We first conducted an experiment to identify two unknown substances, finally discovering that they were sugar and salt after tasting the crystals. Then, we focused on each sense with various sensory experiences, such as smelly jars, clean mud, texture blocks, apple taste test, and wind chimes. We concluded our study by taking a walk to the park, sketching the things we saw, heard, smelled, and felt.



Joss does not prefer the smell of clove buds.



Verona is measuring the flour for the coffee play dough.

oktoberfest

Whew! Oktoberfest is behind us. Thankfully, we had a good time and raised a lot of money. The PA is in the process of assessing just how much we earned and will share this at the Parent Association's next Open Meeting (November 8th @ 6:30PM).

Thank you to all volunteers who helped make Oktoberfest happen for the Soulard School. The great response to the PA's call for volunteers was truly remarkable. We have an incredible family of parents and extended family at Soulard School. We couldn't have done it without you.

Michele Riggsby (Fred and Ada's mom) and PA President



classroom notes

What was the **outcome** of Christopher Columbus' voyage?

How did the European discovery of America **affect native communities**?

Who was the first European to set foot in North America?



thrive notes

These are just a few of the questions Thrive students investigated last month while researching explorers in our class. **Students shared this knowledge on Columbus Day during our Explorers of the World Potluck and Presentations.**

Thanks to the support of our wonderful parents, this potluck was a huge success featuring presentations from students, tasty foods from around the world, and an opportunity for students to celebrate and share the hard work they put into their research, artifacts, and presentation materials.

As a homework component for this project, several Thrive **students created model caravels that represent the ships that many explorers sailed on during The Age of Discovery.** Several of these ships are currently on display in the case near the McGurk's room.

enigma notes

LOST IN SPACE!

For the last couple of weeks, our first graders have been **lost in space!** Lost in the sense of being totally **engrossed** in the learning process. Our students first showed **interest** in a nonfiction book about flight and were especially focused on the section with the **space shuttle** and other space machines. We created a **class web** together to find out just how much we already knew about space, and discovered our class knows much. But, we had a **thirst** for more!

We began learning about the **solar system** as a whole, reading many books borrowed from the public library together and summarizing our learning. We participated in activities to help our **brains remember** facts, such as how far are the planets from the sun? We went outside and used found object to help us

make a representation of the solar system so that we could get a **concrete representation** of how far planets were from the sun. We also explored 3D apps on the iPad as a whole group using the projector. Using this new tool, we know where planets are in our sky and how they **revolve** around the sun in a specific path. From here, we plan to do **partner research** on each of the planets.

Then, we are excited to **expand** our knowledge and create our own planet and solar system in our classroom. Each of our first graders will create their own planet; telling what it is made of, how far it is from the sun, what type of life lives on it, and how the presence of or lack of an **atmosphere** affects life there. Our school year has blasted off with space exploration!



who we are

Kelly Bock EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Most of who I am and what I have learned in life has come from children. However, the majority of that learning has occurred during my adult adventures. At 17, I headed to Boulder, Colorado where I majored in Anthropology with a Pre -Med minor. I returned home to St. Louis and worked at the Pediatric Research Institute and Fisher Scientific. (I taught gymnastics and swimming to children on the weekends.) I opted not to go to medical school (reasoning that education would give me more time for a family) and moved to New York instead. I pursued my master 's degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education at NYU while working at Elliot's Gym and Studio of the Arts for Kids. There, I started a morning pre-school program call The Little School at Elliot's. I finished my studies with a semester at Oxford and a summer of traveling. In 1997, I opened The Little School & Gym with my sister's help (Shannon Diamond: Max, K & Cooper, Pre-K). Shortly thereafter, I began my doctoral studies in Foundations of Education at SLU. In 2004, Sarah Christman (then a teacher at The Little School) and I co-founded The Soulard School and its development became the topic of my dissertation. I currently live in Soulard with my 4 children: Harry, Tedda, Will, and Frances. In my free time (yes, I do have some), I enjoy reading and writing, working on my quote collection, and going on family adventures.



Eleanor White ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL

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 my beloved elementary school. I am beginning my sixth year with the Soulard School – I've had many positions at the school, working with kindergarteners and toddlers and serving as school secretary. This year I am officially Assistant Head of School. Meanwhile, my son Emmett is in the Quietude Room and Theo is at the Nursery.



Haley Biehl STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR



I am very excited to be joining The Soulard School in the newly minted role of Student Support Coordinator. I started my journey in education as a teacher's aide with the Illinois Center for Autism and quickly realized that interacting with children was a lot more fun than working as a freelance journalist! Thus, I returned to school (changing my major yet again, although I had already graduated!) to pursue a Masters of Teaching in Special Education. Three years, two teaching positions, and a marriage later, I found myself in St. Louis with the mission of discovering more about this "Soulard School" that I would walk by with my adorable boxer puppy. One Google-search later, and I was thrilled to discover that not only could this be the coolest school ever, but they were looking for somebody like me! I am incredibly excited to begin this journey with such a tight-knit community, and look forward to getting to know everyone better. Outside of school, I love traveling with my husband, Jason, and getting into misadventures with my sisters.

Sarah Christman HEAD OF SCHOOL

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 (pewh!). 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 build 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.

Melissa Durant NURSERY TEACHER

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!



who we are



Sarah Henrich
NURSERY TEACHER

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.

Daniel Dockery
QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

My experience with the school community began more than a decade ago at The Little School, where I spent 7 1/2 enriching years. During that time I worked with the infants and toddlers in the nursery, the 3-5 year-olds in the Pre-K classroom, and headed the first after-care program for the Soulard School.



After a brief hiatus from the colorful world of early childhood, I returned during the 2009-2010 school year as a substitute teacher. This is now my third year as one of three Pre-K teachers in the Quietude room. Currently, I am facilitating the development of the Quietude Creative Studio into a dynamic and ever-evolving realm of creative challenges and artistic provocations. It has been organized with a thoughtful eye toward open expression, sensory experience, creation of all kinds, and building personal and community bonds through common goals in the pioneering spirit that is a hallmark of The Soulard School.

In my spare time I enjoy creating collages and mixed media paintings, walking and resistance training, reading, and listening to avant-garde jazz, new wave/post-punk, progressive rock, and various other types of music.

Courtney Brown
QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

I am thrilled to join The Soulard School Community this year and I look forward to creating partnerships with teachers, parents and students in this amazing community. 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. I also enjoy writing and traveling. Although I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I now proudly call St. Louis my home, and when it comes to baseball, I am a Cardinals fan.

Laura Johnson
MUMS TEACHER (KINDERGARTEN)



I discovered my passion for teaching children when I was an America Reads tutor for underprivileged children in Pennsylvania. After a year, I decided to switch my majors from English and Spanish to Early Childhood and Elementary Education to begin a life devoted to young children. I recently received my master's degree in early childhood from Maryville

University along with a certification in gifted education. In searching for a school that nurtures the whole child, I was thrilled to find that The Soulard School and its philosophy align with my own. This year will be my third here, and I am honored to return to the community as a kindergarten teacher in the Mums room. I am excited to learn about my students' passions and explore where our interests take us!



Tammy Walls
QUIETUDE TEACHER (PRE-K)

I am elated to be a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at the Soulard School! It is wonderful to be a part of this unique community and to work with such remarkable children. I graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, with an emphasis in Art. Currently, I am attending SIUE's Master of Science in Education program in Curriculum and Instruction,

with an emphasis on Early Childhood Education.

I have worked with children of all ages and abilities in a variety of capacities. Through my experiences I have learned to create family- and child-centered learning experiences that encourage cognitive, social and emotional development through active exploration, guided inquiry, and structured play.

During my spare time I enjoy playing guitar, sewing, gardening, and exercising. I feel that it is imperative to have interests and hobbies to enrich our lives and provide challenges to our minds and bodies.

who we are



Brandy Wheeler
**EARLY CHILDHOOD
CLASSROOMS TEACHER**

I am very excited for my new role this year! I have been a part of The Soulard School for four years. I began by being the lead learner in first grade and, in my fourth year, had the opportunity to co-teach a combined first and second grade classroom. Now, in year five, I am able to expand my experience even more with my new role co-teaching kindergarten, visiting

the The Little School daily, and introducing math and handwriting materials in the Quietude preschool classroom. I love being part of so many learning communities! It will be rewarding to watch the children grow and learn as they journey through TSS!

Prior to the Soulard School, I graduated from the University of Missouri - St. Louis with my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I had one year of kindergarten at a local charter school under my belt as I began my adventure here at TSS. In 2009, I married my husband who is a General Manager at a restaurant in Creve Coeur. We are also excited to start a family of our own someday and get to see our own children blossom at our school!

I am lucky to be a part of this amazing community. Where else can you find more parents who are involved with the school, not just their child's education, but the school as a whole? Together, we can create a place of respect and integrity. We can build and support our children no matter what paths they may follow and interests they may pursue. This is a place where students can be passionate about learning. That is what I am here to do, instill in my children the desire to learn.

"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."

- John Lubbock

Lee Hahn

ENIGMA TEACHER (1ST)

I am very excited and proud to continue with this amazing, close-knit community and group of students! I have a wonderful husband, a hilarious 6 year old son, Jaxon, who keeps my life interesting and occupied at all times, and a new baby boy on the way! My children make me view life in a whole new way and I am so thankful to them for allowing me the opportunity to see education through a parental perspective. I have a BA in Elementary Education from Webster University and am so lucky to be one of the first grade teachers here at The Soulard School. Because I was one of their teachers last year, I get the advantage of already having an emotional bond with everyone of these students. I love being able to instill values and implement TSS philosophies to these children that I feel are essential not only to our community, but in today's world.



Kerri Fair
**ENIGMA TEACHER (1ST),
INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST**



In my five years with the school, I have been predominately a classroom teacher and supportive literacy coach. This year I will be in a dual role; first grade teacher and instructional specialist. During the morning each day, I'll be co-teaching first grade with Lee - leading both reading and writing instruction. Each afternoon, my role switches to one of classroom teacher support; leading professional development, mentoring new teachers, coordinating math and literacy

curriculum and instruction, among a few other things. Before coming to The Soulard School, I was a reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District, a classroom teacher in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and now have sixteen 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 thrilled that our son, Colin, is attending first grade this year. Our daughter, Audrey Rose, will attend the Pre-K classroom for a second year. It is wonderful to have them both in the same building. Our youngest daughter Emma, will continue at the Nursery. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

Sheri Mancuso
MOSAIC TEACHER (2ND)

As a veteran educator, I have taught Preschool, Kindergarten and most recently First 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 Education from Webster University and have furthered my studies in numerous continuing educational classes. Most recently I obtained S.P.I.R.E. certification. I am thrilled to be putting together the patterns and pieces of teaching second grade in the Mosaic classroom this year and part of a school that hold such high standards and community involvement. 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. We've become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic.



"Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams." -Jimmy Carter

who we are



Courtney Keefe
ALCHEMY
TEACHER (3RD)

My whole life I have known that I wanted to teach, so to realize this life-long aspiration at The Soulard School is a dream come true. 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 it is imperative that students not only receive a solid education, but also work with a teacher who is aware of and sensitive to their individual needs. For myself, teaching is more than a sacred responsibility; it is a privilege.

Laura Pupillo
THRIVE TEACHER
(4TH-5TH)

Thrive! I'm delighted to be entering my fourth year with the school while having the opportunity to expand my horizons with this year's fourth and fifth grade students. This is my first year working with these

grade levels and I'm incredibly excited to see our students continue to develop new ideas and thought provoking questions as they blossom into Soulard School leaders. In route to The Soulard School, I worked in the field of Early Childhood as a preschool teacher for eight years and as a parent educator through the Parents as Teachers Program. Additionally, I had the privilege to study under many great teachers at Missouri Baptist University & St. Louis Community College, as I completed my undergraduate degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and Psychology & an Associate Degree in Fine Arts. This year, I'll be tinkering away at school again as I work towards a graduate degree in math and science.

When I'm not at school, you can find me either at home with my husband, Steve and our wonderful three year old daughter, Abigail, or dreaming about tall mountains, looking for new things to photograph, or hitting the trails on my mountain bike. I feel absolutely positive that this is going to be a great year for our class and the school and can't wait to inspire new fascinations within our delightful learners.



Brandy Ray
THRIVE TEACHER (4TH-5TH)

I am grateful that I found The Soulard School community shortly after moving to St. Louis, last October. 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 first full year as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in the Thrive room! 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 last spring I began to call The Soulard School my home while teaching as a long term substitute in the fourth and fifth grade classroom.

When I am not teaching, I enjoy reading, attending live music events with my husband, Joshua, and any experience related to the outdoors!

Matt King
STRINGS + PERFORMING ARTS
INSTRUCTOR

I have been playing and/or teaching the violin for over 20 years. I earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. I currently have a private studio, play in the classic country band Trigger 5, and teach strings at the Soulard School. This will be my 7th year at the school, and I have two children at the Nursery – Everett and Eleanor. I stick around because I agree strongly with the educational environment of the school. I enjoy the freedom given to the teachers, as well as working with the kind and eager-to-learn students.



Travis DeRousse
CULINARY ARTS + PHYS ED
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 are expecting our first child in December.

who we are



Catherine Hund OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COORDINATOR

I am excited about starting my fourth year at the Soulard School as the out-of-school-time coordinator, and am thrilled by the changes the new school year will bring. In addition to providing before- and after-school care and running the summer Camp Soulard program, I feel we are just beginning to tap the potential that non-school hours have on building community, supporting

families and enhancing classroom learning---and our new Club Soulard program will be a great addition to our learning community. I have worked with children and families for more than 20 years in a variety of roles. I have a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and I earned my Master's of Teaching from Webster University. I live in Affton with my husband Rich and our two children, Amelia and Christopher. Although my children attend school in the Affton School District, they consider Soulard their "school away from school."

Carrie Keasler STUDIO ARTS INSTRUCTOR + AFTERCARE TEACHER

Some of you may remember me as a previous Studio Arts teacher at The Soulard School I am excited to return to teach Studio in the Mums, Enigma, and Mosaic classrooms. Additionally, I am joining the aftercare program and will be focusing on creating learning experiences for the pre-K students. I am an artist and experienced teacher. I recently completed Missouri k-12 certification in Art. I specialize in printmaking, drawing and bookmaking and also work on some short stories. Hopefully, writing that last phrase will compel me to complete one of those stories!



Emily Hemeyer STUDIO ARTS INSTRUCTOR

Emily has over 10 years of experience working as a teaching artist both locally and nationally. For the past 7 years she has been the artist-in-residence at St Frances Cabrini Academy through the South City Open Studios and Gallery (SCOSAG) where she's also been the summer camp director. She's spent time on the east coast running art programming with Camp Kinderland (MA), Camp Wicosuta (NH), and French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts (NY). Locally she's worked with the St



Louis Contemporary Art Museum, Perennial, Lewis and Clark Institute, Chesterfield Arts, Metro Theater Company, and Viva Vox. In Columbia Missouri, she ran the children's programming at the Columbia Art League and Morningside Elementary, taught ceramics Parks and Recreation, and darkroom photography at the MSA Craft Studio at the University of Missouri.

Emily holds a BFA degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in photography and fibers. She also attended the Aegean School for Fine Arts in Paros, Greece. Emily is a 2009 CAT (Community Arts Training) graduate through the Regional Arts Commission and is a 2012 TIGER research fellow.

Additionally, Emily is the founder and primary organizer for SPORE Projects, a hub, which propels innovation between individuals and groups through evolving networks of exchange. Current projects include the SPORE Mobile Gallery, Home-Stay Artist Residency, the Chautauqua Art Lab (CQAL), Empty Pocket Archive, and public discussions and events. She also tours nationally with an experimental vocal project, Ghosts I Have Been. Emily's art and life as closely intertwined. She enjoys the fluidity of the process and all of the incredible people she has met throughout her journeys.

Erin Quick LIBRARIAN + DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

My family has been a part of The Soulard School community since 2006. Excited by the school's grassroots beginnings, we eagerly joined as parents in the school's second year. 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 they asked a couple of us help build it.

My role as Librarian grows each year, and has included opportunities to teach poetry units with our 4th-6th graders as well as library lessons with all grades and storytime with Club Soulard. My work in fundraising and community outreach for the school has led me into development, and this year my role has expanded to reflect this. As Development Coordinator, I put my library research and writing skills to use on strategic planning, campaigns, and grant writing to help make all of our incredible 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 (Alchemy) 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.



school notes



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

WHEN

Saturday, November 17th, 10am - 6pm
Sunday, November 18th, 11am-6pm

WHAT Left Bank Books is hosting a Book Fair in support of The Soulard School on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 17th and 18th, 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 almost \$1,100 and collected over 60 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.

LIBRARY DAY SCHEDULE

Mums (K) - Wednesday
Enigma (1) - Thursday
Mosaic (2) - Monday
Alchemy (3) - Tuesday
Thrive (4-5) - Monday

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 ask 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.

The Book Fair at Left Bank Books is coming Nov. 17-18. 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.

Central Library turns 100 years old this year, and its highly anticipated reopening takes place on Dec. 9th, 2012. In preparation for this, St. Louis Public Library is working with branding and design agency TOKY on a promotional video that highlights the many treasures of this historic place. The video will feature interviews with Soulard School students and staff, and we have the exciting opportunity to get a sneak peek of the new space during filming this month! Many thanks to SLPL and TOKY for inviting us to participate and share our library love! For more information about Central Library, visit www.c2yw.org.



Word.
-Erin the Librarian

During the past 7 years, The Soulard School has emerged as a leader in education innovation. Thus far, our primary focus has been in developing our own Qualitative Educational (QE) Approach. With confidence, we waited for our first graduates to go out into the world demonstrating the impact our QE Approach has on our students. Not only do our students do very well academically, we consistently hear about their confidence, participation, compassion and creativity. Several schools implore us, "Please send us more of your students!"

Our QE Approach respects children's natural curiosity and puts students in the role of researcher in their own learning. The Soulard School is also a research institution itself. Our Sliding Scale Tuition is the clearest demonstration of this. Despite the resulting \$250,000 annual shortfall, we refuse to sacrifice what is in the best interest of our students. Instead, we ask, "What do children need and how can we make that happen?" Then we make it happen. The entire community is involved. We have heard almost as many comments about the reputation of our unique, committed and extraordinary parents and staff as we have about our students.

This year, a Development Committee of parents, teachers, and administrators has been assembled to ensure our unique school's long-term viability. *Erin Quick* is working with *Kelly Bock* as Development Coordinator to organize this committee. Just as the community has built the school; the community will sustain it. To this end, we introduce this new section of our newsletter:

development updates

Annual Giving

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

Last year was our most successful year ever:
More than \$40,000 and 100% family participation.
Let's do it again!

After School Consortium Grant

Did you hear? This year **we were awarded \$18,000 through Nonpublic Afterschool Grant!** With this we are able to again offer 3 sessions of specialty clubs to the children and families in our community. These clubs serve as an opportunity for our students to try new experiences, practice skills learned during the school day, and build relationships that strengthen community. We are able to offer these clubs at little cost to our families due to the generous funding of the Mental Health Board, the Incarnate Word Foundation, and the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis. We also owe a big "Thank You!" to *Rachel Kryah* for all her work to make this possible for the school.

Session 1, an 8-week session that starts the week of October 16, 2012, will run to the week of December 10.

There will be no clubs on November 22nd because of Thanksgiving or the week of November 26 because of TSS conferences.

Session 2 will begin the week of January 7, 2013.
Session 3 will begin the week of March 25, 2013.

Along with some of the **great returning clubs (acting, chess, and dance)** we are offering some new programs this year, **culinary arts club, gardening club, sport stacking, and First Lego League**, just to name a few.

This grant also gives us an opportunity to add technology to our afterschool program which will help support the clubs as well as provide students in aftercare an opportunity to work on projects and homework. We anticipate being able to begin a Lego Robotic Club next school-year with the computers we will buy this year - so stay tuned for more great opportunities.

Congratulations, Laura Pupillo!

The Development Committee has hit the ground running.....This is from Kate Steffens, Dean of Students, Walden University:

"Thank you for applying for the Riley College Master's in Education Math Scholarship and Grant. The review committee was very impressed with both your essay and the letter of recommendation from Kelly Bock, founder & Executive Director of The Soulard School. On behalf of Walden University, I am very pleased to announce that you have been chosen to receive the \$10,000 scholarship and matching \$10,000 grant for your school."

Repeat.... matching \$10,000 grant for your school!

Laura has chosen to use this scholarship to achieve a dual master's in both math and science. Congratulations to *Laura*, the Development Committee and TSS!

Full STEAM Ahead



Thanks to the St. Louis Business Journal for reporting on our STEAM lab campaign and development.

Renovation is on schedule and the new heating system will be installed over the next week.

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

www.soulardsteam.org

Development Committee

Administration:

Kelly Bock, Executive Director
Erin Quick, Development Coordinator

Committee Members:

Eleanor White, *Laura Pupillo*, *Brandy Ray*,
Rachel Kryah, *Nathan Beckett*, *Dave Stefacek*