

THE SOULARD* SCHOOL

OCT
2016

READING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE, NIGHT & DAY

Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul." Joyce Carol Oates

Notes from the Leadership: *Kerri Fair, Principal*

"Goodnight stars. Goodnight air. Goodnight noises everywhere." So ends the popular bedtime book, Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown. Most adults have fond memories of bedtime routines; especially bedtime reading. Whether snuggling on a lap in a rocking chair or sitting in bed with eyes glued to the page, it seems a part of human nature to listen to stories and read books together. I'm hearing from busy parents and students, as well as reading some literature that says at home reading is on the decline.

Reading books or listening to stories and childhood seem to go hand in hand. Besides fostering a love of books, reading together builds relationships with caregivers and improving chances of a healthy night's rest. Recent research indicates, however, that the benefits may go far beyond that. Researchers Raymond Mar and associates at York University in Canada did a study which supported the theory that reading fictional stories to/with children also increases empathy. They found that, **"the more stories children had read to them, the stronger their ability to imagine what other people were thinking and feeling."** Similar results were found after children watched a movie with their family, then participated in a short discussion. But, after watching television or interacting with digital devices, there appeared to be no increase in awareness of characters' thoughts or feelings.

At The Soulard School, we value storytelling, reading books together, and talking deeply about characters and their feelings. These experiences occur daily in our classrooms, just as they do in many schools around the country. **But, building awareness of others, thinking about others in our community, and instilling a strong sense of self is especially important to us at The Soulard School. When our students go out into the community, others notice how empathetic and caring they are towards each other.**

Just a few weeks ago, our Thrive class of fourth and fifth grade students tried their hand at fishing after a demonstration during their annual camping trip. The instructor remarked that she had never seen a group of children who were so enthusiastic when other students in their class caught a fish. **Celebrating others' accomplishments rather than focusing on their own challenges shows empathy.**

Parents and other caregivers, though, are our students' first teachers. The time you take to read with your child and talk about the characters' thoughts and feelings can positively build your child's empathy and compassion for others. What was once considered a sweet tradition before going to bed now seems to be an essential part of raising caring and thoughtful children.



Fall Calendar

10/17	Grandparent Coffee & Cake	11/9	PA Meeting 6pm
10/21 & 22	Oktoberfest	11/11	School Closed - Records Day
10/22	Open House 10:00am-12:30pm	11/12	Girls on the Run 5K & Flapjacks!
10/26	Birthday Book Assembly	11/19 & 11/20	Left Bank Book Fair
11/1	Parent Coffee: Thrive Hosts	11/23	School Closed - Conferences
11/4	Clovers & Stars Benefit Show	11/24 & 11/25	School Closed T'Giving Break
11/5	Harvest Party (see p 9)	11/28	Birthday Book Assembly

FALL HARVEST PARTY

Please join the Parent Association for our Annual Harvest Party Saturday, November 5th from 6-8PM

at the Former St. Matthew's UCC Church located at 2613 Potomac St. Featuring an enchanted "Night in the Pumpkin Patch" full of toe-tapping fun, a delicious Chili Cook-off, and memories to be had by all.

Annual Appeal 2016-17

All hands on deck! Keep your eye out for the November 1st launch of our Annual Appeal. The Annual Fund directly supports our Equitable Tuition Program, and last year was another great year. We exceeded our \$40,000 goal and raised \$51,067 - WOW!! Let's make that happen again! **This year's goals are to raise \$45,000, achieve 100% family participation, and add four new members to our Grandparent Scholars Club.**



Hailey uses careful observation skills to find objects that match the colors on a paint sample.

Jane and Miles explore flowers during a field trip to Litzinger Road Ecology Center.



Will finds just the right shade of green to match his acorn.

MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2016-17 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 almost 15 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, unique curriculum and innovative approaches. I value the relationships built in our close community of students, staff and parents and know what we are doing is making an impact.

I have two very wordy degrees, a Bachelor's 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 Master's in the Arts of Teaching with an emphasis on Children's Creative Expression (pheeew!). During my Master's 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 and embrace arts integration. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with family, bragging about my husband Paul's amazing photography and walking the cutest pug in the world, Stella.

Kerri Fair, Principal

Just as we hope to create 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 reading specialist in the Hazelwood School District for three years, a classroom teacher for seven years in North Kansas City, and a kindergarten specials teacher in Odessa, MO my first year as an educator. While teaching at The Soulard School, I have been a classroom teacher, literacy coach, and instructional specialist. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and am now in my twenty-first year as an educator, and tenth with The Soulard School. I hold a Master's degree in Reading Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and am working on my Ed. Specialists Degree in Educational Leadership through Webster University.

My husband, Clayton, and I are also parents of three Soulard School students. Our son, Colin, is in his final year here, as a fifth grade Thrive student. He began at the school when he was one and loves to tell others about our school. Audrey, our oldest daughter is a third grader. And, finally, our youngest daughter, Emma, is in first grade. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.

Eleanor White, Assistant Executive 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 at a charter school, 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 tenth year with the Soulard School! Over the years I've taught kindergarteners and toddlers as well as worked in the office. Meanwhile, my son Emmett is in 3rd grade this year and Theo is in kindergarten. I live in Shaw with my husband Brad, the kids, and a big brown dog named Rufus.

Haley Biehl, Assistant Principal

Every child learns differently, and what is fair is not always equal. It is our charge as educators to show regard for, and to reflect on, how a student expresses themselves academically, socially, and emotionally. In turn, we reflect on how our approach and interactions can adjust to ensure the child is feeling supported and respected. My role at The Soulard School has evolved from Student Support Coordinator to Assistant Principal. Now entering into my fifth year here, I am thrilled with the opportunities to continually support and evolve with this delightful community of students, teachers, and parents.

I started my journey in education as a paraprofessional with 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 then 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. Outside of school, I teach barre and fitness classes at CityFit Studio, spend too much time spoiling the most adorable boxer, Louie; and adore going on (mis)adventures with my family.

Kimberly Shead, Development Manager

I have had the wonderful pleasure of residing in Nashville and Los Angeles where I gained valuable experience in television, marketing and working with nonprofits. However, they did not compare to good ol' St. Louis of which I am a native. 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. Not many can say that they have found their dream job, alas....I can!

SOULARD SCHOOL 2016-17 STAFF

NURSERY STAFF

Sheri Mancuso, Nursery Teacher

As a veteran educator, I have taught Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, Kindergarten, First and Second grade. I have served on the steering committee for Independent Schools Association for the Central States, Missouri Voluntary Accreditation and as a National Valuator for the National Association of Education for young children. I am also certified with Missouri Parents as Teachers in Special Education. I have a Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education from Webster University and have furthered my studies in numerous continuing education classes. I am thrilled to be working in the nursery and nurture one of the important beginnings at a school with high standards and community involvement. I am looking forward to incorporate what I have learned as a Program Coordinator for an Infant/Toddler Center and my love for children. In my spare time I enjoy reading, nature walks, swimming, traveling, and theatre. I take pleasure in visiting with my daughter and delightful grandson in Los Angeles, spending time with my six brothers and sisters, seventeen nieces and nephews, and friends.

Diana Hemkens, Nursery Teacher

I earned my MAT in mild/moderate disabilities from Webster University. I have been involved with The Soulard School since 2011, tutoring several elementary students, supporting the 2nd grade Mosaics classroom as a teacher's assistant, and teaching in the Nursery 2's room since January 2015. I also spent all summer with the pre-k friends at Little Camp Soulard. Now a 1's teacher, I am enjoying my role in supporting my curious class as they continuously discover the world around them.

Sarah Henrich, Nursery Teacher

I earned my BS in Nutrition and Exercise Science from The University of Missouri – Columbia. I have a variety of experience as an educator that includes toddler through high school age groups. I have taught preschool, worked at a before and after school program, and taught Nutrition education in the St. Louis Public Schools. This will be my fifth year with the Soulard School and my fourth year being full-time at the Nursery. I am looking forward to another great year with a wonderful group of children and an amazing group of teachers!

PRE-K TEACHERS

Bethany Burress, Quietude Teacher (Pre-K)

Joining the Soulard School community has been such an amazing experience for me. 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. This is my fourth year in the Quietude classroom (Pre-K), and I am incredibly excited for the year ahead of us. 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 8 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 Pre-K classroom. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the Soulard School community, and I know this year is going to be a great one!

Kathie Papagianis, Quietude Teacher (Pre-K)

This is my first year here at The Soulard School, and I am very excited to be a part of such a warm and welcoming community! Along with working in the Preschool-Quietude Room, I also have the opportunity to support the nursery staff and provide assistance during the before-care program. I look forward to forming new relationships with families and children, while also being a part of such a wonderful school! I received my Bachelor's Degree in Education from Webster University in 2014 and currently hold a certification in elementary teaching. However, I spent the last few years working in an early childhood center where I found my true passion for engaging young children through problem solving experiences, and am now pursuing my early childhood certification. I truly enjoy watching children learn something for the first time, while also supporting their learning in the process. Outside of teaching, I love to be outdoors and spend time in the country with family and my dog Bailey. I recently became an auntie over the summer to my nephew, Logan, and it has been great to spend time with family and friends! I also enjoy reading, baking sweet treats and trying new foods!

Jenna Morrison, Quietude Teacher (Pre-K)

I am beyond excited to continue my adventures in teaching Pre-K at TSS! 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 practicum at The College School in Webster Groves, where I embraced the school's Reggio Emilia inspired curriculum. Having been exposed to these various curriculums has helped me to build my own unique teaching philosophy, which I have been able to put into action 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 ideas and interests and take an active role in their education. I have spent time in the school's Aftercare and Summer Camp programs, which allowed me to build strong relationships with kids and their families throughout the school. I have loved being a part of the Soulard School community for the past two years, and am excited to see what my third year brings!

Flapjack Fundraiser info on page 9



The record for **tossing a pancake the most times in 2 minutes** belongs to Dean Gould who flipped one an impressive **424 times.**

ELEMENTARY TEACHERS

Julie Radin, Mums Teacher (K)

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 browsing antique malls with my sister, 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."*

Amy Cross, Mums Teacher (K)

I have been at The Soulard School since the 2012/2013 school year. I have loved my time in the Quietude classroom and in the Pre-K summer camp. This year I am looping up with my students and am co-teaching in Kindergarten with Julie Radin. 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. Since that time I have been 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 and a half years before returning to St. Louis. Now, I am living in the Soulard neighborhood with my ever growing family- James, Dakota (3rd grade), Cameron (Pre-K) and Pickle the 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.

Melissa Uhl, Mosaic Teacher (2nd Grade)

I am delighted to begin my third year at the Soulard School as one of the second grade teachers in the Mosaic room. I feel so fortunate to continue my journey as a teacher in a school that values self-discovery and individuality. These values have been a part of my philosophy since I began my study of education. I attended Webster University where I got my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. During this time, I completed my practicum at The Soulard School. I fell in love with the tight-knit community and core values of the school. In addition to studying education at Webster, I was president of the Webster University Speech and Debate team and studied abroad in London, England. I now live in Webster Groves. I enjoy reading, traveling the world, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to this year with the Mosaic students. I am hoping to instill a love of learning in each student as we explore the world through authentic learning experiences.

Rob May, Enigma Teacher (1st Grade)

Last year I came to the Soulard School as a student teacher and I was able to experience this thriving community of teachers, families and students first hand. This year I begin my first full year of teaching in the Enigma classroom! I grew up in the Kansas City area and attended the University of Missouri-Kansas City, earning a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art. Years of trying to find my way as a freelance designer/musician led me to a place where I wanted to do something more meaningful with my life...something that would affect change in the world in a positive way. I came to St. Louis in 2012 and immediately enrolled in the teacher education program at Webster University. In May of 2016 I finished the program and earned a Master of Arts in Teaching. Less than a month later I got married to my best friend Marissa. Needless to say it has been an amazing year so far! Marissa and I have two daughters, Ainslee and Elena, and a neurotic dachshund named Edwin. Together we enjoy going to art openings, eating Mexican food and driving down the highway watching the sunset with the windows down. We are extremely blessed to be able to call ourselves a part of the Soulard School family.

Lee Hahn, Enigma Teacher (1st Grade)

I am excited and very proud to be able to continue my learning journey with this amazing community and these personality-filled students! I have a wonderful husband, and 3 boys of my own: a hilarious 10 year old (Jaxon in the Thrive class), a very clever 3 year old (Linkyn in Quietude), and a very observant 2 year old (Hayze at the Nursery). Generally, I am family-oriented, and occupied at all times by the interesting aspects that they bring to my life! My children make me view everything in a different light and I am so thankful to them for allowing me to view education through a parental perspective. I received my BA in Elementary Education from Webster University, and my Master's in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration on Teacher Leadership through Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. This is my seventh year at The Soulard School, and I have an emotional attachment to all of the students here. I love being able to implement TSS philosophies that I feel are essential for a prospering generation.

JoAnna Daniels, Mosaic Teacher (2nd Grade)

I could not be more excited about continuing my Soulard School journey in my third year here! I have a Bachelor's Degree from UMSL in Special Education where I also earned a teaching certification in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. Additionally, I have a Master's in Special Education with an emphasis in Autism Studies. Before joining the TSS community, I taught students with autism in a self-contained school. That amazing experience allowed me to reflect on the uniqueness of each learner and recognize each student's gifts and abilities. Besides teaching, I am passionate about animal rescue and living a lifestyle that embraces and protects our animal friends. I live in St. Louis Hills with my husband, Spencer, our new baby, Sonny, and our dog, Finn. I always wanted to be a mom and a teacher when I grew up and I feel so fortunate to be living my dream!

EXTENDED CORE TEACHERS

Anna Lee, Alchemy Teacher (3rd Grade)

I feel so lucky to be beginning my fourth 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 class and was able to return in 2013 to teach those same students as second graders. Before all of that, I earned my undergraduate degree at Mizzou (Go Tigers!).

This summer I got engaged to Anthony, my boyfriend of three years! I am so excited! Wedding planning has quickly taken up a lot of my free time, but it is so much fun! We have a 1 and a half-year-old lab mix named Franklin who loves to wrestle with Anthony's 6 year old son, Luke. I look forward to the rest of this year and am excited about the possibilities it holds.

Phillip McFarlane, Alchemy Teacher (3rd Grade)

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 13 years, six of which were spent teaching math and science to 7th and 8th grade 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 B.A. in Applied Behavioral Science from National Louis University and a degree from N.A.M.T.A. in the Montessori Orientation to Adolescent Studies. I enjoy playing the guitar, gardening, adding to my vinyl collection and working as an advocate for children.

Stephanie Hampton, Thrive Teacher (4/5th Grades)

I am so happy to be a part of The Soulard School family! This will be my second year teaching at The Soulard School, and I couldn't be more excited! I grew up in Brookfield, Wisconsin and graduated from Marquette University (Milwaukee) with a double major in Elementary Education and Broad Field Sciences (Chemistry and Biology). I then taught for two years in West Allis, WI in 2nd and 3rd grade, and taught in Enigma last year. I look forward to teaching in Thrive with Anna F. this year! There is something so special about teaching, especially encouraging a lifelong love of learning. I was drawn to TSS because of the great focus on well-rounded and hands-on learning in such a personalized environment!

Anna Fletcher, Thrive Teacher (4/5th Grades)

I am thrilled to be joining The Soulard School community as one of the teachers in the Thrive classroom! I feel extremely privileged to teach, grow, and learn alongside our fourth and fifth grade students. I love project-based learning and focusing on the uniqueness of all learners, and I am excited to continue my own lifelong learning journey! I have BAs in Elementary Education and Spanish from William Jewell College. After graduating I was fortunate to teach abroad for two years in southern Spain. For the past five years, I have been back in St. Louis teaching elementary-aged students, and I am working on a Master's degree in Elementary Education with a focus on Reading.

I recently got engaged and am blissfully looking forward to marrying my fiancé Nathan! I love speaking Spanish, traveling, and cheering on the Cardinals. I look forward to this new adventure and hope to ask questions, take risks, and dream big with everyone at The Soulard School!

Lisa Berman, Physical Education Teacher

This is my fourth year as The Soulard School's physical education instructor. 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 Saint Louis Zoo. I currently also work for the World Sport Stacking Association overseeing their tournament programs in the US. A few evenings each week, I volunteer as the sport stacking coach at Concordia Gymnastics Society where my kids also take gymnastics and trampoline. My kids, Holly and Darius, and I are all on the USA Sport Stacking Team. Holly is a Soulard School graduate attending Grand Center Arts Academy and Darius is in the Alchemy class at The Soulard School. My husband, Alex, is a Wash U Physician in the Neurology Department specializing in neuro-rehabilitation.

Alejandro Ranedo, P.E. Asst. & Aftercare Asst.

I am originally from Spain. I grew up in Talavera de la Reina, a historic town in Castilla la Mancha, but when I was eighteen I settled in Madrid where I got my Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise and Sports Science and a post-baccalaureate teacher certification in physical education. In Madrid I found my soulmate, Megan, while she was studying abroad, and after several years we decided to marry and start a new life together in the US in St. Louis.

Over the past 13 years I have worked in different schools and sports clubs teaching physical education, coaching volleyball and soccer, doing personal training, and instructing swimming and Judo. I am passionate about all forms of physical activity, and I dedicate my leisure time to traveling and practicing a wide range of sports, such as skating, biking, climbing, and hiking.

This school year I am thankful for being part of the TSS. I'm looking forward to helping Lisa in PE class and Sarah Kate and Jessie in aftercare, and most of all I'm happy to be able to contribute to the total education of our students while I learn from the experience.

Carrie Keasler, Studio Arts Teacher

I am excited to return for my sixth year as the Studio Arts Instructor at The Soulard School. I feel that our school's mission is to nurture personal, creative and intellectual growth for students and teachers alike. This sense of community and the desire to make instructional connections is a unique aspect of our school. I initially studied art (with an emphasis in printmaking) at The University of Dallas. After moving to St. Louis, I began working with young people through arts-related organizations, but felt a calling to be in the classroom on a regular basis. In 2012 I completed Missouri certification in Art K-12. I am so fortunate to be a teacher and learner in The Soulard School community. When I am not teaching, I enjoy working on my artwork, reading, watching movies, and studying yoga.

Matt King, Strings & Performing Arts Instructor

I have been playing and teaching violin for over 25 years. I started learning violin at school in third grade, and love teaching at a school that starts in Kindergarten with the violin. I received a Bachelor's degree in Music from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 2001, and joined the Soulard School in 2007 where I currently teach violin and performing arts. I have a son, Everett, in Kindergarten and a daughter, Eleanor, in pre-K at the Soulard School.

Monica Watson, Culinary Arts Instructor

"One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." Virginia Woolf

Finding my way to the Soulard School 3 years ago felt like destiny. I'm thrilled to have an opportunity to do what I love. Working in a supportive school community allows me to combine my two passions, children and food. I'm committed to educating kids on how to make healthy choices for life. I believe nutrition plays an extremely important role in developing whole children. I have spent the past 8 years working with this purpose by improving nutritional standards for young children in school settings and working for a farm-to-school lunch program.

I have a degree in Restaurant Management and Culinary Arts. I began working many years ago in restaurants and catering. After spending time at home with my children, I returned to find my focus nurturing kids with food and empowering them with food knowledge.

Our family began in Chicago before relocating to St. Louis. My husband and I have two sons in college. Our daughter graduated from St. Louis University and is now living and working in California. In my free time you'll find me running, spinning or on walks with my husband and our lovable aging dog Gracie.

Courtney Keefe, STEAM Lab 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 engaged in the Design Thinking Process. Think, Design, Make, Build, Tinker, Improve!

It's hard to believe that this is my fifth year with The Soulard School! 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 New Orleans where I received a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After Hurricane Katrina, I migrated to Miami, Florida for two years before returning to St. Louis to attend graduate school at Lindenwood University where I received my Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education.

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

Megan Roedner, After School Asst.

I am excited that this is my second year working at The Soulard School as an aftercare facilitator! I am currently in my senior year at Webster University studying elementary education. I plan on receiving my Masters Degree in School Counseling in the next two years. I live in Soulard with my husky puppy, Niko, who happily takes up all of my free time. I love to take him on hikes and kayaking. I feel extremely loved and privileged to have the opportunity to learn and grow with the students and staff of The Soulard School this year!

Sarah Kate Buckles, Out of School Time Coord.

This is my second year as the Out of School Time Coordinator, my fifth year as a parent. Aftercare and Clubs are my domain, and I am looking forward to working with families to add exciting new opportunities for fun and learning to our afterschool experience. I'm also going to be helping support our Quietude teachers this year and I'm so glad to get to know our youngest students in their classroom.

My background is very diverse. I have a degree in Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management, but I've spent the last 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-changing 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'm looking forward to spending time with our kiddos, getting to know more of the families and to support the school in this capacity.

I live in Fox Park with my husband Matt Thenhaus, our son Joss (he's a Thriver! Already?), Uno the one-eyed pug 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.

Jessie Thenhaus, After School Asst.

Throughout my life I have worn many hats. I have been a student of graphic design, an art gallery/snowball stand owner, and a hairstylist but two things that have always stayed constant in my life are my love of art and working with kids. Before hurricane Katrina I had the opportunity to work at a small Montessori school in New Orleans. St. Louis became my home shortly after.

I was lucky enough to find so many people that loved New Orleans just as much as me. My sister-in-law Sarah Kate was one of those people and also the one to introduce me to The Soulard School. The first project I was able to share with the kids at the school was during Mardi Gras. The aftercare students learned about Mardi Gras traditions and each student in the aftercare program used their creativity to make their own shoebox float. I am privileged to have become apart of The Soulard School, a school that has such a strong connection to the people within its community.



Mums students (K) exploring at Litzinger Road Ecology Center.



A SCHOOL OF FISH



The Quietude Class Learns About Community & Responsibility



Mikey building fish knowledge.

At the beginning of the year, we read the book Only One You, which was a story about a fish and his family as they learned about the importance of creating strong friendships, remaining true to yourself, the value of individuality, and building community. After reading the story, each student picked out a painted stone that they felt represented their identity and painted it to express their uniqueness. We incorporated the painted stones into our science center for exploring and creating opportunities for friends to retell the story. In observing the students' play, we noticed they were using their rocks in carrying out their own collaborative stories.

At the same time friends noticed a new addition to our classroom community--a fish! During our morning meeting, we brainstormed names for our class fish. After the students compiled a list of names, we began the voting process to determine what we would name our fish. Through voting, we exercised name recognition, one to one correspondence, and the democratic process. Our classroom community values active student participation in which everyone has equal rights and is allowed to participate in making important decisions. The name with the most votes was Rainbow! By having a pet in our classroom, **the students take ownership and responsibility to ensure that Rainbow stays happy and healthy.** During our center time, we placed Rainbow on the science table. The students were encouraged to draw, color, paint, and describe the things they saw or took notice of while observing the fish. We also placed a "Wonder Journal" in the Science center that allowed the students to ask questions that they are curious about. To extend this activity, we collected natural items from the playground and in the neighborhood to construct our own fish.



Lyla observing Rainbow

Once an interest in fish began to emerge, we read Rainbow Fish and reflected on times that we have been in similar situations as the fish in the story. **We also discussed the importance of being a community that works together, shares, and takes care of one another.** We worked together to create a classroom art piece using various colors of paper, aluminum foil, and sticks. Students were encouraged to work together to plan out their art piece, discuss their plan, and find ways to collaborate to ensure everyone's ideas were represented in the final product.



RECIPE CORNER with Chef Monica Watson

BUTTERNUT SQUASH MAC & CHEESE

16 oz. cooked pasta
1 lb. butternut squash
1/4 yellow onion
1/2 T olive oil
1 T dried sage
1/2 C cheddar cheese
1/4 C parmesan cheese grated

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Wash, peel, and cut butternut squash. Chop onion.

Toss the butternut squash and onions with olive oil and sage, place onto a lined cookie sheet; bake for 15-20 minutes until slightly browned and tender.

While veggies are roasting, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain.

Once veggies are done, remove from oven and allow to cool slightly. Add to a blender and puree.

Mix together the macaroni, butternut squash puree, most of the cheddar cheese, and most of the Parmesan.

Once fully mixed, place into an oven-safe dish and top with remaining cheeses.

Bake for 10 minutes or until bubbly and slightly brown.

Passionate Parents Playing Their Part!

By Heather Manley, TSS PA Member

There are many reasons that I appreciate The Soulard School, but one thing that really sets the school apart is a REAL commitment to honoring diversity. The Sliding Scale Tuition Program is a major way in which the school stands by this commitment. This program allows for a TRULY diverse student body, reflecting the community around it. This, in turn, gives the students a well-rounded educational environment, as they learn from each other and share their different perspectives.

The hard work, dedication, and support of the people who volunteer their skills and time, helping to defer costs at the school, directly help to sustain the Sliding Scale Tuition Program. *This inspires me to sign up and get involved with projects and events at the school, not only to make friends and connect with the amazing people in the Soulard School community, but also to do my part to support and help to sustain this program so that others can have this same opportunity.* I would just like to take a moment to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to all the folks in the Soulard School community who give their time and energy to the school, and encourage everyone to get involved whenever you can. Your efforts mean so much to so many.

2016-17 PARENT ASSOCIATION

President:	Sarah Folkemer-Coleman
Vice President:	Charles Bock
Treasurer:	Matt King
Secretary:	Rachel Kryah
Outreach:	Shannon McGrath Colin McGrath Amy Corey
Social Events:	Laura Jacobson Morgan Cameron JJ Lane Stacey Sullivan
Room Coordinator Coordinators:	
Elem:	Heather Manley
EC:	Lisa Donahue
At Large:	Shelley Harding Kendra Smith Shawna Climer
Room Coordinators:	
Nursery:	Becky Voboril Kelli McKee
Quietude:	Amy Grailer Kelly Reding Kara Bailey
Mums:	Laura Jacobson Jim Noonan
Enigma:	Brenda Brown Kendra Smith
Mosaic:	Monique Kirksey Chelsea Cannady
Alchemy:	Lauren Probst Dawn Pulsipher
Thrive:	Shawna Climer
Ex. Core:	Samantha Fisher

FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE SOULARD SCHOOL

Please join us for a Flapjack Fundraiser.
Everyone is welcome.
All proceeds will go directly to the school.

WHERE: Byrd & Barrell 3422 S. Jefferson Ave. 63118
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 12, 9-12

THE BREAKFAST

Enjoy a short stack with a side of breakfast sausage and two farm eggs for \$8.

THE FESTIVITIES

Live Music from The Tumbleweeds
Cake Walk! Cakes, cookies and pies! Desserts made with love from the kids and families of The Soulard School.
Come play and win a tasty treat to take home.

Eggs donated by Rustic Roots Farm
Local sausage sourced and donated by Mac's Local Buys



STARTING A LEGACY AT TSS: THE DANIELLE LIVINGSTON-FRANKS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

BY Sean Scott, Alumni Parent

When my son Brenden graduated in 2016, our family realized we had to figure out not only how we could remain an active part of this family, but how we could continue to support its people and its vision. We wanted to do something that Brenden could be a part of and take pride in as well, so we established the Danielle Livingston-Franks Memorial Scholarship Fund. Named for Brenden’s mother, this scholarship will be awarded annually to students coming to the Soulard School because they need a change or something more; students who have been left behind or failed by another institution; students whose families are in the midst of dealing with a tragedy or hardship that has left them unable to otherwise take advantage of the fantastic opportunities available to them through this group of people and this institution. We are honored and grateful to be able to do this as a way to remember Danielle, Brenden’s mother, who 8 years ago was robbed of the opportunity to see what an incredible young man this family has helped to develop. I know that she would have found this to be as amazing a group of people as we have and would have been proud to be a part of it.

OUR GOAL is to raise funds to cover a full year’s tuition annually for at least one student. Full tuition costs are about \$10,000 per year per student. Contributions to the Danielle Livingston-Franks Memorial Scholarship Fund can be made through the school’s website, www.soulardschool.org, or mailed directly to the school.

“This, my friends, is not just the Soulard School. This is the Soulard School family.”
—Sean Scott TSS Alumni Parent

HOME GROWN CHICKENS!

BY Hazel Johnson, Thrive Student (5th Grade)



In the Enigma classroom last year, they hatched fifty-four chickens and kept five. The rest were given to families to have as pets or back to the farmers. Gene Slay’s Girls and Boys Club had a chicken coop so over the summer Stephanie Hampton, TSS Teacher, and some other teachers fixed it. The chickens are called Brownie, Duchess, Pancake, Sunshine, and Big Mama. Big Mama and Pancake are at the top of the pecking order. Every day some classes go to Boys Club for recesses. There some people will take care of the chickens by giving them fresh water and food. We give them pellets and some scraps from the cafeteria. When they get older we will check for eggs. Pancake can do some tricks like if you put her on your back or head she will stay there. She will also go through a hula hoop, but only if there is food. Those are our chickens!

THRIVE CAMPING TRADITION



While camping at Pere Marquette State Park the Thrive Class compared their experience to that of a child during the time of Westward Expansion. They kept journals and documented their time in that voice Hazel writes, "The wind blows on my face as I write this. We stopped in a grassy field and my Ma starts a blazing fire." Dated June 28th, 1826 Sylvia writes about celebrating her birthday, "Mama says I got away like a queen this year. I have to agree, for the jump rope is made of fine leather." Really immersing themselves in the experience and giving context to what life might have been like.



The war of rock paper scissors ends, or does it?



Thrivers try fishing after a fishing demonstration at Pere Marquette Park.



Lucy measures an eagle feather against her arm.



Eliza "caught" on to fishing quickly!



Colin closely observes Einstein the turkey vulture.



The class also took the opportunity to visit the Audubon Society. Janice tells us, "We got binoculars and were searching for birds cause in class we are learning about birds and migrations. At the Audubon we call it the Fly Way cause it is in the middle of the migration so they can stop and rest so they can migrate again."

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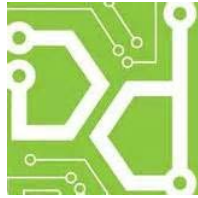
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