

THE SOULARD SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

OCT
2017

SETTING INTENTIONS

"Our intention creates our reality." -Dr. Wayne Dyer

Notes From The Leadership: Kerri Fair, Principal & Sarah Christman, Executive Director & Co-Founder

At Curriculum Night in September, Sarah and I addressed our parent community before they headed off to their children's classrooms. The first word of the evening was **INTEGRATION**. We know as educators that to strengthen or deepen knowledge about ourselves, others, or the world around us we must do so through connections. Integration is the practice of making meaningful connections. **At The Soulard School we have many layers and ways integration is happening.** To demonstrate just how intricate and complex these layers are, let's imagine looking at the workings of the school through the lens of a camera with extreme zoom capabilities. From the wide angle, you might see co-founders, school board, staff, students, past and present families' whose hopes and visions of a neighborhood school come together with support of our local communities through donations, time, or activism. Zooming in a bit, you could see economic integration that was made a part of the school's mission and philosophy with our sliding scale model. We know this integration is an important indicator of student success and we continue to demonstrate its value with the success of all our learners.

If we zoomed into the classroom setting you would find that our teachers, including extended core staff, integrate common core standards, subjects, topics, and student interests into their complex and engaging lessons. You might even find a class joined with another buddy class when studies overlap. **Finally, each student in our classrooms are considered an integral and important part of school community.** You would find them in the center of any shot we might take with our demonstration camera, no matter the zoom. **Everything we do begins and ends with them in mind.**

Thoughtfully connecting and acknowledging these layers of integration takes purposeful **INTENTION**. Maintaining that focus on the classroom, our teachers take great care in planning lessons that are engaging, integrated, and honor the needs of all learners within the classroom. Being trained in research-based practices that support different types of learners is not enough, however. Data (in the form of observations, informal and formal assessments, and student feedback) is collected and analyzed at all levels within the workings of our school setting. As educators, **we continue to grow our intentional practice and challenge ourselves to delve deeper into integrative practice.**

Zooming back out we can see a community that works diligently to celebrate and value how **INTEGRATION** and **INTENTION** evolve our experience. **You also see how other members of our community are stepping up to show us how integration and intention move us beyond just our experience.** A group of parents have established a Diversity & Inclusion Committee to support conversations and community growth around **issues of equity and diversity.** This work will bring new revelations, experiences and change that will become those meaningful connections integrated back into our practice.

**INTEGRATED
INTO
THIS ISSUE:**

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Read About Our
2017-18 Staff

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Culinary Arts
Reviews & How-To's

PAGE 10
Kindergarten Class
Studies @ The Pulitzer

OUR CALENDAR

- 10/16 Grandparent Coffee 8-10am
- 10/21 Fall Open House 10am-12:30pm
- 10/23 Baileys' Community Table 6-9pm
- 10/24 Diversity & Inclusion Meeting 7pm
- 11/3 Irish Music Benefit Show 7pm
- 11/4 PA Harvest Party
- 11/7 Parent Coffee
Hosted By The Thrive Class
- 11/8 PA Meeting 6pm
- 11/10 School Closed Records Day
- 11/17 End of Trimester 1
- 11/22 School Closed Conferences
- 11/23-24 School Closed T'Giving Break
- 11/27 Birthday Book Assembly



What better way to show your support of The Soulard School than with food and family. Baileys' Restaurants has generously offered to help support our school by allowing us to host a Baileys' Community Table Night at Rooster on Grand. **Come join us Monday, October 23rd. 25% of every check between 6-9pm will go directly to the Soulard School.** We hope to see you there!

SEA TURTLES, JUNGLES & MOONS, OH MY!

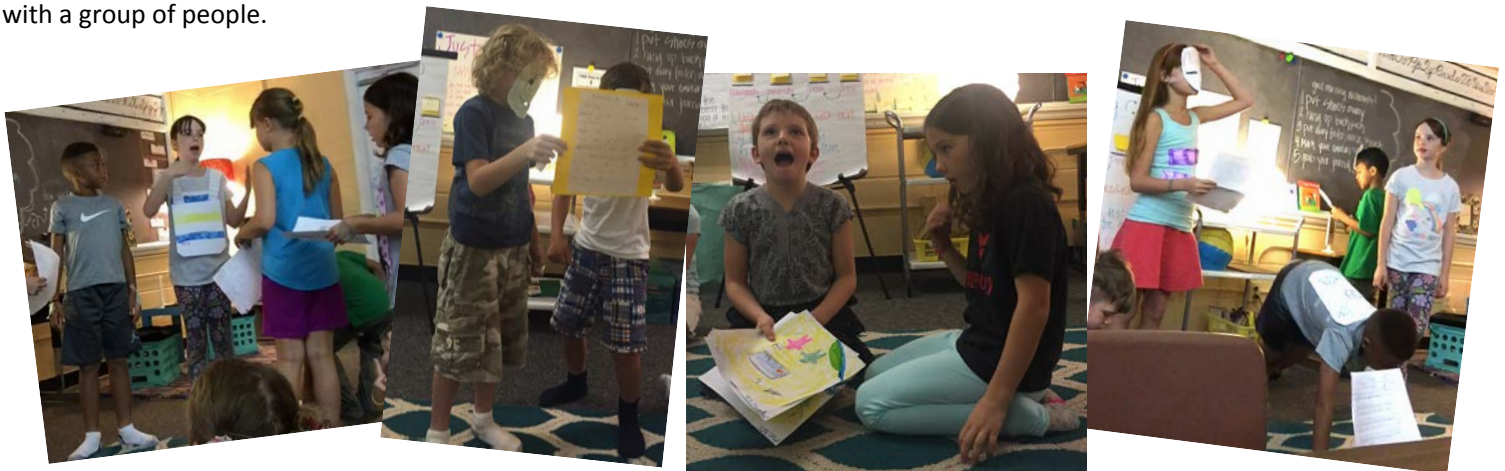
Performing Arts Takes On Many Forms

 Erica Lee, Performing Arts Teacher

The Performing Arts curriculum is designed with the whole child in mind and activities are specifically chosen to foster healthy social-emotional, self-reflection, and communication skills in and out of the classroom. The overarching theme for the year is "A Sense of Belonging." I believe that a child's need for safety and inclusion can be nurtured through artistic exploration of music, theater, movement and performance.

In our Alchemy (3rd Grade) PA class, we have been writing original scripts about Tootie the sea turtle as well as creating props and costumes for in-class performances. These scripts explore themes of inclusion, friendship and empathy. As part of integrating the PA instruction with Alchemy classroom themes, we are moving from Tootie the sea turtle scripts into discovering the portrait of Chang'e, the Chinese goddess of the moon, using their portrait study skills learned during regular classroom time. We will then use our discoveries about the portrait of Chang'e to create dramatic stories together through improv activities, drama circles and movement games in the coming weeks.

PreK and Mums (K) are working on embodying the Actor's Toolbox as well as learning about bringing their imaginations into performance through activities like "jungle treks" in our classroom, drama circles where kids act out a story being told in the middle of a circle, and circle games to learn rhythm and singing. I hope to continue to use folktales, songs and stories from around the world to inspire the kids to explore life outside of themselves and form a hearty connection with their own communities as well as extended communities. Performance skills and games learned in PA can be fun, but beyond that, they can also equip the kids with tools to express themselves artistically, to listen deeply to others and to discover a joy for sharing stories and talents with a group of people.



MEET OUR SOULARD SCHOOL 2017-18 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 doing is making an impact.



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

eleventh 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 4th grade this year and Theo is in 1st. I live in Shaw with my husband Brad, the kids, a big brown dog named Rufus and our hedgehog, Rose.



Molly Walsh, Development Director
I'm so thrilled to join The Soulard School's amazing team! I started working in my college Development office as a freshmen and my passion for helping others and for growing education flourished. I have a Bachelor's Degree from Westminster College in Non-Profit Management and Law. I worked at Westminster for several years balancing responsibilities between Annual Fund and Phone-a-thon giving. After completing an independent study course with the Dean of

Institutional Advancement, I knew Development in education was the right career path for me. I worked at an all-boys Catholic school before making the move to The Soulard School. I have worked with several non-profits in the St. Louis area including Ronald McDonald House Charities of St. Louis and Annie's Hope- the Bereavement Center for Kids. I currently live in the St. Louis Hills. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with family especially my nieces and nephew. I love all things Irish; from Irish dance to Irish music. My favorite holiday is St. Patrick's Day and I am so excited for my first Soulard School Clovers and Stars event.



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.



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

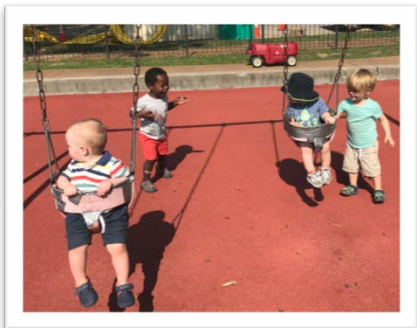
been a classroom teacher, literacy coach, instructional specialist, and now principal. I have taught grades K through fourth grade and am now in my twenty-second year as an educator, and eleventh with The Soulard School. I hold a Master's degree in Reading Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary 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 children; two continue to be Soulard School students, and one is now an alumni. Audrey, our oldest daughter is in fourth grade, while our youngest daughter, Emma, is in second grade. We look forward to continuing to be part of this welcoming community of families and educators.



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 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 sixth year here, and my first as a TSS parent, I am thrilled to continually support and grow with this delightful community. 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 became parents to our daughter, Autumn, this summer, who will be joining the infant class at the Nursery this fall. Outside of school, I enjoy teaching fitness classes at CityFit Studio, spoiling our boxer dog, Louie, and getting into misadventures with my friends and family.

Our toddlers working together to push each other on the swings during a morning trip to Pontiac Park.



NURSERY TEACHERS



Maggie Hurst, Infant Teacher
As an Occupational Science student at Saint Louis University, I had the opportunity to observe in the Quietude classroom and immediately fell in love with The Soulard School environment. Although I finished my degree in OS, I knew I wanted to work as a teacher in Early Childhood from that point on and am now working towards my Master's degree in Early Childhood Education with Special Education certification. This is my third year of being involved in The Soulard School,

originally as a literacy tutor with elementary students, then as a substitute teacher, and now as the infant teacher. I am so excited to watch these little ones learn and grow into brave, adventurous toddlers this year! Outside of school, I love to travel with my husband and explore new places in St. Louis, especially coffee shops!

Liz Frymire, Infant Teacher



The Soulard School has such profound and important foundations that are instilled not only in the students, but also the parents and staff. I am honored and excited to join the Nursery team this year. I have been a substitute teacher for 2 years, and am completing my bachelor's degree in Communications. I also have 4 years of experience in educational sales and training. I am a strong believer that learning should be fun, engaging, and worthwhile. At the Nursery, I am usually joined by my 4 year old daughter, Victoria, while my step-son Vincent is in the 4th grade Thrive class.

Diana Hemkens, 1 Year Teacher

I earned my Master of Arts in Teaching degree in mild/moderate disabilities from Webster University. While studying for my master's, I got involved with The Soulard School in 2011 as an elementary school reading and math tutor. Since then, I have worked as a 2nd grade teacher's assistant, aftercare teacher, Little Camp pre-k teacher, and finally Nursery teacher. For the last 2 plus years, I have enjoyed my role as the Soulard Nursery 1 year old teacher. It is fun and rewarding watching my curious students become confident in their abilities to discover and maneuver the world around them.



Sarah Henrich, 2 Year 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 sixth year working at the Soulard School 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 fifth 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 9 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 am excited for the new adventures this year will bring



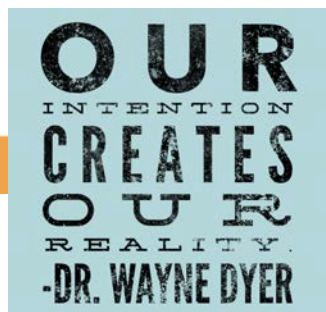
Kathie Papagianis, Quietude Teacher (Pre-K)
This is my second year here at The Soulard School, and I am very excited to be a part of such a warm and welcoming community! Along with working in the Pre-K/Quietude Room, I also have the opportunity to support and collaborate with the nursery staff each week. I have enjoyed 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, after spending several years working in an early childhood center, 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 with my family. My fiancé Mike and I just welcomed our son, Louis, into the world in August. We love to spend time with our dog Bailey and enjoy time in the country. I am very fortunate to be doing what I love as a mother and a teacher!

Jenna Morrison, Quietude Teacher (Pre-K)



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 was inspired by the school's Reggio Emilia based 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 curriculum. This year, I earned a new title....mama! My boyfriend Dan and I welcomed our daughter Maevie into our family this past June. I have loved being a part of the Soulard School community for the past four years, and am excited to see what my fifth year brings!



ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM TEACHERS



Amy Cross, Mums Teacher (K)
I have been at The Soulard School since the 2012/2013 school year. I have taught in the Quietude classroom and Pre-K summer camp. This is my second year co-teaching kindergarten 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.

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 (4th grade), Cameron (Kindergarten) 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, 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."



JoAnna McKeever-Daniels, Enigma Teacher (1st Grade)
I could not be more excited about continuing my Soulard School journey in my fourth 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. 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 son Sonny, and our dog Finn. I love being both a parent and teacher at the Soulard School and could not imagine a better place for our family!



Rob May, Enigma Teacher (1st Grade)
Two years ago 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 will be my second 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.

I have found teaching to be a way I can affect change in the world in a positive way. I came to St. Louis in 2012 and enrolled in the teacher education program at Webster University. In May of 2016 I earned my Master of Arts in Teaching and was offered my dream job at the Soulard School. Less than a month later I got married to my best friend Marissa. Marissa and I have two daughters, Ainslee and Elena, a dachshund named Ellie and a chiweiner named Stella. I feel extremely blessed to be a part of the Soulard School family.



Lee Hahn, Mosaic Teacher (2nd 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 11 year old (Jaxon), a very clever 4 year old (Linkyn in Quietude), and a very observant 3 year old (Hayze in Quietude). 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 eighth 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.



Anna Lee, Mosaic Teacher (2nd Grade)
I feel so lucky to be beginning my fifth 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 fall I am getting married! Woo Hoo! I truly cannot wait! My fiance, Anthony, 7 year (soon to be) stepson, Luke, and dog, Franklin, and I live in Ballwin. Our favorite things to do together are got to the park, go to the movies, and spend time with family. This year has been full of wonderful milestones in my personal life and I cannot wait to reach more milestones at school with this amazing class!



COLLECT FOR THE
CULINARY ARTS
PROGRAM!



Melissa Uhl, Alchemy Teacher (3rd Grade)
I am delighted to begin my fourth year at the Soulard School as one of the third grade teachers in the Alchemy 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 earned 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 live in St. Louis and enjoy reading, traveling the world, and spending time with my family and friends. I am looking forward to this year with the Alchemy students. I am hoping to instill a love of learning in each student as we explore the world through authentic learning experiences.



Sarah Spencer, Alchemy Teacher (3rd Grade)
I am incredibly thrilled to be joining The Soulard School family! I graduated from Black Hills State University with my Bachelor's in Elementary Education, and plan to pursue my Masters in Reading Instruction. I had the privilege of teaching kindergarten in Cairo, Egypt before moving to St. Louis, where I taught lovely little first graders in the Normandy school district last year.

I currently live in the Soulard neighborhood, and absolutely love exploring the community and connecting with people. One of my favorite parts of my week is volunteering at the Herbert Hoover Boys and Girls Club where I get to chat and work with 3rd and 4th graders.

Parents are a child's first teachers, and building relationships with my students and their families is something I feel strongly about. I consider myself a co-learner and collaborator with my students, not just an instructor. I like to facilitate my students' learning by planning activities and lessons based on their interests, asking questions to further understanding, and actively engaging in the activities alongside the students. I believe children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves. I look forward to teaching in a way that helps students appreciate their uniqueness and further their education through exploration.



Jarrid Kraft, Thrive Teacher (4th Grade)
I am incredibly excited to be joining The Soulard School's team this year. I graduated from Lindenwood University, Belleville, with magna cum laude honors, and received a bachelor's degree in elementary education. My first year of teaching I taught first grade in the Normandy Schools Collaborative District. I was selected as Lindenwood's teacher of the year and received Missouri's Outstanding Beginning Teacher award. I moved to Cairo, Egypt the following year, and taught first-grade

at a private American international school. After a year of adventures and traveling I decided it was time to come back home to St. Louis. As a teacher, I am extremely enthusiastic and passionate. I love incorporating whole brain teaching into daily instruction, creating classroom transformations, and developing project-based learning units. I am thankful to have the opportunity to further my development as a teacher and person with The Soulard School community.

Anna Elwood, Thrive Teacher (4th Grade)
This is my second 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 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. 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, and this past May I finished a Master's degree in Elementary Education with a focus on Reading.

This summer was the best one yet because in June I married my best friend and the love of my life, Nathan! We also adopted the most adorable and snuggly poodle mix and named her Rogue. She loves taking walks and cuddling! 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!



Phillip McFarlane, Lab Teacher (5th 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. When not teaching, I enjoy playing the guitar, gardening, adding to my vinyl collection and working as an advocate for children.

EXTENDED CORE TEACHERS



Lisa Berman, Physical Education Teacher
This is my fifth 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 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 Gymnastic Society. 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 Thrive class at The Soulard School. My husband, Alex, is a Wash U Physician in the Neurology Department specializing in neuro-rehabilitation.



Matt King, Strings Teacher
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.



Sarah Kate Buckles, Out of School Time Coordinator

This is my third year as the Out of School Time Coordinator, my sixth 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 also help support the Nursery and Quietude teachers during the day.

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 the new families and to support the school in this capacity.

I live in Fox Park with my husband Matt Thenhaus, our son Joss who is in his final year at Soulard, 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.



Jessica Thenhaus, Aftercare Assistant

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.

It was not easy to leave New Orleans. But I was lucky enough to find many people in St. Louis that love New Orleans as much as me, including my sister-in-law Sarah Kate, who also introduced me to The Soulard School. Together we have been able to bring some fun projects to the Aftercare program, including one of my childhood traditions, Mardi Gras shoebox floats and mini parades. This will be our third year making mini-floats and I can't wait to see the students ideas come to life. 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.



Rebecca Butler, PE & Aftercare Assistant

Rebecca Butler, PE and Aftercare Assistant
I am new to the school, and moved to St. Louis from Illinois last year with my daughter Violet (Mosaic/2nd grade). I have worked with children in various settings, including teaching private piano lessons, tutoring, and working with junior high ESL students. I have also worked in a chemistry lab, several microbiology labs, and a neurobiology lab. One of my favorite jobs ever was running the library of a grade school.

My degree is in Molecular and Cellular Biology, and I think science is totally rad. I am also the lead singer of the band The Great Escape. I love plants, cooking, yoga and animals that like to snuggle.



Erica Lee, Performing Arts Teacher

"Everyone has inside of him a piece of good news. The good news is that you don't know how great you can be! How much you can love! What you can accomplish! And what your potential is!" The Soulard School embodies the sentiments of this quote by Anne Frank as shown through the hearts of every person I've met in this community to first seek the greatness within each child (and person!) and work with them to nurture that greatness. I am so grateful to begin my journey as the performing arts teacher and grow with the staff and the families!

I moved to St. Louis from Singapore in 2012 to attend Fontbonne University where I received my BA in psychology with a minor in performance studies. I fell in love with this city and stayed to study applied educational psychology at Webster University where I received my MA in 2016. I am currently working towards an MA in educational theatre at NYU over three summers, and am on track to become a licensed drama therapist. I hope to continue learning for a long, long time. While I am not at TSS, I spend time at St. Louis College Prep as the operations assistant, and teach dance and aerial arts to children and adults at MJ Performing Arts Academy in Webster Groves. I have my 200-hour yoga certification and enjoy practicing yoga with people of all ages. Outside of work, I spend time with my two cats, Sora and Sonya, my dog Diplo, my roommate Carli and my partner Nathan!



Jacci Ross, Studio Arts Teacher

I am very excited to join The Soulard School team this year as the Studio Arts Teacher. I first learned about the philosophy and teaching methods at the school through a former Soulard School family. After sharing their amazing experience here, I knew I wanted to be a part of this community! I am very excited 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 (under protest!) and began exploring a non-traditional teaching path including working with Springboard St. Louis, teaching summer and afterschool programs at The College School in Webster Groves, teaching private art classes, and joining the staff of The St. Louis Art Fair. Last winter, I also had an opportunity to pursue a certification in Kids Yoga and Mindfulness through Southtown Yoga studio, which has fit well into my curriculum and the practices of The Soulard School.

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 or keeping her from terrorizing our two cats.



Monica Watson, Culinary Arts & Nutrition Teacher
 "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 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 sixth 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 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 Chloe, curled up with a good book, chasing pavement at the various city parks, or exploring anything that piques my curiosity.

Social Events Committee
 is hosting the annual
**Soulard School
 Family Harvest Party**
 Saturday, Nov. 4th 6:00-8:00pm
 St. Matthew Church,
 3452 S. Jefferson Ave.
 Chili cook off and
 costume dance party!

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In the beginning of the year, we noticed that our class was naturally drawn to the five chickens living in the new coop in our yard! Each morning, preschoolers spent time observing older students taking care of the chickens. Through this observation time, we formulated a variety of questions about the chickens.

To learn more, we spent time in the pond area analyzing each chicken's behavior and unique qualities. Quietude students were given the opportunity to draw each chicken during their observation. Once friends began noticing differences in the chickens and their behaviors, we also noticed there were differences in their eggs.

**Here are some
of the things
we've learned:**

They eat popcorn.
 -Holland

They peck with their
 beaks to find bugs.
 -Eli

They have wings
 and they bawk.
 -Evie

They grab onto things
 with their orange feet
 and they use their feet
 to balance.
 -Emma H.

They have tails
 with feathers.
 -Julian

Big Mama is the
 leader chicken.
 -Linkyn



RAVE REVIEWS FROM THE ALCHEMY CLASS

This year Alchemists (3rd Grade) are exploring food reviews as a form of opinion writing. Our class became inspired to learn about food writing after listening to a read aloud book about a young food critic. They began scouring local food magazines for reviews and researching different styles of food writing. During our classroom lessons we focused on descriptive and sensory language. Students had the opportunity to brainstorm and record “juicy” adjectives through a food tasting. We encouraged our young food critics to take notes taking during lunches to reflect on each taste. Next, we plan to interview an LA-based food writer over Facetime and visit a local restaurant for real life field experience.

By Frances Bock, Alchemy Student 4th Grade

I walk in the McGurk's room and it smelled like pancakes but they were serving arepas with a side of Mexican kale quinoa salad. The dessert was juicy sour oranges. The arepas were chewy and tasted like potatoes and eggs on top of each other. The Mexican kale quinoa salad on top of the arepas was like diving into a pool of happiness. Yes, Monica is a great chef and a great friend. I would give this meal all four stars.



By Vera Burmiester, Alchemy Student 4th Grade

When I walked in the air smells like whole wheat taco shells and Mexican food. It was almost like I was actually in Mexico. I see rice and what looks like chicken. The chefs looked very nice. When they came up to give us food, they were smiling and laughing. When the food was on the table, it sent a precious scent of spices and a fancy aroma. The arepas looked like cookies. The mexican kale salad looked spicy. When I took a bite of the arepas, they felt warm and crunchy. My tongue tasted potatoes and eggs mixed together. The salad had cheese and quinoa. They went good together but they should have roasted the kale to give it a really good taste. When you mix the salad and the arepas, it sends a zing up your nose and it tasted like birthday cake. The oranges were juicy and stung the back of my throat. I would definitely have this meal again. I give it four stars. It was a perfect meal.



RECIPE CORNER *with Chef Monica Watson*



Carrot Soup With Carrot Top Pesto

- 3 1/2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
- 1 1/4 pounds carrots with tops on
- 4 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 garlic clove
- 1 tablespoon chopped toasted walnuts

Preparation

Heat 1 tbsp. oil in a medium pot over medium heat. Add onion and 1/2 tsp. salt and cook until softened, stirring occasionally, about 8 minutes.

Remove carrot tops from carrots, chop roughly, and set aside. Roughly chop carrots and add to pot. Stir in broth and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, cover (leave lid slightly ajar), and cook until carrots are very tender, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, mince garlic in a food processor, scraping down sides of bowl as needed. Add 1 cup carrot tops, the walnuts, remaining 2 1/2 tbsp. oil, and remaining 1/4 tsp. salt and whirl until blended.

Purée carrot-broth mixture in a blender, working in batches, until very smooth, about 1 minute per batch. Ladle into bowls and swirl in carrot top pesto.
From www.myrecipes.com



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FEELING BLUE WITH THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS

Kindergarten began the school year with an experience in color. Our first field trip was to the Pulitzer Arts Foundation to view "Blue Black" curated by Glenn Ligon.

Mums explored this trip using all their senses so we could return to school and create an interdisciplinary study of colors using movement, sound, emotion and imagination. We began our visit by sitting near the infinity fountain at the Pulitzer doing a simple meditation to clear our minds and find our balance. Once we felt still, we began our private tour of the museum where we were given the history of particular installments in this exhibit. Some of the pieces reflected current events or the power of color in our current environment, represented jazz music, showed symmetry, or centered on the power of language. Each influential piece of art, inspired by culture, history or society, provoked authentic thoughts and emotions in our students.



Mums returned to school to study primary colors and shading, and used some of the techniques they saw on their trip. A few friends reproduced their own art that strongly resembled specific creations they saw at the museum; others designed original work using their experience as motivation. Our kindergarten class was also given the opportunity to create their own shade of blue and name it themselves (similar to Yves Klein's "Klein Blue"). The various shades, named "Zombie Blue," "Death Star Blue," "Jackal Blendon Blue," and "Bubble Blue," are now the center of classroom collaborative documentation.



DURING OUR COLOR STUDY WE ASKED: "WHAT DOES COLOR SOUND LIKE? HOW DOES COLOR MOVE? WHAT DOES COLOR FEEL LIKE?"



"**RED** SOUNDS LIKE RRRR. A LOUD RRRR BECAUSE IT'S ANGRY."
-AVERY

"**YELLOW** IS LIKE BALLOONS POPPING BECAUSE IT IS EXCITING."
-SIAH



"**BLUE** CAN BE BORING BECAUSE I USUALLY SEE IT ON WALLS."
-EDI

"**BLACK** MOVES SLOW. WHEN I WEAR BLACK I'M LIKE A SHADOW OR A NINJA."
-VANCE



"**GREEN** SMELLS SOUR LIKE LIMES."
-EVIE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Hello friends and fellow Parents Association members
(Remember, we are all PA!)

We hope your school year is off to a great start and the bumps of the first few weeks have mostly worked themselves out. Thank you to our new friends who have volunteered to participate in PA committees and activities. There are still opportunities to be involved. It's a fun and helpful way to earn some of those volunteer hours!

The PA is a perfect way to get to know your fellow parents, the teachers and faculty that make TSS great. **Meetings are at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.** We're looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Thank you for supporting The Soulard School.
-Samantha Fischer & Morgan Cameron

2017-18 PARENT ASSOCIATION

Co-Presidents:	Morgan Cameron Samantha Fisher
Co-Vice VPs:	Charles Bock Colin McGrath
Treasurer:	Shannon McGrath
Secretary:	Rachel Kryah
Fundraising Chair:	Sarah Folkemer-Coleman
Social Events Coordinators:	Annie Lehrer, Charla Claypool
Room Coordinator	Coordinators:
EC:	Amy Grailer
Elementary:	Lisa Donahue
Room Coordinators:	
Nursery:	Anna Blaser Kelli McKee
Quietude:	Amy Grailer Erin Priester
Mums:	Stacey Sullivan Krystle Gaehle-Rapp
Enigma:	Jim Noonan Angela Wildermuth
Mosaic:	Brenda Brown Kendra Smith
Alchemy:	Heidi Hoskins Jen Fuller
Thrive:	Sarah Folkemer-Coleman Lisa Donahue
Lab:	LaKenya Roberson Shawna Climer
Ext. Core:	Shannon McGrath Lisa Donahue



Hank and Charlotte are giggling and having fun on a slide at Pontiac Park.

Cate is taking her time while climbing up a park ladder at Pontiac Park.

Louis and Brooks are enjoying digging, scooping, and dumping corn kernels during outdoor exploration.



FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

~ AND SING ALONG DANCE PARTY ~

OCTOBER 29, 2017 9-11:30AM. 1227 TAMM AVE.



Why should I give to the Annual Fund at The Soulard School?

Unrestricted gifts to the annual fund closes the gap between tuition revenue and the actual cost of running the School, offering relief to the operating budget and directly affecting students, staff and numerous programs through TSS. Most importantly, unrestricted gifts, regardless of the size, allow the administration to respond to the School's most pressing financial concerns and provide the flexibility to seize unique and important opportunities.

Your support of the Annual Fund is important because it demonstrates the support of our community. Widespread support of the school through the Annual Fund conveys a powerful statement reflecting the community's belief in The Soulard School's mission. Every gift is a vote of confidence in the school and how we deliver a high quality, integrated learning experience for the St. Louis area.



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proudly presents

CLOVERS & STARS

5th Annual Irish Music and Dance Festival
to benefit

THE
SOULARD ★ SCHOOL

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 3

Cocktails 7pm • Concert 8pm



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