

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014

REDEFINING EDUCATION TOGETHER



## Then, Now, Going: A Message from the Co-Founder

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present you with our Annual Report for the 2013-2014 school year, which provides information about this year's milestones and accomplishments. This has been a culminating year for our school. Since we began there have been dedicated individuals who advocated and supported us along the way. Our accomplishments have been made possible by the names you will read in these pages. Many have been on this journey with us for a long time; some are just beginning. No matter the year, our annual report will show you how we are **redefining education together**.

This year has been one of tremendous growth for us. What started nine years ago as a neighborhood school to serve dedicated families committed to the city has reached a new and exciting phase. The 2013-2014 school year saw steady enrollment, as well as a growing staff and Board. In June 2014, we received accreditation by the Missouri Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). Our supporters have grown to include benefactors like Emerson and Dana Brown Charitable Trust. We are a school that is collaborating with Webster University and Boeing and having an impact beyond our neighborhood. This progress has validated our model and our courageous spirit, and throughout it all we have remained committed to our values - child-centered learning, community, innovation and diversity.

Of course, it is our families and our staff that make The Soulard School what it is. As one parent put it, "Nobody empowers children like The Soulard School." Our students are successful because of our dedicated teachers, our supportive community of partners and benefactors, and most importantly our incredible families. We are so thankful for our active Parent Association and deeply invested parent volunteers who contributed more than 4,000 volunteer hours to the school. Every day, I am inspired by the verve and leadership of our community. Where school improvement and systems-level change seem daunting, we are here as a profound example of what is possible in education today.

We look forward to another year of growth and transformation, and hope that you will continue to join us on this journey. We can't wait to see what awaits us where we are going.

Thank you,

Sarah Christman  
Executive Director,  
Co-Founder

### SAVE THE DATE

**2014**

**November 1**

Clovers & Stars: An Irish Music and Dance Festival

**November 3**

Annual Fund Kick-Off

**November 22-23**

Annual Book Fair at Left Bank Books

**2015**

**February 7**

Trivia Night at Mad Art Gallery

**April 22**

Teaching Peace Parade

## 2013-2014: A Year in Review

### ACCREDITATION

The Soulard School achieved accreditation through Missouri Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA).

### GRADUATES

The Soulard School Class of 2014 graduated to a variety of middle schools: Crossroads College Prep, St. Cecilia School & Academy, Grand Center Arts Academy and McKinley Jr. Classical Academy.

### MODEL OF BEST PRACTICE

In partnership with Webster University, Buddy Circles program presented at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) annual conference in Chicago.

### REDEFINING EDUCATION TOGETHER

The Soulard School launched its three-year major gift initiative as part of capacity building and sustainability efforts.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

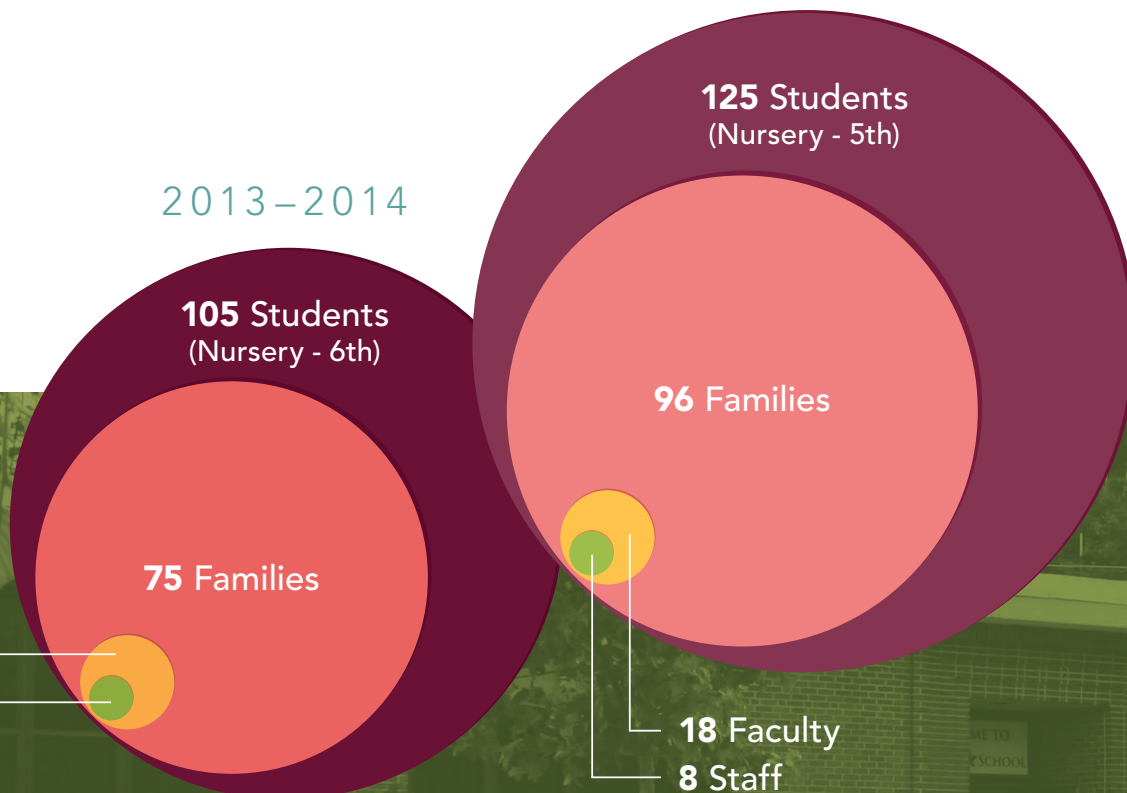
Three new full-time positions added to the Administration team: Principal, Assistant Principal, and Development Director.

### STEAM LAB

Funding secured to complete the STEAM Lab Renovation Project.

### 2014-2015

### 2013-2014



## Who We Are

18 Faculty  
8 Staff

## Where We Come From

The Soulard School reflects the rich diversity of its neighborhood and surrounding communities. In the 2013-2014 school year:

- 68% Families qualified for our Equitable Tuition Program
- 30% Students qualified for free or reduced lunch
- 93% Students lived in underperforming districts
- 31% Families lived in the Soulard neighborhood zip code
- Soulard School families came from 12 different zip codes

# Program Accomplishments

## THE IMPACT OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

### Buddy Circles – Supporting a Culture of Individualized Respect

One of several built-in social-emotional programs, Buddy Circles offer peer mentoring for Soulard School students, including transfer students and other students experiencing social struggles. By modeling supportive language and empowering members to design and implement strategies to support the student of focus, students feel comfortable self-advocating, self-regulating, and have opportunities to see how these skills not only benefit themselves but others.

In March 2014, the Buddy Circles program was presented at the Association for Positive Behavior Support (APBS) annual conference in Chicago. In partnership with Webster University, the presentation showcased the program and WU's research on its impact on Soulard School students.

### STEAM Lab – Full STEAM Ahead!

In August 2013, our STEAM Lab Campaign wrapped up with a grant award from an anonymous foundation donor who believes in the school's mission and supports our work. This seed money made possible the completion of the STEAM Lab Renovation Project, with final renovations and lab build-out taking place throughout the 2013-2014 school year. The lab opens for the 2014-2015 school year, and we are very excited to have Soulard School classroom teacher Courtney Keefe as the new STEAM Lab teacher.

The STEAM Lab highlights and continues to invest in The Soulard School's integrated curriculum and project-based learning approach. Courtney will be working with the administration and teachers to develop hands-on, collaborative lessons that integrate technology and offer experiential learning opportunities that get students thinking, making, playing and creating.

### Metro Theater Partnership – Engaged Learning Through Arts Integration

"...[T]he arts are a powerful tool to reach all learners, and theater experiences have the power to create community and promote dialogue."

– Metro Theater Company

What do the post office and theater have to do with each other? How do you connect mail sorting machines to movement? In April-May 2014, our Enigma (first grade) classroom had the opportunity to explore these questions with resident artists from Metro Theater Company.\* Going beyond a theater project, their teaching strategy merged arts standards with classroom studies to build connections and provide engaging context. So while students were writing letter monologues, creating a school-wide mail system, and learning how "snail mail" is sorted and distributed across the globe, they were also getting up, moving around and having fun.

*\*Each year, this partnership is made possible with support from Missouri Arts Council.*



## Message from the Principal

It is with a true sense of joy and pride that we publish this year's Annual Report, having just earned our accreditation from Missouri Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA). This milestone symbolizes our commitment to our mission "to build a warm, welcoming learning environment that serves as an example of the profound and real possibilities of a community dedicated to educating its children," and we have much to be proud of and appreciate within our school community.

Accreditation validates our good work here at The Soulard School - MNSAA provides assurances that its member schools have met high standards and consistent measures. Over 250 schools statewide have successfully achieved MNSAA accreditation, and we are proud to be a part of this community of excellence. Accreditation supports our amazing teachers, encourages enrollment growth, and opens doors for our graduates as they head on to middle school. It also helped us to develop important strategic goals that will further strengthen our school, and we look forward to accomplishing them over the next five years.

Looking back over the 2013-2014 school year, I am reminded of the tremendous value of experience and curiosity in learning. Our students discover the joys of learning through the rich experiences and enthusiasm our teachers provide, and they learn by doing. Our Enigma (first grade) class's postal system study connected classrooms through correspondence. They were able to see the world with Flat Stanley, and brought the post office to life with Metro Theater Company. Soulard School traditions like the Thrive camping trip continue to give students the opportunity to connect with the natural world as explorers and scientists. And our annual STEAMFest reminded us of the possibilities to tinker, experiment and build that will come with the opening of our STEAM Lab in the 2014-2015 school year.

Finally, it is with a mix of joy and sadness that we said goodbye to our beloved Culinary Arts & Nutrition teacher and founder of our Culinary Arts Program, Mary Waskow. Her expertise and passion for cooking with our students made for some wonderful lunches, and this program is one of the truest examples of the creative and experiential learning that takes place here. We are so grateful for all that she brought to The Soulard School, and wish her and her family well on their new adventures. We will miss you.

Thank you to all of our families and teachers for your dedication and efforts. It is inspiring to be part of such a wonderful community. I look forward to another year of learning, as our children, our community, our school continues to grow.

Kerri Fair  
Principal



## Letter from Jim Holloran, Board Chair

This is truly an exciting and amazing time for The Souard School. We are so proud of all that has been accomplished. From increases in enrollment to securing accreditation, from increased fund development to partnerships with leading educational institutions, this school has momentum and a real vitality backed up by a proven track record of results.

I am honored to serve as Board Chair, continuing leadership that supports the school's success and is a tribute to the belief in the importance of our mission. Personally, I am humbled to lead the incredibly talented and dedicated people who serve on this Board, and I want to send particular appreciation to our past Board Chair Nathan Beckett, whose family we said goodbye to in June and who will be dearly missed. We are grateful for his dedication and passion for the school, and wish him and his family well.

We remain steadfast and wholehearted in our commitment to provide The Souard School's unique and effective educational model to every child. We are able to do this because of the support of our donors and parents. One half of our budget comes from fundraising so that together we can ensure quality education to a community that reflects the authentic diversity of our neighborhood and city. Diversity - cultural, racial and economic - is good for everyone, and as a result of the diversity we experience at The Souard School, we have outstanding results. Our kids are performing well academically, and they understand how to work well with each other to solve problems, create solutions, and lead.

We could not have made these great strides alone. We count on you for your support, encouragement and partnership, and we look forward with confidence toward a bright future for the school.

### 2014-2015 Board Members

Jim Holloran,  
Board Chair

Sarah Christman,  
Executive Director, Co-Founder

Anne Coggan Johnston

James DeLong

Jennifer Harpring, MSW, MAPS

Dr. Theresa Mayberry-Pruitt

Basiyr Rodney, Ed.D.

*Thank you to the following  
whose board term ended on  
June 1, 2014. We appreciate his  
service: Nathan Beckett.*

## Revenue

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Built on a philosophy of inclusion, The Souard School maintains a commitment to socioeconomic diversity. The Equitable Tuition Program is a sliding-scale model\* that enables all Souard School families to educate their children as equal members of an economically, racially and culturally diverse community.

Because tuition covers only half of the school's operating expenses, meeting the budget each year depends on a combination of funding streams. These include gifts to the Annual Fund, income from fundraising events, corporate and foundation contributions, and generous benefactors who support The Souard School's vision of socioeconomic diversity.

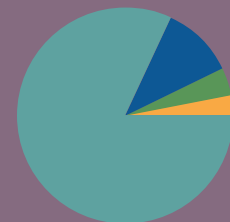
The Souard School would not be here today without the continued generosity and support of dedicated parents, grandparents, alumni families, and friends in the community. Thank you to all of those who made a gift, and/or attended, contributed, or volunteered at a fundraising event during the 2013-2014 school year. Your support allows The Souard School to continue to offer unique educational experiences that encourage students to be inspired learners and good, productive citizens in the community. **Thank you.**

### Total Contribution Income\*

Individual Donors	\$180,255
Corporate & Foundation Donors	\$152,918
Fundraising Events	\$121,431
Government Grants	\$1,860
<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>\$456,464</b>

\*for school year ending July 31, 2014

### Expenses



- 82% Salaries & benefits
- 11% Operations
- 4% Fundraising
- 3% Other education programming

### Income



- 50% Tuition & fees
- 50% Community donations

## 2013-2014 Contributors

### FOUNDING DONORS

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Joyce & Jim Waskow  
Carolyn White  
Nancy & Norman Woldow

### THANK YOU!

The Contributors section in our Annual Report recognizes donors for gifts made from August 1, 2013 to July 31, 2014. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. We apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions. To advise of any changes, or if you have any questions, please contact: Erin Quick, Development Director at (314) 865-2799 or e-mail erin.quick@souardschools.org.

## VOLUNTEERISM AND IN-KIND GIVING

One of the most important ways that families and friends help to support The Soulard School is through volunteer hours and in-kind giving. To those of you who served on committees, prepared food for an event, worked in the kitchen, library or classrooms, or contributed an item, service or time, we thank you. The generosity, creativity, passion and community spirit you bring is profoundly appreciated, and our success is directly attributable to wonderful friends like you.

### GIFTS-IN-KIND

4 Hands Brewery  
American Standard  
Ann Luciani  
Art Farm  
Atomic Cowboy  
Barbara Spelman  
Be Lovely Photography  
Benton Park Cafe  
& Coffee Bar  
Beth & Rob Hyser  
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Bill Christman  
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Blood and Sand  
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BWorks  
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Cardinals Baseball  
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Circus Flora  
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Civil Life

Clara Moore  
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Fortune Teller Bar  
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The Soulard School  
Staff Wine Group  
Vicki & Jay Morris  
Zenoobi

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#### *In Memory of Ted Christman*

Karen Gitto-Vangel  
& James Vangel  
  
Nancy Grove  
& Joseph Tiernan

#### *In Honor of James P. Holloran's Birthday*

Mary Sue Albanese  
  
Patricia & Joe Holloran

#### *In Honor of Anne Coggan Johnston*

Dr. Sandra P. Adams  
  
Gail Fisher  
  
Mildred Paden

#### *In Honor of Henry Lewis*

Rosemary & Billy Charles

#### *In Honor of Frederick Buckles*

Kathleen  
& Stephen Schroeder  
  
Nancy & Addison Thomas



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4,000+

volunteer hours contributed by families, friends and businesses

\$60,000+

Creative Resources – in-kind contributions by families, friends and businesses\*

\*added value above & beyond our operating budget