

MAY
2023

THE SOULARD★SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

STEPPING INTO OUR LEGACY

A message from Amy Cross, SEC Program Director



We have entered my favorite part of the school year! Each day brings the anticipation of warmer weather, graduations and special events honoring student achievements, and children sharing their dreams for the future as they pass through another milestone. As educators, we can reflect and see the impact we have made over the previous months with hope that pieces of it last a lifetime. It is at this point in the year that we know our classes the best, and feel the most like a community. We have built things together all year long and now we reflect on the culmination of what we have accomplished.

After many years at The Soulard School, I have felt each class become part of our legacy. Who we are as a school is made from the experiences we build on year after year. As we near the end of our 19th year, traditions live on but they have also adapted, changed, and become more inclusive because of the students who carry them on. We close out our 22-23 school year with a Peace Parade, pinewood derby races, violin performances, STEAMFest, and final field trips. It reminds me that what will last from these last few weeks of school are the memories we make, the friendships that will go on, and the capacity we have gained in being able to support each other. Soren Kierkegaard said, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." We reach the end of the year with new understanding, and now we must live the application. It is with that in mind that as a school we have prioritized lessons of well-being, belonging, and a sense of community that will shape the future of our learners as they go forward.

Congratulations to all our graduates and their families, and we look forward to maintaining connection with you all.



PUTTING OUR PILLARS INTO ACTION



We are all very proud of your children and would like to congratulate them on completing another successful school year. As we work on our charter renewal and finalize our strategic plan, it has allowed us to reflect on this school year, as well as, years gone by. I am pleased to say, we have truly put our 4 foundational pillars into action!

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- Equity Audit & resulting review
- Parent Buddy Circles
- Facilitator training for listening circles

CHILD WELL-BEING

- Mindfulness/Yoga
- Weekly Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons
- Return to family-style lunches

INTEGRATED STUDIES

- ITEF (Innovative Technology Education Fund) grant award for \$68,000
- Additional iPads, projectors, field trips, kitchen supplies for culinary arts
- Plant waves and other devices to test for environmental impacts
- New Earth Farm partnership, plus Composting

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Give STL Day
- Parent Association-sponsored events
- Parent volunteers sharing talents and time
- After-school partnerships with BWorks & Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

We hope you agree that our school pillars put all children on the path to the bright, bold futures they deserve. A special thanks to the parents and loved ones who have contributed in ways small, large, and unimaginable! We appreciate all that you do each and every day for our school and our children! I wish you and your family the very best this summer. May it be a safe, healthy, and happy one!

A message from Shenika Bishop, Principal



*The Goulard School stands in support of all members of our community
being seen and respected in their identities.*



At The Soulard School we see the power of self discovery, and believe that as you learn about others, you learn about yourself. It is part of our mission to establish a strong sense of community and belonging within our students, families and staff.

AT THE SOULARD SCHOOL, BELONGING MEANS:

- Everyone feels safe and comfortable
- We are able to express our experiences and engage and interact with our community
- We are able to actively engage and be a part of activities/experiences without restriction
- We feel at home, welcome

This includes being a safe and inclusive place for our LGBTQ+ families, students, staff and alumni. We stand in support of all members of our community being seen and respected in their identities. As an organization, we continue to seek ways to expand our policies, practices, curriculum and resources that support our diverse school community.



Quietude students discovering the wonderful world of food.

Delicious Discoveries in QUIETUDE

..... SENIOR PRE-K

Gathering around food is found in all cultures and all communities as a way to celebrate, grieve, and come together. Sometimes new foods can also be a source of uncertainty. At The Soulard School, we use family-style lunches prepared, in part, by students from a menu created by students. When students have a choice in what is being served and help prepare the food they are much more likely to try new things. It takes the uncertainty out of meals and brings a sense of community and shared culture.

Since most of the food preparations and menu selection at our school is done by the elementary students, our pre-k classroom decided to build their own connections to food by doing a food study over several months in their classroom. The goal of this study was to bring in pieces of student identity and culture, encourage students to try new foods, give time for them to become familiar with how food is prepared and what it looks like in different forms.

Throughout this study, we have given the four and five year olds the opportunity to use real cooking tools like whisks, knives, and griddles to prepare a variety of foods to try for themselves. Students illustrated foods, learned about portion sizes, practiced measuring, and created graphs and charts documenting their learning and preferences.



We invited parents to help with these explorations and provide new fruits and vegetables for the children to try. We use language that mirrors what the elementary students learn in culinary arts about how to talk about foods we prefer and do not prefer, and ways to try new things other than tasting them, such as touching, smelling, observing and licking. Research shows that giving young children the opportunity to participate in the making of new foods increases their likelihood of them trying and enjoying it. This has definitely proven true in our classroom as they tried artichokes, papaya, and fruit infused water. Students took a hand in making pancakes, kimchi, and Jello. As the study wraps up, Quietude is busy making their own cookbook. Along with our Culinary Arts program, this study reinforces our students in becoming adventurous food lovers who advocate for food that is both wholesome and delicious.

Sprouting Wings



Sprout friend bird spotting.



Sprout friend's popsicle bird.

The Sprouts, Jr. Pre-K, class engaged in a bird study this spring and it was fantastic. The kids were drawn to birds from spending so much time outside, and naturally began to notice how many different varieties of birds there are around us. We made a bird feeder with Courtney in STEAM which drew more birds into our yard. We began to notice hawks flying above our school and the kids were fascinated by how large they are. Sprouts had a blast using binoculars for bird watching, making bird crafts, sifting through a bird seed sensory bin, and painting a class birdhouse. We are looking forward to a field trip to the Zoo to see birds from around the world.

a little tweet

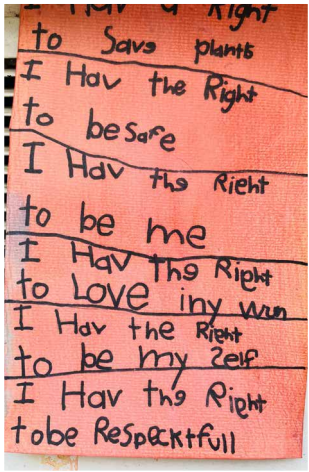
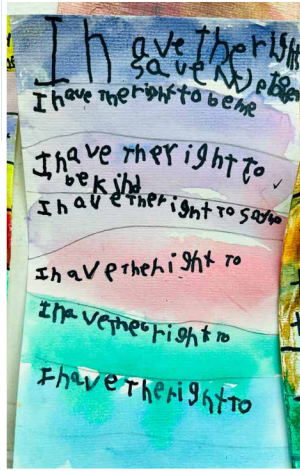
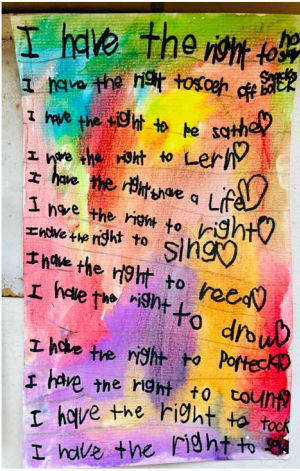
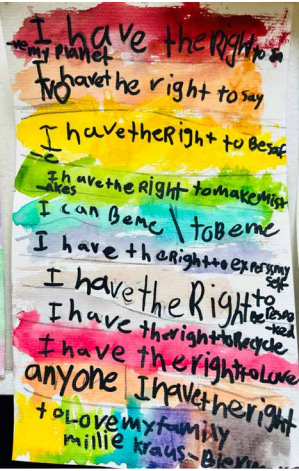
"My favorite part was the bird seeds."
- Thelonious

It's Dandy to be a Mum!

Yay for Earth Day! Kindergarten, Mums, class friends celebrated their love for our planet by spending time in nature. Mums worked as a team to collect as many dandelions as we could find and then we used them to make dandelion cookies. They picked off the petals and took turns adding ingredients: coconut flour, palm shortening, vanilla, cinnamon, brown sugar, and fresh eggs straight from our very own Soulard School chickens. Students enjoyed being a part of the cookie making process and were brave enough to give something new a try!

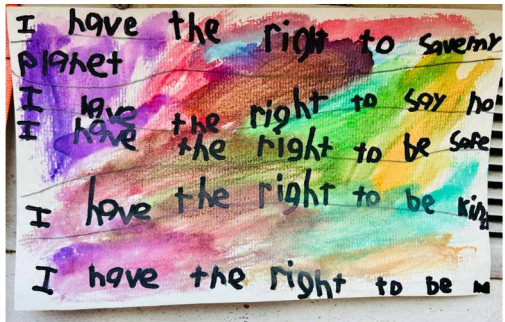
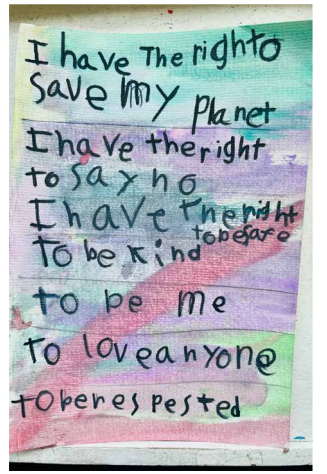
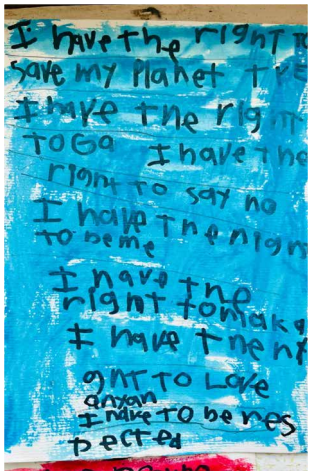
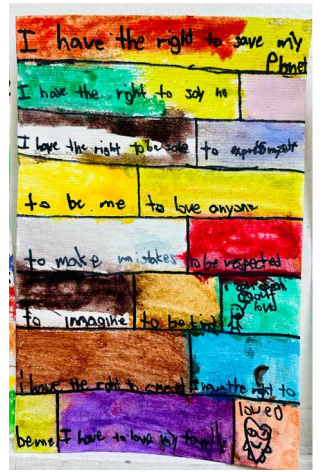


Mums students gathering dandelions and mixing up a dandelion cookie recipe.



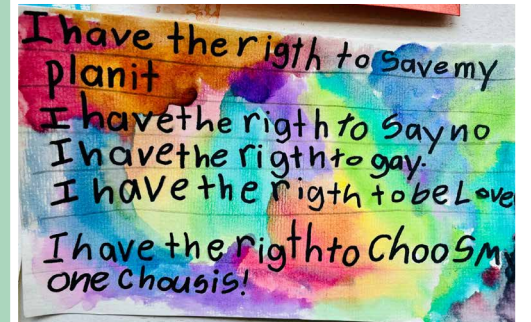
WE ARE CHANGEMAKERS

The Enigma, 1st grade, class has been working hard learning about changemakers throughout the year. We focused on people who make a difference but are sometimes left out of the history books, including Latinx, Indigenous, African-American changemakers and important history-making women. Most recently we're focusing on environmental activism and kids that have done important things to make a change. Throughout the year, we used non fiction texts and text features to learn more, and used graphic organizers like Venn Diagrams and webs to compare, contrast, and record our learning. We worked our way through the writing process to write opinion pieces about the importance of social justice. After we read the book, *I Have the Right to Save My Planet*, we discussed how everyone has the right to have their needs met and to make their voices heard. We then wrote self contracts about how we have the right to stand up and fight for what we believe in.



We're so proud of these movers and shakers, and we know that they will change the world.

Enigma students I Have the Right proclamations.



PLANTED IN NATURE



Alchemy students at Litzsinger Nature Center with Julie



Alchemy students prepping their pots for their green beans.

Alchemy, 2nd grade, students have enjoyed exploring in nature at Litzsinger Road Ecology Center throughout their 2nd grade year. For each of our trips to LREC, we have used different aspects of the outdoors to build our classroom learning and understanding! For our most recent trip, we focused on math in nature, representing 1s, 10s and 100s with different natural materials and creating and solving equations with them.



Alchemy students planting a green bean & drawing a plant diagram.



Spring has sprung and Alchemy, 2nd grade, class has been busy learning about all things plants! In science we have focused on the different parts of a plant and how each part is used in a special way to help the plant grow. After learning all of the things a plant needs to grow, the class started green beans from seeds! Every morning students were tasked with being scientists observing and documenting changes that occurred as our plants grew. After many of the seeds began to sprout, students planted their green beans. Our students really enjoyed getting their hands dirty and watching their plants grow!

Project: Kindness

The Explorer, 3rd grade, class is working hard on their last big project...**SPREADING KINDNESS**. Students have been working in small groups to prepare for an upcoming read-a-thon to help raise money for nonprofits and organizations across the St. Louis area. Each group was responsible for researching the organization that their group selected. The organizations were chosen based upon the mission or value that the students wanted to focus upon. Student groups then created fliers about the read-a-thon and their nonprofits to display around the building. The read-a-thon will take place May 10-16 with a special reading day on the 16th. Each group set a goal to raise \$50 collectively.



READ -A- THON



Explorer students working together in small groups to select which charities they will shower with kindness.



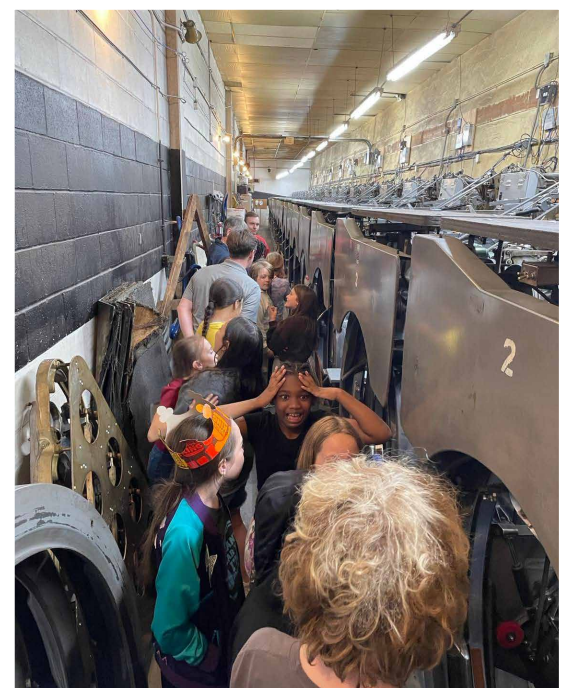
Mosaic students studying Newton's 3 Laws of Motion racing their pinewood derby cars.

A Simple Machine?

Mosaic, 4th grade, class completed a unit on forces and motion this spring. We learned about the six simple machines and their mechanical advantages, how they help do simple tasks, and how they are incorporated into more complex machines. We experimented with forces and how to measure them in newtons by using spring scales to drag our tennis shoes over different surfaces fighting against friction. We also learned about balanced and unbalanced forces. We studied, evaluated, and tested Newton's 3 laws of motion through experiments. The culmination of this unit was a trip to a local bowling alley with a behind-the-scenes look at the complex machinery and a pinewood derby race in which each student designed and raced a pinewood derby car.



Mosaic students studying Newton's 3 Laws of Motion at the bowling alley.



Mosaic students behind the pins.



Congratulations

— Graduation Class of 2023 —



May our Stars shine bright
as they embark on their
next journey.



Thriving ⁱⁿ _{the} Wilderness

After three and a half long pandemic years, overnight camping is back! We were thrilled to take our 4/5th grade Thriver class on a one-night campout in Robertsville, MO. Longtime TSS friends and alumni parents, Beth & Rob Hyser, opened their country home and property to us. We are incredibly grateful for their time and care in helping make this trip memorable and fun. We set up the campsite and a campfire. We also enjoyed the comforts of the beautiful Hyser Lodge. We made camp necklaces and special water bottles to commemorate and use on the trip. Thrivers got to dive in and explore the great outdoors through hikes, team building exercises, and more! We enjoyed delicious meals, including a campfire foil pack dinner, s'mores, and a pancake and casserole breakfast. Thrivers showed off their Culinary Arts skills by helping with food prep, and they even got to make homemade marshmallows with Sarah Kate to take with us and enjoy by the fire. On day two, we spent most of our time at Shaw Nature Reserve. We took a hike through their extensive property and got to observe and take notes about multiple different ecosystems all in one place. Then we participated in their Aquatic Ecology class, in which Thrivers collected and observed macro-invertebrates from the water on site. We used scopes to see the organisms up close, and sketched our findings. We came home happy and tired from all the fun and learning opportunities. A big thank you to our many parent chaperones, and to the Parent Association for their help in funding this amazing experience!

Our published playwrights with The Rep's performing actors.



The Soulard School hosted actors and educators from The Repertory Theater as part of the Story2Stage program. In the program, The Repertory Theater implemented a curriculum encouraging fun & freedom of expression, to aid early elementary students in the Theater Club to write and produce their own plays.

We were excited to learn that one of the three mini dramas written by students in the Theater Club was chosen to be produced as part of the Live Festival performance this spring! The Enigma, Alchemy and Explorer classes were able to enjoy a field trip to The Repertory Theater, to view not only the play written by their own classmates, but other plays written by fellow schools in St. Louis City, as well.

Congratulations to the published playwrights Kaleb, Bruce, Ramona, David, and Milo, as well as all of the Theater Club participants, for a job well done!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!



Mosaic, 4th grade, students have been patiently waiting for the filming of their stop-motion animation projects, and the time is finally here!

We began these projects months ago with outlining and creating story boards. Then moved to set building and character creation. Each group's project not only tells an original story, but also refers to the earth science knowledge they gained this school year.

Look out for some amazing short films coming your way soon!

Mosaic students watching a draft of their film.



The Explorer class admiring their continent.

From the Mountains To the Prairies

As part of a cross-curricular connection to classroom studies involving earth science, the Explorer, 3rd grade, friends took a closer look at the Earth's surface and the natural processes of weathering and erosion that helped form its current appearance. We took our research to the next level by creating 3D topographical models of various landforms and bodies of water. Students then worked to organically piece together our models to create Continent Explorer!

The Explorers displayed their finished continent on the playground and invited other classes, staff, and their adults to come see the finished product and showcase their learning through a Q&A session.



Continent - Explorer!



Explorers answering a parent Q & A.

our calendar

MAY

- 17 Spring Concert
- 18 Beards & Board Games Day
- 19 **GRADUATION DAY**
- 23 STEAMFest
- 25 **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

JUN

- 5 First Day of Summer School
- 5 Summer Camp Kicks-off
 - wk 1 - The Secret Garden
 - wk 2 - Getting Creative
 - wk 3 - Water World
 - wk 4 - Urban Camping
 - wk 5 - Baking Challenge
 - wk 6 - Animal Planet
 - wk 7 - Explorers of our City
 - wk 8 - STEAM

AUG

- 18 **BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ**
- 21 **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
2023-2024 School Year



Recipe Corner

with Chef Sarah Kate



The recipe below was developed after we realized that we had an absolute ton of frozen bananas. The Thrive, 4/5th grade class helped develop and taste test this recipe in Culinary Arts class in anticipation of our annual end of year ice cream social event. We had been discussing dairy alternatives for friends who couldn't have ice cream and I shared a simple frozen dessert made of bananas and honey. When we sampled it we decided that while it was tasty, it would be better with chocolate.

After some trial and error, this is what we came up with, and the consensus is that it's creamy and delicious!

Dairy-free Chocolate Banana Ice Cream

Ingredients:

- 6 peeled frozen bananas, cut into chunks
- 1 cup non dairy milk substitute
(we used unsweetened oat milk)
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup cocoa powder
- 2 tsp vanilla extract

Directions:

- Place the bananas in a food processor and puree for two minutes.
- Add the oat milk and puree until smooth.
- Add in the brown sugar, cocoa powder and vanilla extract.
- Puree until there are no big chunks of banana left.
- Serve immediately, or store in an airtight container in the freezer for up to a week. It may need a little time to thaw to a scoopable consistency after being frozen.



Enigma student scooping out ice cream.

Chef's Note: Experimenting in the kitchen builds confidence while providing a safe space to explore new foods without judgment. When we make mistakes or the outcome isn't what we expected or desired, we learn to improvise and problem solve in a fun and engaging manner. Sharing the food we prepare builds community and creates bonds across the grades and age levels, bringing together all our students in shared enjoyment of our creative projects.

We are filled with gratitude for the generosity of our community. With your help, The Soulard School raised \$40,000 on Give STL Day. Thank you for showing up & helping us surpass our fundraising goals.

Special thanks to our Give STL Day sponsor, William F. Siedhoff Foundation, for their generous \$10,000 gift that was intended to inspire generosity in our community & beyond.

The money raised on Give STL Day supports our Annual Fund that makes The Soulard School's signature programs possible like:

- Co-teaching classrooms with low student-teacher ratio (max 12:1)
- Hands-on Culinary Arts & Nutrition lessons
- Violin & Performing Arts lessons
- S.T.E.A.M. centered programs
- Social Emotional & Wellness programming



Our annual Trivia Night in March was a smashing success with over 250 attendees and more than \$11,000 raised for The Soulard School & Soulard Education Center. This year's theme was "Easy as ABC" and featured hand-crafted questions by Soulard School parents, a table art challenge, a grueling Spelling Bee and everyone's favorite trivia round created by our own kids, "Are You as Smart as a Soulard Student?"



In February, we saw the return of a Soulard School favorite fundraising event, The Great Together Wine Dinner. With the collaborative genius of Soulard School families, we were able to raise over \$6,500 while celebrating a night among great food & friends. Chef Scott Davis prepared a 5 course French-themed gourmet meal, sommelier Jason Main paired each course with a divine French wine, and Brendan Kirby provided his lovely event space, The Leona.

PA EVENTS

--- A LOOK AT THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS ---

PA MEETINGS

--- UPCOMING DATES ---

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT YEAR!

DID YOU KNOW AT PA MEETINGS, YOU...

MEET OTHER SOULARD SCHOOL FAMILIES AND DISCUSS TOPICS LIKE BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY, UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS.



Morning Mingle

Thank you to all our classroom families for supporting the return of our Morning Mingle. Our monthly gatherings help build a sense of school community. We could not create a welcoming environment without you.



Pasta & Swag Sale

Thank you to every one who purchased Pasta, T-shirts & Sweatshirts this year. We hope you loved them! If you missed out this year, don't worry sales will be back in the Fall.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

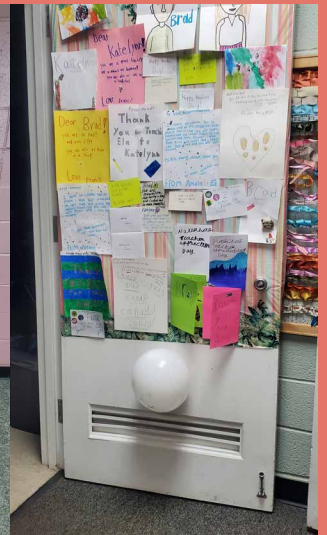
THANK YOU



Teacher's deciding on what smoothie to get.



Classroom doors decorated with student's love notes.



The week of May 8-12 was National Teacher Appreciation Week. To show our Soulard School Teachers & Staff just how much we adore them, Soulard School Families, along with the Parent Association, scattered love around all week. Teachers & Staff were treated to gifts, snacks, drinks, doors covered in love notes, and a visit from Juice Masters Fresh Juice & Smoothie Truck, owned by our very own Soulard School parent, Corey Logan!

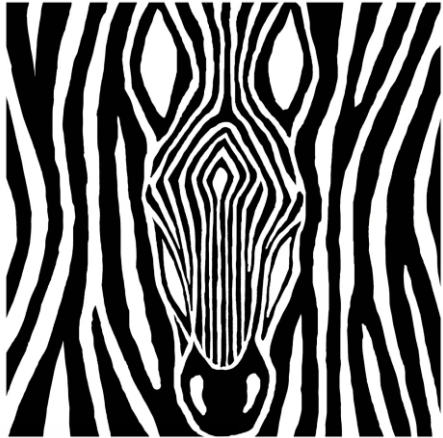


BIRTHDAY BASH

This April, The Soulard School turned 19!

To celebrate, The Parent Association hosted a Birthday Bash at Rockin' Jump for all current TSS & SEC families, staff, and alumni.

It was a wonderful night to come together and honor our amazing school community.



A Day at the Zoo

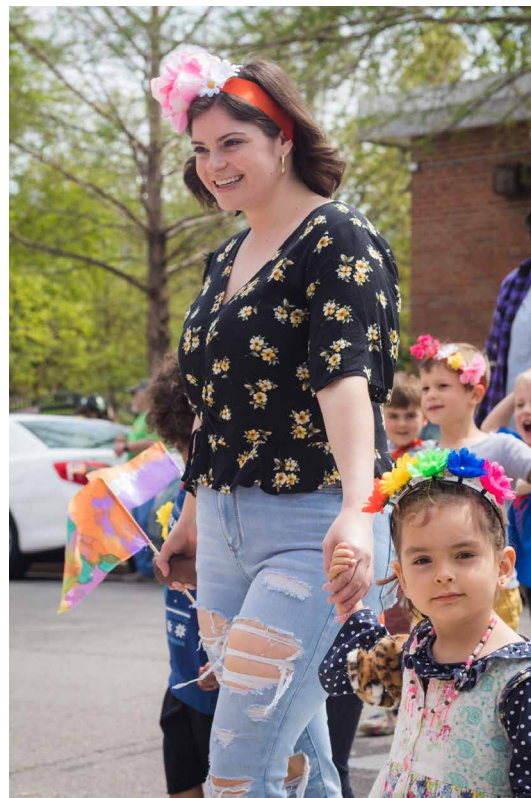
//////////////// with Sprouts //////////////////





Teaching Peace Parade

Our annual parade where we spread messages of celebrating peace, environmentalism & kindness.





**BIKE 2
SCHOOL DAY**