

# THE SOULARD SCHOOL NEWS

January, 2009  
[www.soulardschool.org](http://www.soulardschool.org)

## Head of School Notes

### What is Respect?

At The Soulard School we talk often and at length about "respect." Several years ago, a pre-k student who enrolled mid-year reminded me of the significant abstract nature of this word. While tossing it around during a morning meeting conversation about how to show respect, she raised her hand and asked, "What is respect?"

To verify the abstract nature of this word, I looked it up. The definition has words including esteem, regard, and value. The definition of regard includes the words esteem, respect, and value. Esteem is defined with the words value, regard, and appreciate. To be valued (adj.) is to be highly regarded and esteemed. The circular nature of the definition is concrete proof of the abstract nature of respect.

I was given a few gifts that, whether the givers knew it or not, have helped me to further develop my thinking on the abstract concept of respect that is the foundation of our school. Some were articles, some quotes, a book and a conversation. I would like to share some of my initial reflections on each. To increase digestibility, this is the first of two parts – the second to follow next month.

• In [The False Promise of Classical Education](#), Lisa VanDamme

*continued on page 6*

## Open House

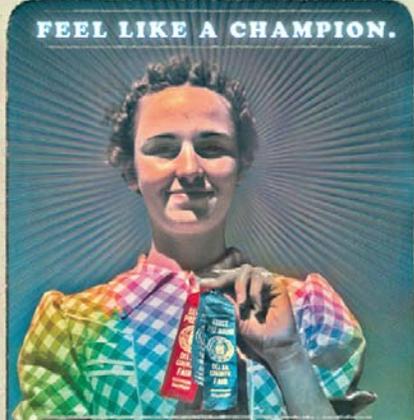
### Spread the Word!



Experience the energy of  
THE SOULARD  SCHOOL  
Join us for our annual  
**Open House**  
Saturday  
January 24, 2009 1pm-4pm

**Join us for Work Night on Thursday, 1/22 from 5-8PM  
and watch for refreshment & volunteer sign ups**

## Trivia Night



FEEL LIKE A CHAMPION.  
**TRIVIA**  
Saturday January 31, 2009  
Mad Art, 2727 S. 12th in Soulard

**Doors open at 6:00pm - Questions begin @ 7:00**

**To reserve your table of 10  
call Sarah Christman  
at 865-2799 or [sarahxman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sarahxman@sbcglobal.net)  
\$250 per table (\$25 per person)  
includes beer, wine and soda**

**Pre-order pizzas from Joanie's To-Go - ask  
Sarah for a menu**

**Door prizes, 50/50 raffle,  
prizes for 1st and 2nd place**

**Hope to see everyone there!**

### School Closing Reminders

1/19 – MLK Day  
1/30 – Prof. Development  
2/16 – Presidents' Day

### NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Soulard School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The Soulard School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

# BUILDING & GROWING

## Annual Giving

Just a reminder ... If you haven't chosen your images from the **Nordmann Photography** website or contacted them about your child's pictures by 1/19, they will choose images to complete the package you ordered.

Jordan & Reilly develop their reading skills during the Kindergarten & Pre-K "Buddy Reading" session in Literacy Lab.



## Mardi Gras

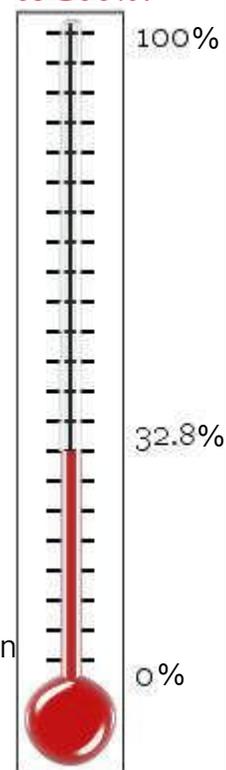
**February 21st**

This year our Mardi Gras fundraiser will be hosting a booth for McGurk's on Russell. The day will be split into 3 shifts of about 8 people. Be thinking about which time works best for you: **8AM-1PM, 12:30-5:30PM, 5-9PM** and keep an eye out for sign-up sheets in early Feb.

The 2nd Annual Giving Campaign has begun. We've already had several families contribute (32.8%, to be exact). Pledge cards will be going home today. The deadline for returning them is Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Or, you can make your contribution at any time.

Smith/ Blasingame Family  
 Kelly & Charles Bock  
 Paul Nordmann & Sarah Christman  
 Amy & Ian Corey  
 Amy & Matt DeLaHunt  
 Carla & Jay Gibbs  
 Rhonda & John Holt  
 Mark Hinrichs & Danielle Reamey  
 Erin Scallions  
 Kristine Mothershead & Lenny Jones  
 Diane & Bill Keaggy  
 Lieb Family  
 Katie Mack  
 Alexis & Rennie Mead  
 Kristin & Marcus Moomey  
 Gilda Moseley  
 Barnes/ Mulvihill Family  
 Judy & Mark Panzeri  
 Quick/ Harris Family  
 Courtney McDermott & Doug Rasmussen  
 Patsy King & Steve Sherman  
 Joanna Strunk  
 Mary & Brent Waskow

**How quickly will we get to 100%?**



## Recipes from the Culinary Arts Program

### Matzo Balls

4 tbs oil  
 2 tsp salt  
 4 eggs  
 4 tbs water or chicken broth  
 1 cup matzo meal  
 Mix eggs and oil. Add matzo meal and water. Refrigerate for a half hour. Drop spoonfuls into boiling water. Cook for 30-45 minutes with the lid on; remove lid and cook an additional 30 minutes on low heat. Add cooked matzo balls to chicken soup.  
 Yield: 16 matzo balls

### Passover Rolls

1 cup matzo meal  
 1 tsp salt  
 1 cup water  
 1/2 cup oil  
 4 eggs at room temperature  
 Combine matzo meal and salt. Bring oil and water to a boil. Remove from heat. Add matzo meal and mix well. Beat in 1 egg at a time. Refrigerate for a half hour. Form rolls on a cookie sheet. Bake at 425 for 5 minutes; lower heat to 350 add cook for an additional 35 minutes.  
 Yield: 15-20 rolls

Both recipes come from **the Binder family**. We made them for lunch and they were a hit. Thank You, Binders!

# EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

## Social Events Committee

**RECAP ...** Intrepid animal-lovers braved the nippy night air on Dec. 29 to visit **Wild Lights at the Saint Louis Zoo**. After fortifying themselves with hot chocolate, herbal tea and cookies provided by Souldard School families, they set out to discover what animals were still awake, to gather 'round a fire to hear the tale of how the elephant got its long nose, or to create luminarias in the (heated!) Lakeside Cafe.

- **Amy de la Hunt** (Martin K, Shay, Nursery)

**UPCOMING ...** School will be closed Jan. 30 and Feb. 27 for professional development -- which gives us a perfect opportunity for some off-campus fun. The Social Events committee has organized a group rate on **Friday, Jan. 30**, at **Steinberg Skating Rink** in Forest Park: skate rental and admission for only \$6. (Regular price is \$6.50 adults/\$5.50 kids under 12 plus \$2.50 for skate rental). Come to the cashier between 2 and 2:30 p.m. that day to receive the special rate (cash only) and skate as long as you want. Those who aren't skating pay no admission.

For **Friday, Feb. 27**, we're putting together a visit to the St. Louis **Science Center** exhibit "**A T. Rex Named Sue.**" Details on that will appear in next month's newsletter.

## MORE FAMILY FUN ...

**Saturday, January 17, 2:00–3:00 p.m.**

### MILDRED LANE KEMPER ART MUSEUM

#### Family Tour Hour at the Kemper Museum

Explore the video and sound installations of Johanna Billing: Taking Turns.

The third Saturday of each month is reserved for families and their children to learn about special exhibitions at the Museum. A take-home activity will be provided to participants! There is no cost, but registration is required by calling Beth Harris at 816-457-6134 or email at

[bharris@kemperart.org](mailto:bharris@kemperart.org).



*Martin & Ella check out the penguin exhibit during the Wild Lights visit to the Zoo. The frigid temperature in the penguin exhibit may have actually been WARMER than it was outside.*

**RECAP ...** Kids -- and a few wound-up parents -- jumped, climbed and feasted on pizza at the first annual **Winter Bouncing Party at Bounce U** in Jefferson County. Hosted on Dec. 22, the party offered 28 stir-crazy students a chance to exercise and meet up with friends during the winter break.

- **Diane Keaggy** (Liam, K, & Sorena, Quietude)

## Cabrini Trivia Night

**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**, Cabrini will be hosting a Trivia Night to benefit the **Sports Program**. The Souldard School relies on the Cabrini Sports Program for all of our baseball, soccer, volleyball & basketball-loving students.

**Parents Night Out** hours will be extended for parents who wish to participate.

Contact D.J. Wilson at (314) 550-6334 or 421-4220 ext. 236 for more info.

**if you can't make it, consider making a \$15 donation to keep the Sports Program strong!**

## First Tuesday Coffee

Join us **Tuesday, February 3rd at 8:30 AM** (after dropping off your child(ren)) for some good company & great treats. This month's Coffee is sponsored by the **Kindergarten parents**.



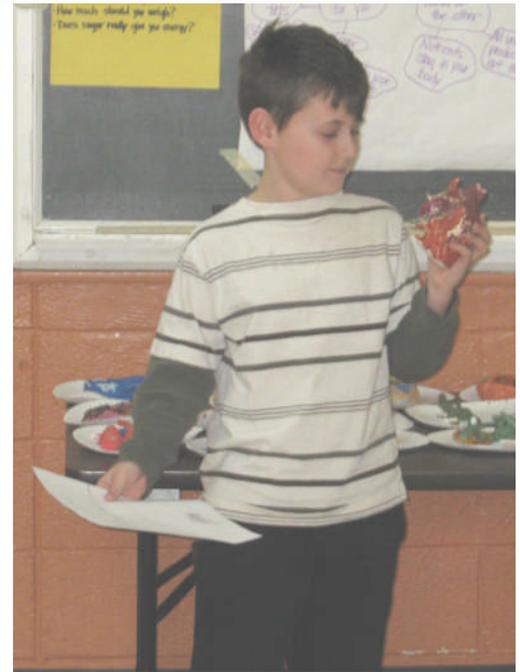
# UPDATES

## Mums Students Report ...

### Winter Concert

The **winter concert was very fun!** For some of us, it was our first time and it was **like an audition**. We sang "Fruit Cake", "Home for the Holidays", and "Silver Bells" with Tim. Some of us played "Kookaburra" and "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" on our violins. Tim and Nicole played "Silent Night" on the piano. **Our families came to watch** us because they wanted to see us play our violins. At the end **they were proud**.

- The Mums/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Students



Matthew presents his Niki inspired sculpture during Student Assembly.

## Kindergarten Report

The Subjunctive and Quietude classes merged for a session of buddy reading during literacy lab. The Pre-K eagerly followed along as the **Kindergarteners demonstrated directionality, one-to-one correspondence** and even **helped comprehension skills** by asking questions upon completion. The culminating product...some Quietuders were able to re-read a level A book! The class wrapped up their session with Tooty-Ta which sparked a lot of smiles and giggles.



Olivia & Lydia develop their reading skills during the Kindergarten & Pre-K "Buddy Reading" session in Literacy Lab.

## Studio Update

Since the beginning of the school year students have been involved in a project that revolved around the artist **Niki De Saint Phalle**. It began with an introduction to public art and a visit to the Missouri Botanical Gardens to interact with the Niki sculptures. **Every year, through studio, students have made a contribution to enhance our school.** Taking our knowledge back to the studio, students began to develop proposals for a **permanent interactive sculpture** for our yard.

Proposals complete, they began to build from clay a representation of their idea. In preparing to paint the final pieces each class **studied Oceanic, Aboriginal and Oaxacan painting styles** to add the final details.

Recently, at the January 9th Student Assembly, the Thrive and Mosaic **classes presented their finished Niki sculptures and final proposals to the rest of the school.** Each child spoke about origination of their idea and how they envision others interacting with it. Now the **selection process begins.** The rest of the school has the responsibility to choose carefully and thoughtfully. They will be placing their anonymous votes by the end of the month. The **sculpture with the most votes will be built**, with the help of **Sarah Bliss**, in our yard.

**SEE THE CALENDAR**

# WHO WE ARE

*continued from page 1*

## What is Respect?

that, “Education must be properly reformed with a proper understanding of abstractions that give new meaning to the very notion of facts, logic and abstract thought. It must treat concepts... as items of real knowledge, grasped rationally, based in perceptual reality, and developed inductively...” Inductive analysis is our primary process for curriculum development because it offers “practical power” to guide our students in their life-long learning. Education has always suffered from severe pendulum swings of educational philosophy. For instance progressive vs. classical and whole language vs. phonics have pitted one against the other. **As no two children are identical, there is not one singular approach for all at all times. Respect creates the opportunity for balance.**

★ In **Setting the Table**, Danny Meyer, innovative restaurateur (and St. Louis native), identifies “hospitality” as the foundation, and most critical factor, in his business philosophy. Arguably, hospitality is closely linked to respect. **When the word “respect” is substituted for “hospitality” as he defines it – it becomes the most concise definition for respect I have ever heard or read. “<Respect> exists when you believe the other person is on your side.** The converse is just as true. **<Respect> is present when something happens for you.** It is absent when something happens to you. Those two simple preposition – for and to – express it all.” Routines are a good example, For instance, our pre-k nap time, elementary rest and read time, and a consistent and reasonable bedtime at home are all done for children. In a recent New York Times article by Po Bronson, the significant and sizable consequences of this generation’s decreased time allotment for sleep are frightening. (Part 2 on “What is respect?” will examine these findings more thoroughly.) While we all share commonalities as humans, those actions that help us feel respected as adults are not necessarily the same actions that will make a child feel respected. As adults, we do not need (and probably wouldn’t tolerate) someone giving us a bedtime and holding us to it. **Children, despite protests, feel respected when someone cares enough to help them set the stage (with a good night’s sleep) for a successful and happy tomorrow.**

★ Early last year, Sasha (Thrive) was telling a new teacher about our school. “We don’t have ‘popular’ at our school,” she said. **Cliques and popularity** are primarily exclusionary and concerned with image to the detriment of others. They **exist in the absence of respect.** It is disheartening to hear flippant comments (from those outside our community) such as, “That’s just how it is in middle school.” “We all went through it, I survived.” **Respect does not exist in survival mode.**

The book, articles and other gifts I received came from various members in our community. As we continue the collaborative process of building, teaching and exploring this abstract concept of respect, we do it for each other.

- Kelly Bock, Head of School