



***NIVEAU POISSON* MEANS THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE AS QUIET AS...FISH!**

Coffee With Conrad on THURSDAY- THIS WEEK ONLY!

Due to a state-mandated fire drill this Wednesday morning, Coffee with Conrad will take place this week on *Thursday morning* (rather than the third Wednesday of the month) at 9a.m. in the Parents' Lounge. Please bring your own coffee mug -- Conrad will bring the Joe!

Parent French Classes

Parlez-vous le francais? Parent French classes are underway! Join Madame Louise on Thursdays, 5-6pm. Please bring a pen or pencil and paper.

Love & Logic Classes for Parents

Join Conrad Wednesday evenings at 5pm for *Love & Logic* learning. Please RSVP to conrad@sllis.org.

Keeping Grandparents In the Loop

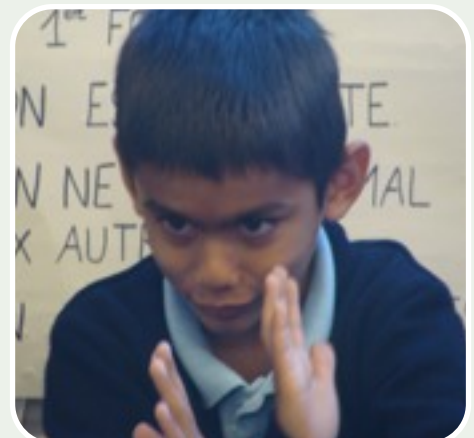
We know that grandparents want to know what's going on with your little ones! We are happy to include them on our mailing lists. Please submit their preferred contact method (mail or email) to Rachel, our Director of Development, at rachel.dsouza-siebert@sllis.org.

Beaujolais Nouveau Night

Parents, teachers and staff, join us December 2nd from 7 to 9pm in the SLLIS gymnasium for Beaujolais Nouveau Night! Wine and appetizers will be served, and live music will be played. Suggested donation is \$10, and all proceeds from the event will benefit TFS music program and library.

TFS Violinists to Perform at FPCC

This Wednesday, Nov. 16, a group of TFS violinists will play at the Forest Park Community College's International Festival. They'll take the main stage at Noon on Wednesday. We're so proud of all of our young musicians, and excited when they have opportunities to play in the community!



The Sound of Music: Thoughts on the social benefits of music in school



The French School serves children with a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. The majority of our lower-income students demonstrate a lack of social capital compared to their middle-class counterparts. Specifically, they lack the financial freedom and resources to participate in enrichment programs designed to supplement classroom learning. Our school's academic vision is to *increase the social capital* of our students who are limited by monetary and social factors, by granting them access to enrichment programs. Granting students access means funding their participation, but it also means granting them the entire experience – offering them the full package, materials and all.

Music is a source of enrichment that, like foreign language acquisition, benefits children across the socio-

economic spectrum. Longitudinal studies have found that musical involvement has positive personal, social, and motivational effects on the overall quality of a young person's life.

Peer relationships also benefit from musical instruction: a Columbia University study revealed that students in the arts are found to be more cooperative with teachers and peers, more self-confident and better able to express their ideas.

Researchers have found a reduction in aggressive and anti-social behavior as well as an increase in pro-social behavior (Bastian, 2000). Students who participate in school band or orchestra have the lowest levels of current and lifelong use of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs among any group in our society. Importantly, these positive behavioral effects steadily increase and persist over time.

The U.S. House of Representatives has gone on record stating, "The skills gained through sequential music instruction, including discipline and the ability to analyze, solve problems, communicate and work cooperatively, are vital for success in the 21st century."

We are excited for our students to become contributing citizens of the 21st century.

We want music in our school, filling the hallways, swirling in and out of classrooms, on students' lips and fingertips, shaping their schemas. A music program must be accessible to our entire student population, regardless of socio-economic level.

Already, since the program's inception last year, over twenty kindergarten through third grade students have benefitted from violin lessons. We begin each year with a performance by current students, which generates interest and galvanizes support for our young musicians amongst their peers. The students in the audience cheer for their friends onstage and sing along when a student plays a song they know. A sense of communal pride spreads across the student body.

We look forward to working with new partners and growing this program so that all of our students can create and experience the sound of music.

Have a great week,
Conrad & TFS Staff

IMPORTANT INFO

- Mondays are formal days at The French School.
- School begins at 8:40. The doors open at 8:15.
- Parents must make changes in the dismissal plans of their students prior to 2:00.
- Parking IS allowed on Papin St. during arrival and dismissal while the Commerce Bank lot is unavailable for SLLIS parking.
- AMIGOS Y AMIS last day is THIS Friday, November 18.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/14-15 TFS School Picture Days
- 11/16 Coffee With Conrad, 10am (time change)
- 11/16 Board Meeting, 6pm
- 11/17 Parent French Class, 5pm
- 11/18 Parents' Assembly Soirée
- 11/19 SLLIS Open House, 12pm-4pm