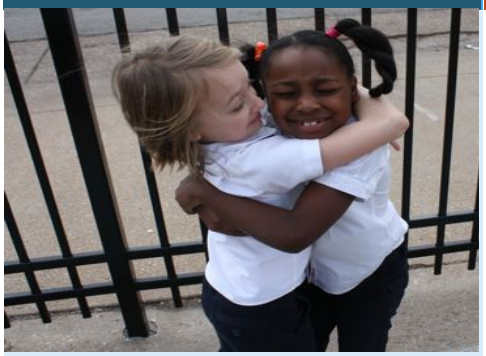
St. Louis Language Immersion Schools

Your Passport To Learning

19 August 2011

Issue 5



Inside

Any word on the new building? 2

Learn about our facilities expansion and next steps

What's the curriculum? 3

Learn more about our Programme of Inquiry and the units that our students will study this year.

Mil gracias et mille mercis! 4

Hosting our Amity Interns changes lives

Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!

This year is going to be phenomenal! During the first week of school we all bore witness to the caring community that we have worked to create since our inception. Students, families and staff returned to the building eager to greet dear friends and meet new faces. Our summer expansion construction created two new wings of classrooms and everyone is impressed with these additional learning spaces. Perhaps the most tangible sign of our growth is how TALL the third graders are!

We've redesigned our website to provide more timely information to the entire community about our school model and programs. Special thanks to parents Brian Koebbe, Jon Seitz and Amy De La Hunt for offering invaluable technical support and feedback during our redesign process. Check out http://sllis.org and let us know what you think.

We're delighted to announce that this year SLLIS is a Community Investment Sponsor of Festival of Nations. Festival of Nations is the largest international festival in the region and is organized by International Institute of St. Louis. Join us in Tower Grove Park, August 27th & 28th for an amazing celebration of international, multicultural and multilingual St. Louis!

Rhonda J. Broussard
Founder, President

Any word on the new building?

Thanks to construction financing from IFF and the dedication of the crew from Musick Construction, we added 11 new classrooms, 3 restrooms, 4 administrative offices and expanded cafeteria seating to our current building. This expansion makes it possible for us to continue operating The French Schoo and The Spanish School grades K-3 in the same location this year.

Our Facilities Team has made considerable progress towards negotiating our expansion location for the 2012-2013 school year. The two key values that surfaced during our 2010 master facilities planning series including creating a multi-school campus to preserve an international perspective/experience for all students and having a centrally located campus. Our team considers these two values in every property we view. We look forward to being able to announce the location upon the close of negotiations.

Recent gift from HBE Corporation for capital improvements
In 2009, HBE Corporation, founded by Fred Kummer, donated $300,00 to SLLIS to support construction costs for our facility. We are honored that HBE Corporation made a second year gift of $344,000 to support facilities expansion in 2010. This gift allowed us to payoff all of the initial financing for our renovation of our current space. We are thankful to Fred Kummer of HBE Corporation for his continued belief in our work for the children of St. Louis.

At the June Board meeting we held a small reception to honor the Kummers and HBE Corporation for their generosity. The company was presented with a commissioned painting of a group of fabulous founding students.

Board of Directors Meetings
The Board of Directors would like to thank all of the families who attended Board meetings last school year. Every monthly board meeting is open to the public and we welcome families to attend. The beginning of each meeting includes an opportunity for public comment. Last spring the board began receiving special monthly curricular updates from the Heads of School. Each month the Heads of School focus on one particular aspect of the curriculum by presenting an overview of the program, video clips of classes in action, sample student work and student performance data.

The Board of Directors has also had stronger communication with the Parents Assembly and looks forward to enhancing this relationship in the coming months.

Gracias et merci to SLLIS parents Brad Morrow (TFS) and Dianne Gray (TSS) for attending the summer meeting of the Development Committee. It is encouraging to know that SLLIS parents are committed to growth at both the school level and the organization level.

Board of Directors

Vincent C. Schoemehl, Jr.
Steven L. Harris
Heather Rucker
Jane Robert
Edward O'Neal
Aliah Baker Holman
Marti Cortez
Manny Silva
Kevin Lee
Van Clark
Steve Sanchez
Michelle Gleason

Board of Directors meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Meetings are open to the public. *Agendas and minutes are available on our website.*

2011 Board Report Topics

September 21: Title I, Special Education, English Language Learner

October 19: Programme of Inquiry

November 16: Fall assessment data

January 18: Dashboard

February 15: Math

March 21: English Literacy (L1)

April 18: Fr/Sp Literacy (L2)

May 16: Science

June 20: Internal academic growth data

July 18: Social Supports

Primary Years Programme: Programme of Inquiry

Teacher teams from both The French School and The Spanish School have worked diligently to design a Programme of Inquiry for students at each grade level. The Programme of Inquiry (POI) leads to the development of each Unit of Inquiry for each grade level. Teacher teams from both schools work together to design and revise the Programme of Inquiry and each Unit of Inquiry. Each year students study different aspects of the same six transdisciplinary themes. The Programme of Inquiry will hang in our building, be published on our website and be distributed in print to families. The full Programme of Inquiry includes the unit's central idea, key concepts, related concepts, lines of inquiry, and disciplinary focus. Please contact our PYP Coordinator Sara Schmittgens at sara2@sllis.org to learn more about how you can be involved with our Primary Years Programme implementation.

The chart below illustrates the central idea for each theme by grade level. See your classroom teacher for more information about your current unit.

	Who we are	**Where we are in place and time**	**How we express ourselves**	**How the world works**	**How we organize ourselves**	**Sharing the planet**
K	Daily choices affect the health of the human body	People adapt and survive in different regions of the world	Stories are told for a variety of purposes	Living things have needs that need to be met for survival	People have different responsibilities to the community in which they belong	Humans belong to and impact life on Earth
1	Conflict resolution skills impact relationships	Artifacts tell us about our personal history and help us develop an understanding of the past	People communicate through the arts	Natural cycles influence life on earth.	Structures within communities support the common good.	All living things within an ecosystem depend upon each other.
2	Living things need to adapt in order to thrive.	Throughout history people have moved to different places and brought about change	People experience the world through sounds	Evidence from the past informs us of earth's structure	Governmental systems and decisions can promote or deny equal opportunities and social justice.	Children worldwide face a variety of challenges and risks.
3		Migration is a response to challenges, risks and opportunities.		Energy and matter affect natural cycles.	Marketplaces depend on the ability to produce goods and supply services that can be exchanged.	Plants are a life-sustaining resource for us and for other living things.

Upcoming Events

Camping with the Interns:
August 26th & 27th
Cuivre River State Park

Festival of Nations:
August 26th & 27th,
Tower Grove Park

Immersion Panel:
TBD 5:30pm

IB Panel:
February 16th 5:30pm

Coffee with the Currents:
Future Families are invited to join us for a Q&A with current SLLIS families. Light refreshments provided.

- Saturday, October 22nd 9am-10am
- Monday, December 12th 9am-10am
- Wednesday, February 29th 6pm-7pm

You ROCK!!! ¡Mil Gracias! Mille Mercis!

Amity interns not only enhance the classroom experience by adding cultural zeal and more intimate language immersion opportunities for our students, but they also enrich our lives beyond the classroom. We would not be able to welcome such a fantastic group of interns here at SLLIS without the generosity of our host families. These families welcome our international students into their homes and give them an American family to call their own. Below is a list of families who have hosted interns from 2009-2011, and whom we sincerely thank for their hospitality:

2009-2010 hosts:
Tasha Benecke (Max)
Angie and Reuben Guzman (Diego)
Todd and Julie Hovermale (Scarlett and Georgia)
George and Jael Lippert (Zane and Greer)
Diana Mestres (Silvana)
Brad and Christina Morrow (Brynn, Cai, and Chase)

2010-11 hosts:
Madeline Buthod (Francis)
Maria Grazia Cappiello and Arun Varadachary (Malini and Anandi)
Carmen Baumgarner and Kevin Cameron (Iris)
Wayland and Sherah Cheng
Dahven and Allen Doctor (Moxie)
Joi and Bo Garthe (Sophia)
Angie and Reuben Guzman (Diego)
John and Lisa Heaney (Seamus and Maeve)
Stephanie and Al Hebron (Olivia)
Antony and Audrey John (Gavin)
George and Jael Lippert (Zane and Greer)
Peter and Sheila Manion (Ian)
Cori and Larry Nations (Dru and Brody)
Chris and Julie Reimer (Ella)
Pat and Marina Smallwood (Maya)
Kim and Josh Smith (Avery)
Scott and Florence Snyder (Nicolas and Alexandre)

We are also very appreciative of every family who has invited an intern to dinner, come on the camping trips, given the interns a ride or introduced them to other young people in St. Louis. Every warm welcome makes a huge difference in their year abroad.

If you would like more information about becoming a host family or participating in intern support activities, please contact our SLLIS Host Family Coordinators at sllispainterns@gmail.com.

To apply to become a host family, you can complete the Host Application Form at: http://www2.sllis.org/amity/host

New faces around SLLIS: Bienvenidos y Bienvenue!

This school year we are excited to expand our support services for current students and for SLLIS expansion. In addition to new instructional staff, please welcome new, shared SLLIS staff and returning staff in new, shared SLLIS roles:

- Jill Meyer, English Language Learner (ELL) Specialist
- Monica Bolaños, Registrar
- Danyell Humphries, Student Support Coordinator
- Sonia Emmons, Assistant Head of The French School
- Maribel Martinez, Assistant of The Spanish School
- Sara Schmittgens, Primary Years Programme and Assessment Coordinator

We are finalizing the Director of Development and Social Worker selection and look forward to introducing these new staff members soon!

2011-12 Parents' Assembly
Nominations for the new Parents' Assembly executive committee were held at the PA meeting on April 4th, 2011. Paper ballots were sent home to give all SLLIS parents an opportunity to vote. The 2011-2012 PA officers are as follows:

President: Brandon Moore, Sr.
Vice President: Peter Manion
Treasurer: Patrice Hadley
Secretary: Amy De La Hunt

New Task Force Contact Information
The Task Forces continue to be an excellent volunteer opportunity for parents to support SLLIS needs. Contact these Task Force Leaders with questions and ideas about how you can help our community.

Promotions: Pam Stewart sllispapromotions@gmail.com

Fundraising: Dale Greenbury sllispafundraising@gmail.com

Interns: Molly Koebbe, Brenda Butler, Jael Lippert
sllispainterns@gmail.com

Communications: Megan Hinrichsen sllispacommunications@gmail.com

Afterschool: Peter Manion sllispaafterschool@gmail.com

Teacher Appreciation: Lisa Berman
sllispateacherappreciation@gmail.com

Welcome 2011-2012 Amity Interns!

Each year we have the honor of hosting a group of international student interns through the Amity Institute. Their contributions to the SLLIS community are outstanding. We look forward to creating new memories with each of them.

The French School

Auriane BOLLE (France)
Adrien CHAUVIGNE (France)
Maïmouna DIAYE (Senegal)
Aurélie MOTHAY (France)
Melissa POUPART (France)
Joris ROYER (France)

The Spanish School

Anna Claravell (Spain)
David Costas (Spain)
Scarleth Diaz (Chile)
Xema Estevez (Spain)
Andrea Forero (Colombia)
Javier Moreno (Colombia)
Raúl Muñoz (Spain)
Ariadna Rovira (Spain)

Enrollment for 2012-13

Our Enrollment Season for the 2012-13 school year begins Tuesday, October 4th. This year parents will be able to enroll in The French School, The Spanish School, The Chinese School or The Japanese School. We are honored that parents consider our schools an option for their children's education. Throughout the season we facilitate numerous on and off-campus opportunities for families and community partners to learn more about how language immersion works, the benefits of our unique school model and how we are advancing towards our long-term goals.

Children of SLLIS employees and siblings of current students are given preference during the enrollment season.

All new families must attend an on-campus event to obtain an enrollment application. Future Family Tours are conducted on Tuesday mornings. Please contact Enrollment Coordinator Anne Carr at (314)533-2001 or anne@sllis.org to RSVP for a tour and find out how you can become a part of the SLLIS family!

Who is eligible to attend?

The Missouri Revised Statutes govern our student eligibility requirements. All families who live in the City of St. Louis are eligible to attend. Eligible families in Voluntary Desegregation Districts are also eligible. Currently those districts are:

Affton
Bayless
Brentwood
Clayton
Hancock Place
Kirkwood
Ladue
Lindbergh
Mehlville
Parkway
Pattonville
Ritenour
Rockwood
Valley Park
Webster Groves

Your Passport To Learning

SLLIS

4011 Papin Street
ST. LOUIS, MO 63110

(314)533.0975

http://sllis.org

Quarterly Quote

« What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal. »

-Albert Pike

St. Louis Language Immersion Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or physical or academic ability. Students have equal access to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded by the school.

St. Louis Language Immersion Schools is a public charter school, sponsored by University of Missouri-St. Louis and funded by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.