

The Passport

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Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



Greetings from the new PA president

Hello SLLIS families!

I hope all of you are having a great winter break and that your holidays have been enjoyable and relaxing! My name is Dale Greenbury, and at the December meeting I was elected president in a special election held to fill two vacant positions in the Executive Committee. Megan Hinrichsen was elected treasurer. (In November two EC officers, Brandon Moore Sr. and Patrice Hadley, resigned due to time constraints and a desire to spend more time with their families.)

You may recognize my name, as I have been very active as the Fundraising Task Force facilitator. My daughter Morgan is a TSS first-grader. I also have two other daughters: Katherine (Kat), who is 4, and Amelia, our newest addition, who will be 5 months old on New Year's Day! My wonderful wife, Laura, has been supportive and understanding with all of the time I've put into volunteering.

A strong school community is paramount in the health and success of any school. I first got involved in the PA in order to help foster opportunities for our families to come together as a SLLIS community. I have been excited to see the school-wide

participation in PA activities over the past year. Events like the End of Year Celebration, Soirée, Restaurant Nights and Breakfast Around the World present opportunities for us to come together as a larger community and not just TFS or TSS.

The role of the PA is evolving as the School Advisory Councils (SACs) begins assuming many of the tasks we had been performing. I would encourage you to participate in the process of incorporating former PA task force activities in the new SAC structure. Beginning in early January, SLLIS President and Founder Rhonda Broussard will be leading an eight-week series of meetings to start this process.

I believe that there is still a huge opportunity for the PA to operate as a community-building entity, and I hope that you as members of the PA will come and help us formulate plans for the future at the upcoming meeting this Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m.

I hope you and your family have a fun, safe and happy New Year's celebration. I look forward to seeing you in 2012!

Dale Greenbury, PA President

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The buzzbooks are really, truly coming!

We apologize for the unforeseen delays. Students will soon bring home one book per family.

To request an additional copy, send an e-mail with your child's name and grade to sllisPAcommunications@gmail.com.

Upcoming events

- Jan. 1, time TBD
Rams fundraiser concession sales
- Jan. 3, 6-7:30pm
PA monthly meeting
- Jan. 4, 4-5pm
PA-SAC transition meetings begin
- Jan. 5, time TBD
TFS New Year Reading Night
- Jan. 6, end of day
Applications due for after-school clubs and activities (to Sonia Emmons in TFS and Maribel Martinez in TSS)
- Jan. 10, 7pm
Second Tuesdays Microbreweries (tentative location is [4 Hands Brewing Co.](#), 1220 S. 8th St.)
- Jan. 11, 11am
Staff appreciation potluck lunch
- Jan. 17, 3:30pm
After-school clubs and activities begin
- Jan. 18, 9-10am
TFS Coffee with Conrad
- Jan. 19, 6pm
TSS SAC meeting
- Jan. 20, 7:30-8:15am
Buenos Días Familias Coffee with TSS staff
- Jan. 25, 6pm
Board of Directors meeting
- Jan. 26, 8:30am
Intern Task Force monthly meeting

From the administration: Matching gift challenge for annual giving

An anonymous donor has generously offered to **MATCH** parent donations up to \$1,000 before year's end.

If you haven't donated yet, there is still time to give a tax-deductible gift to SLLIS. Gifts towards this challenge will be accepted if they are postmarked by Dec. 31 or if [made online](#) before Jan. 1.

If you would like your donation to be used toward a specific program, initiative or school, make sure to

include your request when submitting your gift.

A big **THANK YOU** to volunteers, families, staff and supporters who have already given! In the first half of our fiscal year, the SLLIS community raised nearly \$35,000 in pledges and contributions.

Wishing you the best in 2012,
Rachel D'Souza-Siebert
Director of Development
rachel.dsouza-siebert@sllis.org

Volunteer opportunity from the enrollment desk

The final "Coffee with the Currents" before the registration deadline is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 6 to 7 p.m. All current parents are welcome to share their experiences with prospective families. To sign up or for more information, contact Enrollment Coordinator Anne Carr at anne@sllis.org.

Watch for summer camp information coming in February!

PYP and YOU

By now, you have likely heard the words "PYP" and "curriculum" being discussed around our school. These are two huge concepts that take time to understand, and it is as important for parents to understand them as it is for the teachers.

Our PYP curriculum makes SLLIS even more unique and valuable for our children's education. However, the Primary Years Programme (PYP) is successful only if everyone in the school is on board and ready to take action.

A PYP parents' committee is being created and is looking for a few crucial members – parents! Two parent representatives from each school are needed, and the committee will be headed by Sara Schmittgens, PYP coordinator.

This is not a fundraising committee, nor does it require a big commitment for meeting time (about once per month for one hour), so please contact me if you, or parents you know, are interested or have any questions.

Thanks, merci and gracias!
Sara Schmittgens
PYP Coordinator
sara2@sllis.org

Update on the PA's finances so far this year

Over the summer, the PA's Executive Committee set a goal of donating \$25,000 to the school through the Campaign for Kids called for in the PA bylaws. This was on top of the funds that would be needed to fund the six task forces. The catch was that we didn't know how much that would cost.

Halfway through the school year, we have a better idea. The task forces' allocations through January are \$15,260.

Now that the task forces are being transitioned into the School Advisory Committees, there will be changes in where their money comes from, but the Executive Committee remains committed to its goal of donating to SLLIS. For example, the PA recently

donated \$440 to fund a new dual-pot coffeemaker for the teachers' lounge, along with a supply of coffee and tea. This request was made back in August by the teachers during an orientation session with PA representatives.

To support the group of parents who are improving the green space and playground, the PA is planning to donate \$1,768.82 toward supplies.

At its December meeting, the PA's Executive Committee voted to donate the money raised at Rams and Cardinals games, \$2,415 so far, to the school. (Due to the way these fundraisers work, the checks were written directly to SLLIS, and we have chosen not to ask for those funds to be

reimbursed to us.) Instead, we have requested that \$1,200 be used to pay the interns coaching indoor soccer, and the rest (\$1,215) be split between TFS and TSS to purchase classroom supplies for upcoming PYP units of inquiry.

At the upcoming PA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, you can provide input on how future donations can best support SLLIS. Your input is vital!

INCOME (AFTER EXPENSES) FOR FALL 2011 FUNDRAISERS:

Clear Card: \$6945
Soiree: \$6266
Skate party: \$245
Restaurant nights: \$699
SportService concessions: \$2415
Uniform resales: \$56
Box Tops for Education: \$969
School pictures: TBD

What happens next: An evolution in the PA's role

Starting Jan. 4, the Parents Assembly and the SLLIS administration will be sorting out how the former PA task forces will be operated by the School Advisory Councils. These meetings will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. over a series of eight weeks.

It's clear right now what the PA is NOT going to do – it will NOT operate after-school programs, for example.

It's also clear that the PA will NOT be dissolved in the immediate future.

The PA is registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the state of Missouri. This means that its members (all parents at SLLIS) and the Executive Committee (president, vice president, treasurer and secretary) would have to

vote in favor of dissolution. In the meantime, the PA needs to continue to have officers, pay taxes, balance the books and continue to operate in compliance with state law.

At the meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 3, we'll start a conversation about the future. Questions include:

- Why do we exist? (In business talk, this is a mission statement. Currently we don't have one.)
- Where do we want to be? (AKA a vision statement. We don't have one of these either.)
- What are our goals for the PA?
- What resources do we have for achieving them?
- How do we envision the PA evolving?

If you can't make the meeting but would like to share your thoughts, please send an e-mail to parentsassembly@sllis.org. (The meeting will be filmed and the link will be posted on the blog.)

From TFS and TSS: Sign up for the GO! St. Louis Read, Right & Run Marathon

The last day to sign your child up to take part in the [Read, Right & Run Marathon](#) is Friday, Jan. 6.

This is SLLIS' first year participating in this program, an initiative of the GO! St. Louis marathon. Students who sign up are given a journal to record their progress toward the challenge goals of:

1. Reading 26 books
2. Doing 26 good deeds
3. Running 26.2 miles

This might sound like a lot, but when the goals are broken down, they are possible!

As adult runners are preparing for the full Go! St. Louis

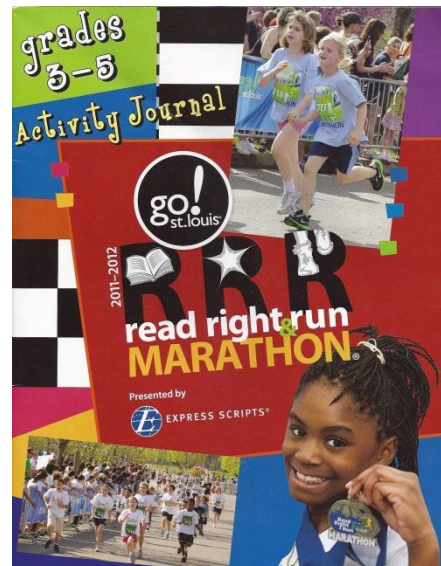
marathon, the students in the Read, Right & Run challenge will be doing their own 1.2-mile run on April 14 as the program's grand finale.

You can register your child by picking up a form at the front desk or by going online and paying the \$15 fee.

The program is being coordinated at SLLIS by:

- TFS PE and Health Specialist François Crespin, francois@sllis.org
- TSS Healthy Choices Specialist Veronica Cruz, veronica@sllis.org

Please contact your school's representative if you have any



questions or to take advantage of free registration (made possible through fundraising skate parties held in the fall).

Who was at Breakfast Around the World?



Call him San Nicolás, Kris Kringle, Papa Noël or Santa Claus ... just don't call him Dale Greenbury, please! TSS student Owen Abikar was among the many happy kids who filled up on crepes, donuts and other delicacies and whispered wishes in Santa's ear on Dec. 17, courtesy of the PA's Promotions Task Force.

Bring a dish to share with the staff

The Staff Appreciation Lunches started by the Parents Assembly last fall continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month. These lunches are greatly appreciated by everyone who works with our students throughout the day: teachers, interns, staff members, support personnel and administrators.

The assignments for lunch on Jan. 11 are:

- Appetizers – Kindergarten
- Main courses – First grade
- Side dishes – Second grade
- Desserts – Third grade

Sign up with Lisa Berman, lisaberman@rocketmail.com or 314-398-6839 to be added to the month's list of volunteers to bring food.

Helpers are also needed to set up, serve and clean up after lunch. Contact Lisa for details.



2nd Tuesday Microbreweries

Join your fellow TFS and TSS parents for our third evening of good beer and even better conversation!

The next brewery visit in our monthly series is (tentatively) scheduled to be at [4 Hands Brewing Co.](#), 1220 S. 8th St. (just south of Busch Stadium).

Meet at the brewery at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10, for a short tour, followed by time to sample the beers.

There's no charge for the tour. All parents pay for their own beverages. Participants must be over age 21.

To find out more or to confirm the location, please contact Brad Morrow at brmorrow@hotmail.com.

The location will also be posted on the blog at sllis.wordpress.com.

Family Spotlight *(continued from p. 6)*

Goffe family

golf and bikes and Zoe plays guitar, fences and snowboards.

Zoe transferred from Kennard to SLLIS in 2009. "We decided to send her to SLLIS because Michael and I understand the importance of immersion in mastering a foreign language," said Tracie. "We both had French in high school and college, yet neither of us is fluent."

"We look for creative ways to make learning fun for Zoe in order to make the time she spends in class more fruitful," Tracie explained. "We believe it is important to partner with the classroom teacher and reinforce at home the lessons that are being taught in class."

As a parent representative on the SAC, Tracie has shared her passion for learning and her desire to make

sure that the kids at SLLIS receive a world class education.

As a member of the SAC, she has learned how complex it can be to merge the values and belief of many families and develop one cohesive school culture.



Morrow family

Q: What are your reasons for choosing SLLIS?

A: We have fallen in love with the Central West End and were reluctant to move when it came time to decide on schools. We found TFS very late in the search, and now have all three children together in the same school.

Q: Do you have ties to the French language?

A: No ... but Conrad is influencing us.

Q: What is your role on the SAC, what skills have you brought to

it, and what have you learned?

A: As a parent representative, I (Brad) have tried to bring my organizational and planning experience to the committee. I have learned it is much the same as any other board/committee – communication is of the utmost importance.

Q: What else would you like us to know about your family?

A: I don't know – I think we are a lot of fun and are always looking for an opportunity to make new friends. Join us at 2nd Tuesday Microbreweries!

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

General e-mail:
parentsassembly@sllis.org

Officers:

President Dale Greenbury
 Vice President Peter Manion
 Treasurer Megan Hinrichsen
 Secretary Amy De La Hunt

PA schedule for 2012:

All meetings are on
 Tuesdays at 6pm.

Jan. 3	Feb. 7
Mar. 6	Apr. 10
May 1	June 5

The PA Executive Committee makes every effort to end meetings by 7:30pm.

On the agenda for the January meeting:

- Financial report
- Goals for the PA
- Upcoming fundraisers

Children are welcome!

They will be provided with snacks and supervised by SLLIS interns in classrooms from 6-7:30pm.

Families are asked to make a small donation to cover the cost.

Family Spotlight

This month we asked two families to contribute to our newsletter: TSS parent Tracie Goffe and TFS parent Brad Morrow. Both were elected to their School Advisory Councils last year, and they continue to be active on the SACs as well as other initiatives.

Morrow family

Q: Who's in your family?

A: We (Brad and Christina) have three kids, Brynn (second grade), Cai (first grade) and Chase (kindergarten).

Q: What do you enjoy doing together?

A: The kids seem to enjoy fighting. Otherwise we like to cook, play games, ice skate, dance, play sports and watch movies.

Q: Have you always lived in St. Louis? If not, where else?

A: Brad and Christina met in Springfield, Ill., but have lived in St. Louis for over 10 years now!

Q: What line of work are the adults in your family in?

A: Brad works in the institutional investing field advising pension funds, endowments and foundations. Christina works in



Operations Planning at Peabody Energy.

Q: What are some of your outside interests?

A: We root for the Cardinals and like to cook. We are continually trying to find activities for the entire family.

Q: What grade and which teacher's class is your child in?

A: Brynn is in Mdm. Jennifer's 2nd grade, Cai is in Mdm. Meghan's 1st grade, and Chase is in Msm. Sally's Kindergarten.

(continued on page 5)



Goffe family

Zoe Goffe is in Professora Laura Clithero's third grade class in TSS. Zoe and Tracie were both born in St. Louis. Michael was born in London, England. He moved to St. Louis when he was 13 years old.

Tracie works at a money management firm where she is the Client Consultant Liaison, and Michael is a Project Manager for an international reinsurance company in the software division.

As a family they like to read, travel, watch Animal Planet, and play games. Tracie also likes photography and skiing, Michael plays tennis,
(continued on page 5)