

# The Passport

November 2010  
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Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools  
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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## SLLIS Book Fair at Borders

Mark your calendars!  
Please plan to join us for the first ever SLLIS Book Fair, Saturday December 4 at Borders on Brentwood Avenue.

Stock up on great gifts for the holidays! You will receive a SLLIS book fair "coupon" slip in your child's backpack next week to give to the cashier when making your purchase - Borders will donate 15% of all SLLIS Book Fair purchases to our school! So if you are planning to purchase books, calendars, CDs, DVDs, etc. for holiday giving, please buy them at Borders on Brentwood Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup>!

Another great feature of this special event is that our community (parents, neighbors, friends, family, etc.) have an opportunity to purchase a book or two as a donation to our school - these books have been selected by your child's teachers, and stocked by Borders for

this event. You will find them on the SLLIS table at the top of the stairs.

Our heads of school will also be hosting special STORY TIME upstairs in the Children's section during the event!

1:00 - 2:00pm (Welcome!)  
2:00 - 3:00pm (Spanish events)  
3:00 - 4:00pm (English events)  
4:00 - 5:00pm (French events)

So mark those calendars, plug the date into your computer and cell phone, and join us for some fun. We look forward to seeing you there!

If you can't make the event, but still want to contribute, Borders Gift cards can be ordered through the school by December 3, and we still get 15%!! Please fill out the form attached to the end of this Passport.

## SLLIS at 2011 A.E.R.A. Meeting

Two research papers featuring St. Louis Language Immersion Schools have been selected for presentation by the American Education Research Association (AERA). The theme of the 2011 Annual Meeting is *"Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good."*

Lisa M. Dorner, Assistant Professor at UMSL, has directed both research efforts with her graduate assistant Angela Layton. Lisa's primary research with SLLIS has been focused on parent engagement and our shared leadership model for school development. She will present her work under the Special

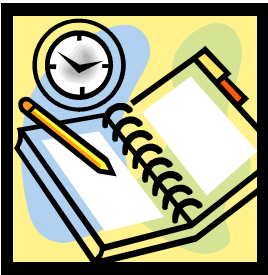
Interest Group (SIG) strand Grassroots Community & Youth Organizing for Education Reform. Angela's primary research has been on language acquisition in The Spanish School's 1st grade classes. She will present her work under Social Context of Education / Section 3: Social Context of Multiple Languages and Literacies. ¡Felicidades!

The 2011 Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA, Friday April 8th-Tuesday, April 12th.

We are fortunate to have such a strong research partner in Lisa Dorner and look forward to sharing her work with the rest of the SLLIS community.

"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about."

~Angela Schwindt,  
(Oregon Mother of 3)



## Upcoming Events

- **November 24, 25, 26**  
NO SCHOOL
- **November 29**  
School Resumes
- **November 30**  
Gateway to Peace Museum at SLLIS
- **November 30**  
6-8pm  
Forming our Future Session 3
- **December 1**  
6-8pm  
Board Meeting
- **December 4**  
BOOK FAIR
- **December 4**  
9:30am  
Green Space Work Day
- **December 6**  
6pm  
PA Meeting
- **December 8**  
6pm TFS  
Fete d'Hiver
- **December 17**  
TSS Posada
- **December 23**  
Winter Break Begins  
Club SLLIS on December 23

## Fundraising Task Force News

### ART to REMEMBER

This program has officially ended and our results are fantastic. Total Sales were \$3,849 - equally split between the schools. Our 33% profit is estimated at \$1,639, which is \$820 per school for Art, Music or P.E needs! Special thanks goes to Art Teachers Mme. Sarah and Prof. Gabriela for their class time and creativity.

Each Head of School has been asked to submit a specific usage request on how they plan to spend their portion. They have until the end of the semester to return this request to the PA for release of funds. That means that hopefully soon our students will see real results from their creativity and feel responsible for their hard work.

Please be advised, we still have 45 unreturned packets/magnets. SLLIS has been asked to return any unsold preview magnets and we will retain all profits, so please continue to send these in!

Please contact Sally Matiszik [smatiszik@yahoo.com](mailto:smatiszik@yahoo.com) with any questions about Fundraising or to join this task force!

### FREE MONEY for OUR SCHOOL

Here's a new easy way to raise money for your favorite cause - St. Louis Language Immersion Schools!

Just start using Yahoo! powered [WWW.GOODSEARCH.COM](http://WWW.GOODSEARCH.COM) as your search engine and they'll donate about a penny to SLLIS every time you do a search!

In addition, do all of your shopping through their online shopping mall, [WWW.GOODSHOP.COM](http://WWW.GOODSHOP.COM), where you can shop at more than 900 top online retailers and a percentage of your purchases will go to the school of your choice. You pay the same price as you normally would, but a donation goes to your cause!

Here's the web site — <http://www.goodsearch.com>. You can also read about GoodSearch in the NY Times, Oprah Magazine, CNN, ABC News and the Wall Street Journal.

## Wondering what to do with your child when school is NOT in session???

### CLUB SLLIS is the ANSWER!!

Club SLLIS child care program, started by our Parent Support Task Force, is available to all SLLIS families when school is not in session. With thematic activities and local presenters like the Zoo and Piwacket Children's Theatre, it's educational and fun! Staffmembers include certified teachers, camp counselors from Camp KangaZoo, and other highly qualified staff.

Fees range from \$25 (9:00-4:00) to \$40 (with before and aftercare).

For more information, contact Lisa Berman at [clubllis@sllis.org](mailto:clubllis@sllis.org) or 398-6839.

See you at the **BORDERS BOOK FAIR December 4<sup>th</sup>!!**

## Green Space Task Force Updates

It's been a busy fall with fence building, raking, pond maintenance and more. Our monthly meeting time has been changed to the third Wednesday at 6:30. If you can't make a meeting, there are still many ways you can help. The Green Space Task Force has set aside **Saturday, December 4 at 9:30** to work on finishing the greenhouse and "winterizing" the playground. We will also be working on the list below and any other necessary tasks. Also, we would love donations of bags of topsoil which can be left by the greenhouse.

The list below are projects that can be done at almost any time. Some are ongoing and some are one-time jobs. All help is welcome. If you want to go during the school day, the best times are 9-10 or 2-4.

### Ongoing:

- Raking woodchips off of the grass.

NOTE: we have removed the woodchips from the dirt path by the climbing wall, so don't put them there. All wood chips should be raked into the woodchip area near the stage. Rake is in the shed.

- Sweeping woodchips off the pavement.
- Pick up trash.
- Bring materials for the nature art tables (colored stones, acorns, anything small and pretty that will fit in the pockets).

- Bring stumps and tree cookies (round disks sliced from a log) for the messy materials building area.
- Donate birdseed and fill feeder

### One time jobs:

- Throw out remaining pallet in dumpster.
- Repair any broken tables and storage units.
- Take down black tubes, remove wood chips and then re-hang. More balls will arrive soon. If you need more wire, it's in the basement, but there aren't scissors to cut it, I think, so you'll have to bring some or borrow some.
- If you have top soil to donate...Use landscape liner which is in the shed or in the basement to line raised bed next to the greenhouse and then fill with dirt.
- Take broken pavers from behind pond to the dumpster. Put painted rocks from same pile over the fence.
- Dig out a foot of dirt from the round planters near the road so we can fill with good dirt and then put in plantings.
- Use bamboo fencing (in shed) and zip ties (in shed) and cover the fence on either side of the ball wall so that when kids play ball, the balls can't go through the fence and down the sewer.

Please contact [lisaberman@rocketmail.com](mailto:lisaberman@rocketmail.com) with any questions or to join this task force.

## Spanish School Friday Assembly

Parents, Families and Friends are invited to attend the weekly Spanish School Assembly on Fridays at 9am. At each assembly a different class is in charge of the presentation.

Dec 3: KD- Prof Sara,  
Dec 10: KB Prof Scheilla

**Hope to see you there!!!**

"I used to speak French but now the only time I use it is when I'm talking about that suburb in West County."

Does this statement pretty much describe the current state of your French? Are you interested in reviving your lost French? Let's start a French conversation group! If interested, please contact Dahven Doctor at [dahven@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dahven@sbcglobal.net). This group would meet regularly to chat in French over baguette or beaujolais. Some previous knowledge of French would be required but fluency not necessary. Extra credit if you can tell us what Creve Coeur means. Please specify in your email if you would prefer to meet in the daytime or in the evening.

## Lost And Found

The Lost and Found has found a new home inside the closet in the front lobby of the school. Signs in the lobby will direct you to its new location.

Please take a moment to go through the closet and look for your child's lost items. There is an itemized list on the blog so you can "search" for your possessions in advance.

Many thanks to Leah Dyer for all her work on this overwhelming task!

## Family Spotlight - The Grays

### Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

E-mail:

[parentsassembly@sllis.org](mailto:parentsassembly@sllis.org)

#### PA Meeting Schedule:

Monday Dec. 6  
Tuesday Jan. 11  
Monday Feb. 7  
Tuesday March 8  
Monday April 4  
Tuesday May 3  
Monday June 6

Meetings start at 6pm

Please remember that if you need to bring your child/children, then you will be asked to take a turn with other parents, on a rotating basis, in the childcare room during the meeting.

From the moment that Tim and Dianne Gray first learned of the plans for a new language immersion charter school they were filled with optimism that this would be the right place for their daughter Amelia.

They attended meet and greet sessions with Rhonda, PA meetings, visited the SLLIS table at many events, and even tried to enroll Amelia in Kindergarten a year early.... They were afraid it might go to a lottery in year two they didn't want to take that chance! Thankfully everything worked out and Amelia is happy and thriving in Profesora Maribel's kindergarten class in TSS this year.

Dianne was raised in St. Louis, but spent most of her adult life in Chicago and in London England, where she met and married Tim. Tim was raised in Belfast (Northern Ireland) with a few years in Washington DC. Together they have two children, Abigail (11) and Amelia (5  $\frac{3}{4}$ ). And a mutt named Rex. They moved to St. Louis in late 2003. The Gray family embraces international cultures, and all are dual citizens of the USA and Britain/Europe. Tim has travelled extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Middle East and Africa, and Dianne has done so in the US, Europe and Latin America. Tim speaks a bit of French, and Dianne is fairly fluent in Spanish (in part due to a semester spent studying in Mexico while in college). The Gray's were a host family for a German exchange student for the

2009 - 2010 school year, which was a great experience.

Amelia's big sister Abigail (Abi) was at New City School pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and this year has transferred to another brand new charter school, Grand Center Arts Academy.

(The following Q&A from Dianne...)

**Q:** Why did you think that SLLIS would be a good fit for Amelia?

**A:** Amelia was a bit late to start speaking... but when she did, it was just crazy! She went from no words to full sentences almost overnight. Having spent so many years involved with New City School (with its focus on multiple intelligences) we noticed the strength of her linguistic intelligence from a young age. We also believe that if you learn a second (or third) language at a young age, you will be better able to interpret language (including your first), and will be more interested in global issues. These are good things! We also know that a move back to Britain is possible for us at some point, and the IB curriculum would help Amelia to make that transition if/when.

**Q:** Did Amelia have exposure to Spanish prior to starting at SLLIS?

**A:** Only a little. I (Dianne) volunteer for an organization called Healing the Children, which brings kids to St. Louis for medical treatment from around the world that can't get the necessary care in their home countries. This includes a lot of kids from Latin America; both Abi and Amelia met and played with many of them. We also hosted a little boy and his mom from Guatemala about a year ago who were here for medical treatment - Amelia was fascinated by my ability (and sometimes lack thereof) to speak with them in Spanish.

**Q:** How is she doing with Spanish now?

**A:** Funny story... Tim and Amelia were in the car one afternoon with NPR on the radio. They were covering a Spanish speaking singer whose lyrics were, in their words, erotic. They played a bit of one of her songs - obviously neither Tim nor NPR thought that they would need to censor Spanish language music. Then Amelia said "Daddy, that means 'I want your body'!" Maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all ☺!



Amelia, first day of Kindergarten. The Gray Family (Tim, Abigail, Amelia & Dianne)