

The Passport

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Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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Immersion
Schools" and look
for the compass.**

Welcome letter from the PA President

Summer is winding down, and as vacations end I am very excited about our upcoming school year at SLLIS. The Parents Assembly leadership team has been working overtime to make sure that this year is our best one yet. We have assessed your concerns and implemented a system to effectively communicate our goals, upcoming events and overall progress.

The Parents Assembly's main purpose is to support our school and facilitate a positive learning environment for your child. As parents, your involvement is essential to the success of our school. I ask that you take a moment to

identify the level of commitment we can expect of you. This not only benefits the Parents Assembly and our school but, first and foremost, your child.

We are now approaching our third year of operation. Our story is still being written and our legacy continues to grow – which, in essence, means that we are all members of the SLLIS "Founding Family."

On behalf of the PA Executive Committee and task force leaders, "Welcome!"

Brandon D. Moore Sr.

Puppets? Chess? Dance? Circus? Science?

If you're wondering about the lineup of after-school clubs and teams SLLIS will offer this fall, your wait is nearly over. The PA's newest task force, After-School Activities, has its first round of offerings in place.

A flyer listing costs, schedules and registration contacts will be available at the Magic House event Sunday, Aug. 4; intake conferences next Thursday, Aug. 11; and the front desk. Many of the clubs have limited openings, so register early!

These clubs are currently available: chess, circus, capoeira, Girl Scouts, Mad Science, salsa, ballet, puppets and speed stacking. Watch the blog and the weekly info packets for more clubs coming soon!

Sign-up deadlines are listed in the flyer. Please note that due to the league deadline, fall soccer registration is already closed.

Special thanks to Prairie Farms for graciously giving permission for the soccer teams to use two lots down the street from SLLIS – and for mowing and maintaining them for us. We appreciate their support of the community and the school.

If you would like to start an after-school club, please [download the application form from the parent blog](#). It can be returned to Peter Manion and Patti Chambers at sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com or printed out and turned in at the PA mailbox in the SLLIS front office.

Upcoming events

- **Aug. 7, 6-10pm**
Back-to-school party at The Magic House
- **Aug. 10, 5-7pm**
Final Kindergarten Transition Playdate
- **Aug. 11**
Intake conferences
- **Aug. 15, 8:40am**
First day for kindergarteners
- **Aug. 16, 8:40am**
First day for upper grades
- **Aug. 17, 8:40am**
First day together!
- **Aug. 17, 6pm**
SLLIS Board of Directors meeting
- **Aug. 26-28**
Fall camping trip with the interns at Cuivre River
- **Sept. 6, 6pm**
Parents Assembly meeting
- **In September**
French classes for parents begin
- **Sept. 9, time TBD**
Parents vs. teachers kickball game
- **Sept. 28, time TBD**
TFS School Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting
- **Sept. 29, time TBD**
TSS SAC meeting
- **Oct. 1, time TBD**
Spanish classes for parents begin

How the Parents Assembly works

All SLLIS parents are automatically Parents Assembly members. The PA is organized around a four-member Executive Committee plus six task forces. Chances are that you've already benefitted from at least one of them!

To meet the task force facilitators, see the Family Spotlight on page 4.

Fundraising Task Force

sllispafundraising@gmail.com

The PA has one source of income: this task force, led by Dale Greenbury. It organizes community-building events like restaurant dinners; sales drives like TJ's Pizza; ongoing campaigns like Box Tops for Education; and one-time events like trivia nights.

After-School Activities Task Force

sllispaafterschool@gmail.com

Interim facilitator Peter Manion and Patti Chambers, a new parent who jumped in with both feet, are working hard to organize a diverse range of affordable, enriching clubs and activities.

Communications Task Force

sllispacommunications@gmail.com

Megan Hinrichsen and company have tackled a most daunting challenge: the flow of information. From the homepage to carpool lists to the papers going home in backpacks each week, this group works hard to make sure you stay informed.

Teacher Appreciation Task Force

sllispateacherappreciation@gmail.com

Lisa Berman makes sure our teachers, interns, administrators, and all the other staff members know how wonderful we think they are. Her task force is working on thank-yous already, before the year even starts!

Volunteer opportunities

You can make a difference in large and small ways:

1. Work the booth at the Festival of Nations Aug. 27-28.

Parents will help the enrollment staff set up Friday night, hand out balloons and brochures during the festival, and take down the booth Sunday. Sign up by e-mailing sllispapromotions@gmail.com.

2. Have a spare bedroom? Host an intern! The French School is seeking two additional host families this fall.

3. Join a task force. Each one offers year-long or one-time projects to fit your schedule.

Promotions Task Force

sllispapromotions@gmail.com

Pam Stewart and crew organize events like the end-of-year barbecue, kindergarten transition playdates, movie nights, and culture exchange programs among TFS and TSS families. They also handle volunteer recruitment (including the Festival of Nations) and build school pride by selling spiritwear.

Intern Task Force

sllispainterns@gmail.com

The interns who foster the multilingual culture (and keep the student-teacher ratio low) wouldn't be here without this crew: co-facilitator Lisa Dorner; Molly Koebbe and Carol Dyer (intern care); Melissa Von Rohr (intern and family events); Brenda Butler (TSS host family coordinator); and Ja'el Lippert (TFS host family coordinator).

Feedback from the PA parent survey

We asked for your opinion, and you gave us an earful! The 53 parents who responded to our end-of-year survey told us that:

- Two-thirds had attended a PA meeting. But they would like more financial transparency and more productive outcomes from the meetings. We're on it!
- The task force with the most participation was Fundraising, with 70 percent of respondents having taken part. This is great news! But other task forces had a lower participation rate, and we hope to change that this year.

- More than 70 percent of those who participated in a PA task force had a good or excellent experience. To get that number higher, we plan to better publicize events and meetings in advance and to make sure there's a plan of action so volunteers' time is well spent.

- One of the main reasons people didn't participate was a lack of time. We'll be adding more ways to contribute this year, including a clear method of making tax-deductible financial contributions to a specific project. Stay tuned!

Are you getting our e-mails?

Because 90 percent of survey respondents get PA news via e-mail, we will rely primarily on electronic communications for families who have provided an e-mail address — along with the weekly school info packets in backpacks.

If you provided an e-mail but don't receive our monthly newsletter, please check your spam folder. This is especially important for after-school activities. **Organizers will e-mail club updates unless you request a phone call.**

Get to know the interns on a camping trip to the Cuivre River

All TFS and TSS families are invited to meet the new interns during a camping trip to [Cuivre River State Park](#), in Troy, Mo., from Aug. 26-28. You can join for one or both nights. Cost is \$2 per person. Space is limited to 125 people.

The special-use area is rustic (with pit toilets) but the bathhouse is within walking distance.

Campers will supply their own tent, bedding, water (available at the main campsite) and food. The group will eat breakfast and supper together and provide these meals for the interns.

Please RSVP by Aug. 19 by contacting Lisa Berman at 314-398-6839 or lisaberman@rocketmail.com. Check the blog for more details!

Wish list for the interns

If you can donate any of these items, please use the box provided in the Parents' Lounge (on the school's lower level, accessible via the stairs next to the front desk) or contact the Intern Task Force at sllispainterns@gmail.com to hand them over in person.

- Bikes, bike helmets, U-locks, MetroLink passes, or other items the interns can use to get around the city.
- Tickets or passes to movies, sporting events, museums, gardens or other recreational places.
- Winter coats, boots or other clothing to survive St. Louis winters.
- Funds to support an intern-related social event or help out host families with their grocery bills. This contribution is tax-deductible.
- Cell phones – interns can buy a new plan and use them to call home.

They are also in need of parents who are professors or have a connection to an area university or college – you may have ideas for an appropriate class that interns might be able to take or audit.

Family Spotlight: Task force leaders

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

General e-mail:
parentsassembly@sllis.org

NEW financial e-mail:
sllispatreasurer@gmail.com

PA schedule for 2011-12
 (all meetings are on
 Tuesdays at 6pm):

Sept. 6
 Oct. 4
 Nov. 1
 Dec. 6
 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 next meeting:

- Fundraising goals for the new year
- Voting for a new PA logo
- Financial allocations to task forces, TFS and TSS
- Organizational chart recap (PA, SACs)
- Task force updates

Come at 5:30pm to enjoy a free hot dog supper, and spend a few minutes catching up with other SLLIS parents before the meeting begins.

Children are welcome. They will be supervised in an adjacent classroom or on the playground during the meeting. Parents may be asked to take turns helping out.



Lisa Dorner, co-facilitator of the Intern Task Force, is an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis who loves to read, travel, hike, camp, and garden – in her very little spare time. Her son, Locke, is an incoming second-grader at TSS this fall.



“Mi nombre es **Pamela Stewart**,” says the Promotions Task Force facilitator and mom of Overton Stewart IV, a TSS 3rd grader. In Pam’s 20 years in education, she’s served as teacher, facilitator, specialist, coordinator and administrator in the public school system. She’s currently a middle school guidance counselor. Her favorite experience was teaching Spanish math in a dual-immersion program.



Besides thanking teachers and staff, **Lisa Berman** runs Club SLLIS, does pond maintenance, leads Speed Stacking Club, organizes intern camping trips and handles whatever else comes up at school. Her husband, Alex, is very patient with all her volunteering instead of doing chores at home. Her daughter, Holly, is a TFS second-grader. Her son, Darius, 3, is too young for SLLIS, but he likes to wear Holly’s ties.



As the parent of a TSS first-grader, Alecia, and another daughter in preschool, **Megan Hinrichsen** understands the need for clear, convenient and dependable sources of information. As facilitator of the Communications Task Force, she welcomes your thoughts as she works towards improving the flow of information within the SLLIS family.



Dale Greenbury and his wife, Laura, have three daughters: TSS first-grader Morgan, pending Chinese School student Katherine, and Amelia, born Aug. 1. For the past five years Dale was president of his own pet industry company. Earlier this year he and Laura decided that he would close the business to focus on their growing family. He heads up the Fundraising Task Force.



Peter Manion, PA vice president and facilitator of the After-School Activities Task Force, is the dad of Ian, a TSS first-grader, and 4-year-old Henry. He helped set up the soccer and chess clubs. Outside of SLLIS, Peter is a professional artist with an interest in mountain biking and an all-around talent for fixing things.