

# The Passport

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Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools  
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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**The buzzbooks are coming!** Communications Task Force members are hard at work on the school directory listing all parents who signed the consent forms. Watch for your copy this month!

## Our first-ever soiree is coming up!

The SLLIS Soiree and Silent Auction is the Parents Assembly's first-ever dinner and silent auction. Bring your friends for dinner, music and an open bar on Friday, Nov. 18, from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at Hendri's (4501 Ridgewood Ave., St. Louis).

The deadline to purchase tickets is next Friday, Nov. 4. If you are missing the invitation that went home in your child's backpack last month, please contact event coordinator Dale Greenbury at [sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com).

Keep forgetting to write your check? Dale will be accepting credit card payments for soiree tickets at the PA meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1.

Want to help? The Fundraising Task Force would welcome it! What are you interested in? We need help in the following areas:

1. Following up on solicitation letters that have been sent to local businesses. This can be done via phone or in person.
2. Setting up and decorating.
3. Coordinating desserts and centerpieces.
4. Overseeing and managing the silent auction.

See page 4 for more details about how you can contribute!



## SLLIS students cheer for SLU soccer

After-school soccer coaches (left to right) Javier Moreno, Peter Manion and Christopher Barker enjoyed the Saint Louis University game on Oct. 14 with some of the SLLIS players.

Registration for winter indoor soccer is open now! Details are coming via the blog and e-mail. Deadline is Nov. 11. Questions? [sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com).

## Upcoming events

- Oct. 28, 6-9pm  
Fundraiser at [St. Nicholas Skating Rink](#)
- Oct. 29, 3-7pm  
Open Streets event
- Nov. 1, 6pm  
Monthly PA meeting
- Nov. 2, 5:30pm  
Promotions Task Force meeting
- Nov. 2, 5:30pm  
Fundraising Task Force meeting
- Nov. 5, 11am-2pm  
Restaurant Brunch fundraiser at [Schlafly Bottleworks](#)
- Nov. 8, 7pm  
Second Tuesdays Microbreweries
- Nov. 9, 11:30am  
Staff appreciation potluck lunch
- Nov. 10, 6 pm  
Communications Task Force meeting
- Nov. 10, 6pm  
Taste of the World and movie night
- Nov. 14, 6pm  
Intern Task Force
- Nov. 15, 6pm  
After-School Activities Task Force
- Nov. 16, 6pm  
Board of Directors
- Nov. 16, 6pm  
TSS SAC meeting
- Nov. 17, time TBD  
TFS parents' event: Beaujolais Nouveau
- Nov. 18, 6:30-11pm  
Soiree dinner and silent auction
- Nov. 19, noon-4pm  
SLLIS open house

## From the administration: Make the BIG open house a HUGE success

Tours of SLLIS are now in full motion. We thank the parents for the use of the Parents Lounge, but it was too small for the number of prospective families that are coming each week, so we have moved the tours to the cafeteria.

For current families who have a sibling enrolling in kindergarten for next fall, all you need to do is request an application from me (either by e-mail, phone or visiting my desk upstairs). There is no need to go through the tour again. I can send applications home in book bags of older siblings. ***The deadline for applications is March 6, 2012***, so make sure to get yours in to guarantee your child's spot.

Our BIG Open House will be Saturday, Nov. 19, noon to 4 p.m. We are asking parents to take one-hour shifts to speak with prospective parents. We are also looking for kiddos who would like to help lead guests around the building (and

### Volunteer opportunity

Currents parents are invited to share your wisdom and experience with families interested in enrollment at Coffee with the Currents on Monday, Dec. 12, from 9 to 10 a.m. To sign up, e-mail [sllsPApromotions@gmail.com](mailto:sllsPApromotions@gmail.com).

show off their language skills). If you can volunteer, please let me know your preferred one-hour time slot.

I also owe an apology for missing the October Coffee with the Currents. Thank you to everyone who handled it in my absence – and to make it up to you, I am bringing doughnuts to the Dec.12 event! (See above.)

Keep spreading the good word about SLLIS ! Thanks,  
Enrollment Coordinator Anne Carr  
[anne@sllis.org](mailto:anne@sllis.org)

## Join the Open Streets flash mob

TSS parents Tasha Allen and Allyson Ford have created a routine that will shock the crowd at Open Streets on Saturday, Oct. 29!!! Their flash mob will perform a dance to Michael Jackson's Hit song "Thriller" in front of unsuspecting spectators and passers-by!

***Rehearsal is Friday, Oct. 27, 5:15 to 7:15pm*** in the multi-purpose room. If you can't come but would like to participate, please contact Tasha right away

so that she may keep you updated at 314-335-9091 or [Tasha@ParadigmBuildersSTL.com](mailto:Tasha@ParadigmBuildersSTL.com). Also go to the [St. Louis Language Immersion Schools Facebook page](#) to view the video that shows the most important moves of the routine.

Families are invited to stop by throughout the day for activities including yoga, salsa, double Dutch, juggling and bike rides. For details on the schedule, [visit the SLLIS blog](#).

## Intern host families still needed

Both TSS and TFS would like to invite more interns to support our schools during spring semester, but we currently do not have enough host families.

To ask any questions you might have about this wonderful opportunity, please contact Molly Koebbe or Brenda Butler at [sllispainterns@gmail.com](mailto:sllispainterns@gmail.com). Or join the off-site Intern Task Force meeting Monday, Nov. 14, 6 p.m.

We would like to thank our partners St. Louis Community College at Forest Park and UMSL, which provide college classes,

enrichment opportunities and a weekly English Discussion Hour for our interns.

At an upcoming International Festival hosted by St. Louis Community Colleges, students and interns will have opportunities to present what they've learned. Join them at the International Fiesta on Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the STLCC-FP cafeteria (5600 Oakland Ave.) for food, fun and cultural exhibits from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Food tickets are usually 25 cents each for your choice of cuisine from around the world.

### After-school activities update

If you applied for Term 2 after-school clubs or activities and you have not heard from the parent coordinator, please contact interim task force facilitator Peter Manion, [sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com).

Parents with an idea for Term 3 (which will begin in late January) should contact Peter for a proposal form. Or better yet, attend the task force meeting Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. to share your idea! We are currently seeking a parent to coordinate Lego Robotics.

## Get to know other parents at Cultural Exchange events

The PA's Promotions Task Force is pleased to announce a new variation on the Cultural Exchange of previous years. It's still an opportunity for French School and Spanish School families to connect, but this year events will be open to all families with no pre-registration required, and each month will feature a theme.

**The Cultural Exchange kick-off** will be Taste of the World with the SLLIS interns on Thursday, Nov. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. Families will enjoy a FREE movie, taste some FREE goodies from around the world, and fraternize with our AMAZING interns!

**Cultural Exchange event #2** will be Breakfast around the World on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be no admission fee, no parking hassles, no long lines – this will be totally unlike the holiday season experiences you'll find at the mall!! Stay tuned for special "photogenic guests" to be announced soon.

For details on these events – or to join the party-planning crew! – contact Pamela Stewart, Promotions Task Force facilitator, at [sllisPApromotions@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPApromotions@gmail.com).

If you're a parent who prefers to do your cultural exchanges over a glass of small-match beer, listen up! Like-minded folks have created **Second Tuesdays Microbreweries**, which will meet every second Tuesday of the month beginning Tuesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. with a tour of [Urban Chestnut](#), 3229 Washington Ave.

The series will run until June – giving you eight fabulous opportunities to tour local microbreweries. Although the organizers originally had dads in mind when they conceived of this idea, everyone is invited, even couples if they can get a sitter. The events will start with a brief introduction, then the group will mingle over beers. Everyone pays for their own drinks.

If you have any questions, contact TFS parent Brad Morrow at [sllisPApromotions@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPApromotions@gmail.com).

### We have SLLIS Spiritwear!

That's right! A new, easier-to-read, picture-friendly order form is coming very soon. Orders will be placed monthly, so save some of your holiday cash for the best gifts ever: SLLIS spiritwear!

## Hard work is paying off for the fundraising crew

### **Box Tops for Education**

We have a winner! The classes who turned in the most Box Tops (and won an ice cream party) are: Sabrina's TFS kindergarten class, with 962, and Olga's TSS first-grade class with 1,003! All totals will be posted on the blog, courtesy of head counter TSS parent Ashley Rice.

Thanks for a job well done! Class counts will start over as of today, and Box Tops for Ice Cream will start over too. Watch for a new deadline!

### **Restaurant fundraiser**

Oct. 16 was a beautiful day for a brunch at Sasha's on Shaw. The event netted about \$100 to be used toward much-appreciated COFFEE for the teachers' lounge. They'll also receive a second microwave. Thanks to TFS parent Joi Garthe for coordinating this event!

The next restaurant fundraiser will be Saturday, Nov. 5, at the [Schlafly Bottleworks](#) in

Maplewood (7260 Southwest Ave.) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. SLLIS will get 10 percent of proceeds from all patrons. Thanks to TFS parent Charles Orear for coordinating it! Funds will be earmarked for the SLLIS outdoor playground area.

### **Clear Card fundraiser**

To date, this has earned more than \$9,000 in gross receipts, and about 55 percent of SLLIS families participated. However, more than 700 cards are outstanding! If you still have Clear Cards, please turn them in ASAP. The PA must pay for any missing cards, which will reduce our net profits.

### **Sports concessions – Rams**

Parent volunteers have worked three games and have received \$915 in payment on two. This amount could be higher – so far we have not been able to make our 15-person minimum manpower requirements. We currently have 38 people trained; our goal is 50. If you

are interested, the next training is Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. Please contact Dale Greenbury at 314-435-6422 or [sllispafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sllispafundraising@gmail.com).

### **Sports concessions – Cards**

Thanks to TFS Parent Jennifer Rowland and TSS parents Anna Waeltermann, Jairea Reed, Kendra Clifford and Dale Greenbury for braving the cold Oct. 20 for Game 2 of the 2011 World Series. The Cardinals lost in the ninth inning but SLLIS won! Commissions earned are still pending. The crew will be working Game 6 tonight.

### **Sports concessions – Blues**

Thanks to TFS Parent John Pinstaff and TSS parents Kendra Clifford, Jason Murphy, Crystal Camden and Angela Turner for volunteering to be our shadow trainees for this opportunity. After Nov. 4 we will be able to work Scottrade events. Parents do not need to attend training in advance. To sign up, please contact Dale.

## Classroom gift baskets for the Soiree and Silent Auction on Nov. 18

For the Wish Upon a Star Soiree (the PA's dinner and auction fundraiser on Nov. 18) parents Ashley Rice and Melanie Gottlieb of the PA's Fundraising Task Force are organizing auction gift baskets from each grade. Check out the links below to pledge an item from their wish list. If you have questions, please e-mail Ashley and Melanie via [sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com). Donations can be left at the collection point in your child's classroom until Friday, Nov. 4.

Spanish Kindergarten: Pampered Mom — <http://tinyurl.com/TSSKindergarten>

French Kindergarten: Movie Night — <http://tinyurl.com/TFSKindergarten>

Spanish 1st: Sports — <http://tinyurl.com/TSSGR1>

French 1st: Family Night — <http://tinyurl.com/TFSGR1>

Spanish 2nd: Road Trip — <http://tinyurl.com/TSSGR2>

French 2nd: Bedtime — <http://tinyurl.com/TFSGR2>

French and Spanish 3rd: Lottery — <http://tinyurl.com/TSSTFSGR3>

## Say cheese! School pictures start Nov. 7

Schedule those haircuts and polish up those smiles, 'cause we are getting ready for school pictures.

The Spanish School picture dates will be Nov. 7 and 8. The French School dates will be the following week, Nov. 14 and 15.

Any necessary make-up pictures for the TSS will be done during the TFS picture days. Any retakes for the TFS will be on a date to be determined based on number of students who need to have their photos retaken.

More details will be coming soon. Keep an eye out for flyers in backpacks, posters and an e-mail with more information.

School pictures are being organized by the PA's Fundraising Task Force, and the photography company will donate 10 to 15 percent of all photo package purchases to the school. (Individual photo purchases are possible, but they will not receive the same return for the school.)

For details, contact Dale Greenbury, Fundraising facilitator, at [sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com).

## Parent-led initiatives at SLLIS

### Recycling within the school

Do you appreciate the recycling program at SLLIS?

Do you have ideas about how to enhance it?

Do you wonder WHAT is being recycled at SLLIS?

Join parents and staff members in a discussion of what IS happening and how we (and our children) can improve the efforts of reducing, reusing and recycling at SLLIS.

The short meeting will take place on Monday, Nov. 7 at 3:45 p.m. in the SLLIS cafeteria.

Organizers are TSS parents Brenda Butler, Kathleen Carson, Tracie Goffe and Kindergarten Prof. (and parent) Sara Seitz.

If you can't attend but would like to find out more or get involved with this effort, please contact Brenda at 314-401-6919 or e-mail [brenda.butler@netzero.com](mailto:brenda.butler@netzero.com).

### Improving the playground and outdoor space

All parents are invited to *Make a Difference Day*, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and focus on the playground/green space.

We will break into groups with parent volunteers leading a group of four or five St. Louis University students and focusing on different areas as follows:

- **Susan Herzberg and Renee Duenow:** Greenhouse, garden and pond
- **Kendra Clifford:** Tire climbers, rope climber and rock creek
- **Lisa Berman:** Painting

- **Je DeSuza:** Bike rack, trees and plants, planter box material
- **Anna Waeltermann:** Planting, mulch, trash pick-up
- **Flip Johnson:** Retaining wall

If you are planning to attend the work day, would like to make a tax-deductible donation of money or in-kind items or have any questions, please contact TSS parent Anna Waeltermann at [annasmail@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annasmail@sbcglobal.net).

Please note that due to the nature of the work, this will not be a suitable event for children.

### Let's thank our teachers, interns and staff

Each month the PA's Teacher Appreciation Task Force organizes a potluck lunch for all SLLIS staff. The November lunch is Wednesday, Nov. 9. Assignments are: kindergarten – side dishes, first grade – desserts, second grade – appetizers and third grade – entrees. Facilitator Lisa Berman will have a sign-up list at the Nov. 1 PA meeting, or you can e-mail her at [sllisPAteacherappreciation@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPAteacherappreciation@gmail.com).

**Saint Louis Language  
Immersion Schools  
Parents Assembly**

**General e-mail:**  
[parentsassembly@sllis.org](mailto:parentsassembly@sllis.org)

**Treasurer's e-mail:**  
[sllisPATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPATreasurer@gmail.com)

**President's e-mail:**  
[sllisPApresident@gmail.com](mailto:sllisPApresident@gmail.com)

**PA schedule for 2011-12**

All meetings are on  
Tuesdays at 6pm.  
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  
November meeting:**

- Spending wish lists from staff and parents
- Bylaws revision update
- Task force reports
- Drawing for laptop from Clear Card participants

**Come at 5:30pm for  
Family Literacy Night!**

TFS and TSS staff members will explain how to read favorite books in new ways (please bring a beloved book from home) and also give you time to practice with your child. Raz-kids.com and Scholastic orders will also be covered.

**Children are welcome.**

They will be provided with snacks and supervised by SLLIS interns in classrooms for book-themed activities from 6-7:30pm. Families are asked to make a small donation to cover the cost.

## Family Spotlight: Slavkova-Kinnear

Emilia, the big sister in our family, started in Adeline's class in the French Kindergarten this fall. She has a 7-month-old baby sister, Annika. Emilia's dad, Nikolay, is a linguistics professor at SIUE (Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville). Her mum, Jocelyn, is staying at home with baby Annika, but she used to work at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Canada.



Our family just moved to St. Louis this summer from Ottawa, Canada. So far we really like it! We've found lots of great activities to do here. We love going for walks and bike rides in Tower Grove Park, and we also love going to the zoo and science center. When the weather's not as good, we like reading or playing games at home, baking together or going to the library.

Another interesting fact about Emilia: She loves to travel. When she was younger she lived in Ethiopia for two years, and visits her grandparents and cousin in Bulgaria for about a month every year. SLLIS was central to our decision to move to St. Louis. In our home we speak English and Bulgarian (Nikolay comes from Bulgaria), but it was very important for us that Emilia also learn French.

Ottawa, where we used to live, is right on the border between a French-speaking and an English-speaking province. Ottawa is also Canada's capital city, and since French and English are both official languages, bilingualism is important.

When Nikolay was offered a job at SIUE, his biggest concern was that in moving to St. Louis, Emilia might miss out on learning French. When we found out about SLLIS we were thrilled, and Nikolay accepted the job immediately!

Emilia's only been at SLLIS for a few months, but she loves it so far. She's already learned many songs and phrases and words, which she likes to teach us at home (especially "Les petits poissons!"). Sometimes she even tries talking to her baby sister in French!

## Changes proposed to PA bylaws

Drafts have been flying back and forth among members of the Bylaws Working Group. TSS parent Jean Lammers and TFS parent Jim Martin have spearheaded a process that will standardize our bylaws and better prepare the PA for 501 (c)(3) status, which we hope will be approved sometime next year.

A copy of the proposed revisions will be posted on the blog, and highlights will be presented at the PA meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 1. After a 30-day review period, a vote to approve the amended bylaws will be taken at the Dec. 6 PA meeting.