

The Passport

October 2011
Volume 3, Issue 3

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



THANK YOU to TFS parent Renee Duenow for designing our new official logo!

Contents

PA President's letter	1
Kickball winners	1
Upcoming events	2
Enrollment initiatives	2
Open Streets	2
After-school clubs, Term 2	3
Uniform re-sales	3
Scholastic book orders	3
Meet the Interns	3
Fundraising news	4
Read, Right, Run Marathon	5
Family Spotlight	6
PA meeting highlights	6

Are you receiving the SchoolReach phone calls? If not, make sure Monica@sllis.org has your correct phone number. The system can store up to two numbers per family.

Learning from our experiences

First, I would like to thank all of our SLLIS parents for your cooperation, time and support. Our community is off to a great start this year.

I want to make sure that we as parents continue to focus on the benefits of being involved. In my experience as the PA president – and as a parent – this is the single most effective tool in creating a positive school environment for both parents and students. I would like for every SLLIS family to have the same positive experiences as ours.

I welcome you to share your experiences, whether good or bad, with me as a PA representative. What can the PA do to continue to create a positive

school environment? What can you do as a parent to assist in achieving this goal? All responses can be sent to sllisPApresident@gmail.com.

I hope everyone who participated in this weekend's events (kickball game, soccer matches and Rams fundraiser) enjoyed the experience. I look forward to seeing you all at future events.

Sincerely,
Brandon D. Moore Sr.
President, SLLIS PA

"Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence."

– Vince Lombardi



A perfect day to kick off a friendly rivalry

The clear winner of the parents vs. teachers kickball matchup was ... SLLIS! Parents, teachers, interns, staff members AND students took to the field for two games on Saturday,

Sept. 24. The photo shows the intrepid teams (and kids) who played until the end. Thanks to everyone who came out over the course of the day!

Upcoming events

- Oct. 3
ClearCard PA fundraiser orders due
- Oct. 4
Enrollment opens for 2012-13 year
- Oct. 4, 6pm
Monthly Parents Assembly meeting
- Oct. 6, 5:30pm
PA Fundraising Task Force meeting
- Oct. 8, 10:30am
Cultural Exchange program kickoff
- Oct. 9, 2-4pm
Meet the Interns reception
- Oct. 12, 11am
PA provides staff potluck lunch
- Oct. 12, 5:30pm
PA Promotions Task Force meeting (food provided)
- Oct. 12, 6pm
TSS curriculum night
- Oct. 13, 6pm
PA Communications Task Force meeting
- Oct. 14, time TBD
PYP (Primary Years Programme) Night
- Oct. 16, time TBD
Restaurant brunch PA fundraiser at Sasha's on Shaw
- Oct. 19, 6pm
SLLIS board meets
- Oct. 28, time TBD
Skating party/ RRRM marathon fundraiser
- Oct. 27, 8:30am
PA Intern Task Force meeting

From the administration: Enrollment initiatives for 2012-13

We are off to a great start with almost 30 people signed up for tours, and we haven't even started yet! Our first tour kicks off on Oct. 4. The time has changed slightly this year, and the tours now begin at 9:15am. Because of our amazing growth, our old tour room is no longer, and we must "borrow" the Parents Lounge every Tuesday morning for about one hour. We hope that this does not inconvenience our current parents, and that you can help us welcome our future parents.

We also are excited to have a fellow from Focus St. Louis, Derek Huff, with us for the next five weeks. He is working on analyzing our entire enrollment process and beyond, focusing on our touchpoints with future and current parents.

You may be contacted by Derek as he seeks parent input, questions and concern from all parts of our outreach efforts. Keep up the good

Volunteer opportunity

Speaking of our future parents, we have three Coffee with the Currents dates scheduled. We're inviting current parents to attend to share your wisdom and experience and to answer questions from families interested in enrollment.

The dates are Saturday, Oct. 22, 9-10am; Monday, Dec. 12, 9-10am; and Wednesday, Feb. 29, 6-7pm. To sign up, please RSVP with Pamela Stewart, the Parents Assembly's Promotions Task Force leader, at sllisPApromotions@gmail.com.

work spreading the word about SLLIS – our parents are our best advertising, hands down!

Submitted by Enrollment Coordinator Anne Carr

Join SLLIS for Open Streets/Ciclovia

St. Louis has joined an international movement that supports closing our city streets to cars and filling them with cyclists, pedestrians and family fun. This year Open Streets has selected our school's neighborhood for one of the bike paths.

Join us Saturday, Oct. 29, from 3-7pm for an activity hub featuring movement classes, guided children's bike rides and a shady respite. SLLIS has been awarded a mini-grant for our

participation in Open Streets this year and, as a result of the grant, we will be able to purchase and install a series of shade sails on our playground to provide students with a shady area during recess/outdoor play.

To learn more about Ciclovia, please contact Profesora Veronica at veronica@sllis.org or Madame Sonia at sonia@sllis.org.

Submitted by SLLIS President and Founder Rhonda Broussard

After-school clubs expand for Term 2

Students are midway through Term 1 of after-school activities. The 10-week Amigos y Amis program ends on Nov. 18, which gives the Parents Assembly's After-School Activities Task Force an opportunity to expand its clubs to all nights of the school week starting Nov. 21.

A registration form with more details about the newly forming activities will be coming home the week of Oct. 10. Term 2 will be full of new offerings!! Some of the clubs that parent coordinators are proposing include drawing, calligraphy, basketball, ballet,

cheerleading, salsa, hip hop, gardening and yoga.

If you would like to propose a club for Term 2, there's still time; the deadline is Friday, Sept. 30. For more information, contact the interim head of the task force, Peter Manion, at sllisPAafterschool@gmail.com.

Starting dates for Term 2 will range from Oct. 24 to Nov. 21. Ending dates will vary as well, with some classes ending in January, right before Amigos y Amis resumes for another 10-weeks-per-semester session.

Buy, sell or trade: Uniform re-sales are back!

Has your student outgrown all her cold-weather clothing from last year? Did you spend your whole voucher on pants that are already too short?

Never fear, the PA's Fundraising Task Force has you covered. TSS parent Kendra Clifford will collect and sell gently used clothing at PA meetings and other events.

To find out more, e-mail sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com.

Scholastic book orders: Coming soon to your child's class

Thanks to English teacher Christa Braun, christa@sllis.org, second- and third-graders and their siblings have been ordering Scholastic books already this fall (and those students can continue to use code HTZTP). Now both schools are looking to expand the program to students in all grades.

The easiest way to order: Go online to <http://clubs.scholastic.com> and set up an account using your school's code (TSS: J8C63 / TFS: GGQVF). Paper forms will also be available; if you need one, please contact TFS parent Lisa Berman at lisaberman@rocketmail.com. All orders earn points toward SLLIS' libraries and classrooms!

Meet the Interns on Sunday, Oct. 9, 2-4pm

Bring cookies, cake or a beverage to share, and plan to spend a fun afternoon with other SLLIS families in the multipurpose room. (Older and younger siblings are welcome too.) You will have the chance to meet and welcome our 2011-12 Amity interns, talk to the families who are currently hosting them and learn more about a program that greatly contributes to the uniqueness of our school. This year's interns come all the way from Spain, France, Senegal, Colombia, Chile and soon, Argentina (in January) to bring their energy and world cultures to SLLIS students. They look forward to meeting you!

For more information, contact the Parents Assembly Intern Task Force: sllisPAinterns@gmail.com.

- The task force meets the final Thursday of each month at 8:30 am. We are currently seeking:
1. Winter coats/clothing, especially for women (donate in the purple tub in the Parents Lounge).
 2. K-12 teachers who would like to host an intern visit to your school.
 3. Families to host upcoming dinners for the interns (Oct. 8 and Nov. 5).
 4. Interested host families (a new intern arrives from Argentina in January!). Join us!

Fundraisers have earned nearly \$5,000 in revenue!

Clear Card Fundraiser

As of Sept. 23, this initiative had generated \$3910 in revenue. Fundraising Task Force facilitator Dale Greenbury, sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com, reminds parents and students that sales end Oct 3. **All payments and any unsold cards must be turned in.**

Place everything in an envelope and write your child's name, payment amount and number of unsold cards being returned on the outside. Deposit it in one of the PA lockboxes (front lobby or back lobby entrance to the Spanish School) or turn it in to your child's teacher.

These lucky students won in the mid-point prize drawing:

- Ociel P. and Locke M. won mini video cameras.
- Rasheed S. and Simon K. won digital cameras.
- Jarvis L. won a bowling party at Tropicana Lanes.
- Vivian K., Davina R., Ava M. and Janiya D. won restaurant gift certificates.

A grand prize drawing for a new Toshiba Dual Core Laptop will be conducted as soon as all cards and orders are reconciled. The school-wide incentive, a visit from an ice cream truck, only happens if 1,500 cards are sold (an average of three per student).

Box Tops

Participation in the fall collection drive has been phenomenal! We will collect Box Tops all year, but Oct. 26 is the last day Box Tops will count

Clear Card prize winners!



toward a classroom ice cream party (one each in TFS and TSS for the class with the most).

Restaurant Nights

Atomic Cowboy attributed \$1,515 worth of checks to SLLIS folks on Sept. 16. The restaurant is donating 20 percent of that (\$303) to us.

The next event is a Restaurant Brunch on Sunday, Oct. 16, from 10am-4pm at [Sasha's on Shaw](#), 4069 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis, 314-771-7274. We are earmarking proceeds from this event to make improvements to the teachers' lounge.

Edward Jones concessions

The first Rams game on Sept. 11 brought in roughly \$500. We still need additional people (20 more would be ideal) to be trained to participate in these events. The next training is Oct. 26, and a complete list of training dates are at: <http://tinyurl.com/RamsTraining>.

If you've completed training, please sign up to work upcoming events! Having at least 15 people means we get to run our own stand. The complete schedule can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/RamsFundraiser>.

Scottrade concessions

Our core trainers will begin working unpaid events soon, and once they have met their required hours, additional PA volunteers can start working events for pay. All volunteers must go through a 30-minute online training for alcohol awareness. Please check out the list of dates and events (and sign up!) at <http://tinyurl.com/BluesEvents>.

"Wish upon a Star" SLLIS Soiree and Silent Auction

Check your child's backpack for an invitation! The party is Friday, Nov. 18, at Hendri's Banquets & Catering, 4501 Ridgewood Ave, St. Louis, from 6:30-11pm. Highlights include a buffet dinner, open bar, music and silent auction.

Volunteers are urgently needed to solicit donations from local businesses for the silent auction. You can learn more and sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/SLLISoiree>.

Families are also encouraged to contribute to themed auction baskets each grade level is putting together. Please send your donations to school with your child or place them in the bin in your child's classroom anytime during October.

Running and reading (and skating!)

Registration for the [GO! St. Louis Read, Right Run Marathon](#) has begun! The RRRM encourages kids to improve their skills in reading, community service and physical wellness.

TFS and TSS students who register will be encouraged to complete these goals:

- READ 26 books
- RIGHT by doing 26 acts of service
- RUN 26.2 miles to add up to a full marathon by April 14!

The skating party on Sept. 17 raised \$712 on behalf of TFS for the RRRM. Congrats to TFS parent Sherri Brown and her volunteer team on a successful event!

Another skating party fundraiser, with proceeds benefitting the TSS effort, will be on Saturday, Oct. 28, at the St. Louis Skatium. Watch for posters and follow the sllis.wordpress.com blog for more information.

To learn more about the RRRM or to print out the registration form, please click on the links from the [Sept. 14 blog post](#) or contact Veronica Cruz, TSS health teacher, at veronica@sllis.org.

Registration ends Jan. 13.
The TSS access code is: SLLIS SPANISH.
The TFS access code is: SLLIS FRENCH.

Family Spotlight (continued from page 6)

The Suazo family (continued) and know the culture. They know that they represent four countries: the U.S., Honduras, Colombia and Cuba.

Although this is Karla's first year at an all-Spanish school and she's starting in the third grade, I knew she wouldn't be too far behind the other students since she hears Spanish at home.

I try to keep Karla busy with extra-curricular activities such as playing the violin and perhaps soon to come,

learning tae kwon do.

I want Karla to experience things I never got to and prepare her for a successful future. I have noticed Karla is improving in her Spanish and has started speaking and understanding more.

I am very grateful that Karla has this opportunity which will open more doors for her in life with her being bilingual and able to read and write perfectly in both languages. Karla is very happy at SLLIS, as am I.

The Villareal family (continued)

While Sofia understood and spoke many words in Spanish prior to beginning kindergarten at SLLIS, her vocabulary, pronunciation and confidence in speaking the language has increased greatly.

Carlos noticed quickly that when he spoke to Sofia, she started answering back in Spanish, when she used to prefer to answer in English. Now, in her third year at SLLIS, Sofia seems to seize every opportunity to speak Spanish at home, engaging not only her father who is fluent, but also her mother and siblings.

At home, Sofia's family has a small urban farm business where they grow and sell produce, as well as raise chickens for eggs and meat. This experience has been quite an educational one for the family, especially the children.



Sofia is constantly learning about animals, growing herbs and vegetables and growing plants

without soil. Each time she learns something new she always makes sure she understands it both in English and Spanish. While she is unable to help with gathering eggs due to a severe egg allergy, she likes to feed the hens by hand with vegetable scraps, clover and worms.

With the success the Villarreals feel Sofia's demonstrating at SLLIS, the only debate seems to be whether her siblings will join The Spanish School or The French School in the future.

The Parents Assembly would like to recognize another bilingual community member, TSS parent Natalia Rosales, for graciously translating materials for SLLIS' Spanish-speaking families.

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

General e-mail:
parentsassembly@sllis.org

Financial e-mail:
sllisPATreasurer@gmail.com

NEW President's e-mail:
sllisPApresident@gmail.com

PA schedule for 2011-12

All meetings are on Tuesdays at 6pm.
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 October meeting:

- Campaign for Kids fundraising projects
- Approval of task force spending plans for the next quarter
- Task force updates

Come at 5:30pm for Speed Dating with the Task Forces!

Sample delicious appetizers and desserts and flirt with some interesting volunteer opportunities – no commitment required!

Children are welcome. They will be provided with snacks and supervised by SLLIS interns in a classroom (for activities and/or a movie), starting at 5:30pm and ending at 7:30pm.

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

Family Spotlight: Suazos and Villareals

This month we're bringing you a special double Family Spotlight: two families who speak Spanish at home and who decided to send their oldest daughters to SLLIS.

Their stories illustrate what a wonderfully diverse cultural background two seemingly "similar" families bring to our school.



The Suazo family

Our family chose SLLIS because we want our daughters, Karla and Angela, to take the initiative and learn and keep our family language, Spanish. Although Spanish is spoken at home, we have found it a little difficult to get our daughters to speak and understand Spanish.

Karla's father, Juan Carlos, is a native of Honduras and is employed at Cardwell's in Plaza Frontenac. I (Michele) was born here in St. Louis but my mother is from

Colombia and my father is from Cuba. I graduated from Webster University in 2007 and have been an assistant manager at Walgreens for four years now. I have been dancing with the Folkloric Group Colombia for over 10 years now and have performed at many international and Hispanic festivals.

I want my daughters to know their background, be fluent in Spanish
... *Continued on page 5 ...*

The Villareal family

Sofia Villarreal is a 7-year-old second-grader at SLLIS in The Spanish School in Profesora Fatima's classroom. Sofia's father, Carlos, is from the city of Monterrey in Mexico and her mother, Jeri, is American, from St. Louis. Sofia has a younger brother, Braulio, who is 3 and a 2-year-old sister named Lola.

As the oldest, Sofia is the one her siblings look up to and model after. They tend to repeat words in Spanish that Sofia says when speaking to her father – and sometimes her mother as well.



It was very important to both Carlos and Jeri that Sofia have the opportunity to learn Spanish formally. The Spanish language is part of her heritage and therefore very important to the Villarreal family.

... *Continued on page 5 ...*