

The Passport

September 2011
Volume 3, Issue 2

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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Check out the SLLIS homepage! On Aug. 17, the administration launched a new-and-improved <http://sllis.org>. Visit often, and watch for new features coming soon ...

Two weeks down, only 42 to go

Congratulations, parents! You have survived the first weeks of school.

I know this time of the year can be really hectic. Especially for some of our new SLLIS parents. Finding out where the bus stop is, navigating through pick-up and drop-off and locating where your child's class is are no small feats. I'm applauding everyone for your patience and understanding. A special thanks to the school faculty and parent volunteers for a smooth transition.

There are some exciting things that the PA has planned during the upcoming weeks. I encourage all of you to attend and be a part of as

many of the activities as possible. This is where as parents we start to build a bond that influences a positive culture for our kids.

Our first Parents Assembly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 6, and I challenge all parents to attend. This is your opportunity to take part in supporting your child and our school. You'll find an agenda on this newsletter's back page. Also watch for a flyer about playing kickball vs. the teachers!

Thank you and see you there!

— SLLIS PA President
Brandon D. Moore Sr.

Volunteer opportunities for every talent

Special thanks to all the parents who've donated their time during these busy first weeks of school! New and returning parents have done everything from manning the booth at the Festival of Nations to making sure students have scanner-ready ID badges in the lunch line.

To spread the word about future volunteer opportunities, the PA's Communications Task Force is looking at online options.

In the meantime, we'll be using this newsletter, the blog and e-mails to match tasks to parents' time, interests and skills. The PA's task force facilitators all have meetings planned — and meetings are open to everyone, whether or not you've already signed up as a member of

the task force. They usually take place either in the Parents Lounge or the school's multipurpose room. See pages 2, 3 and 4 for details.

Some of our most urgent needs:

- An intern host family coordinator for The French School (to learn more, see page 4).
- Bilingual parents to translate Parents Assembly information, letters and blog posts into Spanish.
- Parents to sponsor after-school clubs and activities for late-fall and winter terms.
- Ten parents from each grade who can provide covered dishes (purchased or homemade) for lunch on Sept. 14 for teachers and staff.

To learn more, e-mail parentsassembly@sllis.org.

Upcoming events

- Sept. 1, 5:30pm Fundraising Task Force meeting
- Sept. 2 Clear Card fundraiser begins
- Sept. 6, 6pm Parents Assembly meeting
- Sept. 6, 3:30pm Term I after-school activities begin
- Sept. 8, 4:15pm Promotions Task Force meeting
- Sept. 8, 6-7pm Communications Task Force meeting
- Sept. 9 (tentative) Parents vs. teachers kickball game
- Sept. 13, 6pm Teacher Appreciation Task Force meeting
- Sept. 15, 6-8pm Restaurant night at Atomic Cowboy
- Sept. 21, 6pm SLLIS board meeting
- Sept. 28, time TBD TFS SAC meeting
- Sept. 29, 6pm TSS SAC elections and meeting
- Sept. 30 Clear Card fundraiser orders due
- Oct. 4 Enrollment begins for 2012-13 year
- Oct. 9, 2-4pm Meet the Interns reception

From the administration: Street safety plan coming soon

Returning parents may remember the many public meetings and proposed visions for improving safety and traffic flow that came out of last year's Safety Task Force.

This year, the SLLIS administration is coordinating street safety. However, parent volunteers will still be an important part of the new plan.

SLLIS parents Tara Bischoff and Peter Manion (whose name may be familiar – he's also the PA vice president and interim After-School Activities Task Force leader) have teamed up with the TFS and TSS administrators to announce a three-part safety plan. It will be in place from 8 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.

Step 1: Traffic control – This means parking responsibly in the lot or on the street – and NOT parking in designated bus zones, in front of our neighbors' driveways, or doubled up in the traffic lanes. It also means no u-turns in the middle of the street and no speeding. The schools ask that all adults picking up students respect the new plans for crosswalks and stopping guards.

Step 2: Safety – This means crossing Papin Street only within two soon-to-be marked pedestrian zones. To help everyone learn the

new procedures, parent volunteers will help direct foot traffic to the correct entry or exit for French and Spanish students. Please be respectful of their efforts.

This also means placing barricades to cordon off areas where no entry is permitted. These will allow arriving and departing bus students to move freely, without hindrance due to crowded sidewalks.

Finally, this means having a crew of volunteers who shovel snow and de-ice sidewalks during the winter.

Step 3: Access – This means controlling the flow of parents and students coming into the school's front office during the busiest times of day. The front desk will be closed for 20 to 30 minutes during dismissal. Please understand that if you need to speak to the staff, the best times to do so are between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Parents Lounge is available if the lobby is closed.

This also means that parents with a reason to go to the classrooms with their child are aware that the school classroom areas will be off limits when the school day begins. Parents may be asked to leave in order to maintain a quiet, distraction-free learning environment.

Who does what? PA or SACs?

This year the Parents Assembly oversees fundraising, school-wide events, interns, teacher appreciation, parent-to-parent communications and after-school activities (except Amigos y Amis).

The TFS and TSS School Advisory Councils, made up of parents and teachers, advise administrators on uniforms, safety, green space, room parents and school-wide policies and procedures.

Raising \$\$\$ and having 😊😊😊

The PA's Fundraising Task Force, led by Dale Greenbury, provides the entire operating budget for the PA – and it also generates the money that the PA donates back to the schools each year for technology, books and playground equipment for the kids.

For our fall fundraiser we have teamed up with [Enjoy a Local](#), an organization that provides support for independent, locally owned restaurants. Its discount card program, called the Clear Card, entitles the bearer to 10% discounts at hundreds of local eateries.

We are asking that you help us sell Clear Cards for \$10 to friends and family. The card could pay for itself the first time a family of four uses it! The unique thing about this fundraiser is that **approximately 70% of the proceeds go back to us** to help support our kids!

Please look for a letter explaining the program in detail in your child's backpack today, **Aug. 29**. There will be three cards attached for you to sell, along with a form for additional card orders. Please make sure you do not lose these cards. They cost \$10 each, and you will be responsible if they are not returned. Sales end Sept. 30.

Some great prizes have been lined up for this initiative, including an ice cream truck treat for all students if the school sells \$1,500 worth of cards (about three per student). Everyone who sell a least one card will be entered into a drawing for a laptop computer.

To help with this or other fundraisers, contact Dale via e-mail at sllispafundraising@gmail.com or come to a task force meeting, scheduled for 5:30 pm on **Sept. 1, 14 and 20 and Oct. 6**.

PA fund allocations for fall projects

Over the summer, the PA Executive Committee requested funding proposals from the task force leaders. The following expenses are anticipated:

Interns: \$800 for transportation needs, printing/supplies and introductory events

Teacher appreciation: \$300 for back-to-school gifts and monthly appreciation projects

Communications: \$100 for lockboxes and other supplies

Promotions: \$500 for the fall cultural exchange

Fundraising: \$2,600 for venue deposits, mailings and other initial fundraiser-related fees

After-School Activities: \$0

PA EC: \$500 for printing and miscellaneous expenses

Projected spending this fall:
\$4,200

Estimated remaining balance:
\$251.89

We value your time! Consider these ways to contribute

In an effort to take advantage of SLLIS parents' wide diversity of interests and skills, the Fundraising Task Force is planning a mix of new and returning initiatives this year. They include:

- **Restaurant nights:** These popular social outings build connections between families and support local businesses. The first one is Sept. 15 at Atomic Cowboy, 4140 Manchester Ave., St. Louis. Mention you're dining out for "SLLIS restaurant night" and a portion of your check will go back to the PA!
- **Concessions at Rams and Blues games:** Trainings for these fun group outings start Labor Day week – and the first game is Rams vs. Eagles on Sept. 11! In order for SLLIS to participate, 15 people need to be trained ASAP, and a total of 50 would be ideal for all games. For details, check the SLLIS blog.
- **Vendor fair:** If you own a business and would be interested in showcasing it at a SLLIS-parents-only fair, please contact Dale Greenbury before Sept. 9, either via e-mail at sllispafundraising@gmail.com or via a note in the PA mailbox in the front office.

TFS seeks host family coordinator

The PA's Intern Task Force is looking for a volunteer to help recruit and organize host families for The French School.

With support from the task force, the host family coordinator:

- Regularly collects names of interested host families
- Calls prospective families to gauge interest, capacity and availability
- Helps match interns to families
 - Verifies that database information on families is up to date and accurate
 - Connects host families and interns to the proper channels of communication to gain answers and/or collect resources

To learn more, contact the task force at sllispainterns@gmail.com.

If you're looking for a way to support the terrific international assistant teachers that we receive through Amity, please join us! Task force meetings are held monthly on Thursday mornings.

Introducing the Amity Interns

Our kind and energetic Amity Interns are excited to share their culture and learn about your family traditions. Some Interns are still available to host this semester, could you welcome them into your home? Find out more below.



Melissa Poupart

TFS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Melissa was born in Tours, in the Loire Valley. She grew up in a small house with a garden, not far from the city, with wonderful parents who taught her how to appreciate the special moments of sharing a meal, playing board games and savoring a homemade cake.

Melissa enjoys cooking and loves pets. She has a great passion for arts, music and theatre. Her favorite hobbies are modern and jazz dance, playing the piano and swimming.

She is currently living with Anne Marie and Furmin Puricelli and has already established a great bond with their twin daughters, TFS first-graders Ana and Olivia.



Joris Royer

TFS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Joris was born in Woippy, in the Lorraine region of France. He

studies English at the University in Metz. He learned his first English word at the age of 7 and has had a great love for the English language ever since. He cultivates his English by reading novels and watching old American movies (Hitchcock being his very favorite!)

Joris has travelled extensively through Europe and is thrilled to be in Saint Louis. He will finally practice his English daily and looks forward to his first Columbus Day, Thanksgiving and Fourth of July!

Joris is temporarily living with the Doctor family, and is available to be hosted in the first semester.

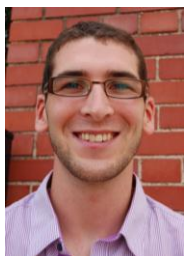


Aurelie Mothay

TFS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Aurelie was born in Jonzac, in the west of France, and is now a student at the University of Bordeaux, where she studies English literature and civilization.

To improve her language skills, Aurelie spent a summer in England as an au pair, where she looked after three little girls. Aurelie dreams of becoming an English teacher in France, and she has spent the past few years giving private English lessons and educational support to many young students.

Aurelie loves music, theatre, reading and cooking. She is being hosted by Dahven and Allan Doctor and their three children, Moxie (a TFS first-grader), Chase and Reed.



Adrien Chauvigne

TFS 2nd Grade Assistant Teacher

Adrien was born in Angers, in the west of France, and studies education and teaching at the University in Avrille.

Adrien loves all sports and has played basketball for 15 years. He enjoys travelling and is especially interested in the Japanese culture and language.

Adrien is currently hosted by Kim and Josh Smith and their daughter Avery, a TFS first-grader.



Maimouna Ndiaye

TFS 3rd Grade Assistant Teacher

Maimouna comes from the African city of Saint Louis, a town in the north of Senegal. She studies English at the University of Dakar, and dreams of becoming an English teacher.

Maimouna is eager to share with young learners the richness of her African culture through plays, songs and dancing, and she's equally eager to bring American experience back to Senegal.

Maimouna plays the guitar and loves singing and dancing. She is temporarily living with Amanda Miller and her daughter Corinne, and is available to be hosted in the first semester.

Auriane Bolle

TFS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher

Auriane was born in the Caribbean island of Martinique, and is now an English student at the University of Lyon, in France.

Her family relocated many times during her childhood. She lived in Martinique, New Caledonia (Australia), New Zealand and France. In addition to her native French, she speaks English and is fluent in German.

Auriane, who dreams of becoming an English teacher, likes arts, music and theater and has a great passion for animals. She will arrive in St. Louis on Sept. 15 and is available to be hosted in the first semester.



Raúl Muñoz Rodrigo

TSS 2nd Grade Assistant Teacher

Raúl trained to be an elementary teacher at Complutense University in Madrid. This past semester, he finished two years of studying pedagogy (aka instructional theory).

In his free time, Raúl loves playing soccer, watching movies, reading good books and spending time with friends. He has been a soccer coach for children in Madrid.

Raúl lives with Melanie and Craig DeMeester, two of whose four children attend SLLIS: Evan, TSS grade 2, and Ayden TSS grade K.



Javier Moreno

TSS 3rd Grade Assistant Teacher

Javier was born in Boyacá, Colombia, and holds a bachelor's in modern languages and master's in applied linguistics from Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas in Bogotá.

He has conducted a couple of research projects and published the results of them in local linguistics journals. While working with younger children, he has always considered the acquisition of a language an intriguing issue which deserves attention, study and analysis for its improvement.

He resides with Kathleen Carson and Ben Niesen, whose daughter Mara is a TSS first-grader and son Jack is a future SLLIS student.



Scarleth Diaz Molina

TSS 2nd Grade Assistant Teacher

Scarleth (pronounced 'scarlet') is from Chile. She has been living in Concepción while studying at Universidad Católica de la Santísima. She will finish studies within the English Teaching Program next year.

Outside the University, Scarleth

is not only a private English teacher, but also a Cueca teacher in a dancing club. (Cueca is the national dance in Chile.) She loves learning new cultures and experiences, cooking, reading novels and practicing sports, especially swimming.

She lives with the Rush-Garavaglia family. Bridget and Rob have many SLLIS friends, but their children attend City Garden Montessori. TFS first-grader Lily Wamhoff's family assists Scarleth with transportation.



Anna Claravall
TSS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Anna is from Barcelona, Spain. She holds a degree in Elementary Teacher Training from Blanquerna, Ramon Llull University, in Barcelona. She is an enthusiastic teacher with experience as an after-school foreign language teacher of English in different kindergartens and elementary schools.

Anna also speaks French and enjoys going to the cinema and the theater, riding horses and reading. She has traveled to France and Italy.

Anna lives with Anna Waeltermann and her two TSS children, son Jaden Wells, a second-grader, and daughter Layne Wells, a kindergartener.



Ariadna Rovira
TSS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Ari is from Barcelona, Spain. She graduated with a certification to be a teacher of primary school with a specialty in music from Blanquerna University.

Since childhood she has studied the Dalcroze Method at Joan Llongueras school. Dalcroze was a music educator who developed eurhythmics, a method of learning and experiencing music through movement. She plays the saxophone and also loves many sports, particularly roller blading, running and snow skiing.

She lives with Dianne and Tim Gray. Their daughters are TSS first-grader Amelia and Abi (Grand Center Arts Academy).



Xema Estévez
TSS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
Xema is from Galicia, Spain. She has a bachelor's degree in English teaching and a master's degree in diversity studies from Universidad de Vigo. For her master's, she studied how to deal with all kinds of people, how to teach adults, how to

teach people with special needs, and others. She also has experience teaching English in two different schools and has taught private English classes.

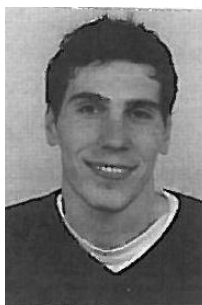
She lives with Christina and Vince Bennett. Their children do not attend SLLIS, but the Bennetts have friends in the SLLIS community. TFS first-grader Moxie Doctor's family assists with carpooling.



Lady Andrea Forero Sicacha
TSS 2nd Grade Assistant Teacher
Andrea was born in Bogotá, Colombia. Before moving to St. Louis, she lived in Boyacá. She is a foreign language teaching program student in Colombia at the Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia. She has gained experience in teaching children of different social classes and different ages.

She has taught French and English and she believes that children are teaching HER all the time.

She lives with Bobbi and Jose Pineda and their three children: TSS kindergartener Abby (TSS K), Alan (Chaminade) and Marissa (Grand Center Arts Academy).



David Costas Lavandeira
TSS 1st Grade Assistant Teacher
 David is from Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain and finished his degree in English philology at the University of Santiago de Compostela. He also knows German and French.

He is very interested in linguistics. In addition to teaching languages, he also enjoys analyzing and comparing them from an inner point of view. He loves listening to music, going to the cinema, photography, computers, jogging and cycling. The year he spent in Freiburg, Germany and traveling around

Europe was the best year of his life.

David lives with Teri Blackmore and Mike Hall. Their children do not attend SLLIS, but the Blackmore-Hall family has become a quick friend of the SLLIS community. For David's commute from Kirkwood, there are a number of families assisting with transportation: Arguedas (TFS), Heaney (TFS) and Resendiz (TSS), to name a few.



Ines García Cillanueva
TSS Intern

Ines was born in Cuenca, Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, but recently she has been living in Madrid while she completed her degree in early childhood education at the University Complutense in Madrid. She completed her teaching internship at a public bilingual school called John Lennon in Fuenlabrada/Madrid.

She has grown up playing violin and piano, and she was a member of the Young Orchestra of Cuenca. She also has experience working with an association which serves people with special education needs and disabilities.

Ines' role will be determined after her arrival this week. She will be living with Shanna Samson and her daughter Imena, a TSS kindergartener.

Give the interns a taste of your family and your city

Hosting a small group of interns for a Saturday meal or outing is a great way to experience the multicultural environment your child benefits from on a daily basis. (And it helps give interns and their host families a break once a month!) You may request particular interns – perhaps someone who teaches your child – or indicate a language preference, and Melissa Von Rohr, a member of the PA's Intern Task Force, will match available interns to families.

Melissa provides you with the e-mails, and then you are responsible for introducing yourself and coordinating transportation and details of the meal or outing. (Most of our interns this year do not have their own transportation, so they will need to use public transit or get a ride from you.) If you're curious about what sights or places the interns might enjoy, Melissa can give you suggestions.

Upcoming meal dates:

- Sept. 10
- Oct. 8
- Nov. 5

Upcoming outing date:

- Oct. 1

If you are interested, please contact Melissa at sllispainterns@gmail.com with your name, school, phone number, e-mail, intern or language preferences, the number of interns you can accommodate and the date that works for you. The task force also would love to receive donations of event tickets, museum passes or other vouchers that will help the interns experience local culture.

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

General e-mail:
parentsassembly@slis.org

NEW financial e-mail:
slispatreasurer@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 and brat supper, and spend a few minutes catching up with other SLLIS parents before the meeting.

Children are welcome. They will be supervised in a classroom or on the playground. Parents may be asked to take turns helping out or to make a small donation to help pay for child care.

Family Spotlight: The Chambers family

This newsletter offers volunteer opportunities on nearly every page, so it seemed like a perfect time to spotlight a new TFS family that has already gone above and beyond in its time commitment to SLLIS.

Before David Chambers even started kindergarten in Katie Ruckert's class, his parents attended many school events and meetings. A conversation at a kindergarten transition playdate led to his mother, Patti Chambers, stepping up to help lead the After-School Activities Task Force.

Her organizational abilities and can-do attitude were invaluable in getting the after-school activities up and running.

In late August she graciously took a break from putting the final touches on the club lineup to share info about her family for this Q&A.

Who's in David's family?

Patti, his mom, Greg, his dad, and Ashley, his big sis who is 21 and a senior at the University of San Francisco majoring in psych. She speaks French and began learning it in grade school – though not full immersion.

What do you enjoy doing together?

David loves museums and science, so we spend a lot of time at the Science Center, Magic House, and Art and History museums. He also loves going to our farm in Salem, Mo. He and his dad search for spiders, play in the creek and make art in Greg's studio.

We like to go on adventures – like to the lock and dam in Alton or a business where David can see the machines and how things work.

Have you always lived in St. Louis?
 Patti has always lived in St. Louis. Greg splits his time here and in Salem, which is also how he grew up.

What line of work are you in?
 Patti is a writer/producer and makes videos for Edward Jones.

Greg is a carpenter and also a collage artist.

What are some of your outside interests?

Patti plays music – she used to be in local bands. Greg makes art. David also is learning to play the guitar.

What are your reasons for choosing SLLIS?

We wanted a challenging curriculum and structure – and we loved the idea of a second language.

Do you have ties to the French language?

Not really. Both Greg and I have French ancestors, and Ashley learned French, but Greg and I have never studied it. We know a few words, but our accents are horrible.

We are excited to learn along with David. Ashley always corrects my pronunciation, and now I am sure David will, too.

They also like the idea of having a secret language between the two of them!

How is David adjusting to the full immersion environment?

Great! He told the little girl up the street that he just loved his new school. He seems very excited to learn and is really intrigued by the idea of learning French.