

The Passport

February 2012
Volume 3, Issue 6

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



Contents

Message from the president	1
Upcoming events	2
School camp and enrollment	2
Tumblebooks online	3
Parents as Teachers	3
Green Space, MySLLIS	3
Fundraising updates	4
Monthly financial report	4
Staff Appreciation Lunch	4
Family Spotlight	5
I ♥ SLLIS Day	5
Upcoming PA meeting	5

MySLLIS is the new online, school-wide parent portal scheduled to launch in March!

Find out what this change means for your family at a demonstration and Q&A during the PA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. See you there!

Planning for a growing community

Hello SLLIS Parents,

Welcome to the second half of the school year! Hopefully by now you are settling into your new schedule.

At the January Parents Assembly meeting we discussed a new vision and mission statement for the Parents Assembly. In light of this positive feedback, we would like to move forward with our new focus of supporting the community-building efforts of the entire St. Louis Language Immersion community.

In December the Parents Assembly tabled proposed annual changes to our bylaws. This was done to ensure that we properly understood what the path forward looked like. Now that this picture is clearer, we would like to continue with the revisions. The bylaws committee has revisited the document that was proposed in December and would like to share the changes with you at the upcoming Parents Assembly meeting and [on the blog](#). The revisions will be up for a vote at the March meeting. And in April we will have elections for officers.

In the coming months, our membership will be planning a number of events designed to encourage community building between our different school

communities. We would love your participation in this process. We have lots of opportunities that do not require a huge commitment in terms of time or resources, so if you have a desire we would welcome your support and ideas!!!!

I would encourage you to remain engaged in the happenings of the School Advisory Councils (SACs), which are changing to better accommodate our individual schools' needs and desires. You can find a schedule of those upcoming meetings here in The Passport, on page 2 under Upcoming Events.

Next year the SACs will fulfill many of the functions that the PA has undertaken in the past. All parents are welcome to attend PA-SAC transition meetings, scheduled for Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m. in the Parents' Lounge.

We are very excited that the next Parents Assembly meeting will include a preview look at our upcoming MySLLIS parent portal. So we look forward to seeing you on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m!

Dale Greenbury, PA President
dkgreenbury@hotmail.com

Proposed PA mission statement: To support the mission of SLLIS, and the individual schools which comprise it, by building a community among the families who have chosen these schools to educate their children.

Upcoming events

- **Jan. 31, 5pm**
PYP Parent Committee
- **Feb. 2, times vary**
TSS playground visits
 - 10am Kindergarten
 - 10:50am 1st grade
 - 11am 3rd grade
 - 12:15pm 2nd grade
- **Feb. 2, 6pm**
Green Space Task Force
- **Feb. 8, 11am-1pm**
PA Staff Appreciation Task Force serves potluck lunch
- **Feb. 9, 9 a.m.**
TFS hosts Coffee With Conrad
- **Feb. 9, 6 p.m.**
TSS School Advisory Council (SAC)
- **Feb. 14, 7pm**
PA's "I ♥ SLLIS Day," [Schlafly Bottleworks](#)
- **Feb. 16, 4-7pm**
TFS Fete du Livre book sale and party
- **Feb. 20, 10am-noon**
Dance performance
- **Feb. 21, 9am**
PYP Parent Committee
- **Feb. 21, 5-8pm**
PA restaurant night at [Atomic Cowboy](#)
- **Feb. 22, 4pm**
Special public meeting on facilities/expansion
- **Feb. 22, 6pm**
Board of Directors
- **Feb. 24, 7:30am**
TSS Buenos Días Familia
- **Feb. 29, 7pm**
Coffee with the Currents

From the administration ... Summer camps and other enrollment news

Enrollment is moving right along for the 2012-13 school year! We have passed out about 250 applications so far, including 40 sibling applications! If you are a current parent who needs an enrollment form for an incoming sibling, remember to get it turned in by the March 6 deadline to guarantee a spot. Applications turned in after the deadline go into the general lottery.

Events

Our final Coffee with the Currents will be Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 6 to 7 p.m., and we are looking for volunteers to participate.

We also have the opportunity to participate in The Missouri Charter Public School Association Enrollment Fairs. I will be there, but would love to have any current parents come join me to talk about SLLIS. Dates and times are:

- Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at South City Preparatory, 2900 Grand Ave., St. Louis, and
- Saturday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Confluence-Old North Campus, 3017 N. 13th St., St. Louis.

We also have our IB Panel and Demo Lesson on Feb. 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. If you know any families who

are interested in SLLIS, this is a great opportunity to learn about our programs and curriculum.

We are organizing a special event for Monday, Feb. 20 (Presidents' Day) from 10 a.m. to noon. We have invited various dance groups to perform for us that morning. Current and future families are all invited to this program. More details will be sent out shortly.

Summer camp

Enrollment forms will be up on the website and sent home in backpacks by the end of February. The camp dates have been set:

- Camp Voila: (French) June 25-29
- Camp Ni Hao: (Chinese) July 9-13
- Camp Tomodachi: (Japanese) July 16-20
- Camp Olé: (Spanish) July 23-27

SLLIS families will be \$150 per week/child (\$185 after the early bird deadline March 31st.) There will also be a sibling discount. Watch for enrollment forms coming home in backpacks for more information.

Thanks for all your great support! Enrollment Coordinator Anne Carr anne@sllis.org

Volunteer opportunities from the enrollment desk

The final "Coffee with the Currents" before the registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 29, from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Missouri Charter Public School Association Enrollment Fairs are Saturdays, Feb. 18 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To sign up for a shift, please send an e-mail to anne@sllis.org.

More from the administration ... New e-books for your home

SLLIS recently purchased a subscription to [TumbleBooks](#), an online library with books in English, French and Spanish for a variety of reading levels.

With this subscription, you are able to view these books on computers at home – and some of the books can even be read on your iPad!

Getting started for your child is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to the site:
www.tumblebooklibrary.com
2. Enter the username: **sllis** and the password: **books**
3. Explore the following options: Storybooks, Read-Alongs, Tumble TV, Puzzles & Games, Language Learning (French and Spanish books!)

and Non-Fiction Books.

This is a wonderful website to use because it combines high-quality, literature-based books with audio and animation to keep your child focused and entertained. Many books are even viewable on the iPad!

And unlike Raz-Kids books (for TSS students), TumbleBooks count toward non-homework reading goals, like the Six Flags Read to Succeed Program.

Enjoy and feel free to let us know your feedback by e-mailing me at sara2@sllis.org!

Happy reading!
Sara Schmittgens, PYP
Coordinator

A brain booster for SLLIS siblings

Parents who are expecting a new baby or who have a child younger than kindergarten can apply to participate in Parents as Teachers, a free parent education program.

During personal visits, you can learn about the best ways to support your child's development. You'll also receive free screenings and resource information.

The SLLIS parent educator is Dianne Bonfili, 314-805-8699. Meet her (and turn in your application!) on Friday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. to noon.

This program was arranged by social worker Emilie Lytton.

Call for volunteers: Green Space and MySLLIS

Whether you have a green thumb or a wired brain, two new task forces need you! These groups are operating across both schools in order to improve the outdoor space and the flow of communications from the school to parents.

The initial **Green Space Task Force** meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. at the school. Discussion will include:

- Current Green Space needs
- An opportunity to apply for another Monsanto grant for outdoor science and math education
- Potential future needs at the new school site.

Interested parents are encouraged to attend this meeting or contact Susan Herzberg (TSS parent and SAC member) at Susanh@theswitch.us.

The **MySLLIS parent portal project** started with TFS parent Brian Koebbe. It's now ready to be rolled out, but the project has become too large for one parent to manage. Brian is setting up a task force to ensure the portal's long-term viability. Volunteers will help with:

- Debugging and cleaning data in preparation for the site to go live in March.
- Ongoing project management and generation of content
- Technical assistance to parents

MySLLIS will include classroom news, grade-level news, school news, blog posts, and any other relevant news feeds, like volunteer opportunities. Find out more at a demo during the Feb. 7 PA meeting at 6 p.m. To volunteer, contact Brian at brian@koebbe.org.

Fundraising news: past, present and future

Trivia night

The PA is looking for volunteers to help plan and man a trivia night fundraiser in April. Organizational skills are very helpful (as is a love of useless facts). To learn more, contact PA President and Fundraising Task Force leader Dale Greenbury at sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com.

Restaurant night

One of our best community-building fundraisers is a series of Restaurant Nights. Bring your family to the next one on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at [Atomic Cowboy](#), 4140 Manchester Ave. in St. Louis.

Mention that you're there with SLLIS, and a portion of your ticket will be returned to the

Parents Assembly. The beneficiary of this fundraiser is still to be determined. If you have ideas, let Dale know!

Box Tops for Education

The classroom Box Tops collection drive is once again going strong. At last count the TFS leader was Sabrina's class and the TSS leader was Sara, but anything can happen if one student brings in a good stash.

Remember that each Box Top is worth 10 cents to the school – but please double check the tiny little expiration date before you turn them in!

If you have any questions or have time to trim Box Tops, contact Ashley Rice at sllisPAfundraising@gmail.com.

School photos

To view your child's gallery, please navigate to <http://photos.5608dmg.com/sllis> and click either The Spanish School or The French School. Next, click on your child's name.

If you have lost your child's password, please contact Dale by cell at 314-435-6422 or via e-mail.

On the site, there are lots of options for ordering and cropping. If you would like more information on this, you can view a tutorial on the ordering process at <http://www.5608dmg.com/school>.

After you place your order and pay online, the photos will be delivered to your home.

February update from the PA treasurer

The Parents Assembly has received a response on its federal 501(c)3 application. The process is on track, and currently the Executive Committee and several key volunteers (who happen to be lawyers) are working on some requested changes.

The balance in the PA checking account is \$15,793.04. This week, Treasurer Megan Hinrichsen is making an additional deposit of \$3,110.15 (the SLLIS reimbursement for the Rams and Cardinals fundraisers with SportService/Delaware North Companies).

A complete report will be presented at the PA meeting on Feb. 7. In the meantime, please contact Megan with questions at sllisPATreasurer@gmail.com.

Bring a dish to share with the staff

The PA's Staff Appreciation Lunches are on the second Wednesday of each month. These lunches are greatly appreciated by everyone who works with our kids throughout the day!

The assignments Feb. 8 are:

- Appetizers – Third grade
- Main courses – Kindergarten
- Side dishes – First grade
- Desserts – Second grade

Sign up with Lisa Berman at sllisPAteacherappreciation@gmail.com or 314-398-6839 to be added to the February list of volunteers bringing food. Helpers are also needed to set up, serve and clean up after lunch.

There is an opening for a parent from each school to oversee the appreciation efforts next year. If you'd like to learn more, give Lisa a call!

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

General e-mail:
parentsassembly@sllis.org

Treasurer's e-mail:
sllisPATreasurer@gmail.com

Officers:

President Dale Greenbury
Vice President Peter Manion
Treasurer Megan Hinrichsen
Secretary Amy De La Hunt

PA schedule for 2012:

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

- Financial report
- Bylaws revisions
- Upcoming fundraisers
- MySLLIS portal demo

Children are welcome!

They will be provided with snacks and supervised by SLLIS interns in classrooms from 6-7:30pm.

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

Family Spotlight: Ho family

This month we caught up with Spanish School room parent Zona Ho. She is one of the many behind-the-scenes volunteers who directly impact students' classroom experience. Zona also spent countless hours prepping for the Posadas celebration in December.



Q: Who's in your family?

A: David (Dad), Zona (Mom), Cameron (5) and Bryson (9 months)

currently seeking a position as a high school mathematics teacher.

Q: What do you enjoy doing together?

A: Playing board games, family Wii nights, reading, going to the park and watching movies.

Q: How do you spend free time?

A: We all like to dance, sing, play sports and stay active. We also love the outdoors.

Q: What grade and which teacher's class is your child in?

A: Kindergarten with Profesora Sara and Profesora Natalia.

Q: Do you have ties to the Spanish language? Yes, Zona is Hispanic (her dad is Mexican) and she speaks fluently in Spanish.

Q: How is Cameron adjusting to the full immersion environment?

A: It has been amazingly smooth. He loves every minute of it and he has learned so much.

Q: What are your reasons for choosing SLLIS?

A: Because of Zona's background and the belief in the importance of speaking and reading a second language, especially Spanish. Cameron will be able to communicate with Zona's paternal side of the family, who are from Mexico.

Q: Have you always lived in St. Louis? If not, where else?

A: Yes, we have all spent most of our lives in St. Louis.

Q: What else would you like us to know about your family?

A: Coming from a diverse household, we are truly lucky and blessed to have discovered this school. We feel as if SLLIS is part of the family.

Q: What line of work are the adults in your family in?

David is a project manager at a local publishing company. Zona is

Celebrate "I ♥ SLLIS Day" on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m.

This month's Second Tuesdays Microbreweries tour falls on Valentine's Day ... and what better way to show your love for SLLIS than bringing your sweetheart (or just yourself!) to the Schlafly Bottleworks, 7260 Southwest Ave. in Maplewood. Parents, staff, incoming families, teachers and interns are invited!

Participants must be 21. Each person pays for his or her own beer and food. Door prizes will be given!! For details, contact this month's organizer, Peter Manion, at sllisPApromotions@gmail.com.