

The Passport

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Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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KaBOOM! Playground Excitement

SLLIS is currently involved in two competitions with KaBOOM!, a nation-wide agency whose vision is “a great place to play within walking distance of every child in America”. They “create great playspaces through the participation and leadership of communities”.

Of immediate interest is that we have been named one of ten finalists for the KaBOOM! video contest. The top 3 finalists will receive a grant towards building a playground. We need your help to win this contest. Voting has already begun, and ends March 31st. Each person can vote online once per day (or more if you have more than one computer). It’s a quick and easy way to help our school. Bookmark the voting page and vote daily. Share our voting information with all of your friends, family and networks. We are a little school with a lot of heart and if every person in our community can inspire their community to support us, we

have a chance to win this. Don’t forget that voting continues until March 31st!! Spread the word!!
http://projects.kaboom.org/voting/elections/video_2010

We have also been invited to advance to the next round of consideration for a KaBoom! playground **installation**. If selected, we will be rewarded with a project which will cover most of the cost of our playspace. This will require us to mount our biggest volunteer opportunity to date. Volunteers, 50-100+, will install our new play structures under the guidance of KaBOOM! and their community partners. How can you help us now? Community support is a big part of the award consideration process. Visit the KaBOOM! website, www.kaboom.org, create a profile and become a member of the SLLIS Playground Project.

“You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts.”

~Kahlil Gibran, on children

Green Space Work Day - April 10th

The Green Space Task Force is planning an all-day work day on **Saturday April 10th** to complete the outdoor science classroom which has been funded by the Monsanto Grant.

This workday will involve shoveling, planting, building walls, moving dirt and many other fun outdoor activities. Large amounts of muscle, sweat and enthusiasm will be

needed, along with shovels, rakes, and other equipment. If you have access to any specialized equipment or have any questions, please contact Lisa Berman lisaberman@rocketmail.com 314-773-1995. Mark the day on your calendar and look for more details to come. This will be good training for the KaBOOM! Build Day if we win this grant!

Submitted by Lisa Berman

Upcoming Events

- **March 17**
4-8pm
Social Night at Monkey Joe's
- **March 18 6:00**
Fundraising Task Force Meeting
- **March 21**
2:30-4:30
IB PYP Workshop for Parents
- **March 22 6:00**
Promotions Task Force Meeting
- **March 29**
SPRING BREAK Begins
- **March 31**
Ka BOOM! voting ends
- **Monday April 5**
School Resumes
- **April 5, 6:00**
PA meeting
- **April 9**
7:30-9am
Moms & Muffins
- **April 10**
Green Space Work day
- **April 16**
No School
- **April 21**
Enrollment Ends

Host Family Needed

Shortly we will be receiving our 4th college intern, this year, from The Amity Institute. These interns serve as teacher assistants in the classrooms, free of cost to our school, and give our children another chance to experience language and culture first hand.

We need a family to commit to hosting, Hilen, who arrives from Argentina in mid-March. Being a host family includes: providing free room (private) and board for the intern, and inviting them to actively participate in family life and household chores. They are responsible for all of their own

additional living and entertainment expenses. It is a great opportunity for a family to learn about another culture and to practice language skills.

Next year we will be having 8 interns and will need 24 host-families (the intern spends about 12 weeks with each family). If you cannot host a student but are interested in helping, there are other ways to get involved. Please contact Jael Lippert jglippert@yahoo.com if you are interested in this opportunity now or in the future.

Language Classes for Parents

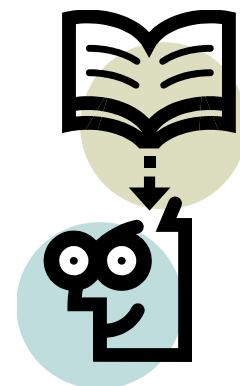
The Spanish School is committed to teaching Spanish to our families, which will encourage our students to practice and extend their knowledge out of school. The Saturday classes started on Feb. 27 and currently have 21 families participating. These students are very motivated, studying hard and practicing their language skills with students and staff members in the halls of the school. During Spanish classes, the

children of the enrolled parents are working on improving their reading, writing and math skills in English. Please contact Arlene with any questions.

The French School is interested in starting French language classes for its families. If you would like to attend, please contact Conrad and let him know when you are available and your current level of French.

Meeting the Needs of Talented 1st Graders

The Spanish School has identified talented first grade students who are currently benefiting from an enriched curriculum program outside of the regular classes. These classes, which started March 8, meet twice a week for 2 hours. Please contact Arlene with any questions.



Fundraising Task Force

Join SLLIS families at Monkey Joe's in Crestwood (9061 Watson Rd., 962-5637) on **Wednesday, March 17** any time from 4:00-8:00pm. Wall-to-wall inflatable slides, jumps and obstacle courses will keep your kids active & happy while adults relax, meet other parents and indulge in refreshments from the concession stand (no outside food). Turn in your order form and money to the office by Tuesday evening so we know how many families to expect. The fee is \$9 for children ages 3-12 and \$5 for children under 2 who are jumping. If you miss the deadline, just come to Monkey Joe's and pay at the door. Please contact Lisa Berman 314-

773-1995 lisaberman@rocketmail.com with any questions.

Spaghetteria Mamma Mia Night brought in \$293.98 for the school. The next Restaurant night is Wed April 21st.

March Pizza Night raised \$35. The next pizza night is Thursday April 8th.

www.goodsearch.com - Simply by using this search engine and online shopping mall, www.goodshop.com we've earned \$20.20 and counting. Keep collecting Boxtop\$!

TJ's Pizza Sale April 5th -April 15th
Next meeting: Thurs March 18, 6pm.

Submitted by Sally Matiszik: smatiszik@yahoo.com

Announcements

UMSL Study- Some of you have probably seen or met UMSL Prof. Lisa Dorner at SLLIS events. She has been documenting the development of the schools, and now she wants to hear from you! If you're interested in sharing your experiences and/or concerns with an outside observer, please call 314-516-6437 or email dornerl@umsl.edu. Conversations will be anonymous and used to provide feedback to the SLLIS community and leadership.

Uniforms- Please remember to send your child to school in proper uniform attire and colors. Polo shirts are only allowed on gym days. All other days require collared shirts with ties. Mark your child's clothing with his/her name (especially the blazers as they seem to get misplaced easily). If you are interested in helping to start a uniform resale/recycle shop at school please contact Carol Wilmes catholiccampus@yahoo.com. This will be a great way to save on uniform costs in the future.

Read to Succeed- Congratulations to the 81 students who completed the 6 hours of reading to win a Six Flags Ticket. Tickets will be sent to SLLIS for distribution in late April.

2010-2011 Enrollment-Spots are still available for next year. All families that enrolled prior to March 9 are guaranteed a spot. A lottery may go into effect for those who enroll between now and April 21st. Applications are also being accepted for 1st & 2nd grade in both schools to fill the spots opened by attrition. Contact Kirsten with any questions, enrollment@sllis.org or 314-533-2001. SLLIS yard signs are available to help fill the final spots. Families interested in advertising in their yard should contact Brandon Moore at parentsassembly@sllis.org.

SLLIS Parents Lounge- This great space is in the basement - behind the reception area and down the stairs. There is a small play area for children with bean bags, books and quiet toys, but we are still in need of a few items (including bulletin boards for parent business cards and advertisements, basic office supplies, coat rack, etc) to help get the lounge ready to host informal gatherings and small meetings. This is your space! Please let us know if you have any ideas and/or donations. Contact: Kevin Cameron at kevin@parkwayucc.org or 314-330-0629. Thank you!

Conversation with Head of French School

Parents from the French School are invited to meet with Conrad to express ideas, comments and concerns regarding their school-wide expectations.

The meetings are scheduled for **Thursday March 18th** at 10:30am or **Friday March 19th** at 5:00 pm.

Spanish School Fabulous Friday Schedule

March 12- Prof. Donna/Veronica

March 19- Prof. Maribel/Gloria

March 26- Prof. Olga/Joey

April 9- Prof. Jose Manuel/Lucia

April 23- Prof. Angie/Douglas

April 30- Prof. Maribel/Gloria

9:00am
Parents are welcome to join.

Family Spotlight - Houses for Haiti

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

E-mail:

parentsassembly@sllis.org

PA Meeting schedule:

Monday April 5
Tuesday May 4
Monday June 7

Next PA meeting
Monday April 5
6-8 pm
All are invited!!

Thanks to the Houses for Haiti art show, the students at SLLIS raised over \$1600 to donate to Partners in Health for their relief work in Haiti. Here is a story of the Jackson-Cameron family and how they made it happen...

Their family consists of Carmen Cameron, her husband Joe Jackson, daughter Isabelle (French School Kindergarten), and baby Clyve. They also have three dogs, three birds, a cat, and a guinea pig. Shortly before Isabelle was born, they started Jackson Pianos, a piano sales and service company located on Cherokee Street in South City. Morgan manages the office and Joe works as the head technician to provide service to over two thousand clients. Morgan also teaches ballet at COCA.

Morgan had a childhood friend who was killed in the earthquake in Haiti. "Although I hadn't spoken to her in years," she said, "it certainly made the devastation more personal. We donated some money...but wanted to do more. I sat down with my daughter to brainstorm some ideas of how she and her friends might help. Isabelle surprised me by saying, 'Oh, I know! We could have an art show!'" And the idea was born. It was a

lot of work, but a perfect way the kids, themselves, could actually contribute.

Rhonda and the art teachers at both schools were very enthusiastic and supportive. Spanish school art teacher, Lyndsey Scott offered the gallery space at CAMP (the Community Arts and Media Project) where she also works. The supplies were donated by the St. Louis Art Museum, as well as by the family business and many friends.

Morgan recruited her family members to help prepare the pieces and to go to school during art classes to help the students decorate and assemble the houses. Morgan commented, "The kids were really excited at the idea that their work would be helping the people of Haiti. They were particularly impressed that their efforts might reach the goal of \$1000."

During several more days (and the work of more volunteers) final touches were added, decorations and a slide show were made, and the gallery was prepared for the big night. Morgan describes it accurately "It was magical, with SLLIS and non-SLLIS families passing through the doors pretty steadily the whole time."



Houses for Haiti work days: planning, creating and selling the artwork. Over \$1600 was donated to help Haiti!!