

The Passport

Back to School 2010
Volume 2, Issue 1

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools
Parents Assembly Newsletter



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A Word of Welcome from the President

On behalf of the SLLIS Parents Assembly, Welcome Back! We are about to embark upon a very exciting year.

As Founding Families we all have the unique opportunity to play a special role in the education of our children, and of future students. In one year we have developed a strong culture of family, teamwork and community. With the focus on these key attributes, and with your participation, we will continue to build upon the foundation that we have already laid. There will be many opportunities for us, as parents, to contribute our special gifts and be "Part of the Solution". As Founding Families this will be the mark we leave, as a group, and as individuals.

SLLIS is no longer described as the school that teaches the "funny" languages. SLLIS is now described as the school that is making a difference in our community. With your support, involvement and contribution this description will continue to be written.

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or comments for the PA, please email them to parentsassembly@sllis.org or put them in the PA comment box in the lobby. I look forward to working with you all.

Brandon Moore, Sr.

Coming together is a beginning
Keeping together is progress
Working together is success.
-Henry Ford

Some Familiar Faces

Last year at this time, the Parents Assembly was just an idea, one that seemed a long way off. But thanks to the dedication, leadership and patience of many families, it is now a reality. SLLIS is lucky to have many amazingly devoted and hardworking families. Some volunteer in the classroom, at special outings and events. Others have chosen to work behind the scenes and help with various administrative duties.

Still others have dedicated themselves to organizing the Parents Assembly and its many Task Forces. These are some of the faces you may have seen at PA meetings, orientations and at various task force events. We're hoping to use this Back-to-School Newsletter to help you put a name to some of these faces. Some appear here, others inside with their updates.....

"There is always a moment in childhood when the door opens and lets the future in."

- Graham Green



Brandon Moore, Sr.
PA President



DeAngelo Britt
PA Vice President



Qianna Moore
Uniform Task Force Co-facilitators
Qianna also holds position of Communications Task Force Facilitator.



Shonda Gray



Patrice Hadley
PA Treasurer



Jean Lammers
PA Secretary



Kevin Cameron is the Spanish School Rep.

This position is currently available in the French School. Elections will take place at the Sept PA meeting. (See pg.3 for details.)

2010-2011 Task Force Information

Girl Scouts
is Starting
Soon!



If your daughter is interested in being a Girl Scout please take note of these dates:

Friday, September 3rd:
Parent Meeting

Thursday, September 16th:
Paperwork & Fees Due

Wednesday, September 29th:
1st Troop meeting

We are in need of more adults who are willing to help support our troop during meetings, etc!
Please let us know if you are at all interested.
Troop email address: SLLISgirlscout@gmail.com

Co-Leaders phone contacts:
Leah Dyer: 917.297.0905(m) Mona Love: 314.276.2091(m)

General info from the Girls Scouts of Eastern Missouri:
www.girlscoutsem.org

Why Participate in the SLLIS Parents' Assembly Fundraisers?

- **Enhance Your Child's Education** - Funds raised through direct donation and other SLLIS PA fundraising activities are used to enhance your child's education in ways that SLLIS does not allocate funds for. Our fundraisers and donations will put results in the classroom and on the playground.
- **Witness Improvement** - The PA plays an essential role in fundraising to provide teacher appreciation, school supplies/ equipment, and social events—all vital to a school's success.
- **Be a Role Model** - By participating in beneficial fundraisers, you'll be demonstrating to your child the importance you place on education and their future.

The money that the SLLIS PA raises stays within The French School and The Spanish School. We choose the greatest needs and how it is spent.

Please join our efforts as we continue to support our schools, especially during these tough budget years, and consider how this money benefits our kids when you take on that next Fundraising Drive!

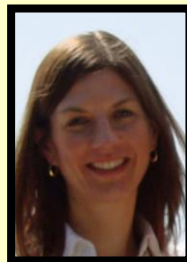
The Green Space Task Force was created to develop the former loading dock and parking lot next to the school into an outdoor science classroom and play space. We have been working on this project since before the school opened. There have been some significant improvements to the green space this summer. We actually made the space green with sod in June. It was an especially hot day and a big thanks go out to the 10 families that helped us finally make the "Green Space" live up to its name. Our pond was installed in July and then more than 30 families helped with installing many of the components of the Outdoor Science Classroom in August. Thank you so much to all of you who came out to create our unique area for playing and learning. If you have not signed up at a previous meeting and would like to be on the Green Space e-mail list, please contact Lisa Berman, (see photo) Green Space Task Force Facilitator at 314-773-1995 or lisaberman@rocketmail.com.



You can also help with Green Space maintenance through the Parent Volunteer Corp. Please contact Leah Dyer at leahdyer@gmail.com.

Important Dates

- Sept 3
Club SLLIS
Forms DUE
- Sept 6
Labor Day
NO SCHOOL
- Sept 7 6pm
PA Meeting
- Sept 17
NO SCHOOL
Club SLLIS
- Sept 21
TSS Open House
- Sept 23
TFS Open House

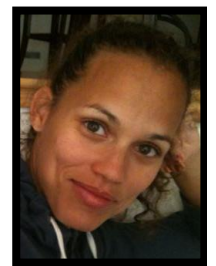


Fundraising Task
Force Facilitator:
Sally Matiszik

smatiszik@yahoo.com

The Parent Volunteer Corp helps Teachers, Staff, Administration, The PA, and the other Task Forces reach their goals by assisting them in implementing their visions and projects. We do this by helping teachers prepare for class projects, procure resources for the school or task force events as well as help plan and man events throughout the school year. By signing up you agree to be contacted when a volunteer opportunity presents itself. That's it. You're simply agreeing to receive an email or call. There is no expectation that you will be available for every event. We just hope, presented with opportunity, that you will help out when you can. If you have already signed up I will be in touch soon. If you are interested in being added to our email list or have any questions please let me know: leahdyer@gmail.com.

PVC Facilitator:
Leah Dyer



Welcome to the Amity Interns

This year SLLIS welcomes 8 international interns to the classrooms. The first and second grade classrooms use the interns as assistants to the teachers to provide more small group opportunities and additional language models for the students.

This year's interns are:

Abdou Mbaye (France)
 Jehan Ganachaud (France)
 Marvin Trovato (France)
 Quentin Chartois (France)
 Alex Mosquero Torres (Columbia)
 Carmen Costa Nadal (Spain)
 Jonathon Cuesta Morelos (Columbia)
 Carlos Paredes Hontiyuelo (Spain).

This program is vital to the school and the interns are always in need of host families for long-term stays, short-term visits, social outings etc. If you are unsure if this would be an experience your family would enjoy, read on and learn about the experience of the Varadachary-Cappiello family.....

Interview with Arun Varadachary and Maria Grazia Cappiello, parents of twin kindergartner girls in TFS and host family to French school intern Marvin Trovato.

Families host for a lot of different reasons, could you tell us about why you decided to host?

Arun (A): "We wanted to contribute to the school. We thought it would be a good experience for the girls to see how their parents opened their home to people they don't know." **Maria Grazia (MG):** "Both of us had a similar experience, Arun went to Luxembourg in his twenties and I came to this country and I was hosted. It was such a great experience."

Sometimes people worry about what to do with the intern when they arrive. How was that experience for you?

MG: "I would say that we felt an instant connection with Marvin. We felt very at ease very quickly."

What have you done about transportation?

A: "Transportation would have been

more of an obstacle if he didn't have access to someone with a car." One of the interns has purchased a car.

MG: "So we provide him with a bike just to go to the gym, etc... He's very independent. He gets around."

Could you talk about Marvin's social life and how involved you've needed to be?

A: "He expressed to us early what some of his outside interests were so we've been able to help get him connected that way." **MG:** "They seem to be quite connected among the interns."

Maria Grazia mentioned that parents might worry about never having any privacy. **MG:** "We get plenty of family time. We actually told him that maybe we'd like a little more time with him so we don't feel like a hotel thing."

A: "But that's part of the expectation issue, you know, make sure that we define what our expectations are like and how we would like to benefit from this experience as well as him benefiting."

Have you had any cultural surprises?

A: "There were two things, one was the types of bread. The French have a specific word for each kind of bread."

MG: "We learned that there is a word for an act of violence against a group of people. We don't have that in English."

Abdou Mbaye arrived on Aug. 29. He is still in need of a host family for part of the semester. Abdou speaks French, English, Spanish and Wolof. If you'd like to host him or have him or any of the interns to dinner please email Jael Lippert at jlippert@yahoo.com. Be aware though that four of our SLLIS families who offered to host short-term decided after getting their intern to keep them for the semester! Cross-school hosting is a possibility too and has been a great experience for two of our French families.

Jael is also in need of organizational help for this and future years. Please contact her if you are interested in helping this program thrive at SLLIS.

**Club SLLIS
 Registration
 Forms for
 September 17th
 are DUE FRIDAY
 SEPT 3RD**

If you need a form, they are available at the front desk.

The French School will hold nominations and elections for the position of French School Representative at the Sept 7th PA meeting.

It is the role of this representative to bring to the Executive Committee and the PA any concerns and issues of the parents, staff and administration of the represented school.

If you are interested in this position, please attend the meeting so your nomination can be accepted and you can be introduced to fellow-parents prior to the election. If you are unable to attend, the By-laws state that nominations can be accepted prior to the meeting (please send notice to parentsassembly@sllis.org) but it will be difficult to introduce yourself to other parents.

Voting will take place immediately following nominations. You must be present and in the French School to vote. This position is open to ANY parent of a French School student, including new families.

Family Spotlight - A New SLLIS Parent

Saint Louis Language Immersion Schools Parents Assembly

E-mail:

parentsassembly@sllis.org

PA Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday Sept. 7
Monday Oct. 4
Tuesday Nov. 2
Monday Dec. 6
Tuesday Jan. 11
Monday Feb. 7
Tuesday March 8
Monday April 4
Tuesday May 3
Monday June 6

Meetings start at 6pm

Please remember that if you need to bring your child/children, then you will be asked to take a turn with other parents, on a rotating basis, in the childcare room during the meeting.

Back to School Photos



We've all done it. We've survived sending a young, beloved child to Kindergarten on that first day. Somehow it's usually worse for the parent than the child. There is a *new* parent in the SLLIS community, someone we all know and have met personally, someone who has been vital to the success of our schools, who this year finally survived what we have all survived. She finally understands what it's like to send a child off, alone, on that first day.

Rhonda Broussard, our SLLIS President, made it through the first day of Kindergarten, not without some sadness, fear and tears, as she watched her daughter Olivia sail through the door without looking back. Rhonda said she had it all planned out. She had been talking with Olivia about Kindergarten to prepare her for the big day. Olivia had practiced wearing pieces of her uniform, but never ALL of it at once. That was saved for the BIG day. All the good-byes at pre-school were finished. Even Olivia's pressing questions of why Kindergarten had no cots for nap-time and if she could bring a stuffed animal to school were answered. Olivia was ready. Rhonda was ready, too.

Rhonda even practiced being a "parent" on one of the staff training days as they were working on the "welcome routine". She was amazed at how

welcome she felt and was hopeful that all parents would have this same warm greeting. The thought that she would *really* be one of those parents and that *her* family would feel the warm welcome, brought tears to her eyes.

But she knew she was ready. After all this is what she had been working for. For the past several years, for endless hours she had been readying the school for the arrival of her daughter. She had that all planned out, too. From the beginning she wanted to make sure the school was up and running before Olivia entered. She wanted to make sure that she could be a parent, just like any other parent, experiencing the first day of Kindergarten.

When the day actually arrived, Rhonda was at school early. Her family arrived at 8:30 for the morning drop-off and she ran outside to meet them. Rhonda said that as soon as she saw Olivia walk up the sidewalk ready for school in her full uniform she suddenly became overwhelmed and fell to the ground in tears. She couldn't believe how real it all was. She couldn't believe that her baby had grown up and was starting school. She realized there was no looking back. She suddenly understood why, when she was a child, the adults in her life would say to her that she needed to "stop growing" and that it was all happening "too fast". Olivia handled it much better. She was very excited and never looked back as she marched into the school. She shed no tears and had an amazing first day of Kindergarten in the French School.

Rhonda admits that her job has become even more meaningful this year. She also admits to cheating a little and sneaking a peak at her daughter's classroom a few times in the first couple of days. She says most of the time Olivia just keeps on playing or working or listening to the teacher. On occasion Rhonda gets a hug or a special greeting from her daughter. The other children seem to think it's neat that Olivia's mom works at the school. They don't know her role at school yet. To the kids she isn't the "President" or the "boss", she is the lady with the "pretty shoes" or the "bus lady", or perhaps most importantly, "Olivia's Mom".