

The Spanish School

St. Louis Language Immersion Schools

Quote of the week

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Sir Richard Steele

"La lectura es a la mente lo que el ejercicio es al cuerpo." Sir Richard Steele

Pensamiento de la semana

Dear Families,

*Please join us in the **IMMERSION CELEBRATION** event on Friday February 3rd at 5:45pm, to celebrate each student (1st grade) who has been immersed in the Spanish language for 18 months. They will receive a Diploma that symbolizes their effort of being in an immersion program, and will mark their compromise for them to move forward to the next stage. You will receive the invitation with all the details*

I look forward to seeing you there

Best,

Arlene Galve Salgado

Head of School-TSS

Dates to remember:

Jan 24-MAP test meeting-6-7pm.

Jan 25- Board Meeting- 6-8pm

Jan 27- Retakes/make-ups and Staff photos

Jan 28- MAP test kick off (3rd grade students-1:00-2:30pm)

Feb 2-3- FREE vision and hearing screening for all students

Feb 3- Friday Assembly KA (KA parents are invited to attend-9:00-9:20am)

Feb 3- Immersion Celebration—(1st graders)

Feb 9- SAC meeting- 6-7pm (Lisa Dorner will coordinate donation-based childcare for this event)

Feb 24-Buenos Dias Familia- 7:30-8:15am
-Topic-Recess

SIX FLAGS READ TO SUCCEED and Raz-Kids

Now your child can earn a free ticket to Six Flags to use during summer break just by reading six hours at home, due date to be announced by the classroom teacher. The books that your child read in Raz-kids can be considered in this log that the teachers are passing around. Just please make sure to supervise your child while reading. It will be a good idea to have your child read aloud so you can correct him when he is making mistakes. It is so important that your child keeps practicing reading at home, thanks for your support.

Ahora tu niño/a puede ganarse un ticket gratis a Six Flags para usarlo durante las vacaciones del verano solo por leer seis horas en la casa, la fecha será anunciada por su profesora. Los libros que tu niño lea en Raz-kids pueden ser considerados en este log que las profesoras están distribuyendo. Solo por favor asegúrese de supervisar a su niño cuando lee. Es una buena idea que su niño lea en voz alta para que usted lo pueda corregir cuando hace errores. Es tan importante que tu niño practique su lectura

We want YOUR KIDS... at school!

Good attendance is extremely important for your child's intellectual and social development. As per SLLIS school policy, parents of students who are absent eleven days or more will be contacted by the Head of School. Students may be required to make up missed contact hours by repeating a grade. The Head of School may also report excessive absences to the Department of Family Services and Truancy Officers.

Please remember that excused doctor visits require doctors' notes. If you are in need of transportation assistance, please contact Emilie Lytton at emilie@sllis.org.

Queremos SUS HIJOS ... en la escuela!

La buena asistencia es muy importante para el desarrollo intelectual y social de su hijo. De acuerdo con la política de SLLIS, los padres de los alumnos que se ausentan once días o más, serán contactados por el Director de la Escuela. Los estudiantes pueden ser requeridos para repetir el grado para compensar las horas de contacto que perdió. El Director de la Escuela también puede reportar ausencias escolares excesivas al Departamento de Familia y Servicios Oficiales.

Por favor recuerde que las visitas al médico requieren las notas de los médicos. Si usted está en necesidad de asistencia de transporte, por favor póngase en contacto con Emilie Lytton en emilie@sllis.org.

SAC Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the new SAC section of the Spanish school's newsletter. This section of the newsletter has been started to help promote communication between the SAC, the administration, teachers and parents. We welcome comments and suggestions for improvement!

Notes from meeting on 01.18.12 at 7:15AM

Elected parent representatives, Arlene, Maribel and elected teacher representatives met at our first SAC meeting since the transition of the PA task forces to the SAC. This was the first meeting for our two new parent representatives: Susan Herzberg, Kindergarten parent and Angela Turner, Kindergarten parent and new school nurse at SLLIS.

Topics discussed and actions taken

PA to SAC Transition - Task Force News

- PA-SAC transition meetings will be held every Wednesday from 4-5pm through February 25th at the school. Arlene will be contacting current PA task force leaders to see if they would like to continue their role under the SAC. We most sincerely hope that they will and that the wonderful energy of the PA can continue in this new format.
- Fundraising – It was noted that in the new SAC format the fundraising task force will conduct fundraisers with a specific goal that is communicated in association with that fundraiser.
- Interns: The Spanish school is in need of a new Intern coordinator. This is a very important role for the school. Interns are a crucial part of the SLLIS system and the way we provide our students with a 10:1 student/teacher ratio. Please contact Lisa Dorner at sllispainterns@gmail.com if you are interested in acting as Intern Coordinator or if you are interested in hosting an intern.
- Green Space: Open Meeting February 2nd @ 6pm - We have an opportunity to receive an additional grant from Monsanto to improve the outdoor science classroom space. At the meeting we will review requirements/requests for the current space and for our future new school site. We will also plan teacher surveys for science/gardening wish lists. Please note, although a grant for playground equipment would be wonderful, this grant is specifically for science/math education. The Green space task force was disbanded at the end of the last Monsanto grant and will be reinstated to take advantage of this new opportunity.

Communication

Parents have expressed a desire for more consistent communication from the school including more notice about upcoming meetings during school hours so that they can schedule time off from work to attend. Action taken:

- Establishment of this Newsletter section to help facilitate communication
- Creation and distribution of a full school year calendar of events to parents.
- Raise awareness of the need to consistently include date, time, description – the full who, what, when, where, why list in all communications.
- Any other suggestions are appreciated!

Recess/Playground

Parents have expressed concern in SAC meetings that children are not allowed to run on the school playground. School administrators and teachers clarified that running is allowed in some circumstances, but chase games that involve pushing or shoving are not. It was agreed that we need to find positive solutions to make the playground as appealing, fun and conducive to physical activity as possible while still providing a safe environment for the children. Actions taken:

- Teachers and Administrators will brainstorm with students at the assembly on Friday 1.20.12 about "What we CAN do on the playground"
- Teachers and administrators will develop a policy to present to the SAC regarding what the playground guidelines currently are
- Parents are invited to visit recess next Thursday 2.02.12
 - 10am Kindergarten
 - 10:50am First Grade
 - 11:00 am Third Grade
 - 12:15 Second Grade
- Parents will be invited to the next Buenos Dias Familia on 2.24.12 from 7:30A – 8:15A to discuss what they have seen on the playground, the recess policy and to brainstorm about what can be done to optimize the situation. Possible solutions: fundraiser or request for donations for jump ropes, hula hoops, other play equipment

New Family Orientation/Welcome

Parents expressed concern about the policy of not walking children to classrooms during the first week of school, especially for Kindergarteners. This concern warrants further discussion by the SAC. This topic also evolved into a discussion about more ways to welcome new families to SLLIS including finding opportunities for parents to talk with teachers and current families: Suggested action:

- Start a mentoring program to pair incoming parents with current SLLIS families. This idea has been well received by the SAC and will be discussed in detail at the next SAC meeting.