



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Saint Louis Public Schools  
**ART FAIR**

SPONSORED BY THE SAINT LOUIS ZOO & SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION  
ASSISTANCE BY PULASKI BANK

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# School & Home



WWW.SLPS.ORG

SUMMER 2007

## Artwork Comes to Life at the St. Louis Zoo



The St. Louis Zoo's Living World recently dazzled with images of beautiful, amazing and exotic creatures captured magnificently on paper, canvas, computers and film by SLPS students. The Zoo's Living World hosted the Sixth Annual St. Louis Public Schools Art Fair February 23- March 9.

Peacocks, lizards and butterflies took center stage along with big cats, bears and other living things. The fair showcased the talent of SLPS students from pre-school through grade 12. Pupils submitted work in six categories- drawing, painting, mixed media, computer graphics, printmaking, and photography.

"The exemplary work clearly demonstrates the integration of art, science, and other academic disciplines," said Linda Kraiberg, SLPS Art Supervisor.

A special awards ceremony at the Living World auditorium culminated the event. The program included a performance by the Metro High School Jazz

Ensemble, under the direction of Marquita Reed.

Superintendent Diana Bourisaw served as a judge at the event. She selected two students to receive the "Superintendent's Choice" award: **Christopher Conyears**, a student at Clyde C. Miller High School, and **Samantha Johnson** from Roosevelt High School. **Shelbey Parnell**, a student from Gateway Elementary, was the recipient of the "Mayor's Choice" award.

The Art Fair was sponsored by the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation and the St. Louis Zoo. Additional assistance was provided through Pulaski Bank.

### Superintendent's Corner

Dear SLPS Parents, Students and Families,

In March, the State Board of Education voted to remove the accreditation of the St. Louis Public Schools as of June 15.



Dr. Diana M. Bourisaw

There are several ways in which this action will affect our district if the attempts to appeal are unsuccessful.

First, the powers of our elected school board will be set aside. Effective June 15, our schools will be governed by a three-member "transitional school board," with members appointed by the Governor, the Mayor, and the President of the Board of Aldermen. Rick Sullivan, the Governor's appointee, will serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the district. His appointment requires confirmation by the Missouri Senate.

Resident students – meaning any child who lives within the boundaries of our school district, even if they are not enrolled in the St. Louis Public Schools – will have the ability to apply for a transfer to any other accredited school district. The cost of tuition for students who are accepted into county schools will be covered by the St. Louis Board of Education.

It is important to note that we do not know how many seats will be available in the county schools. Nothing in the law requires other school districts to accept transfer students from SLPS.

If we do lose a significant number of students, it will strike a blow to the City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis Public School system cannot afford the financial burden of a drain of students in addition to paying the tuition costs of students who are not currently enrolled in our system. For example, according to the State of Missouri, a student currently enrolled in a private or parochial school, or a child who is home-schooled, can apply to transfer to the county at the expense of SLPS. However, under the State's funding formula, the money for those students will not be realized for another two years.

What does all this mean? It means additional school closings beyond what we currently face. It means more blight in neighborhoods where schools once stood.

We will continue to post any significant updates on our website, [www.slps.org](http://www.slps.org), as the appeals process moves forward. Regardless of the outcome, we will continue the improvements that were started this school year.

Diana M. Bourisaw, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of the  
St. Louis Public Schools





## SLPS Launches a New Scholarship Program for the Class of 2010

Dr. Diana Bourisaw, Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools, and officials from College Summit announced a new scholarship program aimed at sending all current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to college. The district has set an ambitious goal to raise \$20 million in scholarships for all eligible students currently enrolled in the Class of 2010.

"We must give our students-especially those in high school-hope that they will have the opportunity to go to college," Dr. Bourisaw said. "At the same time, through this program, we can encourage our teens to stay in school, maintain decent grades, and learn how to become good citizens," she added.

SLPS has already secured 125 scholarships from a major four-year university, and 400 scholarships from a technical

*"We must give our students-especially those in high school-hope that they will have the opportunity to go to college... At the same time, through this program, we can encourage our teens to stay in school, maintain decent grades, and learn how to become good citizens."*

**DR. DIANA BOURISAW**  
Superintendent of the  
St. Louis Public Schools

college. Additional details regarding those participating colleges and universities will be announced soon. The district is also working closely with Forest Park Community College in seeking scholarships and donations for additional students.

"We are well on our way towards the \$20 million in scholarships," said Stacy Clay, the executive director of College

*Continued on page 3*

## St. Louis Board of Education

Mr. William (Bill) Purdy  
*Vice President*

Dr. Flint Fowler  
*Secretary*

Mr. Peter Downs

Mr. David L. Jackson

Ms. Donna Jones

Ms. Veronica O'Brien

Ms. Katherine Wessling

**Superintendent**  
Diana M. Bourisaw, Ph.D.

# Board of Education Approves Facilities Plan

The St. Louis Board of Education approved the facility recommendations submitted by Superintendent Diana Bourisaw. The Board action gives the green light to Bourisaw to proceed with new education initiatives and school configurations for the 2007-2008 school year, such as:

- Bunche International Studies Middle School students will be relocated to the current Madison Alternative School site at 1118 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St.
- Three new alternative programs for chronically disruptive students, K-12, will be introduced at the elementary, middle, and high school levels at buildings to be identified later.
- The expansion of McKinley Classical Junior Academy will add the 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the upcoming school year. At the end of the 2007-2008 school year, district officials would examine the success of adding grades to the popular gifted magnet program.
- Students from the Lafayette 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center will be relocated to the Humboldt facility.
- The Ashland Elementary Annex will be closed. Preschool and kindergarten students will move to the main Ashland facility.

"These new plans address the concerns voiced by our parents, students and community members," Bourisaw said. "By improving our overall facility usage, we'll have the opportunity to enhance our academic offerings while keeping our students in environments conducive to learning."

The district held several community forums during March and April. Bourisaw took public comments into consideration before submitting her final recommendation to the board.

Central to the reorganization plans for next school year is the need to increase the number of alternative education programs throughout the district. Each program will serve up to 150 students. The students will benefit from new curriculum and research-based instructional models specifically targeted to the needs of these students. Discussions currently are underway with the Big Picture Company ([www.bigpicture.org](http://www.bigpicture.org)), an organization that specializes in developing individualized instruction for students.

Other facility changes slated to go into effect include:

- Reopening Meda P. Washington as an early childhood center

- Increasing the capacity of Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, which will also house a newcomer center for non-English speaking residents
- Reconfiguring Cleveland @ Pruitt Naval Junior ROTC to accommodate grades seven through twelve
- Altering the grade configurations at some schools

The plan calls for a total of five facilities to be closed – Euclid Montessori Elementary, Lafayette, Webster Middle, Ashland Elementary Annex, and Turner Branch. In addition, the district anticipates placing 11 properties on the market for sale during the next school year. To view the full facilities plan, visit [www.slps.org](http://www.slps.org).

# Soldan High School Welcomes Consul General of Israel

Students at Soldan International High School recently got a first-hand lesson in diplomacy, history, and current events. Consul General Barukh Binah of Israel addressed the students in a special assembly organized by the high school's United Nations Club. Fox 2's John Gadson, a Soldan graduate, served as master of ceremonies. Congressman Lacy Clay and Superintendent Diana Bourisaw also attended the event.

Binah spoke to students about the importance of the United Nations and the role it plays in peacekeeping. He also talked about the relationship between the United States and Israel.

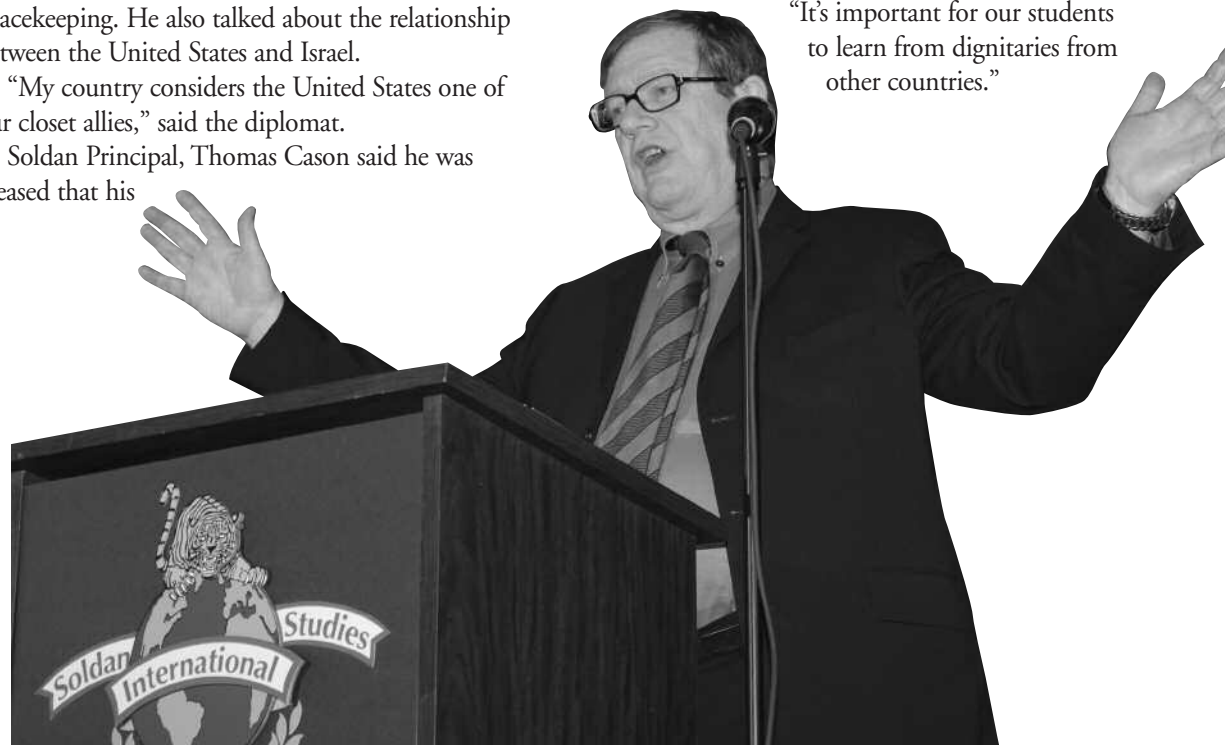
"My country considers the United States one of our closet allies," said the diplomat.

Soldan Principal, Thomas Cason said he was pleased that his



school had the opportunity to host Binah. "We have a diverse population of students," Cason said.

"It's important for our students to learn from dignitaries from other countries."



# Bears Bring Teachable Moments to Early Learners

Literacy and friendship took on special significance for hundreds of early childhood students at Stix, Wilkinson and Kottmeyer. The Build-A-Bear Corporation donated kits so that hundreds of youngsters could experience the joy of making a bear friend.

Principals then crafted learning experiences around the Build-A-Bear kits, using the stuffed dolls as a centerpiece.

At one event, students celebrated "Build a Friend Day." Amidst lots of giggles and smiles, 446 girls and boys constructed their new furry buddies while talking to each other about what makes a good friend. The children wrote about their bears and experiences in a memory book. At another gathering, the bears were joined by dozens of families who turned out for Family Literacy Night. Parents and students participated in a

brief workshop titled "Building Self-Esteem."

The students then spent quiet time reading with their parents while snuggling with their new creations.



# Gateway Elementary Students Blast Off to Space Camp

Students will spend nearly a week in Huntsville, Alabama

Twenty-six 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Gateway Elementary will take a trip of a lifetime when they attend Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama beginning on Sunday, May 20. The five day camp teaches students about Space Shuttle systems and life aboard the Orbiter and Space Station. They will sample space food and even learn how to sleep in space.

Space Camp uses space to excite and educate children ages 9-11 in the fields of math, science and technology. Teamwork, self-confidence and communication will be achieved through state-of-the-art simulations, missions, rocket building, and robotics.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our kids to learn about what it takes to be an astronaut," said Rick Sirna, principal. "We've had students attend the Space Camp for each of the past 11 years, but this year we did not have the funds required to send our students," he added.

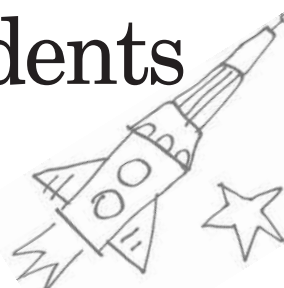
When he learned the Gateway students would not be able to attend due to lack of funds, Brian Hutchinson, an employee with the St. Louis Public Schools, stepped in to help. So far he has raised nearly \$20,000 to send the students to camp this year. "These

types of learning opportunities for our students are too important to let them end due to insufficient money. When I started asking local businesses and area contractors to sponsor a child to attend Space Camp, the responses I received were overwhelming," Hutchison said.

Additional donations were secured by the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation, a local not-for-profit organization that seeks support for targeted projects and programs that will result in improvements in educational outcomes for students in the St. Louis Public Schools. Individuals and corporations wishing to donate additional funds are encouraged to visit the Foundation online at [www.slpfoundation.org](http://www.slpfoundation.org).

Gateway Elementary has an enrollment of approximately 575 students. It is a place where students with similar interests and aptitudes from many different areas are brought together. The intended result is a melting pot of enthusiastic, motivated students who strive to achieve more specialized, shared goals.

Additional information on Space Camp can be found online at [www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com).



## St. Louis Board of Education Approves 2007-2008 School Calendar

**School will begin one week earlier.** The St. Louis Board of Education has approved its academic calendar for the 2007-2008 school year. The calendar, which includes 175 instructional days, moves the start date of school back one week with students returning to class on **MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2007.**

"This calendar brings St. Louis Public Schools more in line with surrounding school districts," said Superintendent Diana Bourisaw. "In addition, this calendar provides for an additional day of instruction for our students, and one additional professional development day for our teachers," she added.

The calendar includes school holidays for **Labor Day** (Sept. 3, 2007), **Veterans' Day** (Nov. 12, 2007), **Dr. Martin Luther King Day** (Jan. 21, 2008), **Presidents' Day** (Feb. 18, 2008), and **Memorial Day** (May 26, 2008). Schools will be closed Nov. 22 and 23, 2007 for **Thanksgiving Break**; the **Winter Break** will be Dec. 24, 2007 through Jan. 2, 2008; **Spring Break** will be March 17-21, 2008.

As part of the 2007-2008 calendar, there are 12 professional development days and two parent conferences as follows:

- **September 21**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **October 19**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **October 26**  
Parent Conference Day with no students. Conferences to be held three hours after school on **Oct. 25** and 3 hours in the morning on **Oct. 26**. Conference Break Day for three hours on the afternoon of **Oct. 26**.
- **November 21**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **December 14**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **January 2**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **February 15**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **March 7**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **March 28**  
Parent Conference Day (no students). Conferences to be held three hours after school on March 27 and three hours on the morning of March 28. Conference Break Day for three hours on the afternoon of March 28.
- **April 18**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **May 9**  
Professional Development (no students)
- **May 30**  
Last Class Day
- **June 9**  
Summer School begins



## MAY 29 is MAKE-UP DAY

Tuesday, May 29, will be a regular school day for all students in the St. Louis Public School district. May 29 had originally been scheduled for teacher professional development. The Board of Education approved this date to make up for the cancellation of classes on Dec. 1, 2006 due to inclement weather. The last day of school remains **JUNE 1, 2007.**



**SLPS Launches a New Scholarship Program for the Class of 2010**

*Continued from page 1*

Summit, the organization which will oversee the scholarship program. "We will continue to seek additional opportunities for our students with other universities and colleges, as well as seeking private donations to the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation," Clay said.

To be eligible for the program, currently enrolled 9th graders and their parent(s) or guardian must sign an agreement that the student will:

- Attend a St. Louis Public Schools high school for three consecutive years immediately prior to graduation;
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 grading scale;
- Demonstrate an attendance record of 92% or greater;
- Perform 50 hours of unpaid tutoring of younger students or other community service in conjunction with the Office of Community Education;
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoidance of unlawful use of alcohol and drugs;
- Have an ACT score on record with the high school counseling office; and
- Make a good faith effort to first secure all available federal post-secondary student financial assistance funds that do not require repayment, and evidence of completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ( FAFSA) prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> of the graduating year.

The goal is to continue the Class of 2010 Scholarship Program for every subsequent class. Many of the scholarships that have already been secured will continue annually for the coming years.

"We are working with the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation to establish a fund to help defray the costs of food, textbooks, and other essentials for students who qualify," Bourisaw said. Individuals and businesses wishing to contribute to the Class of 2010 Scholarship Program are encouraged to contact the:

**St. Louis Public Schools Foundation**  
 1415 Olive Street, Suite 100  
 St. Louis, MO 63103  
[www.slpsfoundation.org](http://www.slpsfoundation.org)

Colleges and universities with scholarship opportunities that might be appropriate for the Class of 2010 Scholarship Program are encouraged to contact College Summit at (314)345-4463.



**FEATURED STORY**



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

# Summer School Begins June 11

**The St. Louis Public Schools Summer Instructional Program gets underway June 11, 2007 and continues through July 20. For most students, the summer session is not mandatory.**

All parents are encouraged to enroll their children for summer enrichment. This year's program is designed to accelerate the learning process in two key areas – reading and mathematics. The academic program has been structured to:

- meet the goals of No Child Left Behind
- achieve the objectives outlined in the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP)

"Smaller class sizes, effective curriculum and explicit instruction will produce higher levels of academic achievement for all participating students," said Superintendent Diana Bourisaw. "We hope students and parents will see the value of this year's program and decide to enroll."

Fourth graders whose test scores indicate that they are "at risk" will be required to attend summer school as outlined by state law. Parents of children in this group will be notified. Students who fail to report to the summer session will repeat the fourth grade next year.

Programs for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be operating in all participating high schools for students who lack credits.

Completing an "Intent to Participate" form registers your child for summer school. The form also serves as each parent's commitment to the summer session, ensuring that each child is in school every day and that classroom instruction will be reinforced at home daily.

The 2007 program has incorporated a neighborhood concept. Check the listing of summer school locations. Students currently attending one of the partner schools will attend the host school that has been identified. Transportation will be provided for all students who live more than one mile from their host summer school location.

"Intent to Participate" forms are available at each school. Parents with questions should contact their child's current principal

## SUMMER SCHOOL – 2007 LOCATIONS

\* TIER 1 LOCATION (8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)

\*\* TIER 2 LOCATION (9:00 AM -2:00 PM)

### Elementary Summer School Locations

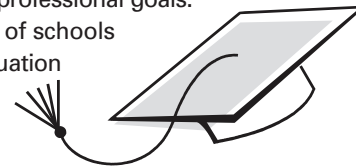
HOST SCHOOL	PARTNER SCHOOL	PARTNER SCHOOL
** Adams Elementary	Mullanphy Elementary	Shaw VPA Elementary
** Ames Elementary	Henry Elementary	Jefferson Elementary
** Ashland Elementary	Hickey Elementary	Lexington Elementary
** Clark Elementary	Washington/Euclid Montessori	
** Clay Elementary	Bryan Hill Elementary	
** Cole Elementary	Cote Brilliance Elementary	
** Dunbar Elementary	Simmons/Marshall Elementary	
** Farragut Elementary	Columbia Elementary	
** Ford Elementary	Mitchell Elementary	Hamilton Elementary
** Froebel Elementary	Meramec Elementary	Shenandoah Elementary
* Gateway Elementary		
** Herzog Elementary	Nance Elementary	Baden Elementary
** Hodgen Elementary	Sherman Elementary	Wyman Elementary
** Laclede Elementary	Gundlach Elementary	
** Mark Twain Elementary	Walbridge Elementary	
** Mason Elementary & ESOL Site	Dewey Elementary	Mallinckrodt Elementary
** Monroe Elementary	Shepard Elementary	
** Oakhill Elementary & ESOL Site	Kennard CJA Elementary	Mann Elementary
** Peabody Elementary	Sigel Elementary	
** Stix Elementary	Kottmeyer ECE Elementary	Wilkinson ECE Elementary
** Woerner Elementary & ESOL Site	Lyon Elementary	Buder Elementary
** Woodward Elementary & ESOL Site	Scruggs Elementary	

## SLPS Announces Dates for High School Graduations Commencement exercises to begin May 17

Commencement exercises for the St. Louis Public School District's Class of 2007 will take place May 17 through May 26. Approximately 1,530 students are candidates for diplomas in the district's 11 high schools. Each school will hold its own ceremony.

"This has been a very challenging year for many of our seniors with the many changes that have taken place this year," said Superintendent Diana Bourisaw. "But they have persevered and succeeded inside the classroom." I am excited to see our students go out into the world to pursue their academic and professional goals."

Here's a list of schools and their graduation dates:



### Junior High/Middle School Summer School Locations

HOST SCHOOL	PARTNER SCHOOL
* Blewett Middle School	Webster Middle
* Blow Jr. High School	
* Busch AAA Middle School	
* Carr Lane VPA Middle School	
**Compton-Drew ILC Middle School	
* Fanning Middle School & ESOL Site	
* Gateway MST Middle School	
* Langston Middle School	
** Long Middle School	Bunche I.S. Middle School
* L'Ouverture Middle School	Humboldt Middle School
* McKinley CJA	
* Stevens Middle School	
* Stowe Jr. High School	
* Yeatman-Liddell Jr. High School	

### Secondary Education Summer Locations

- \* Beaumont High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Carnahan High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Central VPA High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Clyde C Miller High School & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program (Two-3 week sessions)
- \* Gateway I.T. High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Northwest High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Roosevelt High School & ESOL Site (see Lafayette 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center for Transition Program)
- \* Soldan I.S. High School & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program (Two – 3 week sessions)
- \* Sumner High School & 6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program
- \* Vashon High School (See Williams 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center for Transition Program)

### Transition Program Locations

- \* Cleveland NJROTC (6 week 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program Only)
- \* Lafayette 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center (9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program) (Two – 3 week sessions)
- \* Metro (6 week - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition Program Only)
- \* Williams 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Center (Two – 3 week Transition Program for Vashon High School)

### Alternative Summer School Sites

- \*\* Gallaudet
- \* Griscom
- \* Gateway Michael
- \* CAJT (Nottingham)

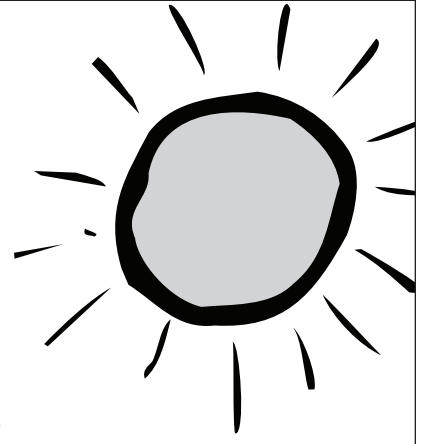
Transportation will be provided to ALL students living more than one mile from the designated **Summer School site**. Magnet students will be transported to their current school or Host school location for the Summer Program. Parents may provide transportation to and from the Summer Program if they choose to send their child to a school other than the designated Summer School location.

DATE & TIME	SCHOOL & COMMENCEMENT LOCATION
<b>May 17</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Soldan</b> America's Center Ferrara Theatre 701 Convention Plaza 63101
<b>May 18</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Nottingham CAJT</b> Metro High School Auditorium Metro High School 4015 McPherson Ave. 63108
<b>May 18</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Cleveland</b> Cleveland High School Auditorium Cleveland High School (old site) 4352 Louisiana Ave. 63111
<b>May 19</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Clyde C. Miller Career Academy</b> Powell Symphony Hall 718 North Grand Ave. 63103
<b>May 23</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>Metro</b> Mildred E. Bastian Theatre St. Louis Community College-Forest Park 5600 Oakland Ave. 63110
<b>May 23</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Central VPA</b> Central VPA Auditorium Central VPA High School 3125 S. Kingshighway Blvd. 63139
<b>May 24</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Beaumont</b> Beaumont Auditorium Beaumont High School 3836 Natural Bridge Ave. 63107
<b>May 24</b> 7:30 p.m.	<b>Sumner</b> Harris-Stowe State University 3026 Laclede Ave. 63103
<b>May 25</b> 7:00 p.m.	<b>Gateway</b> Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center University of Missouri – St. Louis 1 University Blvd. 63121
<b>May 24</b> 6:00 p.m.	<b>Roosevelt</b> Kiener Plaza 601 Market St. 63101
<b>May 26</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b>Vashon</b> Vashon Gymnasium Vashon High School 3035 Cass Ave. 63106





# Spend Your Summer with SAGE



**H**igh school students could benefit from an innovative summer project sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden. SAGE (Students As Garden Educators) offers teens an opportunity to teach visitors about botany, ecology and the Garden. This community service program is open to St. Louis area students, ages 14-18, particularly those with an interest in teaching. SAGE volunteers will assist the Garden's education staff. In the process, teens will get the chance to sharpen their public speaking and teaching skills, and work with students from other schools. Candidates should:

 be outgoing  be prepared to learn new material and share it with others  be willing to work outside



Participants in the program will earn 40 hours of community service. The experience will prove useful as students complete college and job applications.

SAGE participants are required to attend mandatory training in May. They also must commit to 40 hours of volunteer time (usually about four hours per week) during the summer. Scheduling is somewhat flexible. The staff will work with students to accommodate their jobs, summer school schedule, vacation plans and other commitments.

Applicants will be asked to:

- explain why they are interested in volunteering at the Garden;
- share their experience in teaching and/or working with children;
- share what special talents or skills they may be able to use as a volunteer;
- submit two references from teachers or employers;
- indicate their availability during the summer months.

To apply, go online to [www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/](http://www.mobot.org/education/sageservice/) and complete the SAGE Service Program application by May 16. Return the completed application by mail to:

**Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**Attn.: Jessica Kester**  
**P.O. Box 299**  
**St. Louis, MO 63166-0299**

For more information, contact Jessica Kester at [jessica.kester@mobot.org](mailto:jessica.kester@mobot.org), or (314) 577-5134.

## St. Louis Board of Education Requests Hearing Regarding Unaccreditation

The St. Louis Board of Education last Friday appealed to Commissioner D. Kent King for a hearing regarding the State's decision to remove the District's accreditation. Missouri law allows the Board to request a hearing within 30 days of the State Board's decision. Last month, the State Board voted to strip the District of its accreditation, effective June 15, after removing two accreditation standards in connection with college placement and career education courses.

In its appeal, the Board of Education explains how the St. Louis Public School District has met the requirements to remain provisionally accredited. The appeal offers:

Information explaining how the District increased the number of reported college placements after hiring an independent firm that specializes in locating, and verifying placement of, graduates.

Proof that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had previously indicated the St. Louis Public Schools had met the standard for career education courses.

In its request for a hearing, the Board of Education cites previous action by DESE to grant the Wellston School District "interim status." According to DESE, Wellston was granted interim status to give that district a "chance to regroup and move forward," and because the district could not survive the financial implications of paying tuition to accredited school districts. To not allow SLPS the same chance for regrouping and moving forward is arbitrary, the Board of Education maintains.

According to the hearing request, the move to alter the accreditation status of SLPS is "unconstitutional in many respects" and the "intended effect is also a breach of the agreement between the State Board, DESE and the Board of Education of the City of St. Louis."

## Macy's Legal Team Sponsors Street Law Program

*St. Louis Public High School Students participate in one-day conference to learn more about law*

**M**acy's hosted a one-day conference to provide more than 50 students from Roosevelt High School and Gateway Institute of Technology an inside look at the legal profession through the Street Law program.

Macy's is the first company to sponsor the Street Law program in St. Louis. Street Law's Corporate Legal Division Pipeline program is an innovative approach to partnering corporate legal departments with nearby high schools in an effort to engage the students, teach them about law, and encourage them to consider careers in the legal profession.

Dennis Broderick, the company's general counsel based in Cincinnati, welcomed attendees. Broderick was instrumental in Macy's involvement with Street Law and noted, "Our enthusiasm for Street Law is two-fold. Our law team has been extremely generous in giving their time and expertise to this program, and to connect with students who might not have direct exposure to an attorney, paralegal or other legal administrators. Additionally, we have the responsibility to help ensure that the legal profession is and continues to be diverse."

Street Law is a terrific way to introduce students with diverse backgrounds to the many aspects of a career in law."

Teams from Macy's law department in St. Louis partnered with Roosevelt High School and Gateway Institute of Technology to develop the semester-long program. Macy's legal professionals then served as guest teachers in the classroom, and the program concluded with the one-day conference held at Macy's regional law office in St. Louis.

"We are very grateful to Macy's for providing this opportunity for our students to learn more about the practice of law in the corporate world. These types of real-world experiences are very important to encourage our students to pursue education beyond high school," shared Dr. Diana Bourisaw, Superintendent of the St. Louis Public Schools.

During the day-long conference, the students interacted with approximately 20 members of the Macy's legal team and participated in small-group workshops simulating typical legal issues found in a business setting such as employment law, contracts, and litigation.





# Lending a Helping Hand for “Hearts for Hunger”

**S**tudents and staff of the St. Louis Public Schools set a new record in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Hearts for Hunger” canned food drive. The drive, which started Feb. 5, collected more than 147,000 cans of food for Operation Food Search, a local food bank. The annual event is organized by the District’s Office of Community Education.



“This program serves two wonderful purposes—providing food to those in need during a time of year when pantries need to be restocked, and teaching valuable lessons to the numerous students who assist in the collection and distribution process,” said John Windom, Executive Director of Community Education.

The food items were donated to affiliated food pantries through Operation Food Search throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. Shaw Visual and Performing Arts Elementary led all schools by collecting over 18,000 cans.

“We are proud of all our students and staff who participated in this worthy cause,” said Superintendent Diana Bourisaw. “This is our fifth and most successful year participating in Hearts for Hunger,” she added.

Seventy-three schools and the Central Office staff participated in the “Hearts for Hunger” campaign. Among the top contributors were:

- **Buder Elementary**  
10,822 cans
- **Humboldt Middle**  
10,717 cans
- **Board of Education building** (central office)  
8,640 cans
- **Mullanphy ILC Elementary**  
8,512 cans
- **Meramec Elementary**  
8,139 cans
- **Oak Hill Elementary**  
7,643 cans
- **Stevens Middle**  
6,595 cans
- **Stowe Middle**  
5,004 cans
- **Gateway High School**  
5,001 cans
- **Northwest Law and Transportation Academy**  
2,520 cans

Operation Food Search distributes more than one million pounds of food and household items to 300 community partner agencies. Those agencies, in turn, feed 95,000 needy people each month, nearly half of whom are children. All of the food collected through the “Hearts for Hunger” campaign is distributed to pantries in the City of St. Louis.

▶ *Students at Shaw VPA celebrate their success at collecting over 18,000 cans of food for the “Hearts for Hunger” campaign. District-wide, 73 schools and Central Office staff participated in the drive, setting a new record.*

## St. Louis Public Schools Awarded Barbara Bush Foundation Grant

*Literacy initiative is one of 10 to be funded nationwide*

The Barbara Bush Foundation has awarded a \$64,000 grant to the St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) to fund the development of The Parents as Storytellers project. Through The Parents as Storytellers project, 40 parents/primary caregivers will receive training in storytelling and literacy development from professional storytellers, children’s librarians, and early literacy specialists. Every parent/primary caregiver will apply their new literacy and storytelling skills with their own children at home, on family literacy field trips, and with preschoolers in their classrooms. The St. Louis Public Schools was one of ten grant recipients chosen from nearly 550 applications.

“Reading aloud to children, early and often, is the single most important thing that a parent can do to help a child to start school ready to learn,” said Barbara Bush. “And parents who are able to read, write, and comprehend can get better jobs, improve their families’ lives, and participate more fully in their communities as well. That’s why the projects we fund must provide literacy instruction for parents as well as their children.”

“We are so excited to have this opportunity to extend and enrich our program services through this highly motivational family literacy project,” stated Marcia Hayes-Harris, SLPS Project Even Start Program Coordinator. “We have seen first-hand what happens when parents/primary caregivers have an opportunity to learn a skill that they can pass on to their children. The impact is far-reaching.”

The St. Louis Public Schools serves 33,000 students, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. One of the district’s highest priorities is early literacy development. Its Even Start Program represents one of its strategic efforts. Established in 1999 with funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Project Even Start program is an integrated adult basic education, early childhood education and parent education program for parents/primary caregivers who are functioning at a low level of literacy.

“We support the ongoing development and improvement of family literacy in our district,” said Diana Bourisaw, Superintendent of St. Louis Public Schools. “The parent is every child’s first teacher. Good reading skills are very much at the heart of student success in the classroom – and we want each of our students to experience that success.”

Since its inception in 1989, the Foundation has awarded over \$17 million to more than 500 family literacy programs in 47 different states and our nation’s capital. This year’s grant recipients were announced at the Foundation’s eleventh annual fundraiser, A Celebration of Reading, which was held at the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts in Houston on April 26. The evening was hosted by George and Barbara Bush and star authors: Karyn Frist, father and daughter David McCullough and Dorrie McCullough-Lawson, Bob Newhart, Nathaniel Philbrick, as well as other surprise guests.

# Calendar of Events

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MAY	13	14	15	16 Parent Assembly Mtg. – 6:30 p.m., Metro High School	17 Magnet School New Student Orientation	18	19
	20	21	22 SLPS Adm. Board Mtg. – 7:00 p.m., 801 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street	23	24	25	26
JUNE	27	28 Holiday – Memorial Day (No School)	29 SLPS Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Carr Lane VPA <b>MAKE-UP DAY</b>	30	31	1 Fourth Quarter ends <b>LAST CLASS DAY</b>	2
	3	4	5 SLPS Adm. Board Mtg. – 7:00 p.m., 801 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street	6	7	8	9
	10	11 SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS	12 SLPS Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Carr Lane VPA	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JULY	1	2	3	4 Holiday – Independence Day (No Summer School)	5	6	7
	8	9	10 SLPS Adm. Board Mtg. – 7:00 p.m., 801 N. 11 <sup>th</sup> Street	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17 SLPS Regular Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Carr Lane VPA	18	19	20 6 week Summer School ends	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27 7 week Summer School ends	28
	29	30	31				

## School & Home

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### ON THE COVER

#### Artwork Comes to Life at the St. Louis Zoo

Students participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> annual St. Louis Public Schools Art Fair.



#### Superintendent's Corner

By Dr. Diana M. Bourisaw  
Superintendent of the  
St. Louis Public Schools

#### 1 Board of Education approves facilities plan

BOE gives green light to Dr. Bourisaw to proceed with new education initiatives and school configurations for 07-08 school year.

#### Soldan welcomes Consul General Barukh Binah of Israel

Consul General Barukh Binah addresses Soldan students.



#### 2 Scholarships for the Class of 2010

SLPS and College Summit announce new scholarship program.

#### 3 Bears Bring Teachable Moments to Early Learners

Students receive generous gift from the Build-A-Bear Workshop.

#### 4 Board of Education approves 2007-08 School Calendar

SLPS students will return to class on Monday, August 20, 2007.

#### 3 & 4

#### In the Spotlight Summer School begins June 11

See article for details and locations.



#### 4

#### Congratulations, Seniors!

Class of 2007 commencement dates and locations.



St. Louis Public Schools  
801 N. 11th Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101  
www.slps.org



#### 5

#### Spend your summer with SAGE

Missouri Botanical Garden offers new summer volunteer opportunity for teens!



#### 6

#### St. Louis Public Schools Awarded Barbara Bush Foundation Grant

Literacy plan funded.

#### Lending a Helping Hand

Fifth annual "Hearts for Hunger" campaign is huge success!



#### Editors Box

Published by the Office of Public Information, St. Louis Public Schools

For more information please email us at: [slpsnews@slps.org](mailto:slpsnews@slps.org)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Permit No. 576