

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Virginia Turner, Principal
Lisa Clayton, Vice Principal



December 2, 2009

Bulletin 8

LOOKING AHEAD

Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Book Fair in the Library during recesses and right after school
Dec. 1-17	Food Drive (Sponsored by Student Council)
Dec. 2 Wednesday	Field Trip (Act Theatre, Rms 15, 25 – 9:25-12:15)
Dec. 4 Friday	Craft Fair (Auditorium/Gym, 6:00-8:30pm)
Dec. 8 Tuesday	Roots of Empathy Presentation at Town Hall (7:00pm, see paragraph below)
Dec. 9 Wednesday	Field Trip (Burke Museum, Rms 14, 15, 17 – 9:15-11:45)
Dec. 10 Thursday	Field Trip (Jazz Nutcracker, 5 th grades – 9:20-11:30) Field Trip (Zoo, 2 nd grades only – 9:30-2:00)
Dec. 15 Tuesday	Field Trip (Downtown Library & Gingerbread House, K2 only)
Dec. 16 Wednesday	Band Performance at Lunch
Dec. 17 Thursday	Student Council Meeting (12:05, Library) Passport Check Day (Lunchtime)
Dec. 18 Friday	Food Pick Up Day
Dec. 21-1/1	NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)
Jan. 4 Monday	School Resumes

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INTRODUCING...

It is with great enthusiasm that we announce Lafayette's new Assistant Principal, Lisa Clayton. She most recently has been teaching second grade at Pathfinder, but in addition to being a classroom teacher has experience as a Head Teacher (at Pathfinder) as well as a Librarian. Virginia and Lisa met on Monday for the first time (since the interview) and started to discuss issues such as job responsibilities, expectations, Lafayette's strengths, and more. Lisa will be housed in the former speech therapy office in the main office area. She will be introducing herself to the students in individual classrooms over the next week and a half. During the week of November 30th she will be transitioning, spending some time at Lafayette and some time at Pathfinder each day. Starting Monday, December 7th, she will be at Lafayette full time. Please extend a very warm Lafayette welcome to Lisa Clayton.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The "Holiday Hunger Food Drive" is now underway. We began collecting donations for the White Center Food Bank on Tuesday. We will hold the drive until **December 17th**. Last year the students and staff at Lafayette donated over 2009 lbs. of food, health supplies, diapers, etc...to the WSFB. We held a "friendly" competition between classrooms with Room 15 (Ms. Rollins) collecting the most items. You can follow the classroom competition by checking out the chart in the front hallway. Thank you in advance for your support.

GREETINGS TO ALL YOU "CRAFTERS" by Suzette Warshaw

The annual Craft Fair is quickly approaching. Let's make this the best one yet. This will be my last one as Chairperson, since my daughter Molly Warshaw is a 5th grader and will be moving on to middle school. The craft fair is open to all students at Lafayette and their families. It will be held in the school cafeteria on **December 4, 2009 from 6:00-8:30pm**. The cost to rent space is \$1.00 and crafters will keep their proceeds. A form will be going out soon for those who want to participate. Questions? Contact Suzette at alleycat1964@hotmail.com.

CHESS CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS (For experienced chess players)

There will be chess club demonstrations in Room 12 on **Friday, December 4th – 3:15-4:15pm**. If you are interested in joining, there will also be an Open House on December 11th (see attached flyer).

PASSABLE HALLWAYS

In order to have our hallways passable for our 530 students, we ask that parents say their good-byes and allow children to make their own way to class. *If you are a parent that needs to come down the hallway in the morning between 8:40a.m. & 9:20a.m. (e.g. you are chaperoning a field trip, delivering birthday treats, or volunteering in a class) please sign in and get a badge before proceeding down the hall.* It is truly uncomfortable for staff to remind parents of this policy in the hallway in the mornings. We need ALL parents to follow this rule. We need to get all students to class on time and we need your help to do this. Thank you, parents, for your help.

ROOTS OF EMPATHY PRESENTATION (Town Hall, December 8th)

We have a great opportunity to deepen the understanding and learning within our school and community about Roots of Empathy. There will be a special presentation by Mary Gordon, author of “*Roots of Empathy, Changing the World Child by Child*”, at Seattle’s Town Hall on **Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00pm.** (1119-8th Ave. & Seneca St.) Admission is free and is sponsored by Parent Map and Seattle Roots of Empathy. All Lafayette parents, especially our 3rd grade parents who are currently receiving this program, are invited to attend.

PASSPORT CLUB

Passport Club is continuing to be a fun event for many students at Lafayette! The new maps for December have been distributed to teachers. There are some extra maps in the hallway display if your student needs an extra copy. Check Day for this month will be approaching soon, right before Winter Break on **Thursday, December 17th at lunchtime.** We will only have one check day this December.

December is a unique month in which levels 2 and 3 will be learning the same countries. Students are encouraged to help one another as they study the countries throughout the month.

December countries:

Level One: Iceland, Honduras, Japan, Switzerland, and Mauritania

Level Two: Info from Level 1, and Guinea, Guyana, Afghanistan, Hungary, Somalia

Level Three: Same as Level 2 this month

Level Four: Info from Levels 1, 2, Cape Verde, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Montenegro, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Slovenia and East Timor

Level Five: Info from Levels 1, 2, 4 and Reykjavik (Iceland), Tegucigalpa (Honduras), Nouakchott (Mauritania), Bern (Switzerland), and Tokyo (Japan)

Volunteers will be needed for Passport Check Day Thursday, December 17th during lunchtime (11:45-1:00) Maps will be provided for volunteers to use as they check students at check stations. Please contact Kimberly Burggraff at kjburggraff@comcast.net for volunteer opportunities and any questions.

Geography Game Ideas: There are lots of educational games that help kids learn information about states, countries, etc... During winter break there is often lots more time to play games, so we thought we’d share some ideas of fun games or gift ideas. Scrambled States of America 1 or 2, Great States of America, 10 days in Africa (other versions are America, Asia, and Europe), Take Off, Brain Quest USA or World versions, etc.. Any geography map puzzles are fun too! Have fun with Geography!

LOST AND FOUND

Missing a coat? We have about 40 of them. Where is the Lost and Found located? In the west wing, right across from the double doors. Missing a lunchbox? We have about 20 of them. They are lined up on the bench right outside the cafeteria. All articles go to charity during winter break.

COSTUMES NEEDED

Ms. Scranton would like to borrow any woodland animal costumes (bunnies, bears, mice, skunks, etc...) that are used for Halloween, for the play in February....*The Trial of Goldilocks.* Drop them off in Room 6.

DVD'S OF 2009 PRODUCTION OF "ANNIE"

We have DVD's of last years' play, "Annie". They are on sale for \$10.00 each. If you're interested in a DVD of this amazing production, please see Ms. Scranton. If paying by check, they should be made payable to: Lafayette PTA.

SPEAKING OF PRODUCTIONS

This year we will be presenting, "The Trial of Goldilocks" on February 10, 11 & 12th. Rehearsals will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning December 1st through the last week of January. Then the rehearsals will increase to 3 times per week, adding Mondays, and will run until 5:00 or 5:30pm. ***Please note that not everyone is at every rehearsal.*** Your child will need to keep track of the scenes that are being done, and only come to the rehearsals for the scenes in which they are involved.

IN PREPARATION FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

Postponement or cancellations of school due to snowy conditions will be announced on local radio and TV stations. Parents will receive the information more quickly from the media than by telephoning the school. There are only 3 lines into the school, and it is very difficult for us to assist students and deal with phone traffic when this occurs. Please listen to radio or TV, and leave the lines open so that we can reach you in an emergency. The Seattle School District also has a messaging system that will call your home with the latest information, so again it is imperative that phone lines are open. ***Please be sure your student dresses warmly in bad weather, and is prepared for whatever the conditions call for. If it is not raining, or blizzard-like conditions, we really try to get the kids out for some recess so it is imperative that they have what they need for their comfort.***

REQUESTS FOR USE OF OUR BUILDING

We often get requests from PTA members, and community members, to use our premises for an event. Lately we have been getting a lot of items put onto our master calendar that have not gotten prior permission from Mrs. Turner. ***It is required to have prior permission before a building permit can be issued.*** Thank you so much for your help on this.

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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Looking to do a good deed over winter break? On Monday, December 28th, we would like to paint the office of our new Assistant Principal. (It looks like it has not been painted in a VERY long time – several decades.) If you could help out with the task, please email Virginia Turner at vkturner@seattleschools.org. Many thanks for any help you could offer.

GIVE THE GIFT OF SINGING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

This year, consider giving the gift of singing to your child...CHOIR at Lafayette will be starting in February and continuing through until June. It is going to be held Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school from 8:30-9:05a.m. This year, Ms. Scranton is teaming up with classically trained baritone singer (new to Lafayette staff) Craig Garretson. He is an official Opera guy in his "off time". This would be a fantastic opportunity for your child! ***\$100/per student*** Grades 2-5 February 22 – June 3rd (concert). There will be other performances (2) scheduled as well. Limit of 35-50 students. Program to include Kodaly, singing basics, ensemble basics, 5-6 pieces prepared. It should be fun and very educational...if your child loves to sing, this is the next step!

