

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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December 9, 2009

Bulletin 9

LOOKING AHEAD

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
Jan. 6	Wednesday	PTA Board Meeting (7:00pm, Library)
Jan. 14	Thursday	Student Council Meeting (12:05, Library) PTA Meeting (7:00pm, Library)
Jan. 18	Monday	NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Holiday)
Jan. 22	Friday	Passport Check Day (Lunchtime)
Jan. 27	Wednesday	Passport Re-Check Day (Lunchtime)
Jan. 29	Friday	NO SCHOOL (Day Between Semesters)

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.

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.

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.***

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.

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!

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.

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.

MAP ASSESSMENT

The second MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) assessment will take place during the window of January 5th through January 26th. Your child will take this math and reading assessment during their week in the Technology Lab with Mr. Zwiren. This is a new district mandated assessment.

H1N1 UPDATE

As of December 3rd, the Public Health Dept. – Seattle/King County reports that H1N1 has peaked in King County.

- **SPS School Illnesses** – The number of schools with weekly high absenteeism has declined and absences are well below the H1N1 peak and just above normal seasonal flu. School nurses report a drop in students with influenza-like symptoms. Staff absentee rates due to illness and unfilled positions for certificated and classified staff have also decreased.
- **Hospitalizations** – Emergency room visits for school-aged children has dramatically **decreased by 2/3rds** from the H1N1 peak.

Next Step:

Through the combined efforts of our local Public Health Dept., health care providers, and the school staff and families, we are pleased to report that although there were 300 local hospitalizations (for all ages) due to influenza, we had no pediatric deaths. We will maintain our efforts by:

- 1) continuing good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene
- 2) continuing symptom monitoring
- 3) encouraging parents to keep ill student at home, and
- 4) encouraging parents to consider both seasonal and H1N1 vaccines as they become available.

Public Health continues to update H1N1 vaccine distribution information at: www.kingcounty.gov/health/H1N1.