



PAW PRINT PRESS

January 25, 2012

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - HOME OF THE LEOPARDS



Hello Lafayette Families,

As I sit down to write my letter this month, we're home on our third snow day, in this white "twilight zone". If this were normal life, my kids would be buzzing around getting ready for school, asking me to quiz them for their spelling tests. But if watching people ski past my house is any indication, this is NOT normal life! Fun for a couple of days, but not normal!

If life were going as planned, we'd be remembering how much fun we had at the Family Health Night that Laurie Belfor has worked so hard to plan for us. Instead, we're looking forward to its rescheduled date of January 26th. It will be a fun night for the whole family, geared toward keeping us healthy!

If life were going as planned, the Seattle Public School Board would have met on the 18th to vote on short-term capacity solutions and I might be reporting the results of that vote here.

But it looks like that meeting has been rescheduled for next week so we'll have to hang on to hear what they've decided. Regardless of the outcome, Lafayette parents have come together and worked hard to get our points made to the district and we succeeded in seeing some unpopular choices get taken off the table. As results are finalized, our Lafayette Capacity Action Team, headed by Alex Pietsch (Thank You Alex!) will be reporting that information.

Continuing on the theme of date changes, Ms. Nordhaugen, Jennifer Herrin, and I would be finalizing the details for the Vision Meeting that was scheduled for Thursday of next week and is now postponed until February 7th. This will be an important opportunity for parents to take part in a process that will identify a renewed vision and mission statement for our school that will drive decisions and build our culture. What do you want your child's experience at Lafayette to be? What do you want them to learn? Please join us to answer these questions!

Surely bad weather won't get in the way of the Rai\$in'The Green school auction scheduled for March 17th. The Auction committee, under Laurie Utterback's leadership, is planning a really fun community event that will benefit our PTA Budget. Procurement is the big push these days, if you have any great ideas or items you'd like to donate, please contact Laurie at luckie@biancadavis.com. Also, a big "Thanks" to Jenny McGlothern and the teachers, and kids who are working on class art pieces to be auctioned off in the live auction. If you'd like to be help with this project, please contact Jenny at bigbrowndog1@comcast.net.

The snow is starting to melt and life will soon be back to normal. It's been fun to get out and play in the fluff and also to cozy in and appreciate the warmth of home. Thanks for all you do, Lafayette Families!

Annie Higgins
PTA President, 2011-2012

2645 California Ave SW - Seattle, WA 98116
(206) 252-9500

LEARN

Dear Lafayette Families,

It is hard to believe that we are half-way through the school year. We hope you were able to rest and relax with your family and friends over winter break and more recently on our unexpected "snow vacation". Things have been quite busy since we returned in January. This is the time of year where you should be seeing huge gains in your child's progress.

As a staff we are continually working to improve our own practice so that we are up to date with current practices and successful instructional methods that reach the needs of every child that comes through our classrooms. As we spoke of earlier in the year, our main focus based on MSP data is literacy. We will be spending our next early release day (Feb. 1) focusing on Balanced Literacy. This is the district adopted model of Literacy Instruction which includes the following components: Independent Reading (at student's "Just Right" level), Interactive Read-Aloud (teacher modeled thinking strategies), Guided Reading (small group reading instruction), Word Work and Writing. Within the Balanced Literacy Framework we use the method of Readers and Writers Workshop to teach the components. We will be starting with Interactive Read-Aloud on the first and then will be working our way through the other components. One of the most important things you can do to help your student become a better reader is to make sure they are reading every day (K-2 at least 25 minutes, 3-5 at least 35 minutes).

This could be picture books or chapter books as they both provide opportunities for high level thinking which is what we ultimately want in our readers.

In addition to working with teachers, we have set up Parent Classes to explain how the Writers Workshop model is used in classrooms. The first of these classes will be held on February 28th from 6-7pm for K-2nd grade parents and then on March 6th from 6-7pm for 3rd-5th grade parents.

JAVA WITH JO/KOFFEE WITH KARMEN



Join Jo and Karmen in the cafeteria for an informal chat on Wednesday, February 8th from 9:45 - 10:15. Hope to see you there!

In addition we will also be holding a meeting for parents to give input on our school vision. This will be held on February 7th, from 6-7pm in the library. This is something we have been working on with teachers and students. The purpose is that we want our vision to incorporate all members of our community and help to drive the decision making process of our building.

We will be focusing on two essential questions: What do you want your child's experience at Lafayette to be? What do you want them to learn?

If you have any questions, comments or feedback, do not hesitate to call or come by. Please know our doors and the doors to your child's classrooms are always open and that together we can ensure your child's experience at school is a happy one.

All the best,

Jo Lute-Ervin
Principal

Karmen Nordhougen
Vice Principal

IMPORTANT SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE:

There will be school on Friday, January 27th. This day was originally scheduled as a day off but because of last week's snow days, it is now a make-up day.

Visit www.mylafayette.org to see what's new!

ADVOCATE

A Letter From The Washington State PTA

GRASSROOTS CONNECTION

Court to state: No more delays on K-12 funding

January 5, 2012



Dear advocates,

In a clear win for children, the Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously today that the state was violating its constitutional paramount duty to amply fund K-12 education.

This is a historic victory, and starting today we have a new conversation. No longer are we going to petition over loss of school days or access to all-day kindergarten.

Starting today, the cuts stop and funding starts.

Starting today, our top priority – a basic education that prepares all kids for college and career -- is also the state's top priority. Starting today the legislature's job just got a lot harder.

The high court's decision validates all of the work Washington State PTA members put into the passage of ESHB 2261 in 2009 and SHB 2776 in 2010, and with our work this past year to protect all-day kindergarten, highly capable funding and an intact school year. This decision sets the stage for the next step – finding a stable, adequate source of revenue to meet the needs of schoolchildren.

THE RULING

Not only did the high court point out that ample funding is “considerably more than just adequate,” the court ruled the state was consistently giving districts less money than actual costs. It identified ESHB 2261 as a “promising” reform package that if fully funded would remedy deficiencies in the K-12 funding system.

It reiterated that “ample funding for basic education must be accomplished by means of regular and dependable tax sources.” Finally, the court said it would stay engaged to help facilitate progress in the state's plan to fully fund basic education by 2018.

THE PLAN

ESHB 2261 defines a basic education as “the opportunity for students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet graduation requirements, intended to allow them the opportunity to graduate with a meaningful high school diploma that prepares them for postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship.” It requires the state to fund:

- 180 full days, grades 1-12
- 180 half days for kindergartners, to be increased to 180 full days
- 1,000 instructional hours in grades 1-12, to be increased to 1,080 hours in grades 7-12
- 450 instructional hours in kindergarten, to be increased to 1,000 hours
- Opportunity for students to complete 24 credits for high school graduation
- Enhanced funding for Learning Assistance Program, Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program, Highly Capable Program and special education for students with disabilities
- 17 to 1 class size ratio in grades K-3

SO, STARTING TODAY, NO MORE DELAYS. We have children to educate and we have a new definition of basic education to roll out.

Washington State PTA is part of Network for Excellence for Washington School (NEWS) and was party to this lawsuit. See full NEWS coverage: A monumental and historic victory. You can learn more about NEWS and its 382 member groups at <http://www.waschoolexcellence.org/>

- Ramona Hattendorf, Washington State PTA
Government Relations Coordinator, rhattendorf@wastatepta.org, www.wastatepta.org/advocacy

PARTICIPATE

AUCTION



UPDATE

OVERVIEW:

Mark your calendars! The Lafayette PTA Auction will be held Saturday, March 17, at 5:30 p.m. at The Hall at Fauntleroy. It's a big fun party with food, music, and an auction! The event will feature several silent auction tables, including special gift baskets donated by classrooms. A live auction will feature collaborative art pieces by each classroom. Scott Jones will emcee the event, and auctioneer Bruce Hall will run the live auction. There will be prize drawings, and we're also working on more fun surprises, so stay tuned!

If you attended the auction in 2010, you'll notice a few changes this year. Our last auction had a pasta-based buffet; this time, a more substantial dinner buffet will be served, along with hors d'oeuvres during the silent auction. Karen Whorton is procuring donated desserts for a "dessert dash" during dinner. And this year, on the ticket form, guests can request to be seated with friends who are also attending.

PROCUREMENT:

We still need volunteers to help with procurement in the next few weeks. We've received many generous donations from local businesses, and we can still use more, especially big-ticket items such as travel, condo or hotel stays, and sporting events. Contact Kiersea Reynolds (kiersealee@gmail.com). A link to the online donor form is on the Lafayette home page, <http://www.mylafayette.org>.

We've started a Facebook page for the auction, where you can "like" us to get updates and see photos of donated items. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Lafayette-Elementary-Auction-2012/149734228431998>. You can also see a list of who has donated items so far, at <http://auction.cosmodavis.com/itemlist.aspx>

TICKETS:

Tickets for the auction will be \$60 in advance and \$65 at the door. This price is the minimum necessary to cover the cost of dinner, hall rental, staff, and other direct costs of holding the event; the PTA will make no profit on ticket sales. Teachers and staff will be offered discounted tickets. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of February. Meighan Berberich is working on an auction invitation/ticket form that will go home with students at the beginning of February. Ticket pre-sales will also be offered online.

CLASSROOM ARTWORKS:

Jenny McGlothern is organizing the class art pieces for the live auction, working with room parents and Ms. Scranton. If you would like to help with classroom art, please contact Jenny at bigbrowndog1@comcast.net.

If you have any questions at all about the auction or would like to help, please contact Laurie at luckie@biancadavis.com or (206) 409-2805.

FUNDRAISING FOR LAFAYETTE

Do you love Lafayette?

When you help support Lafayette PTA fundraising, you help support the things that we love about Lafayette Elementary—programs and resources to support our children. By joining the Bartell's B Caring rewards program, registering your Safeway Club Card, collecting Box Tops and Metropolitan Market receipts, and purchasing PCC Scrip Cards you show your love for our school!

**FUNDRAISING
FOR LAFAYETTE!**

**I ♥
Lafayette**

Show Your Love for Lafayette...

When you help support Lafayette PTA fundraising, you help support the things that we love about Lafayette Elementary—programs and resources to support our children. By joining the Bartell's B Caring rewards program, registering your Safeway Club Card, collecting Box Tops and Metropolitan Market receipts, and purchasing PCC Scrip Cards you show your love for our school!

Bartell Drugs is introducing a new customer card called the "B Caring Card" and you can help our school earn money by registering Lafayette Elementary PTA as the beneficiary! Sign-up for your card at your neighborhood Bartells!



Bartell Drugs Shoppers
Support **Lafayette PTA #8563870**

Pick up a 'B' Caring Card today!

Bartell Drugs will contribute up to 4% of your purchases to our organization every time you shop and present your card.



Sign up your Club Card!
Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for our group.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on "1-Sign Up"
- Enter your Club Card number

Put Lafayette On Your Shopping List!

Earn money for our school with the **Safeway eScrip** program. Register your Club Card to benefit Lafayette Elementary PTA—ID #8563870 and we earn a percentage of your qualifying purchases! Have family and friends sign up their cards as well and we'll be on our way to raise thousands of dollars this year!

**Lafayette Elementary School PTA
eScrip Group ID – 8563870**



Don't forget Met Market Receipts and Box Tops!
Collection boxes in the front office at Lafayette.



PCC Scrip Cards are still available!

Order forms available in front lobby. Each time you reload—we earn 5%!



Got a fundraising idea?
Contact Holly at rhgrambihler@msn.com.

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting: Lafayette PTA General Meeting

Date/Time: 1/12/12 at 7pm

Location: Lafayette Elementary Library

Proper notice was given to all members

Annie Higgins called the meeting or order at 7:04pm. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report:

Motion:

Jill Petersen moved to accept the meeting minutes from November 17, 2011. The motion passed.

Family Health Night:

Laurie Belfor presented information about Family Health Night coming up on Thursday, January 19, 2012. Update: the date will be changed due to inclement weather. As of now, the new date is Thursday, January 26, 2012.

Legislative Update:

Lisa Schubert announced that the State Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the state was violating its constitutional paramount duty to amply fund K-12 education.

Auction Update:

Annie stated that the auction will be held on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 5:30pm at the Hall at Fauntleroy. The auction committee is currently working on procurement. Auction tickets will be going on sale soon. The next committee meeting will be held during the week of January 23, 2012.

School Mission Statement:

Karmen Nordhaugen and Jo Lute-Ervin have been working with students and staff to gather input for our school's mission statement. A meeting will be held on January 26, 2012, from 6-7pm for parents to discuss Lafayette's mission. Update: the meeting date will be changed due to a scheduling conflict. The new date is February 7, 2012.

Bereavement Fund:

A parent of one of our students recently passed away. The PTA allocated a donation in honor of her family to the Westside Unitarian Universalist Church.

Principal's Report:

- Jo Lute-Ervin reported that the school district Furlough Half-Day will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Early dismissal on that day will be at 12:35pm.
- School tours for prospective Lafayette families start on January 26, 2012. Five tours are scheduled and one open house. The open house will be held on January 31, 2012 from 6-8pm.

Special Funding Allocation Request:

Annie explained that we have raised enough money to meet our budget for our school year. We are over budget \$17,000 since the walkathon. Now a special request for literacy training for our teachers is being made. This training will provide many of them how to best teach readers' and writers' workshop. \$750 is being asked of the PTA budget for this reason.

Motion:

Linda Bentler moved that the PTA provide the \$750 for teacher literacy training. The motion passed.

Capacity Discussion with Marty McLaren:

Annie explained that our school capacity committee has been working very hard regarding the issue of over-capacity at Lafayette. She also presented the background of the work that has been done up until this time. The current district proposal is that a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) school be opened at the Boren School site in September, 2012. The School Board is voting January 18, 2012 on this proposal. Marty McLaren then gave a short presentation to the PTA and provided opportunities for parents to comment and ask questions.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



PTA MEETING SCHEDULE 2012

	Board Meeting	General Meeting
February	1st	9th
March	7th	15th
April	4th	12th
May	3rd	10th

FEBRUARY

- 1st - Wed ***TWO HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL***
(1:35pm, Professional Development)
PTA Board Meeting (7-8:30pm)

- 2nd - Thurs Play Practice (3rd Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 6th - Mon Play Practice (Everyone, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 7th - Tues School Tour for New Families (10-11:30am)
Play Practice (4th & 5th Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)
School Vision Meeting for Parents (Library, 6-7pm)

- 8th - Wed Java With Jo/Koffee With Karmen (Lunch room, 9:45-10:15am)

- 9th - Thurs Student Council Meeting (Library, 12:20pm)
Play Practice (3rd Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)
PTA Meeting (Library, 7-8pm)

- 13th - Mon Play Practice (Everyone, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 14th - Tues Play Practice (3rd Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 15th - Wed Passport Check Day

- 16th - Thurs Play Practice (4th & 5th Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)

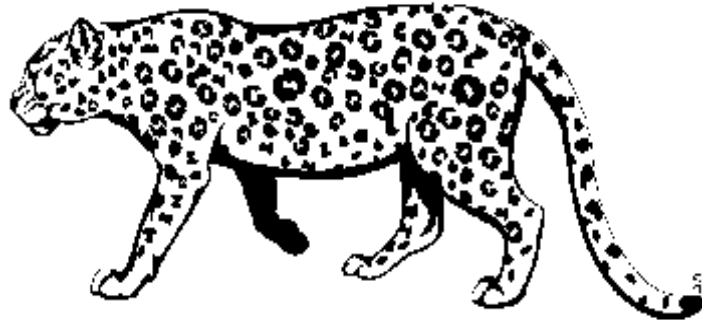
- 17th - Fri School Spirit Day (TBD)

- 20th - Mon ***NO SCHOOL*** - President's Day

- 21st-24th ***NO SCHOOL*** - Mid-Winter Break

- 27th - Mon Global Reading (Lunchroom, 10-11am)
Play Practice (Everyone, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 28th - Tues School Tour for New Families (10-11:30am)
Play Practice (4th & 5th Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)
Parent Class on Writing Workshop (K-2nd Grade Parents, 6-7pm)



JANUARY

- 26th - Thurs School Tour for New Families (10-11:30am)
Play Practice (3rd Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)
Rescheduled Family Health Night (5:45-8pm)

- 27th - Fri **SNOW MAKE UP DAY**
SCHOOL AS USUAL

- 30th - Mon Play Practice (Everyone, 3:40-4:40pm)

- 31st - Tues Play Practice (4th & 5th Graders, 3:40-4:40pm)
Open House for Incoming Families and Kindergartners (6:30-8:30pm)