



Lafayette Lookout

Message from the Principal—Stephanie Jackman

I am happy to share that Lafayette Elementary School is recognized as a BRONZE level United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Healthier US School. We are proud of this accomplishment and will continue to implement a healthier school nutrition environment. Other celebrations include our librarian, Karen Mackie, becoming a Nationally Board Certified Teacher and Janice Moore, our Physical Therapist, is a nominee for the Impact on Education award. Lafayette Elementary is proud of our staff and school.

The past month has been full of excitement due to the many wonderful activities we've experienced and the upcoming holiday break. Some events this month included: Open Enrollment Tours, National Geographic Bee, Cougar Pride Dance, Winter Fun Week sponsored by Student Council and our Book Fair. Kindergarten through fifth grade students completed a writing assessment this month and these samples will be analyzed deeper in January to determine writing goals for your child.

Below is a short summary of the focus from our Committee meetings this month:

- Our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Climate Committee met to review progress toward our school goals and to continue planning our school spirit assemblies.
- Our Collaboration Design Team (CDT) met to review feedback from staff on our collaboration time and to continue planning focused conversations around student achievement for all staff.
- Our Response to Intervention Committee (RTI) met to discuss literacy interventions now available on the computer.
- The School Accountability Committee (SAC) focused on communicating the key improvement strategies from our Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) in a more parent friendly format. I encourage you to review the two strategies highlighted in this Lafayette Lookout (LLO) and review the previous ones from the November LLO (available on our school website).

Lafayette also hosted a Talented and Gifted (TAG) parent meeting where a thorough presentation of how an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) is written and shared.




Wow, it has been a busy month and A LOT of acronyms were included above. Please contact me if you have any questions about our school and goals. In January, our school will participate in a BVSD site review process which is explained on the next page. This process occurs at all BVSD schools every five years and is a wonderful opportunity to highlight our school.

Have a wonderful winter break!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR! J



JANUARY 2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Character Trait COURAGE 	2 	3	4 Students Return CELA Test starts	5	6 <i>School Spirit Day</i>	7
8	9 <i>Courage & Kindness Assembly 9:45-10:30</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 No School M.L.King Day	17	18	19 Principal Coffee & Chat 	20 PTA Game Night 6-7:30	21
22	23	24 <i>SAC Meeting 2:45</i> <i>PTA Board Mtg. 6:30-8pm</i>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

2011-12 SITE REVIEW PROCESS

Every five years schools in BVSD engage in a Site Review. This year Lafayette Elementary School will participate in a Site Review on January 23, 2012.

The Purpose of a Site Review is to comply with our District Accreditation Contract which states: "The District will be responsible for overseeing the academic programs offered in its schools and ensuring that those programs meet or exceed state and local expectations for levels of attainment."

The process for these reviews is for a lead facilitator from the district to meet with the principal and

1. Review the school's Unified Improvement Plan
2. Establish a team of district administrators and teachers who are knowledgeable about the areas identified in the Unified Improvement Plan so that they can visit a majority of classrooms to verify the:
 - Unified Improvement Plan major improvement strategies are in place or in process and
 - Standards-Based Teaching Practices are in place or in process
3. Provide feedback to the school about its progress and provide the Board of Education with a report of its findings

The results of the visit will be shared with staff in early February and will be included in the March Lafayette Lookout.



CHARACTER MATTERS

The following students have been selected by their teachers for representing the character trait of

RESPECT

What does *RESPECT* mean?



"I will show a high regard for the value of persons or things through consideration and thoughtfulness."

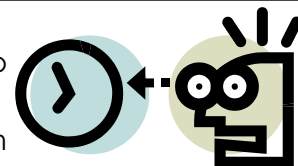
Jagger H., Anna M.,
Sarina R., Sam N., Mia H.,
Trinity . Evan S.,
Erin E., Devina R.,
Hunter B., Katelyn Re.,
Carter S., Charlotte S.,
Ela C., Graeme A.,
Hailey V., Robbie M.,
Jackson K., Kaden P.,
Kenzi A., Stefan W.,
Shayla K., Samuel T.,
Amari J., Alyonna J.,
Lilly S., Dylan C.,
Valeria E., Ryan K.,
Sawyer K., Hale B.,
Ben S., Ellie G.,
Kenji R., Sydney R.,

AnnaMarie B., Marek N.
Ben M., Ashley M.,
Hunter D., Christina A.,
Zoe A., Valeria F.,
Ben G., Avery M.,
Tate H., Curtis W.,
Priscilla E., Ben D.,
Anahi F., Nyah W.,
Haylee O., Hunter W.,
Cindy C., Jack B.
and Olivia M.

**Congratulations,
Students!**

TOP TEN REASONS TO BE ON TIME AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY

Every day, many students arrive late to school in the morning. Read below the top ten reasons for why a student should be on time every day:



- 10) School-wide announcements begin at 8:00 sharp and students who miss them are left confused about on-goings at school.
- 9) When children enter the class after school begins, they are interrupting the learning of other students and it takes them time to get tuned.
- 8) Students are learning and forming habits and attitudes about the importance of arriving on time. They will adopt the attitudes of their parents and are aware when you bring them to school tardy. The message to them is, "arriving on time is really not important".
- 7) In High School, students who arrive more than 5 minutes late for a class are marked absent. Multiple absences add up to loss of credit in the class.
- 6) To avoid getting the "you are late" look from the office staff and your child's classroom teacher
- 5) Students and parents arriving after that time will need to take the humiliating tardy march to the main office for a pass to class.
- 4) Parents of students with excessive tardiness will be receiving a letter from the principal and the district attendance advocate. Continued tardiness and/or attendance problems could even result in legal action being taken by the district.
- 3) Research shows that school attendance and punctuality are closely linked with academic achievement. No surprise since students with high rates of attendance and punctuality benefit from more instruction and are more likely to apply those habits in other areas such as extracurricular activities, jobs etc...
- 2) The few minutes before school actually begins is a great time for kids to say hello to their friends before school and run around for a few minutes on the playground being better prepared for learning.
- 1) The sooner you give us your kid(s), the sooner you can get on with your other adult responsibilities like getting yourself to work on time.

Please... Please... Please get your child(ren) to their class by 8:00 am and speak with them about the importance of showing up and showing up on time to all appointments, especially school!

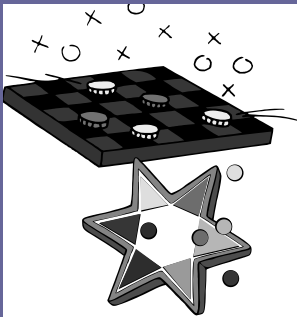
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES COMING UP IN JANUARY



CELA TESTING

During January 9th-20th will be our Assessment Window for the Colorado English Learners Assessment. All our ESL students (receiving ESL services or waived) K-5th grade, will be Assessed. Please try not to arrange any appointments during those days so the testing can run smoothly.

Questions? Concerns? Contact Dao Yang @ Dao.Yang@bvsd.org

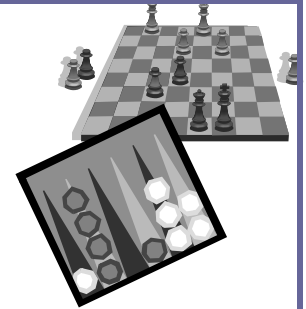


Family Game Night

Friday, January 20, 2012

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Lafayette Elementary Cafeteria



Bring the family/friends for a fun and relaxing evening of playing games.

Play old favorites or learn something new.

Please bring your favorite game to play if you'd like.

We will have some other games available to play as well.

Sponsored by...
Lafayette Elementary
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

**Congratulations Mrs. Park's
4th grade Class!**



School Accountability Committee (SAC) Meeting

On Tuesday January 24th from 2:45 to 3:45pm.

Come and learn about our School Goals and Improvement Plans.

You collected the most Box Tops & Campbell Soup labels for the month of **November!** Keep up the good work – collecting Box Tops & Soup labels helps raise money for your school. **The class that collects the most tops & labels for the entire school year wins an ice cream party in May!**

PTA BOARD MEETING

Your PTA board of directors meets nearly every month during the school year. These business meetings are an excellent opportunity to learn about the goals, values, and programs of the Lafayette Elementary School PTA. Board meetings are open, gallery style, and **dues-paying PTA Members* receive voting cards and door prize entry upon attendance.** Nominations are now being accepted for executive positions on the PTA Board for the 2012-2013 school year. **Please consider getting involved!**

Make your voice heard!

Join us **Tuesday, January 24th from 6:30pm-8:00pm** in the Library Media Room.

* *Membership Dues are \$10 for one or \$17 for two in the same household. Contact Shayna Whitehouse for more info: sbwhitehouse@gmail.com*

SPOTLIGHT ON THE 2011-2012 UNIFIED IMPROVEMENT PLAN GOALS

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Lafayette Elementary will implement four Major Improvement Strategies in support of meeting improvement goals outlined in the school's Unified Improvement Plan. Two of these strategies were highlighted in November's LLO. They included writing across the content areas and our school climate goal. The remaining two strategies are highlighted in the January issue of the *Lafayette Lookout*. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the essence of these strategies and complement the school's efforts by reinforcing them at home.

Major Improvement Strategies: Assessment, Monitoring Progress, Instructional Groups and Model Summary of Strategies:

Through collaboration, Lafayette will continue to examine and adjust our current structures, teacher schedules and literacy (reading and writing) block in order to provide students with systemic interventions when they struggle and enrichment when they are proficient. Staff will work collaboratively to clarify how we know that students have learned and will monitor the progress of student learning in reading, writing and math. Monitoring progress for students who are below grade level will occur more frequently in order to meet their needs.

What the strategy of Assessment and Monitoring Progress Means:

Guiding question from the Standards-Based Teaching/Learning Cycle: How do we know that students have learned?		
<p>Students need tobe actively present, both physically and mentally, and demonstrate their best effort and work as a means to achieving their goals. They need to take ownership in their goals and embrace the opportunity and expectation to reach them.</p>	<p>Teachers will... ...draw upon formal observations, observational notes, student conferences, unit-end assessments, running records and pre- and post-assessments to guide collaborative planning of instruction, assist with identifying who may need additional time or supports and who may need enrichment or extensions. Common team assessments will allow teachers to collaborate regarding essential benchmarks and instruction.</p>	<p>Parents can assist bychecking students' backpacks nightly and watching for homework and communications from teachers. They can help instill a sense of ownership and encourage students to take charge of their learning. Parents should know and understand the expectations for their child's performance at his/her grade level, their child's specific goals and should contact teachers with questions or concerns regarding homework and/or assessments.</p>

What the strategy of Instructional Groups and model means:

Guiding question from the Standards-Based Teaching/Learning Cycle: What do we do when students don't learn or reach proficiency in literacy* before expectation?		
<p>Students need to be actively present, both physically and mentally, and demonstrate their best effort and work as a means to achieving their goals. They need to take ownership in their goals and embrace the opportunity and expectation to reach them.</p>	<p>Teachers will... ...adjust student groups based on performance and needs, notify parents of a student's below-proficiency status, escalate situations to the principal if no response from student and/or parents, and keep records of homework performance and educational interventions.</p>	<p>Parents can assist byengaging students in conversation about their daily learning and by being aware of student's placement in learning groups and if/when they are reassigned to other groups. Parents can check students' backpacks nightly and watch for homework and communications from teachers. They can help instill a sense of ownership and encourage students to take charge of their learning. Parents should know and understand the expectations for their child's performance at his/her grade level and should contact teachers with questions or concerns regarding homework and/or assessments.</p>

* The teaching model for math is somewhat different and employs "fluid monitoring" that enables teachers to group students by ability and regroup them at any time to best meet their needs. The assessment and intervention process is the same as it is for literacy.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Lafayette Elementary Bronze Medal in The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC)



The HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSSC) is a voluntary initiative established in 2004 to recognize those schools participating in the National School Lunch Program that have created healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity. In a recent letter to BVSD Food Service Director Ann Cooper, the Colorado Department of Education Office of School Nutrition congratulated the schools for their efforts in "improving student health and wellness by meeting the HUSSC criteria. By participating in the challenge these schools are playing a vital role in promoting student wellness, which is a leading contributor to student achievement."

To acknowledge this achievement, the schools will receive a HUSSC award plaque, a banner to display, and a small monetary incentive award. Also, the names of all awarded schools will be added to the HUSSC awardees list on the Team Nutrition HUSSC website.

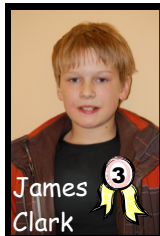
Learn more about the Challenge: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/HealthierUS/index.html>

2012 National Geographic Bee Contestants

The following students participated in the Geographic Bee Contest, to select the 2012 National Geographic Bee Contestants:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ian MacKeigan ★ | Parker Remund | Megan Franco ★ | Mathew Spangler |
| Curtis Wagner | Emma DeFoe ★ | Naomi Ellis | Sam Snider |
| Molly Maskin ★ | Brooke Gallogly | Cristina Conroy | Ashley Marsh ★ |
| Kira Hensley | James Clark ★ | Maddie Maksin | Alaina Olbrich |
| Hayden Outlaw | Jenny Reed | Alexia Merrill | Nicole Calvo ★ |
| Anna Boehm | Sangya Dickey | Rashida Obika | Alternates |
| Nick Faraca ★ | Gracie Hoagan | Jack Larson | Drew Grant |
| Nicole Tourault ★ | Eden Maddy | Curran Jett-Moore | Sarah Boyer |
| | | Olivia Mills ★ | Justine Ringham |

★ Top 10



Good Job!

Congratulations Mrs. Mulford's 3rd grade Class!



You collected the most Box Tops & Campbell Soup labels for the month of **September!**

Keep up the good work - collecting Box Tops & Soup labels helps raise money for your school. The class that collects the most tops & labels for the entire school year wins an ice cream party in May!

UPDATES



Congratulations Mrs. Watson's 3rd grade Class!

You collected the most Box Tops & Campbell Soup labels for the month of October! 2 months out of the first 3 months of school – WOW!

Keep up the good work – collecting Box Tops & Soup labels helps raise money for your school. The class that collects the most tops & labels for the entire school year wins an ice cream party in May!

Dental Screening

On Wed. January 20, 2012, a dental screening will be done on students in Preschool through 3rd grade, whose parents sign and return the permission form. The screening will look for visible dental decay and other oral health problems. Dental screenings are performed in a manner similar to the school vision and hearing screenings that your child received in the fall. A simple and quick check helps to detect possible dental problems. This is **not** a dental examination. You are encouraged to have your child seen by a dentist on a regular basis. Your child's health is an important factor in his or her overall development. As you know, good oral health is an essential part of overall health.



This is an Opt-In program. Only students whose parents return the permission form will have the dental screening. If you want to have your child's teeth checked, please sign and return the parental permission form that will be sent home in January.

If you have questions, call our Health Room Para, Ronda, at 720-561-8909



In this Holiday Season,
Best Wishes to All our Families !
Have a safe, restful,
and fun Winter Break.
And of course... a Happy New Year!!

The Lafayette Elementary Staff
2011-2012

Thanks to All our Volunteers who helped during this month to make our school a great place to be

Thanks to *Kat Goldberg* for helping out in the cafeteria every day.

Thanks to *Annadell Burke & Patty Erikson* for helping with our intermediate playground and grounds.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped during the Open Enrollment Tours: *Christy Clark; Shayna Whitehouse; Wendi Híndríchs, Mary Wilkie, Cindy Outlaw, Sheila Gentry, Sara Wendland, Annette Gruba.*

Thank you to all our wonderful parent and student volunteers for your help during the Cougar Pride Dance! The student council and their parents were instrumental in having everything flow well for our Dance on Friday, Dec 9th. They gave out tickets, they served pizza and they cleaned up. Yay for Student Council and their wonderful parents. We had a blast and hope you did, too!

Student Council Members: *Evan Storm, Rachel Jager, Alexia Merrill, Zack Kapushion, Isabella Gajdys, Marlena Tawa, Mason Meierhofer, Charlee van Poppel, Brooke Gallogly, Tony Aieta.*

Wonderful Staff and Parents: *Julie Marquez, Cindy Outlaw, Nowell Outlaw, Annadell Burke, Debra McCloskey, Lisa Chinnery, Mandy Bradish, Mary Wilkie, Shayna Whitehouse, Jesse Trezise, Ben McCloskey, Shawn Colligan, Kat Goldberg, Mikayla Goldberg, Paula Tawa, Monica Oliveira, DJ Steve Robertston, John Meere.*

