



Lafayette Lookout



Message from the Principal—Stephanie Jackman

Thank you for attending your child's goal setting conferences in September. The Lafayette Staff and I are hoping that all families valued and enjoyed the early conference dates to increase communication around achievement data and individual goals for students.

Research states, "The more **parents participate** in schooling, in a sustained way, at every level – in advocacy, decision making, volunteering, and as home supporters – the better for student achievement." Parents/family members are critical to the success of students in school. Decades of research show that when parents are involved in schools students have:

1. Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates;
2. Better school attendance;
3. Increased motivation, higher self esteem;
4. Lower rates of discipline problems;
5. Decreased instances of violent behavior, use of drugs and alcohol

Some ways Lafayette Elementary parents can continue to be involved include the following:

- ❖ Monitor homework and at-home reading every night. Each Kindergarten – 2nd grade child should have an "Everyday Reader" book bag and each 3rd – 5th grader should have an at-home reading book. Your child's teacher would be happy to let you know how you can specifically help your child with homework or how to ask questions about their reading. Just listening to a child read aloud and talking about the book promotes a love of reading and increases comprehension.
- ❖ Have a regular homework routine and stick to it... before TV and video games please. Contact your child's teacher if your child continually reports he or she doesn't have homework.
- ❖ Check out the Parent Engagement Network (PEN), a Boulder Valley district-wide collaboration to engage parents in fostering healthy choices among all youth and increase awareness of available resources for parents and families. There are numerous resources listed on the BVSD website <http://bvsd.org/parents>.
- ❖ Participate in a PTA fundraiser, come to a Principal Coffee Chat, consider joining the School Accountability Committee (SAC), check out the Lafayette website <http://bvsd.org/schools/Lafayette>, join your child on a field trip, dig in the *Garden to Table* program, or attend PTA meetings.
 - ◇ If you are unable to participate in these meetings or events, please visit our school website and review the information updated monthly and provide any input or ideas you have. Lafayette Elementary is a school focused on continuous improvement and values input from all families.

Our CSAP median growth scores improved in all content areas, however, our school did not make adequate yearly progress (AYP) according to the guidelines defined in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. Lafayette had 28 targets related to Adequate Yearly Progress and met 75% of these. Any elementary school in BVSD that was judged on more than 24 targets did not make AYP this past year. Although, this does not affect funding or the operation of our school, Adequate Yearly Progress will be considered in the goals set forth for the current year.

The BVSD Parent Snapshot Surveys from May 2011 indicated that 88% who responded felt they were appropriately involved in school improvement. I'd like to increase this percentage of satisfaction and improve communication around this effort. In the November LLO, you will have a one page summary of our school goals and ways parents can assist with reaching these targets. In addition, our School Accountability Committee Chair and I will write a summary of updates from these meetings to include in our newsletters. In this LLO, there is a September SAC summary and explanation of another state accountability measure our school is judged on.

The Lafayette Staff and I are committed to challenging all students to exceed their potential. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support of your child's success and our school. The staff and I sincerely appreciated the lovely dinners and treats provided during the three parent teacher conference nights. Enjoy the fall season!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Character Trait CITIZENSHIP 						1
2	3	4	5 WALK/BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY Jog-a-Thon 	6	7 School Spirit Day	8
9	10	11	12 Sukkoth—Begins Sundown	13 6:00 PM ALL CULTURES FESTIVAL 	14 PROF DEV DAY 8-11:30- NO SCHOOL	15
16	17	18 SAC Mtg 2:45-3:45 PTA Board Mtg 6:30-8pm	19 Picture Retake – Stage 	20  Principal Coffee & Chat—8:15-9:15am Vision/Hearing Screening	21 Sukkoth—Ends Sundown	22
23	24	25	26	27 Choir Concert  7:00pm	28	29
30	31  Citizenship/Respect Assembly 9:15–10:00am Classroom Parties 					

School Accountability Committee (SAC) Update

SAC is a cooperative advisory group comprised of the school principal, staff representatives from each grade level and parents. BVSD, and now the State of Colorado, require every public school to have a SAC in place. Each school must evaluate school performance annually and devise a plan. This plan is called the Unified Improvement Plan or UIP, and the template used is required for all BVSD and Colorado schools.

In the past, BVSD and Lafayette have referred to this plan as the SIP (school improvement plan) and have focused on setting achievement, climate and equity goals. The language used on the new UIP template to determine goals includes: *Academic Achievement, Academic Growth, and Academic Growth Gaps*. Lafayette Elementary and all BVSD schools will continue to focus on Climate goals and have added this section in our UIP (Unified Improvement Plan).

The performance indicators for each area include: *exceeds, meets, approaching and does not meet*. Our current rating is “meets” for all categories except Academic Growth Gaps. For this performance indicator, Lafayette Elementary received a rating of “approaching”. An explanation of what these performance indicators measure follows.

Academic Achievement

The *Achievement* indicator reflects how a school's students are doing at meeting the State's proficiency goal (the percentage of students proficient or advanced on Colorado's standardized assessments). This Indicator includes results from CSAP and CSAPA (Reading, Writing, Math and Science).

Academic Growth

The *Growth* indicator measures academic progress using the Colorado Growth Model. This indicator reflects: 1) median growth: how the academic progress of the students in this school compared to that of other students statewide with a similar CSAP score history in that subject area, and; 2) adequate growth: whether this level of growth was sufficient for the typical (median) student in this school to reach an achievement level of proficient or advanced on the CSAP within three years or by 10th grade, whichever comes first.

Academic Growth Gaps

The *Gaps* indicator measures the academic progress of historically disadvantaged student subgroups and students needing to catch up. It disaggregates the *Growth* indicator into student subgroups and reflects their median and adequate growth. The subgroups include students eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch, minority students, students with disabilities (IEP status), English Language Learners, and students needing to catch up.

September SAC Meeting

The September SAC meeting marked the first convening of the full committee for the 2011-2012 academic year. Our August SAC meeting focused on parents learning more about this process and ways to provide input. Two parents, with Principal Jackman, attended BVSD training for SACs earlier this month and shared their perspective with the group. One outcome of the training was the recognition that the Lafayette SAC can do more to keep the entire Lafayette community better informed of its activities and to create ways to solicit feedback. As a result, meeting minutes will now be available on the Lafayette SAC website. In addition, the group will report monthly via this update in the Lafayette Lookout.

Principal Jackman shared highlights of the staff's vision, mission, values and goals work completed in August. In order to sustain continuous achievement, schools must pay attention to both culture and structure and identify ways to sustain both. The SAC reviewed some preliminary efforts to identify an acronym as a succinct expression of the vision, mission and goals. Group brainstorming led to an exploration of the word "PRIDE" – already familiar to staff, students and parents in the LES community. This information will be shared with the community once finalized.

The SAC reviewed the results of the 2011 Parent Snapshot Survey. Twenty-six of 34 questions received 95% or higher positive response, and 2 more were above 90%. Of the remaining questions, five were in the 81-88% positive range and consistent with 2010 results. One question related to perceived "quality of the program" at LES dipped, leading the SAC to consider the underlying reasons for this response and ways to better understand this measure in the future. Further discussion revolved around how to get a higher percentage of people to respond to the survey (in 2011, 31% of LES parents participated in the survey which is consistent with 2010 participation rates).

Discussion around Climate Goals for Lafayette focused on data from our 2011 Climate Survey Results. Every April, all 3rd through 5th grade students in BVSD answer questions about fitting in, safety, harassment/bullying, learning and adults at school. We first reviewed this data in May of 2011 and again with staff and SAC at the beginning of the school year. Our climate goal will focus on specific statements from the Student Climate survey around the following topics:

- Students know how to respond in situations that may feel like bullying (i.e. saying hurtful things to other students).
- Students feel comfortable to stand up against this type of behavior and prevent it from happening.
- Students feel safe to tell an adult and ask for help if support is needed.

Key Dates for the 2011-2012 SAC Process

Below are due dates for progress reports on the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). These updates will be shared with District Leadership, Staff, and the School Accountability Committee.

Unified Improvement Plan:	Friday, October 7
Fall Progress Report:	Monday, November 14
Midyear Progress Report:	Friday, February 24
End of Year Progress Report:	Friday, June 1

Providing Input and More Information

If you would like to share insight or ideas with the LES SAC on the above topics or others related to the SAC's work, you can email Principal Jackman at stephanie.jackman@bvsd.org or the SAC Chair, Christa Lassen-Vogel, at vogels@q.com. If you'd like to learn more about how the SAC process works and what it entails, visit the Lafayette SAC website at:

<http://www.bvsd.org/schools/Lafayette/about/sac/Pages/SchoolImprovementTeam.aspx>.

CHARACTER MATTERS

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

RESPONSIBILITY



It means:

"I am a dependable & accountable person in my actions."

Alejandro A.,
Avery S.,
Rebecca B.,
Mason P.,
Adam S.,
Garret V., Aaron C.,
Mercedes C.,
Suaad D.,
Raya D.,
Jack J.,
Elizabeth K.,
Una B., Reese B., Oscar N.,
Cooper S.,
Afton B.,
Caid A.,
Sydney C., Paloma .,

Nick B.,
Mason M.,
Nathan W.,
Emily M.,
Cole M.,
Salvy M.,
Samantha K.,
Alexander C.,
Henry Z.,
Aidan S.,
Jack B.,
Nangsal T.,
Melisa R.,
Rachelle B., Taylor B.,
Claire N.,
Laila A.,

Gabe G.,
Tyler H.,
Chloe S., Sarah ., Ian M.,
Tachibana W.,
Lily B., Olivia K.,
Brett P., Reva M.,
Brandon K.,
Autumn B.,
Caden G.,
Nicole T.,
Cristina C., and
Aidan S..

Congratulations to all of you!!

SCHOOL NEWS

AFTER SCHOOL MESSAGES: Please remember to communicate after school plans with your child/ children the night before and/or in the morning before school. The office can only assure the delivery of emergency or urgent messages. If you are concerned that your child won't remember what to do, please e-mail or write a note to your child's teacher.



Vision & Hearing Screening We Need Your Help!



Our Vision & Hearing Screening will be on Thursday, Oct. 20th. Volunteers are needed from 8:00-2:00. Volunteers will assist with the actual vision screening (training provided that morning), bringing students from classrooms, "crowd control" while waiting in the hall, and other tasks. Please call Ronda Frary, the Health Para, at 720-561-8909 if you can assist. Thanks!"

IS THERE ANYTHING WE SHOULD KNOW?

We sincerely appreciate and expect a phone call to the office when your child will be absent or if there is a injury or health concern regarding your child. The office team and health room paraprofessional can assist with ensuring this information is shared with all staff who need to know (i.e. administration, classroom teachers, specials teachers, lunch and recess staff and/or interventionists).

In addition, we know email is an efficient and effective means of communication and use this often to share updates. All staff want to be responsive; however, there are times when we are unable to read email until later in the day. Please be aware of the length of your email and know that there are times when a personal phone call may be more appropriate. Also, if there is an important matter that needs a quick response or is related to safety, please do not rely on email as the only form of communication.

At Lafayette, we are always looking for ways to improve our communication and ensure a positive and safe experience for all students. Thank you for partnering with us and calling the office directly regarding absences, health updates and any additional concerns.

PLAYGROUND BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

Supervision begins at 7:45 AM.

If you drop your child off earlier than this in the AM he/she is not supervised.

For the safety of the students, staff will not send kids out to the playground to wait for someone to pick them up. Students must remain with teachers until they are picked up or they will be brought to the office to wait.

Thank you from
all staff.



PICTURE RETAKE DAY OCTOBER 19th



BVSD IT's

Adopt a Computer Program

allows BVSD students to purchase refurbished desktops for home use at a very low purchase price (only \$25).

Each desktop goes through a rigorous certification process to ensure that students receive a lot for their money!



Each Desktop purchase includes:

- HP dx5150 desktop (pictured, without floppy drive)
- 17-inch CRT monitor with VGA cord (pictured)
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- PC and Monitor power cords

If you qualify for Free & Reduce Lunch Program and would like to get one of these computers, please contact the office 720 561 8900. We will help you with the process.

STUDENT COUNCIL

STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICER ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT AN ASSEMBLY FOR ALL 3RD, 4TH, AND 5TH GRADE CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011 AT 8:10 A.M.

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be voting for a President, Vice President, and Secretary. The results will be announced at the end of the day during the afternoon announcements.

Once the officers are elected, we will need two representatives from each 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classroom.

From BVSD

Food Services

- Having trouble keeping track of when to add money to your student's meal account?
- Tired of getting negative balance reminder phone calls and emails?



With *payforit.net* you can set up a low-balance email reminder for when your student's account gets below a level you choose. This is a free service, with no obligation to use Payforit to add money to your student's account. Best yet, there is no transaction fee if you choose the convenience of online payments.

Visit PayForIt.net and set up your account today!

Transportation Services

International Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 5th.

This annual event celebrates walking and biking to school as a way to enhance health, keep the air fresh, and have fun with friends. We invite everyone to walk all week!



As part of International Walk to School Day, bring in all your used shoes to be re-used and recycled into rubberized playground and athletic fields. Eco-Cycle will collect hundreds of pounds of used shoes from all schools. Please put the shoes in the marked boxes. No light-up shoes!

Collection is 10/3 - 10/7.

Growing Up Boulder

Growing Up Boulder event is on October 15th. This annual fall event celebrates community involvement by youth and encourages participation in the Growing Up Boulder initiative. This year's event will take place on Saturday, October 15 at the North Boulder Recreation Center, from 2-5 p.m. The theme is children and youth rights. The celebration will include: **interactive youth-run booths** to present findings and gather new ideas about a children and youth bill of rights in Boulder; **inflatables** (obstacle course, inflatable sumo wrestling, and more); **raffle prizes** including a \$50 iTunes gift certificate; **delicious food**; **fun classes** like kickboxing and hip hop dancing. **All free!!!!**



PARENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

Reading and School Success By Dr. Jan Hittelman



Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Whether it's intellectual abilities, visual and auditory processing skills, or physical abilities, we all have areas of strength and areas of challenge. For elementary-age children, this is also the case in terms of academic skills. While some children excel in mathematics, others may exhibit strengths in writing. The most important academic skill, however, is reading. Reading is central to all subjects. The third grade reading level has been shown to correlate with a variety of outcomes including academic success, vocational opportunities, and college attendance. It is always sad to see a young child with reading problems who enjoys and excels in math be robbed of that success with the introduction of math word problems that require reading ability.

We also know that parental involvement correlates with school success. A meta-analysis of 77 studies found that parents who were highly involved in their child's education, positively impacted overall education outcomes, grades, and academic achievement (Harvard Family Research Project, 2005). Furthermore, when they looked at specific components of parental involvement, reading with your child emerged as one of the most important factors. Given that parents are usually not trained in reading instruction, what is the best approach in helping your child to learn how to be a strong reader, particularly if they are already having reading challenges?

To learn more about effective parenting strategies to help your child become a strong reader, bring your elementary-age child, a fun book, and participate in the next Pathways to Parenting Success workshop:

What: Strengthening Reading Confidence and Skills

When: Monday, October 24th, 6:30-8:00pm

Where: Meadows Branch Library (4800 Baseline Road, Boulder)

Facilitator: Iris Lee, Director, Dreamcatcher Direct Instruction Centers

Cost: FREE **More info:** www.BPSBoulder.com

UPCOMING PEN EVENT

The Bully, the Bullied, & the Bystander
Breaking the Cycles of Violence and Creating Circles of Caring
Barbara Coloroso, Nat'l Speaker/Author

www.kidsareworthit.com

Wednesday, October 19th, 6:30-8:30pm
Monarch High School (263 Campus Drive, Louisville)

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website:

www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN chair (pjn6225@yahoo.com, 303-880-6030) or Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach.

Dr. Jan Hittelman, a licensed psychologist, is Director of Boulder Psychological Services and the Founder of the Boulder Counseling Cooperative.

THANKS, THANKS, THANKS!

- ♥ Thanks to Debbi Serke and Johnna Wynn for coordinating our Reading to End Racism Program, and to all the volunteers that helped reading last Friday, September 23rd:

Suzanne Hoagland, Stacy Putnam, Michelle Ulbrich, Tonya Loendorf, Johnna Wynn, Jay Ruggeri, Briggs Gamblin, Annadell Burke, Stephanie Jackman, John Chinnery, Cindy Outlaw, Wendi Hinrichs, Susana Villelobos-Boehm, Mary Bell, Sheila Gentry, Mary Wilkie, Suzy Belmont, and Alex Hayes.

- ♥ Thanks to the PTA volunteers who provided our staff with delicious meals during Parent Teacher Conferences.

Tesekkürler

Merci

Danken

Gracias

Thanks

شكراً

Grazie

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

After School Enrichment Clubs

The purpose of Lafayette Elementary "After School Enrichment" clubs is to provide free opportunities for ALL students. Over the years, the interest and popularity of these clubs has continued to grow and each year changes are made to improve the method based on parent feedback. This year we focused on a "call for volunteers" to run these clubs to increase the number of spots available. For the fall sessions, 350 students responded to the interest club forms and we were able to guarantee participation for approximately 100 students. The interest outweighs the number of spots available. Lafayette Elementary truly appreciates the generous funding provided by PTA to purchase supplies for these clubs and our volunteers who coach these clubs. We applaud Julie Marquez, Cindy Olsen and Ann Longtain for ensuring an equitable process is followed. Thank you for your understanding.

Many Cultures, One Community



Lafayette Elementary
Thursday, October 13th
6:00-7:30pm

All Cultures 2011

Please join us for a taste of culture, a mix of entertainment, and culture in the classrooms!

Look for more details about this fun event, in Friday Folders!