

WHAT'S UP!

October 2005

@ LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY



101 N. BERMONT AVE. LAFAYETTE, CO 80026 303-665-5046 [HTTP://SCHOOLS.BVSD.ORG/LAFAYETTE](http://schools.bvsd.org/lafayette)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Holly Hultgren

How Can I Be Involved In My Child's Education?

Research studies consistently reveal that high student achievement and self-esteem are closely related to positive parental participation in education. Parents and schools need to work together so all children can succeed in school. This month's article will focus on the ways you can share in your child's school success by becoming more involved with Lafayette Elementary School.

Almost everyone agrees that parents are their children's first and most important teachers. You, as a parent, have important knowledge about your child's likes, dislikes, needs, and problems. Studies show that though parents want to be involved in their children's education, they may not be exactly sure how to go about it, especially like most parents, you work during the school day.

Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University has developed a framework for defining different types of parent involvement. "There are many reasons for developing school, family, and community partnerships," she writes. "The main reason to create such partnerships is to help all youngsters succeed in school and in later life." Epstein's framework defines some types of parental involvement which are also important at Lafayette Elementary.

Some Types of Involvement for our Lafayette Elementary parents:

1. **COMMUNICATING:** We are committed to communicating with our families on a regular basis:

§ The first edition of our new Lafayette Family Handbook (red cover) in your child's Friday folder the first week of school. This is a booklet that you should keep and refer to from time to time throughout the year. Also contains a calendar of events.

§ We will be sending home our school-wide newsletter the last Friday of the month entitled, *What's up?* which will contain helpful articles and information about all school events.

§ Your child's teacher will send home a classroom newsletter twice monthly with information about learning activities, classroom news, and information about how you can be involved.

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 4TH.....	PTA MEETING	2:45 PM
OCTOBER 7TH.....	SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY	
OCTOBER 10TH.....	NO SCHOOL	
OCTOBER 12TH.....	VISION / HEARING	SCREENING 8:30 AM
OCTOBER 19TH.....	PICTURE RETAKES	
OCTOBER 25TH.....	PTA BUSINESS	MEETING 7 PM
OCTOBER 27TH.....	ALL CULTURES	FESTIVAL 6 -8:30PM
OCTOBER 31.....	HALLOWEEN	PARADE

Please email any
submissions
for November's What's Up
to Heidi Denley at
tinkerbell0102@msn.com
by October 15th.



- Back to School Night presentations by teachers in September were well attended. If you missed the presentation, be sure that you receive the handouts and important information shared by your teacher.
- Parent Teacher conferences for the first trimester are scheduled for November 8,10,14,16 are from 3 to 7 PM. Sign up sheets are hanging up in the hallway by the office. If you are unable to sign up in person, your child's teacher will contact you personally for a scheduled conference.
- Standards-based report cards will be used for the first time at Lafayette this year to report your child's progress toward meeting the district standards in all subject areas. These will be explained to you at parent conferences.
- Translated documents are essential for some families to understand our written documents. This will be a high priority as the year progresses so that all of our families are included in these important communications.

1. **VOLUNTEERING:** We are always in need of parent help and support at school.

- Last week PTA sent home a volunteer sign up sheet to all families. There are many large and small ways that you can choose to help us out at school. The explanation that was included should help you to choose something that fits your interest, skills and schedule. Please consider even a small role in a fundraiser, parent program or project. It's a great way to get to know some other parents and make a real contribution to our school.
- Classroom volunteering is a great way to assist your child's teacher and to learn more about what happens in school. There are possibilities for heading up a group of learners in a teacher planned lesson or may paperwork tasks that would be helpful. Please note that the specialist teachers, especially the librarian, would also love some regular assistance. The health room/clinic often needs an extra hand. Contact individual staff members if this is something you might enjoy.

2. **LEARNING AT HOME:** We hope to provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.

- Information for families on learning standards in all subjects at each grade was shared with parents at Back to School night. You can use these to help monitor the learning goals for your child. Please ask your teacher if you have any questions.
- You should be receiving information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home. Homework in most cases is designed to be done independently and should help students develop good learning and study habits.
- Parents are asked to help us set learning goals for all students whether they be typical learners, readers who struggle, students with special needs, English language learners, or identified as gifted and talented. We invite you to help your child and the teacher work toward the identified goals at home as well as the school setting.

3. **DECISION MAKING:** We would like to include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives on district committees.

- We are seeking parents for membership on the PTA and School Improvement Team. Each of these committees meets monthly and has a representative that also attends district meetings. If you are interested please call the office for more information. PTA meetings are generally in the evenings and SIT meets after school from 2:45 - 3:45 p.m.
- There are additional roles that parents could play, helping with grant writing for IMPACT on Education, our district foundation.
- Occasionally parents will be needed for interview committees, budget decision making or special advisory councils. Information will be listed in the monthly What's Up? newsletter.

4. **COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY:** We would like to use resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs and student learning.

- Tomorrow's KIDS PARK construction is an excellent example of community collaboration. Organized by parent volunteers and funded by multiple community resources, this project will have a wonderful impact on students at Lafayette.
- The TEAMS program where a student intern from the CU School of Engineering teaches weekly science lessons in 3rd -5th grade classes is another example of the many ways the larger community commits to educating students at our school.
- The up coming All Culture's Festival on October 27 will involve many rich resources from our community. Please mark your calendar for this evening full of special events.

OPERATION COOTIE CATCHERS

LES celebrated National Clean Hands Week on September 20 & 21 by kicking off a year-long program designed to keep kids focused on washing their hands.

Operation Cootie Catchers helps kids remember to use soap or hand sanitizer during the school day to keep their hands clean from "cooties" (germs) that can cause colds and flu. Important times for hand washing include upon arrival to school, before eating, after using the bathroom, when sneezing or blowing noses and when arriving home after school.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, *"Hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection."* Nearly 2 million school days are missed each year due to the common cold alone.

Proper hand washing during the school day and at home can reduce gastrointestinal illness by more than 50%. Be on the lookout - kids can win prizes by finding pictures of cooties at school!



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conference's are November 8,10,14, & 16 from 3:00 to 7:00pm. Parents please stop by and sign up for a conference with your child's teacher. The sign up sheets are located in the hallway near the art room on the walls. If you can not come by please call your students' teacher, at 303-665-5046, and set one up.



IMPACT ON EDUCATION RAISES SUPPORT FOR KATRINA EVACUEES IN BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOLS

IMPACT ON EDUCATION, CURRENTLY IS RAISING COMMUNITY DONATIONS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION-RELATED EXPENSES FOR THE INFLUX OF HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES WHO ARE ENTERING THE BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT (BVSD).

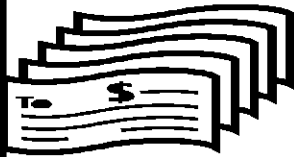
INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUPPORT THE EFFORT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE DISPLACED STUDENTS WITH THE RESOURCES THEY REQUIRE TO BEGIN SCHOOL READY TO LEARN AND ACCESS CURRICULUM AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED IN BVSD SCHOOLS. FUNDS WILL HELP PAY FOR SUCH BASIC NEEDS AS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL, CLASS FEES AND ROUTINE MEDICAL EXAMS.

DONATIONS MADE TO IMPACT ON EDUCATION ON BEHALF OF YOUNG KATRINA EVACUEES WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE ORGANIZATION'S OPPORTUNITY FUND. TO DONATE TO THE OPPORTUNITY FUND, LOG ON TO WWW.IMPACTIONEDUCATION.ORG AND CLICK "HELP KATRINA EVACUEES IN BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOLS," OR SEND A CHECK TO IMPACT ON EDUCATION, P.O. BOX 9011, BOULDER, CO, 80301, ATTENTION: KATRINA EVACUEES.

PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retakes are scheduled for October 19th. If you wish your student to retake pictures you must bring in your first set of photos that day to receive the second set. If you missed pictures the first time you will need to pay for the pictures that day!

Questions, please call the office @ 303-665-5046.

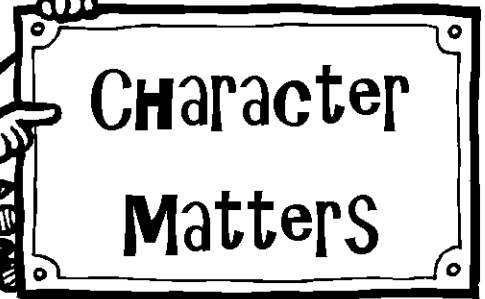


DON'T FORGET!!

Grocery/Gift Certificates are available from Safeway, Kohl's, and King Soopers in \$25 increments.

5% of each sale goes towards LES.

If you are interested contact Jacqueline Molenaar, 303-664-9008, jrmolenaar@yahoo.com



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CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

YEARBOOK

Do you have an eye for photos? Your talents would be greatly utilized on the Yearbook Committee. The Committee is looking for 5-6 people to volunteer to take pictures at school events throughout the year. If interested, bring your camera to take pictures during classes and/or at evening events. Please drop off photos with name and classroom teacher in yearbook mailbox. There is also work with the editing, layout and publishing of the yearbook. For more information please contact Renee Moore @ 303-665-5046; renee.moore@bvsd.org or Pat Vero @ 303-673-0713 or pvero@qwest.net.

- Emily Trujillo
- Micah Stemm-Wolf
- Maya Janett
- Lily Vranesh
- Benjamin "Mac" Post
- Aly Zupan
- Booker Makowski
- Desteni Heinrich
- Sarah Reichen
- Jacqueline Peinado Aquirre
- Jeffrey Bennett
- Mikayla Goldberg
- Matthew Axelrod
- Bailey Nelson
- Lily Weekly
- Allysen Jenson
- Ryleigh Tagliatela
- Carter Cumbo
- Jeryd Benedict
- Tiana Smith
- Sarie Bellitt
- and Landon Baxter.

5th Grade Outdoor Education Program Fundraiser

Holiday wreaths and poinsettias will be on sale October 14th through October 28th for the annual 5th Grade Outdoor Education program. Each year, all 5th grade students participate in a three day/two night outdoor education excursion in the mountains at the end of the school year. To help fund this trip, holiday wreaths will be on sale for \$20 each, and poinsettias for \$10 each. Watch for further details on how you can order your wreaths and poinsettias to support this valuable LES program.

ALL CULTURE'S FESTIVAL

DESSERT RAFFLE

ALL CULTURES COMMITTEE IS BRINGING
BACK THE DESSERT RAFFLE.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR DESSERT DONATIONS
FOR THE RAFFLE TABLE THE NIGHT OF THE FESTIVAL.
PLEASE CONTACT COLLEEN PAANANEN @ 303-665-5046
IF YOU CAN DONATE A HOME MADE
OR STORE BOUGHT DESSERT.

PROCEEDS FROM SALE WILL
SUPPORT COSTS OF ALL-CULTURES FESTIVAL !



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2005

5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

LAFAYETTE ELEMENTARY

Get your family passport and program at the main entrance.....Take a trip around the world by visiting each classroom....There will be an ethnic food potluck in the cafeteria.....See singing and dancing in the gym, and displays in the library...Listen to a storyteller Lafayette Elementary is organizing the 14th Annual All Cultures Festival on the evening of Thursday, October 27, 2005, from 5:30 - 8:00 PM. For those of you new to Lafayette School, the Festival will introduce you to our school's commitment to promote diversity in our school, community, and the world.

Food Donations for the Ethnic Food Potluck

The Ethnic Food Potluck is free of charge. We are asking for your help providing the meal. Do you have a favorite food from your cultural background, or just a favorite recipe to share? If so, bring a dish to the cafeteria no later than 5:30 PM the night of the festival and join us for a delightful meal from around the world.

RECYCLE FOR THE RAIN FOREST

BRING YOUR EMPTY INKJET/LASER CARTRIDGES AND OLD CELL PHONES TO SCHOOL! RECYCLE FOR THE RAINFOREST WILL PAY US \$1 TO \$15 PER CARTRIDGE WE COLLECT! THEY ALSO WILL SAVE 500 SQ. FT OF RAINFOREST FOR EVERY CARTRIDGE/CELL PHONE WE RECYCLE IN ADDITION TO WHAT THEY PAY US. SAVE YOUR CARTRIDGES OVER THE SUMMER AND BRING THEM TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL! BRING THEM IN FROM HOME, THE OFFICE, OR COLLECT THEM FROM FRIENDS OR RELATIVES. THIS IS A GREAT WIN-WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE.

JUST THINK WE GET PAID TO SAVE THE RAINFOREST BY RECYCLING! RECYCLE FOR THE RAINFOREST RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOOLS AND SAVE THE RAINFOREST ONE CARTRIDGE/CELL PHONE AT A TIME.