

## Le Journal de L'Académie Lafayette

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[www.academielafayette.org](http://www.academielafayette.org)

Issue #31

April 22, 2010

### CALENDAR

April 23	No School (Staff in-service)
April 24	An Evening in Paris
April 27	All-School Photo
April 30	Mandatory Talent Show Rehearsal
May 3-17	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip
May 18-June 3	French kids in Kansas City
May 21	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Musical
June 2	Talent Show

Board mtgs are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month at 6:00 p.m.

### FROM THE DESK OF ERIC NELIS

As I am traveling through Brussels a lot by subway, and I have time to read. I am presently reading "Vivre en Paix - Comment Transformer la Peur en Amour" in English "Living in Peace - How to Change Fear into Love" by a Belgian author, Thierry Janssen. The following passage struck me, and I felt sharing with you in English... (some is paraphrased.)

**War is everywhere, all the time.**

**... Listen, and you will hear. Whether it be about Wall Street, politics, progress in sciences or education of our children, the message is clear: you must fight, conquer, take the lead, be at an advantage, be the highest performing, beat nature, fight the disease, beat the adversary, claim the victory, dominate others, be at the top in life. Because humans, or at least their ego, think that the world is dangerous...**

In another passage, he is giving several examples on how we all are "at war", every day of our lives, with our spouses, children, parents, co-workers and so on. We are blind to our own "wars" but easily criticize large scale wars.

When I read this, I think about our children's education and our roles, as parents and teachers. Are we indeed training our children to be at **war**, to **fight** for everything, to **beat** (meaning someone else has to be beaten), to be the **best** (meaning someone else must be the worst)? Are we training our children to be **warriors** and **soldiers** in their everyday lives, and therefore promoting larger scale wars?

The skills, knowledge and thinking processes we are teaching at school and at home are important. But they are only life tools, and not ultimate goals by themselves. We must, together, as parents and teachers, everyday and relentlessly keep focus on a much higher goal: the daily use of these tools to develop lives of service, and to make this world a better place, without fear and without war.

*-Eric*

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

The last day for this year's Academic Support is on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### ATTENTION 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES-FRANCE TRIP INFORMATION

Cost of the trip: \$2800 for 2010-2011

June 1<sup>st</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> payment of \$300 due to get "early bird special" and \$100 off total bill

Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> payment due in the amount of \$500

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> payment due in the amount of \$800

Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> payment due in the amount of \$800

March-balance due

\*\*\*Need to get passport in September. This costs approximately \$75.\*\*\*

### ATTENTION 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES

There is a mandatory France trip meeting for parents on April 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

### PARENT ASSOCIATION

Thanks to all who attended last week's meeting. Congratulations to those elected to next year's officer positions as well. If the officer names look familiar, they are. The current officers either kept their current position or switched with another officer. Karen Smith will continue as our Treasurer and Jennifer Roe will stay on as Secretary. Eric Peterson and Maria Dix switched from President to Vice President.

We also need to update you on the meeting that was set for May 20. That meeting was set up because our February meeting did not have enough attendees to meet the quorum requirements of our by-laws. However, no official business was voted on at that meeting, so we do not need to make it up. Bottom line, there is not a Parents Association meeting on May 20. We have concluded our meetings for this school year.

Have a great weekend and hope to see you at Evening in Paris

Eric Peterson  
Parents Association Vice President  
[peterston0529@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peterston0529@sbcglobal.net)

## FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

### **Dinner Fundraisers**

What: **Panda Express Eat Out Night**

When: Thurs. April 22, Thurs. April 29, Thurs. May 6

Where: Panda Express, 79<sup>th</sup> and State Line

Time: 4 pm – 8 pm

Eat in or carry out, but be sure to bring the flyer to get the credit for the school. Give a copy to all friends and family! 20% of sales will go to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip!

What: **Chipotle Eat Out Night**

When: Wed., April 28

Where: Chipotle, Plaza Library location

Time: 5 pm – 8 pm

Bring the flyer (to be handed out next week) to be sure proper credit is given. 50% of all sales will be credited.

### **BRIO Fundraiser**

Would you like to meet other AL parents in an elegant setting where you have the chance to drink, dine, and dish? Would it make it even sweeter if you were supporting AL while doing so? Then join us for "Parents' Night out at BRIO!" BRIO has agreed to welcome AL parents (plus grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, neighbors, friends) on Sunday, May 2nd AND Wednesday, May 5th from 6 - 10 pm at their Plaza location, 502 Nichols Drive. Attention 6th Grade Parents: Thursday, May 6th was selected just for you! Here's your chance to commiserate / celebrate the "minus one" in your household while the kids are abroad. For menu and restaurant details, visit [www.brioitalian.com/](http://www.brioitalian.com/) or call for a reservation at 816-561-5888. ***Be sure to tell your waitperson that you are with the school, and they will allocate 15% of your bill to AL.***

### **Upcoming Spirit/Philanthropy Days**

Please watch for updates to the newsletter for upcoming spirit days. Future days may include:

- Dress Like a Nerd Day
- Twin Day
- Additional Casual Days

### **AN EVENING IN PARIS UPDATE**

We are thrilled to have had a huge response to An Evening in Paris ticket sales.

We have a record number of auction items for both the silent and live auctions, so please be sure to come and give yourself time to see everything.

See you on Saturday night!

### **TALENT SHOW UPDATE**

Congratulations to all who tried out for the Talent Show. It's a fact that Académie Lafayette has talent because everyone who tried out made the show! We have many students participating, and we will be keeping each act to approximately 2 minutes.

Mandatory Rehearsal Schedule:

Friday, April 30 (4-5:30pm-ish)

Friday, May 14 (4-5:30pm-ish)

Wednesday, May 26 (4-5:30pm-ish)

Friday, June 1 (4-5:30pm-ish)

### **TENNIS UPDATE**

Next week will be the last week for tennis practice and we would like to celebrate with an end of the season party. This will also be a good opportunity for all of us to thank Madame Julie for allowing the children to learn from her instruction and giving them the chance to be exposed to the game of tennis. Thanks Madame Julie and Mr. Fall for all your hard work and dedication!

When: Wednesday, April 28th

Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM will be the party,  
5:00-6:00PM the kids can practice and play tennis

Where: Meet in the gym and if the weather is nice, we'll go outside for the party

Bring: Parents, please email me if you can bring some treats (juice boxes, granola bars, fruit, cookies, whatever)

Let me know if you have questions. We'll look forward to celebrating together next Wednesday.

Have a great day!

Amy Lee North

Tennis Program coordinator

### **NEW STAFF AT ACADEMIE LAFAYETTE**

AL is happy to announce two new staff members who have recently joined the school. Shelly Doucet & Katie Hendrickson have been hired to work with the school's administration as Director of Development and Director of Communications, respectively. Shelly will handle the school's fundraising needs, including the Annual Fund, Capital Campaign, Endowment, and Grants. As Director of Communications, Katie will focus on internal communications via the website, newsletter, phone system, and external communications with the media and greater KC community.

Feel free to contact these ladies if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding fundraising or communications.

Shelly Doucet, Dir. of Development, ext. 305  
[sdoucet.lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:sdoucet.lafayette@gmail.com)

Katie Hendrickson, Dir. of Communications, ext. 316  
[khendrickson.lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:khendrickson.lafayette@gmail.com)

## Kindergarten "Thursday" Folder Newsletter

Académie Lafayette Kindergarten Center, 406 W. 74<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64114  
Phone: 816-333-0936, Fax: 816-333-3945

### Thank you very much!

A big thank you goes to the following parents who helped during Kindergarten Screening.

We appreciate you!

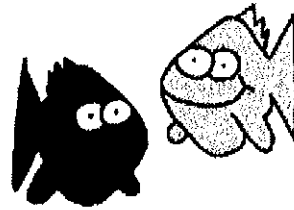
Kimberle Hatch-Wagner, Cyndie Nichols, Cathy Metcalf,  
Beth Flemington, Krista Blackwood, Emily Dooley, Martha  
Linscott, and Becca Harris.

### Evening in Paris:



Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
6 p.m. at the Main Campus

### April Curriculum



Plants and Aquatic Life

**No School Tomorrow**  
**Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### Working Together:

Working together gives the family a sense of "togetherness." Make your home a place where everyone works together to get chores done and everyone has chores to do. Your child gains self-confidence to explore new situations. For example, young children feel important when setting the table with silverware, glasses and napkins or when serving portions of food. At the same time, your child needs to feel accepted, respected and not under pressure. A self-confident child is usually more productive at school.

**GET A TASTE OF YOUR OWN  
GENEROSITY.**

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Make dinner a selfless act by joining  
us for a fundraiser.

**Wednesday, April 28th**

**5:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Chipotle at 49th and Main Street**

Show us this flyer and  
50% of proceeds benefit

**Academie Lafayette**

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**CHIPOTLE**

MEXICAN GRILL

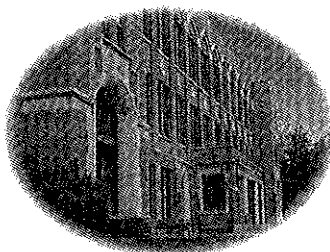
**49TH & MAIN**



**CHIPOTLE**

MEXICAN GRILL

**49TH & MAIN**



April 20, 2010

Dear Families, Teachers, Staff and Friends,

Spring greetings! Things are hopping this spring, as always, at Academie Lafayette. Our sixth graders are headed to France and our eighth graders to Chicago, MAP testing is winding down, Evening in Paris is upon us, and the end of the school year is in sight. As we near the end of another successful year at Academie Lafayette, I write to you on behalf of the Board of Directors to share information on two important topics for the future: (1) state education funding; and (2) school size and space.

### Budget

Most of you are probably aware that the State of Missouri has serious budget problems, and that education is one area where the legislature and Governor are considering funding cuts. The legislature is still in session and will probably not make final budget decisions for next year until early-mid May, but here is the best information we have at the present time on how state budget cuts may impact Academie Lafayette:

- During the current school year, state revenues have been lower than predicted. To deal with that, the state just passed a retroactive 2% cut in school funding for this year. This 2% cut is final, and applies retroactively to our funding level for the entire year, even though there are only two and a half months left in the fiscal year (our fiscal year ends June 30.) What this means is that over the next two months we have to absorb a budget cut of about \$60,000. This is a serious cut. But we can and will tighten our belt some without harming our academic program, and we also know we can count on our community to help us through this. You will soon receive a letter from the school on how you can help.
- The state is seriously considering cutting summer school funding. A range of cuts are being discussed, from completely eliminating summer school funding to funding only core academic programs but not "enrichment" programs such as field trips, creative expression, etc. At this time, we are planning to have our typical summer school program at Academie Lafayette, but there is a distinct possibility that we will only be able to offer a scaled-back program or perhaps even no program at all. The hard part is that we may not know until early-mid May. We realize that this uncertainty is difficult for families who are making summer plans; believe me, it is difficult for the school as well. Unfortunately, the legislature has left us all hanging on this one.
- The state is considering cuts of as much as 4% for next year. Knowing that, we are preparing a conservative budget for next school year. We will go through some tough times, like all public schools, but we believe we will be able to

finalize a budget for 2010-2011 that will not impact the quality of our program. Again, we know we can count on the community to help out. We will be finalizing the school budget for 2010-2011 at the June board meeting.

### School Size and Space

The Board of Directors has made three decisions that we believe will provide a foundation for a long-term, stable plan for the school:

1. First, for next year (academic year 2010-2011), things will be exactly as they are this year. Kindergarten will be at the space we lease from Broadway United Methodist, and Grades 1-8 will be at the Oak Street campus.

2. Long term, our preferred option for space is to purchase a second building and operate a two campus system. The plan is that the new campus would be for grades K-2, and the existing Oak Street campus would be for grades 3-8. We plan to have a second campus ready for students and teachers by August 2011.

3. We have set the long-term K enrollment number at 120 students per year.

Some of you are probably asking “Why go to a two campus system? Why not build an expansion at Oak Street or move everyone to a single larger campus?” Here’s why:

- The Oak Street campus would be extremely crowded, to the point of being unworkable, if we built an expansion large enough to truly serve our needs.
- Building a large enough expansion at Oak Street would be expensive. Building new space costs three to four times more per square foot than buying and renovating existing space.
- We have not been able to find a new “one campus” building that we could move to that would be suitable in terms of size, cost, and location.
- With two campuses, we can have some important things we don’t have now, such as a cafeteria, room for enrichment classes, and adequate playground space.
- Our experience with kindergarten this year has shown us that a two-campus approach can be successful, and beyond that, that there are some real advantages to having our youngest students in their own space.

We are deep into the process of finding a second building, and we have identified a number of locations that would fit our needs. Some of the buildings are currently owned by the KCMO School District and others are privately owned. We have reached out to the District and they have responded that they are willing to talk. Our selection criteria for a location for the second campus are: sufficient classroom space; proximity to Oak Street campus; safety; impact the location will have on diversity; cost to purchase and renovate; facilities other than classrooms (gym, cafeteria, grounds, auditorium, etc); and availability. While I understand that many teachers and parents would like to know which specific buildings we are exploring, it would be a huge strategic disadvantage in our purchase negotiations if we publicly shared specific locations right now.

Some of you may also be wondering "Why 120 kindergarten students per year?" Here's why:

- Whether we take 85 new students per year or 120 per year, we need a larger second building. We simply don't have enough space in coming years, even with the Broadway Methodist location.
- We are confident that the quality of education will be as good or better in a two campus system – *but* only if we fully utilize both buildings so that our revenue/expense ratio is strong. Filling both buildings is the only way from a financial standpoint we can keep the things we cherish: small class sizes, great enrichment programs, and adequate classroom materials. 120 new students each year is the number that makes it work over the long-run for both filling (but not over-filling) two campuses.
- Demand for the A.L. program is at an all-time high. We had over 160 applicants for kindergarten this year, which is a testament to our success.
- The feel of a small school can be reestablished in two "smaller" schools

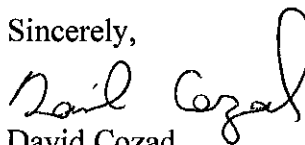
As we go forward, the Board will provide you with updates on our progress and our plans for the future and answer as many questions as we can. In addition to this letter, we have scheduled a special open forum to answer questions you may have about the purchase of a building for a lower campus. I hope you will be able to join us at the Oak Street campus on Thursday, May 13 at 7:00.

Once the new building is purchased, we will be actively communicating with parents, teachers, neighborhood groups and other stakeholders about the new location. You can be sure there will be ample opportunity to ask questions and express your opinions to the board and administration. We want to work with you to ensure our students continue to receive the same great Academie Lafayette education at BOTH campuses.

On behalf of the entire Board, I want to express how proud we are of our students, teachers and families for our many accomplishments. Our students are receiving a unique, world-class public education in the heart of Kansas City. That is not going to change. We will weather the state budget issues. We will find a great location for our second campus. We will continue to provide families in Kansas City an option for outstanding public education for many years to come.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 816-835-1909 or email me at [dcozad@kc.rr.com](mailto:dcozad@kc.rr.com).

Sincerely,



David Cozad

President, Academie Lafayette School Board