



# Le Journal de L'Académie Lafayette

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

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## FROM THE DESK OF ERIC NELIS

I am starting today's newsletter with a message from a parent...

*"I attended the Board meeting yesterday. I had to leave before its conclusion because I didn't know that it would run so long. It was an eye-opener! All parents should attend at least one, in order to better understand how the school operates and that much work goes into it. Anyhow, summer school is a GIFT! Just a few days ago, we weren't even sure that we would have summer school. Many parents I talked to were even willing to pay for summer school if it came to that point. With that being said, I am of the opinion that we should not have buses at all during summer school. That would save a whopping \$36,000 and our teachers would not have to make another sacrifice. I truly believe that if you want something, then you make it happen. Carpools are an excellent idea. I understand the school wanting summer school made available to all students. Is something as simple as no bus transportation going to keep any kid out of summer school? The AL community can really pull together and help our school on this one. That's my opinion and I'm certain others would share it if they truly understood the dire circumstances of our school. We hear about it, but quite frankly, you don't really understand it unless you get involved and do something like attend a board meeting. Thanks for all you do."*

Thank you Yolanda for these encouraging words. Yes, it is interesting to see the board working hard to make things happen for our school.

And yes, we can work together, all together to save all that bus money and put it to better use. It is amazing what each individual can do for the well-being of the group. Your e-mail, Yolanda, also brought my attentions to the THANK YOU'S we need to say, yell, think or just show for everything we do have. Often we take things for granted, like summer school, and many other and much more important things, such as a roof, food on the table, health, love....and we panic when it is threatened. And, after we get it "back", we quickly act again like it was due to us, in our demanding habit of having every need met.

Nothing will last forever, and nothing is automatically due to any of us. There is this discussion sometimes about what are rights or what are privileges. It is a discussion I am not much interested in, because it is more important to be thankful for everything we have, without classifying what we deserve, and what is "extra." If we classify, we soon forget to be thankful for basic things, and soon after we forget to be thankful for anything "special", and then we are not thankful for anything anymore.

I got all philosophical again. I did not plan at first on adding anything to Yolanda's words, but I could not resist... We have had such a positive response to our call for "NO BUS USE", that I believe it will be a great success!  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TRUST AND EVERYONE'S HELP IN MAKING THIS WORK!!!!**

-Eric

## CALENDAR

- May 18-June 3 French kids in Kansas City
- May 26 Talent Show Rehearsal (Wed.4-5:30)
- May 26 Parent Assoc. Special Mtg. 6:00 (aud.)
- May 27 Spirit Day – TWIN DAY - \$1
- May 27 Soccer Day – RESCHEDULED!
- May 27 Brownie Troop 48 Benefit Art Show
- May 28 Spring Fling, 6:30-10:30, AL Gym
- May 28 Grand Spectacle
  - K/1<sup>st</sup> – 9:00 a.m.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> – 11 am-12:30
- June 2 Talent Show, 6:30 p.m. (auditorium)
- June 4 Field Day
- June 7 MS, Recognition Ceremony, 9:15 a.m.
- June 7 MS Field Day
- June 8 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation, 10 a.m.
- June 8 School Kidz Supply Order Forms due
- June 9 Last Day of School for K-7
- June 14 Summer School begins

## LUNCH BILLS

This is a friendly reminder that ALL lunch bills need to be paid in full by the end of the year.

You have several options to settle your child's account including: cash, personal check, money order or credit card (through the schools web site: [Academielafayette.org](http://Academielafayette.org)). Should you have any question about your bill, please feel free to contact Joe Wilkinson in the Admin. Office.

## GRAND SPECTACLE AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY INFORMATION – MAY 28

This year's Grand Spectacle will be two acts, divided between the Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> graders, and the 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders. Shows will take place in the auditorium.

Please plan on arriving at the beginning of the show, the performance schedule varies with each grade level.

K-1st 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (auditorium)

\*\*30 minute intermission\*\*

2nd-8th 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (auditorium)

## CONGRATS TO THE PHILANTHROPY CLUB!

Last week's casual day allowed the Philanthropy Club to fulfill their goal of earning two scholarships for girls in Mauritania. The club will continue to strengthen service learning during the next school year. Congratulations! Look for more info at: <http://girlstoschool.org/>

## **PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS**

How many of you were jumping for joy, doing the happy dance, or screamed so loud you scared someone when you received our "Katie call" (Dir. of Comms.) announcing that summer school is still on?!! That must have been the shout heard round Kansas City!

The great news is that Academie Lafayette is still able to provide our children with the same FREE 6 WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM that has been offered, and like me, many of us depend on, despite the recent budget cuts our school has been faced with.

The bad news? What could take the hit if we are not able to find a way to save some money is our amazing teachers' salaries. They deserve every penny and much much more than what they receive! If there is a way to STILL have summer school and for our teachers to keep their pay the same, shouldn't we do it? Yes!

Here is a way we can all help. Bussing the students to and from school is a luxury that our school provides. It also costs a pretty penny. If your child lives far enough to be in the bus radius, but still within 3-5 miles to school, please consider dropping your child off and picking them up as a way to keep the benefit of our summer school program.

Many parents work odd schedules which makes drop off and especially pick up difficult, but don't give up yet!

Let's discuss the problem together and find some solutions! Carpooling, walking or even taking the Metro busses could be options. Some of us have never done these things, but would you consider them if it keeps our summer school program and more importantly, our teacher salaries intact?

Come to a special meeting lead by the Parent Association on Wednesday, May 26th@6:00pm in the Auditorium. I know there are many parents out there willing to help and we really need you all! We will have time for you to ask questions, and come up with solutions together to help trim our budget by tackling transportation issues. We can help find carpool groups, explain how to ride the KCATA Metro busses, and come up with walking routes. See you there.

Maria Dix, Parents Association President

### **More from the Parent Association...**

We have begun accepting budget requests for next year's Parents Association budget. Please keep in mind that the Parents Association budget is not used for curriculum or maintenance issues. The request form is in this week's newsletter.

We are also in need of volunteers for the end of the year picnic which takes place on Friday, June 4. A break down of the requirements are as follows:

#### **Food Run - 2-3 volunteers**

This will be done during the day. We need to purchase it the day of because of quantity and lack of refrigerator space. It will probably take a couple hours.

#### **Set-up - 5-6 volunteers**

Arrive at school around 2:30 p.m. to set up the tables for food, grills, trash cans, water and lemonade.

#### **Grilling - 2 or more volunteers**

One person for each grill for 45 min to 1 hour shifts  
Start grilling around 3:45. The heavy period will be on the earlier side. The last shift will focus more on cleaning up the grills.

#### **Table, Drinks, Trash - 2-3 for two shifts**

(4 to 5:30 and 5:30 to 7)

Just keep your eyes on the tables and throw stuff out as it empties (or put containers under the table when emptied). Fill up the big water and lemonade jugs. Empty trash cans when needed.

#### **Clean up**

Put tables away, empty remaining trash, put grills away.

Please contact Jennifer Roe at [jenroe\\_kc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenroe_kc@yahoo.com) or Eric Peterson at [peterston0529@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peterston0529@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in helping out in any way.

Hope you have a great weekend.

Eric Peterson

Parents Association Vice President

## **TALENT SHOW REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

Remember: rehearsals are mandatory. Unless you've made arrangements with Andrea Yeager, Moulaye Seydi or Katie Hendrickson you are expected to be present.

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

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

## **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Académie Lafayette is actively working to strengthen our fund raising within the international community, and YOU may be able to help! Do you know anyone (or know someone who knows someone) with connections to the following?

- Members of the French media
- Members of the French government (The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or Le Ministère des Affaires étrangères in particular)

We believe there might be a chance to secure some funding from the French government; but this might come easier if our ask came on the heels of some fresh news stories (print or TV) featuring our remarkable success in the middle of America.

Back on American soil, we are also looking for people who may work at American Century Investments.

If you have relevant info, please contact Shelly Doucet, Director of Development at [sdoucet.lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:sdoucet.lafayette@gmail.com) or at 361-7735.

## **SCHOOL KIDS ORDER FORMS COMING SOON!**

Does school supply shopping in July and August make you queasy? Take the easy route and order your school supplies ahead of time! The School Kidz Supply order forms will be going home soon. Simply fill it out, and return by JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>. Supplies are delivered to A.L. the week before school starts! This also helps raise money for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders trip to France.

## **INTERN HOST FAMILY COLUMN**

*(A continuing column by intern host families)*

We have enjoyed hosting immeasurably. Starting off, our intern's English was difficult for us to understand - written and verbal. We made many gestures and pointed frequently. The earliest adjustment for our young children was respecting his space, his bedroom, and the closed bathroom door. We had decided on a few rules, but waited to talk about those until he was more settled and his English improved. It has been interesting to learn about life in Europe and share our American customs with him. He has been very willing to help around the house & yard. He has helped the children with their French and interacts with them well. We have invited our intern to join us in all of our family and extended family functions, but the interns' schedules get busy quickly.

*We continue to look for host families for the next school year. Please contact Diane Balagna (K campus) at 816-333-0936 for more information.*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS**

The middle school will have a recognition ceremony on June 7<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium at 9:15. Students will receive awards for First Honors, Second Honors, Perfect Attendance, Best French Speaker, and other categories. Awards will be given out for the fourth quarter and the end of the year. Parents are encouraged to attend if possible. The ceremony should last about 30 minutes.

After the ceremony, we will have our annual field day at Holmes Park. If you are a middle school family member, we are looking for volunteers that day for various tasks. It should last from 10:00 – 2:00. Please let us know if you are interested and available. Mark June 7<sup>th</sup> in your calendars!

The final Spirit Day of the year is Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the day is "Twin Day". Dress or act as twins to enjoy your day! The cost is \$1.00 and all proceeds go towards the middle school's annual field day at Holmes Park.

The Pajama Day netted \$260.00 with your help. This money was used to pay for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip. On behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, thank you very much for your contributions. The students had a great time! We hope you will have a great Twin Day.

## **8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE LIBRARY FIELD TRIP**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade took a splendid field trip to the Plaza Library on April 16<sup>th</sup>. We took the city bus down to the Plaza and walked over to the library. Students were ready with their coins to get on the bus and were very respectful of the other riders.

Students had the opportunity to get library cards and check out resources for their research projects. The main goal of the trip was to get some information on how to use the library's resources in order to do research. Students took part in a presentation with Jenny Weidler, who explained what was available in the library. Things have changed considerably since the card catalog and

microfiche days for some of us older people. We attempted to find some connections with the historical context of the novel, as well as literary criticism. Students were able to choose from 12 topics that day and looked for resources related to their topics. After half an hour of hunting for their materials, students made brief presentations about what they had discovered.

After the library, the students enjoyed a nice lunch at Chipotle and The Mixx. Finally, the students were asked to write reviews of five stores on the Plaza. Students were asked to review the stores based on customer service, selection, cost, and layout among other things. We will use this information for a persuasive essay. The students all returned to the bus stop ten minutes early to catch a ride back to school.

It was such a pleasure to be out with our young adults representing the school. They were so inquisitive about everything, and they always represent Académie Lafayette in a positive way. It is a learning experience for me each time I am out with our young citizens.

## **7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE VISITS TWO KC NEWSPAPERS**

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade took a field trip on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Our first stop took us to The Kansas City Star Press Pavilion. Students had the opportunity to learn about the writing process and the printing systems of a major newspaper. We were privileged to have Lewis Diuguid as our guide around the building. Mr. Diuguid has been with the Star for over thirty years and is a font of knowledge regarding the many aspects of the newspaper industry. Our students asked many excellent questions and they were quite the captive audience. The building itself is an impressive sight to behold.

We then walked to the 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine neighborhood to visit The Kansas City Call. Students learned about the history and operations of the oldest African-American newspaper in the area. Once again, we were very fortunate to have Eric Wesson as our guide through the historic building. It was fascinating to compare and contrast the two newspapers which have been in our city for so long. The building has been home to the newspaper for over 90 years.

Students then had lunch at Arthur Bryant's, quite possibly the finest barbecue in Kansas City. After refueling our bodies, we started on our long hike to Crown Center. We explored the neighborhoods in downtown Kansas City and walked past Lincoln High School where many of our graduates attend. Students had some time to talk with one another and enjoy the sights. We spent some time shopping at Crown Center and then took the city bus back to school. Students had identified our route and the cost of their transportation and they were all waiting for me to get on the bus.

Thank you to Lisa Copeland for volunteering to chaperone our 19 students. Moreover, thank you to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class for being fine models from Académie Lafayette on our learning experience. It was truly a great day.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRIP TO 18<sup>TH</sup> AND VINE

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class took a field trip to visit the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and American Jazz Museum on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There was a wealth of information available to our students at both museums and it was a great opportunity to learn about some of the history of our storied city. Activities were planned to make the most of our short time at 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine, and students had to become "experts" on various topics and report back to their classes about what they have discovered.

Students first worked in groups to research various topics in the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum. Students watched a short film and then set out to learn about the early years, clown teams, integration, and various other areas. Students were asked to make presentations the following week in class.

We then went over to the American Jazz Museum and were greeted by Glenn North. Mr. North has been working with our students for the last five years and each time we visit I am amazed at how much information he imparts in such a short time. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders asked great questions and also tried to share some of their knowledge about Kansas City artists. The students had previously been assigned artists to research and they attempted to verify what they had learned with Mr. North. In addition, the students were asked to make presentations about while on their trip to France about what they learned on their field trip.

We were also able to visit the Mutual Musicians Foundation to gain a better understanding of our city's rich history. Anita Dixon, who serves as the Vice President, spent some time explaining the tradition of the foundation and its status as a National Historic Landmark. We were then treated to a performance by Luqman Hamza. Mr. Hamza enthralled the students with his stories about growing up in the area and dazzled them with a few tunes on the piano.

We ended our day with lunch outside the Foundation and some time in the park. I know that the class had a great experience and I was proud of them on their first trip with me. I am indebted to the many chaperones who assisted me that day:

Meira Barnett (Alexis Lynch)  
Heather DeStefano (Kelsi DeStefano)  
Mequell Saulsberry (LihTroye Saulsberry McKnight)  
Adonica Worley (Malachi Worley)  
Barbara Mullins (Spencer Thut)  
Regina Hargrove (Sterling Hargrove)  
Elmer Arians (Colin Arians)

## AN INVITATION FROM BROWNING TROOP 48

Students and families of Académie Lafayette are cordially invited to attend an art exhibition and sale to benefit The Children's Place & the Protective Animal Welfare Society – PAWS.

Hosts: Brownie Troop 48 (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade AL girls)

Where: Académie Lafayette

When: Thursday, May 27, 6 to 8 p.m.

6:00 p.m. Event begins in tents or gym (if rain)

6:30 p.m. Dance performance

7:00 p.m. Munch and mingle with artists

You will see works inspired by French artists Henri Matisse & Georges Seurat, as well as several collage and mosaic group pieces.

We will also be collecting donated items for PAWS. Please bring your gently used towels and blankets, as well as new paper towels, all purpose cleaners and hand sanitizer.

## ACADÉMIE LAFAYETTE SOCCER DAY—MAY 27

The Académie Lafayette community is invited to enjoy a fun afternoon at the soccer field and playground – bring your chairs or a blanket.

Come hungry! Pizza and water will be available for a small donation to the Athletic Department.

Schedule:

Game 1 , **4pm-5pm**, AL MS students & French visitors (report to field at 3:30 for the game.)

Game 2 , **5:15-5:45**, Teachers v Parents

Game 3 , **6:00-6:30**, Teachers v Parents (last year so many parents wanted to play, there will be 2 30 min games.)

Player sign-up:

Teachers contact: Coach Fall, [alfall.lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:alfall.lafayette@gmail.com)

Parents contact: Hans Thomas, [hans@htaarchitects.com](mailto:hans@htaarchitects.com)  
816-444-1298

Volunteers needed

Contact: Mary Lou Martin, [accountingarts@earthlink.net](mailto:accountingarts@earthlink.net)

All children must be accompanied by an adult, except the Middle School students playing in the game at 4:00. Please help keep the kids safe by providing or arranging for supervision for your children.

## SCIENCE CITY SUMMER CAMP...Discovery, Adventure, Exploration

Only \$185 per week! Camp runs Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Free early and late care for participating children, with advance registration. Early care begins at 7:30 a.m. and Late Care closes at 6 p.m.

Enroll today! Watch a video, learn more, and print enrollment forms at: [sciencecity.com](http://sciencecity.com) or call: 816-460-2212.

Date: June 7 to August 6, for kids ages 6 to 12.

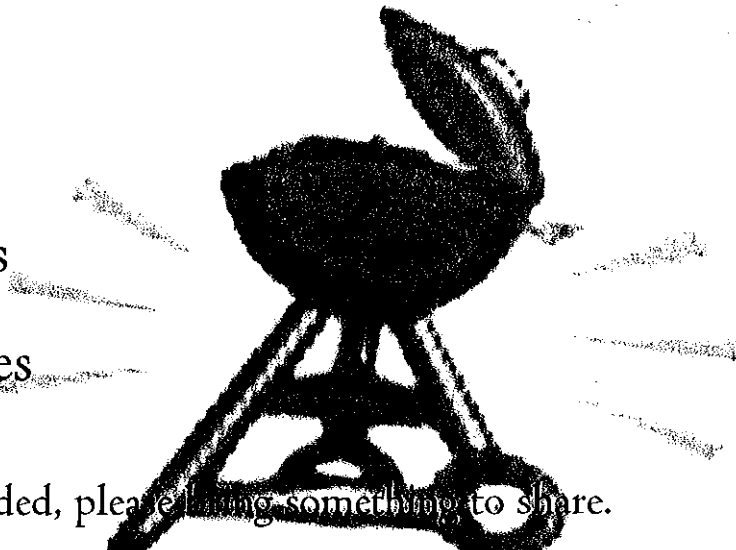
Weekly themes include: animals ancient and modern, everyday chemistry, design and build it, and space exploration.

# End of Year Picnic

When? Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where? Oak Street Campus

Who? Students and Families



Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided, please bring something to share.

Kindergarten:	Drinks
1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade:	Veggies or Side Dish
4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Fruit or Dessert
Middle School:	Chips

**KINDERGARTNERS – ARRIVE EARLY!! YOU GET TO RUN AROUND ON THE INFLATABLES FOR FREE FROM 4 P.M. TO 5 P.M.**

5th Grade

5th Grade

Bring your dollars and coins to purchase tickets for the inflatables. It's only 50¢ a ticket – or 5 tickets for \$2.00.

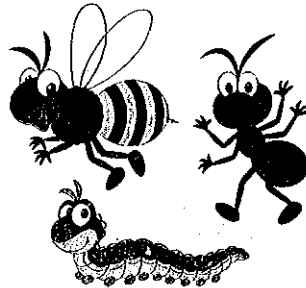
Kids are welcome to bring squirting devices for the picnic! There will be tubs of water to refill outside in the parking lot.

*If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Jennifer Roe at [jenroe\\_kc@yahoo.com](mailto:jenroe_kc@yahoo.com) or 913.638.8908.*

# Kindergarten Friday 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

## May Curriculum Spotlight: Insects and Small Creatures



Guided Reading shared with adults on themes  
Songs linked to themes and for the Grand Spectacle  
Social Studies: Mother's Day and Autobiographies

### Dates to Remember:

Grand Spectacle: Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>,  
9:00-10:30 at the Main Campus  
No School Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> for  
Memorial Day

Final Community Time and  
Last Day of School:  
Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>  
12 Days of School Left!

### Field Trip to Lakeside Nature Center

Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00-1:30

Cost: \$5.00 due on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>  
Students will see birds, mammals,  
reptiles and amphibians up close.  
They will also release their tadpoles  
back into nature!

We still have a few more  
days of school. Please be  
sure that you have your  
child at school on time.

### French Words for Parents:

Tu as eu une bonne journée? =  
Did you have a good day?

Ask your child for help with the  
pronunciation.

2010 - 2011 Parents Association Budget Request Form

Due Date: Friday, June 4, 2010  
Parents Association Mailbox/Joe Wilkinson

Name - First and last of person requesting item and contact info (phone/email or both)

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Description of item (be as descriptive as you can, it helps)

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What will it be used for? -----

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Who will this item benefit and how? -----

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Precisely how much will it cost? -----

Name and address of store or website where it can be purchased (be specific,  
with as many details as possible, item no., cost w/shipping, link to website)

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Additional comments -----

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Requests for money from the PA Budget are decided on the following factors:

1. How well does your request fit into the PA Mission Statement?

**Mission Statement**

**Support the Students & Parents:** Arrange informative meetings to enrich your parenting knowledge. Promote parent involvement through volunteer opportunities. Organize social events to foster family fellowship. Encourage parent peer-group communication & community building through room parent infrastructure.

**Support Teachers:** Through our volunteer committees we are able to provide our teachers with Appreciation Meals and assistance with school programs like Book in the Bag, Lunchroom and Library. Room Parents provide additional support for teachers by planning classroom parties, organizing snack schedules or grade-specific fundraising projects.

**Fundraising:** Provide funds for enrichment opportunities at the school and for expenses not normally covered by the school's budget.

2. How many children/teachers/parents will this affect?

3. From these two factors, we prioritize based on the money available

Where do we get the money we work with, the budget?

The net amount of the money raised from An Evening in Paris is what we use for our PA Budget.

Other factors used to set the budget:

    Last year's budget-

        Recurring vs. One time expenses

        New expenses/changes suggested from Eric Nelis

    Requests from Teachers

    Requests from Parents