

# Le Journal de L'Académie Lafayette

Friday, October 30, 2009



## CALENDAR

Sat. Oct. 31	Parents vs. Staff Soccer Game, UMKC Durwood Stadium, 9:30 a.m.
Thurs., Nov. 5	Final Deadline for Raffle Ticket Sales
Thurs., Nov. 5	Open Forum on Building and Space Issues, 6 p.m., Oak St. Campus
Fri., Nov. 6	No School, Parent Teacher Conferences
Mon., Nov. 9	Board Meeting, 6 p.m. at Oak St. Campus
Thurs., Nov. 19	Parent Association Meeting, \$10,000 Raffle Drawing

## FROM THE DESK OF ERIC NELIS

We did it again! Académie Lafayette came back from the Charter School conference with the 2009 CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR AWARD, given out by The Missouri Charter Public School Association (including 36 schools.) We are all proud of this new recognition.

We must use our strengths to continue climbing the mountain and reach new peaks. We are a little stronger yet, so let's use this strength to get even better, and overcome new obstacles and challenges.

Thinking about successes and accomplishments, I like the following saying:

If you make an F, you need to work to make a D

If you make a D, you need to work to make a C

If you make a C, you need to work to make a B

If you make a B, you need to work to make an A

If you make an A, it was too easy for you...

Have a great weekend!

## PARENTS VS. STAFF SOCCER GAME TOMORROW, OCTOBER 31, 9:30 a.m.

The annual parents vs. staff soccer game will be held tomorrow morning at UMKC's Durwood Soccer Field, 5100 Cherry St.

## BOARD MEETINGS

November's board meeting will be Nov. 9, 6 p.m. at the Oak Street Campus.

December's board meeting will be Dec. 14, 6 p.m. at the Kindergarten Campus.

Parents and Teachers are always welcome to attend.

## NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

There are lots of ways to grow a family tree and adoption is one of them! If you or anyone you know has been blessed by adoption, please feel free to join our tree. Submit a photo of your family for the bulletin board to Ms. Kayla. Please contact Tammi Kennedy at [tgtk@aol.com](mailto:tgtk@aol.com) or 816-753-3740 if you have questions.

## PICTURE MAKE UP DAY

Picture Make-ups will be **Nov. 23rd at the K-Center** and **Nov 24 at the Oak Campus**. Children may wear casual clothes for the pictures but should bring uniforms to change into after the pictures.

## RAFFLE UPDATE - ONE WEEK LEFT!

**You have until Nov. 5** to sell as many tickets as possible to win the class, grade and family selling prizes.

Class Prize - \$25 Target Gift Certificate

Grade Prize - iPod Shuffle

Family Prize - \$200 Gift Certificate to Great Wolf Lodge

10 to Win Prize - iPod Nano

Don't forget to turn in your *10 to Win* Forms with every 10 tickets sold. We are also adding a surprise opportunity for the student who sells the most! If you need more tickets or *10 to Win* forms, they are available at both offices. Thank you!

	<b>\$10,000 CASH RAFFLE</b>	Name: _____
	All proceeds benefit Académie Lafayette A charter public school in Kansas City, Missouri	Address: _____
	Drawing to be held on November 19, 2009 Parent Association Meeting 406 W. 74th St. <a href="http://www.academielafayette.org">www.academielafayette.org</a>	Phone: _____
	No. 000001	email: _____
	Tickets \$5 each	Seller: _____ No. 000001

**Drawing - Nov. 19th at Parent Association Meeting**

## 8TH GRADE STUDENTS EXPLORE DOWNTOWN

The 8th grade took a wonderful field trip to downtown Kansas City on October 28th. Students had previously planned our route on the city bus to the City Market. It was great to see everyone at school on time with their \$1.50 in exact change eager to get on the bus. It was an eye-opening experience for many of our students to see the architectural features of our city through the windows of a bus, undistracted by i-pods, cell phones, and other external influences. Our 29 students and 3 chaperones practically filled the bus, but our gracious students made sure that other bus riders had seats.

Students learned more about our city's French influences by studying several markers containing French historical information. The signs had been erected and constructed by the Chouteau Society, and thanks to the assistance of Jean Pasqualini, I was finally able to confirm the exact locations of all the markers and the route. Students were also able to explore the City Market and purchase some more untraditional food at the various restaurants and markets. Some people purchased a few delicious Italian sandwiches, while others preferred the gelato. The students truly enjoyed the sights, smells, and tastes of the Chinese supermarket. Many of them tried new foods for the first time and were pleasantly surprised. The jury is still out on the live lobsters and the seafood section...

After some small snacks and a break, we walked to Case Park at 7th and Pennsylvania. At the park, students continued to study the history involving the early French settlers in Kansas City, specifically about how they helped the Lewis and Clark expedition. Our students have been researching several topics related to their Social Studies curriculum with the assistance of Marilyn Hynes and Mr. Pasqualini. They have also been learning how to formally research topics, including lessons on plagiarism, paraphrasing, and citing sources. We had some fun in class "editing" a few wikipedia pages.

After lunch, one brave group made their presentation about the Pendergast family and political machine in front of the statue of Jim Pendergast. Tiana Key and Beth Mitchell did an outstanding job of thoroughly researching their topic and explaining their main points. The visuals they used greatly helped internalize the information for their audience. They were able to overcome the considerable background noise and capture our students' attention. Other students will give oral reports on Friday, and some have chosen to create skits, songs, Powerpoint presentations, etc. The goal is to relay their information to the class in an organized and informative manner. Students have also written journal entries about their experiences.

We then moved through the park to study more markers, and then around the Quality Hill neighborhood, including a visit to the Cathedral. It was a lovely fall day perfect for a leisurely stroll through some of our city's oldest areas. It was a beautiful sight to watch our students read the information at each location in French and English. I wish I could say that I understood all of the French.

Finally, we spent some time downtown to learn about the recent changes taking place there. We walked through Barney Allis Plaza and went to the Power and Light District. Seeing things at eye-level is a very different experience than riding in a bus or car. Students ate (again!) at Chipotle and some others refueled with a walk through the new Cosentino's Market. We ended our day at 10th and Main where we caught the bus back to school. Again, allowing the students the chance to learn how to ride the bus in their own town will hopefully be valuable in the future if they are ever in need of transportation or simply choose to use the public transportation option. We also discussed why some people have to use the bus and how it exposes us to people from all walks of life. Sometimes I think we live in a very sheltered environment here at Lafayette, and it's important to expose our students to the real world in a safe way.

Mme Hynes, Mr. Pasqualini and I were most pleased with the knowledge gained and shared by our students on this excellent adventure. As always, our students were fantastic representatives of our school and I look forward to more excursions with them. I hope that you will be able to visit some of the locations with your own children as well. Thank you to my fellow chaperones for a great day, and most importantly, I would like to thank the students for representing us so well.

Patrick Sprehe



## ACADÉMIE LAFAYETTE PARENT'S ASSOCIATION

**Next meeting: Thurs, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. Kindergarten Campus**  
Child care will be provided.

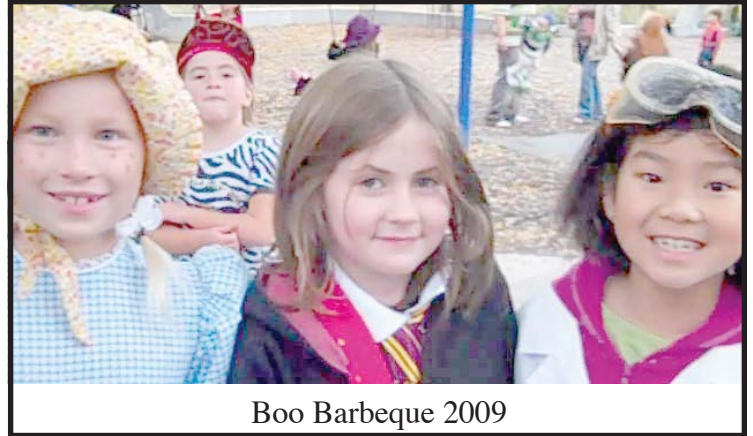


Officers: Maria Dix, President  
Eric Peterson, Vice President  
Jennifer Roe, Secretary  
Karen Smith, Treasurer

The next Parents Association meeting is on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the kindergarten campus. Please set aside the time to attend.

Thanks to all that helped make Boo Barbeque a success!

Eric Peterson  
Parents Association Vice President  
peterson0529@sbcglobal.net



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Académie Lafayette, 6903 Oak St., Kansas City, Missouri 64113, (816) 361-7735  
L'Ecole Maternelle, 406 W. 74th St., Kansas City, Missouri 64114, (816) 333-0936  
[www.academielafayette.org](http://www.academielafayette.org)

# Kindergarten Friday Folder Newsletter

## PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>

No School

Your child's teacher will contact you about setting up a conference time.

## New Books!

As well as new books for students at the Kindergarten Center, we have new *resource books for parents* that may be checked out through the office, including Parenting with Love and Logic, Unconditional Parenting, and How to Talk so Kids will Listen.

## Wisdom from Richard Lavoie:

Parents and professionals often design behavior plans that consist of lists of unacceptable behaviors and the parallel consequences for each. This emphasis upon punishment is an ineffective and counter-indicated approach.

For example, if an English teacher consistently punishes a child for biting his nails in class, the nail biting will eventually cease... during English class. But the behavior is very likely to occur in other classes. Negative feedback does modify a child's behavior, but new behavior does not generalize to other settings.

Children should be praised, reinforced, and rewarded for positive and appropriate behavior. Only by using this approach will the child's behavior change, improve and generalize to a variety of settings.



Have a  
Safe and  
Happy  
Halloween!



## IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTE FROM OUR NURSES!

Classroom snack guideline reminder:

All snacks (and party foods) should follow the Wellness Committee Guidelines that were sent home at the beginning of the year. For a quick reference, they are summarized below. The Wellness Committee has established these parameters based on a directive from the State of Missouri.

The primary motivator with these guidelines is to use it as a teaching opportunity with our children to encourage healthy eating habits. Please help us work with our children to keep them healthy!

Foods allowed: fruits (try a make your own fruit kabob!), vegetables & dip, 100% fruit juice, crackers, pretzels, pizza, lean meat sandwiches, bagels/cream cheese and the like.

☺ Please send fruits & vegetables washed and cut.

☺ Please bring all packages with the ingredient label for allergen assessment. (Please check the allergy warning labels and do not bring anything with peanut/tree nut ingredients or “processed with” notes)

Foods not allowed: No high sugar content foods like cookies, cakes/cupcakes, pop, candies, etc.

Per the Parent Handbook page 8 please **do not send homebaked goods.**

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact the Office or the Nurses. Thank you!



# SOCCER

Teachers vs. Parents

Saturday, October 31  
9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

At the New  
UMKC DURWOOD  
SOCCER STADIUM  
51<sup>st</sup> and Cherry

You can stay and watch the UMKC  
vs. Oakland game for free!

See you there!