



Le Journal de L'Académie Lafayette

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www.academielifayette.org

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FROM THE DESK OF ERIC NELIS

This week, here is something more practical and less philosophical, concerning school traffic. The school has been approached many times by parents with ideas to solve traffic issues in the morning and at pick-up time. Being in Europe for a short while now, I came to realize how relative everything is and how much space we actually do have at Académie Lafayette. That being said, it occurred to me that when people are talking about traffic, they are often mentioning "the other"; bad driver or blocking the way. For this "other" person, each of us is "the other" so I guess you know what I am getting at...the bottom line is quite simple; the fewer cars driving on the parking lot, the fewer problems we will face. (As a parenthesis, I am looking at possibilities next year to make the parking lot for "staff only", not merely for traffic reasons, but for safety/security reasons).

What we need to do is work together to avoid the parking lot as much as possible. I did walk a few times around the school neighborhood during traffic hours and noticed literally hundreds of parking spaces in a 500-yard radius. Parking the car 200-yards of the school will avoid the headache and stress of the parking lot. It will be a pleasant walk with your child(ren), and refreshing to start/end the day with a little fresh air. It's not like most of us are getting too much exercise, including our children. Now the hard thing with this easy solution is that each and everyone will have to make the personal effort, instead of the school dictating what people have to do.

Above all, with many more people walking around school, we need to protect the numerous pedestrians. Again, it is up to every one of us to drive with the utmost caution anywhere close to the school. Some crosswalks have been added close to Oak Street, and more may be necessary. However, drivers will have to notice and respect the crosswalks, which goes back to our individual responsibility. What can I say? I am an idealist, and I do believe in people working individually for a common good. One thing is for sure, if you do not drive on the parking lot anymore and park at least 100-yards from the school, the traffic stress will be gone, you will spend a few minutes more everyday with your child, and you will walk a little at the beginning and the end of each day. In fact, the further you park from the school, the less traffic there will be for you and the school. Isn't nice when the solution lies with every one of us, instead of "the other"?

Eric

CALENDAR

May 18	Board Meeting (Tues., 6:00 p.m.)
May 18-June 3	French kids in Kansas City
May 20	Spring Concert, 6:00 p.m.
May 21	4 th Grade Musical
May 21	Soccer Day (after school)
May 26	Talent Show Rehearsal (Wed.4-5:30)
June 2	Talent Show
June 4	Field Day
June 8	8 th Grade Graduation, 10 a.m.
June 9	Last Day of School for K-7

LUNCH BILLS

As the school year ends, please be aware that all lunch bills need to be paid in full as soon as possible. As published before, it is the school's policy that all breakfasts/lunches be pre-paid or paid for on the day used.

If you wish to monitor your child's billing information, it is available through our web site on Power School. You have several options to settle the account including cash, personal check, money order or credit card (via the school's web site: www.academielifayette.org.)

Should you have any questions regarding your bill, please contact Joe Wilkinson in the Admin office.

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

SPRING CONCERT

The spring concert is next Thursday, May 20, at 6:00 pm in the auditorium.

Choir, beginning band, and band will perform. All choir members should be in the gym at 5:30 pm wearing their best school uniform. Band and beginning band should report to the music room at 5:30.

I will need three or four parent volunteers to help with watching the choir kids while I'm in the music room.

If you can do this, please e-mail me at sswanson.lafayette@gail.com

Hope to see you there!

M. Swanson

ARE YOU MISSING KITCHEN ITEMS?

We have a variety of crock pots, pans, and other kitchen items from Teacher/Staff Appreciation Days. Please come to the teacher's lounge (next to the office) to claim them.

Merci!

PARENT ASSOCIATION NEWS

The last day of school is right around the corner and our end-of-year picnic and field day are set, with the picnic taking place after the field day. They will take place on **Friday, June 4**. *NOTE - this IS NOT the last day of school...that is June 9.* As in the past we will need volunteers to help with this event. If you are interested in helping with either event, please contact Annie Moren at briggs@morenfamily.com, Eric Peterson at peterston0529@sbcglobal.net, or Jennifer Roe at jenroe_kc@yahoo.com.

Enjoy your weekend.

Eric Peterson
Parents Association Vice President
peterston0529@sbcglobal.net

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 or at 361-7735.

KINDERGARTEN, 1ST, 2ND GRADE SOCCER

The Kindergarten Soccer program had their last practice yesterday, May 13th. Each participant received an "Attestation Pour Avoir Participé à la session de football 2009-2010" (translation: certificate of participation for the soccer season 2009-2010). A small party was also organized for the players. Thank you to coaches Wabo, Mike, and Brent for work well done.

Also, the 1st and 2nd grade will have their last practice this coming Monday, May 17th. Each player will also receive a party and certificate. Thank you to coaches Wabo & Bair.

LETTER FROM A PARENT

Dear Madame,

Mary's* grade card frustrates me at times. I want to be able to brag about her Straight A's. I know the myriad of reasons why strait A's are hard for her. We are working on the ones we can change. But as we discuss her grades, the one thing I want to make sure I don't do is squash her joy of learning and her willingness to share what she has learned. That is the grade card I am most concerned about.

The other day I started my bath and walked out of the room. When I returned I found that the steam had revealed writing on my bathroom mirror. It said "liquide", "gaz" and "goutte d'eau." [I don't guarantee that I copied these correctly.] These are things she has recently studied in science. So when she saw the steam on the mirror from her bath she thought of what she had learned at school and wrote in the condensation on the mirror. Even though her grades don't always show it she loves to learn new things and to share what she has learned. She often comes home and tells me with excitement what you or another teacher has taught in class. And often she does this while relating it to something going on around us at the time. Again, I will say this is the "grade card" I look hardest at when I assess her education. (Just don't tell her that. I still want Straight A's one day.) Thank you for your part in nurturing Mary's love of learning. I know you are a teacher she will always remember fondly.

I have copied Mr. Nelis and Mr. Roskam because so often as parents we are so focused on our children and fighting for what's best for them the only time we think to send letters to the administration is to complain. That is one pattern I would like to break. I truly appreciate all that you have done for Mary this year.

-A Parent

**Name has been changed. We welcome your anecdotes about your children and their education at Académie Lafayette.*

ACADÉMIE LAFAYETTE SOCCER DAY

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

Parents contact: Hans Thomas, hans@htaarchitects.com
816-444-1298

Volunteers needed

Contact: Mary Lou Martin, 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.

BIG 4TH GRADE MUSICAL !!!!



When: Friday, May 21st at 6:00 pm

Where: Académie Lafayette Auditorium

Who: Everyone is invited! Please bring your entire family, your neighbors, your friends... 😊

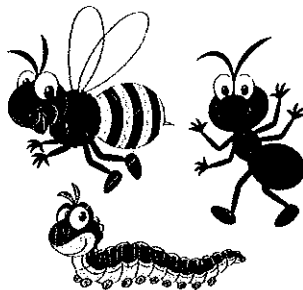
How much: FREE! Donations accepted for AL at the intermission.

The 4th Graders need to be there at 5:30 pm to prepare for the wonderful, fantastic, unforgettable musical.

Kindergarten Friday Folder Newsletter

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

May Curriculum Spotlight: Insects and Small Creatures



Art Projects: Dragonflies and weaving a tablecloth
Math: Money, subtraction, counting to 100
Science: Life cycles of butterflies and frogs
Characteristics of insects and arachnids

Dates to Remember:

Grand Spectacle: Friday, May 28th,
9:00-10:30 at the Main Campus
Community Times: Friday, May 21st
and Wednesday, June 9th
No School: Monday, May 31st,
Memorial Day
17 Days of School Left!

Thank you to
Anastasia Linbach
and everyone who
contributed to Teacher
Appreciation Days!

Dress Up Games:

Any kind of dress-up play should be encouraged. Keep a box with old clothes – both men's and women's clothing – big hats, adult shoes, jewelry, costumes and so on to use as props. Dressing up is a good rainy day activity. You can join in the drama when needed, for example as the dentist, the pet or the bus driver.

Academie Lafayette Parents Association
2010 Survey to Families

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this short survey about the future activities of the Academie Lafayette Parents Association. Planning is beginning for the 2010 - 2011 school year and your feedback is appreciated!

What grade level is/are your child/ren?

Have you been able to attend a PA Mtg this year? Yes No

If you did attend PA Mtgs, what did you find the most useful?

What kinds of guest speakers would you like to hear speak at a PA meeting?

I would be more likely to attend a PA meetings held on:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

I would be more likely to attend PA meetings held at:

330 500 530 600 630 700

What do you think the PA should be focused on?

How can the PA serve our parents and families better?

Did you/will you attend any school functions this year?

Boo BBQ Holiday Program Middle School/Parents&Staff Soccer Games
Middle School/Parent&Staff Basketball Game Choir
St Patricks Day Warm Up Parade Grand Spectacle Talent Show
End of the Year Picnic

Have you volunteered for any school functions this year? Yes No

Questions, Comments, Concerns

Please return all surveys to the PA mailbox. Thanks, again!