Dear Lafayette Families –

What an incredible weekend! I thoroughly enjoyed my first Fall Festival – cotton candy, pumpkin decorating, games, the haunted house, and laughing children. I was reminded this weekend of just how special our community is. A huge thank you to all the volunteers, man hours, donations, and commitment it took to create such a great event. A special thank you also goes to everyone who participated in the Yard Sale. It was a great turnout!

Over the course of the last two weeks, there has been a tremendous amount of hard work and learning throughout the building. Our 2nd - 5th graders have been participating in our first Unit Assessments. These are district created assessments that help our teachers assess the skills and standards taught over the first 6 weeks. It has been amazing watching our students demonstrate their math abilities in place value, decimals, and addition and subtraction. In English Language Arts, our students are focusing on Main idea and key details, sequencing events (plot), and using the text to support our reasoning. If you are reading with your students at home, a great way to support this work is to work with your child to identify different clues in the text that give meaning to the story. For example, ask your student to predict what might happen on the next page, and then ask what part of the writing helped them make their prediction. Using the text to support reasoning is a very rigorous skill that all good readers use.

This past week was also College Awareness week. We had great lessons and activities throughout the building to help all students have a better awareness around college. Friday, the staff had their collegiate gear out in full effect! It was fun to include college in our conversations with our students. Thank you to everyone who was involved, including Ms. Mosby and Ms. Diesner who led the week of activities.

This coming week is Safety Preparedness week. As a staff, we have been discussing our different drills and safety procedures in the event of an emergency situation. So far this year we have practiced a fire drill and a tornado (!!!!) drill. This week we will work with our students to practice our lock down procedures as well. Staff are talking with our students to remind them that these are measures to help keep us safe and are not scary. It’s important that we take the time to teach and practice each scenario. In the event that there might be a real emergency, our preparedness will help everyone stay calm, cool, and safe. As a point of reference, our evacuation site is Blessed Sacrament School (5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW). More information will be forthcoming about the reunification process as well as a date for a practice evacuation drill. Please reinforce with your children that these are just practice situations and will help us all know what to do in case we ever need to evacuate the building.

The other big event this week…..THE HALLOWEEN PARADE and parties! I know everyone is excited about the big parade. My costume has arrived…but is a secret! Shhhhh! Due to park construction, the parade will have a new route. The classes will meet by grade level in the front of the building by the flag pole, then turn left in front of the school (toward Northampton). We will then turn left at Northampton and proceed past the PreK entrance and through the faculty parking lot. We will then take two laps around the track and head back inside. A couple of reminders/requests:

1. Please no dogs on the parade route.
2. Please keep the parade route clear. I need your help with this one!
3. Please do not walk the parade route with your child.
4. HAVE FUN AND TAKE GREAT PICTURES!!!!

Once we re-enter the building, classes will return to their classrooms for the Halloween parties. Dismissal is at 12:15 pm.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do. As we enter November and the holiday season, don’t forget to work toward a balance between school, work, family, and life. We are about to enter a very busy and potentially very stressful time of year. Don’t forget to take time for yourselves and your family!

Here’s to another great week of joyful, rigorous, learning.

Carrie Broquard