

Dear Lafayette Families –

Happy Holidays! It is unbelievable that we find ourselves at the week before the Winter Break. I hope this Tuesday Bulletin finds you taking a moment (at least!) to enjoy the joy of the season. The last three weeks have had many moments of joy throughout the building. Our Kindergarten students celebrated a great Thanksgiving feast, 2nd Grade honored the culture and traditions of Native Americans, and 4th and 5th grade enjoyed the holiday classic, The Nutcracker. The boys and girls basketball teams are off to a tremendous start! And this week, we will enjoy our Winter concert. LEP wrapped up an incredible fall session of enrichment activities thanks to the hard work and dedication of Hope Scheller and Beth Taubman. LAP celebrated the season with an amazing potluck and student talent show.

A special thank you to Ms. Perlin and everyone who assisted with the book fair. It was a tremendous success! The joy of reading filled our halls before and after school thanks to everyone's hard work and support.

The joy of literacy is also in full swing. Spelling bee season has the building “abuzz” with excitement – spelling lists are being practiced, language roots are being learned. A HUGE thank you to Ms. Echave and all the staff who helps her practice with students every day. Our reading specialists are also busy supporting the joy of reading with our 4th grade and 1st grade reading buddies. We are also expecting the holiday edition of the Bear Facts to be hot off the presses. If you are interested in volunteering to help with our student publications, please let me know. We would love to involve more adults as a way to support our young authors, reporters, and editors.

Math is also decking our halls. Along with the usual excitement and love of ST math, our students are also deeply engaged in our math enrichment boxes. The newest holiday gift to our students' numeracy is Marcy Cook tiles. It's like Sudoku for kids (with number tiles). It's amazing to watch the concentration and problem solving of students of all ages. Kudos to our math specialists, Erin Betz and Edie Stanton, and all the teachers who have embraced the art of problem solving in mathematics.

This past Friday, I hosted our first ever “Coffee Talk”. We had a solid turnout of parents who came to talk about assessment and testing. It was a terrific conversation and I appreciate the thoughtful questions and comments. I will post the materials handed out and the Powerpoint on the website in case you weren't able to attend. If you have topics you would love to see discussed at future Coffee Talks please don't hesitate to email me.

Some of the assessments we discussed at the Coffee Talk were the Unit Assessments (published by DCPS) and iReady. We finished the 2nd round of Unit Assessments the first week of December. The process was much shorter and smoother than our first round. The teachers and the students are busy working through the information –

celebrating areas of strength and re-teaching areas of need. When we return from break, we will be taking of middle of year (MOY) check in with iReady. This is a brief check in to measure students' growth over the course of the fall and to predict areas of need for the upcoming months.

Wherever you find yourself during this holiday season, we all wish you peace, love, and rest. I hope that all travels are safe, all meals are delicious, and all time with family leaves you with a smile. As 2014 draws to a close and a new year approaches, I am compelled to say thank you to each and everyone of you for helping to make 2014 such a special year for me and my family. Here's to 2015 – may it be filled with joyful learning, children's smiles, and the sounds of learning filling the halls of our building. Have a great holiday season.

Carrie Broquard
Principal
Lafayette Elementary School

PS – Show your Lafayette pride every Friday! Students are invited to wear their “grizzly gear” every Friday. The new flannel pants, sweatshirts and stocking hats are in! Help your child stay warm and show their Grizzly Pride.