

Dear Lafayette Bears –

It's hard to believe that it is already the middle of September! Last week we celebrated two incredible Back to School Nights. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us. It was an awesome demonstration of the collaboration and care that happens at Lafayette every day. An extra special thank you goes to the HSA for organizing the food and events of the evening, the teachers for sharing their expertise and classrooms, and to the parents for their dedication and commitment to their children's education.

We continued our celebration of collaboration on Monday, September 15th with International Dot Day. "The Dot", by Peter Reynolds, is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to "make her mark". What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe. For me, this day symbolized all the great things that happen at Lafayette every day. Thank you to everyone who participated and sent your child to school in dots! If you haven't yet read the book, it's a great one to read aloud with kids of all ages.

Last week the students also completed their beginning of the year assessments for Math and English Language Arts. This year we were able to use a program called iReady for both assessments. iReady is an adaptive diagnostic software that helps identify students' areas of mastery and need in both Math and English Language Arts. We will be using this software two more times throughout the year to help track our students' growth. Last year we were able to pilot the instructional component for English Language Arts, which we will continue to use this year as well. Our focus this year will be on using criterion referenced assessments that help teachers guide their instruction. This includes iReady as well as teacher created assessments.

A couple of quick announcements –

- Thank you for remembering to leave your dogs at home. This is a huge help to our community as we work together to get all students tucked into classes in the morning.
- Remember that teachers will be taking lines to classrooms at 8:40 am. Learning begins every day at 8:45 am. If you arrive after 8:45 am, please sign your student into the front office.
- Don't forget to check out the new spirit wear! The HSA has some terrific new, but classic designs available! Beginning in mid October, I would love for Friday's to be "Spirit Days"! The students LOVE to wear a matching tshirt or sweatshirt as their teacher and show their Lafayette pride.

- Thank you to all the room parents, volunteers, and parents who are supporting classrooms. It's an impressive group of people! I can't tell you how much it means to our teachers and our students to have your support.
- As the weather cools, we will start to find ourselves in certain "seasons" – cold season, flu season, lice season, etc. Please remind your students to wash their hands frequently. Also, remind your students to try to avoid sharing hats and other items that could promote the spread of lice. If we start to see an increase in any of these items I will be sure to communicate with parents.
- Friday, October 10th is a Professional Development Day for staff. No student attendance on that day. Monday, October 13th is Columbus Day – No school for students or staff.

Enjoy the beautiful weather this week and settle into Fall. That means jackets, leaves, apples, and a whole host of other warm and fuzzy activities. Again, thank you all for your warm welcome at Back to School Night. I am thankful everyday to be a part of our community.

Take care,

Carrie Broquard
Principal

