

# Letter from the President

November 2008



## PTA NEWSLETTER

I can't believe it is November already. It feels like school just started. It's hard to believe Thanksgiving and the holidays are just around the corner. Where does the time go?

The PTA board started meeting in June to plan for this school year. Shortly after the budget meeting, we started planning a Welcome Back lunch and presentation for the teachers. Soon after the teacher lunch, it was time to have our first board meeting; plan for Back to School Night; plan our first Meet and Greet program; write our first newsletter; find volunteers for the Jog-a-thon, Walk to School Day, and the parade; plan and host the All Cultures Dinner; coordinate with the art teachers and organize the Original Works fundraiser; get the information out about Reflections; finalize the logistics and advertise Dining For Dollars; have two more board meetings with a few smaller meetings in between and once again, write our second newsletter. Whew! No wonder time has gotten away from me. Needless to say, the PTA has been very busy!

So, you can imagine my surprise when a close friend recently asked the dreaded question... "What does PTA do?" She was also confused about which PTA meetings to attend. She felt there were many parents in our school that wanted to get involved, but didn't know how. My first thought was, I must not talk about it enough. Ha! My second thought was, that if this particular parent, who is actively involved at the school and in the classroom, is unclear about PTA's role, and how to get involved, we really must be missing something in our communication to the parent community.

The "things" PTA does each year, in the form of events, meetings, parent programs, fundraisers and classroom support, may change from year to year, but our primary goal has always been the same ~ to combine the efforts of parents and teachers to be most effective in providing the best educational experience possible for all of our children.

Over the years PTA has evolved in order to support our evolving school community. Below are just a few highlights of where we have come from in the past 6 years.

Six years ago we were a PTO and not affiliated with a national organization. New parents in the PTO were painting the hallways, classrooms and the teacher's lounge to make them aesthetically more appealing.

Five years ago we became a PTA and developed our bylaws, created yearly goals and began networking with other schools in Lafayette and Boulder Valley. That same year we were also leading our open enrollment tours, hosting parent meetings in our homes, and hosted a Realtor Brunch, just to get parents in the community to visit our school! We also started hosting Family Nights so our families could get together at school, for fun and to strengthen our school community.

Four years ago we welcomed a new principal, several new teachers, helped with the building of Kids Park II and saw our volunteer numbers increase so much, we were able to establish an org chart for all of the positions in PTA.

Three years ago we started writing a monthly newsletter to better inform the school community of the things happening in PTA. We started offering parent programs about literacy, math, internet safety and many other topics.

### YOUR PTA OFFICERS

**Liz Wager - President**

303-464-0199 Liz.wager@lafayetteelementary.com

**Jennie Bickel- 1st Vice-President**

303-666-6011 Jennie.bickel@lafayetteelementary.com

**Monica Gajdys- 2nd Vice-President**

Monica.gajdys@lafayetteelementary.com

**Tori Guess - Secretary**

303-666-8420 Tori.guess@lafayetteelementary.com

**Debbie Breitman -Treasurer**

303-796-9771 Debbie.breitman@lafayetteelementary.com

### Save the date

Nov. 17-19-Parent-Teacher conferences

Nov. 21- Family Movie Night

Dec. 11-Principal's Coffee Chat, 9:30-10:30 am

PTA general meeting-Jan 13 6:30-8:00 pm

## President's Letter continued

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Two years ago, we started sending event reminders and volunteer needs through an email list serve. The use of our grocery certificate program has increased tremendously due to a few very dedicated volunteers.

Last year, with the help of our office staff, we began translating more PTA news for our Spanish speaking families and having Spanish translators at our meetings. We also started spending a chunk of our large reserve fund on much needed items such as; books and up-

dated technology for the library and classrooms, replenished materials for the art room, after school club support, sound equipment for the stage, benches and tables for Kids Park II, just to name a few.

The title of our meetings has changes several times in the past few years. Ever since the beginning of this year, we have changed titles again. We are sorry for the confusion. IF you see a meeting listed as a Business or Board meeting, it is a meeting intended only for the PTA officers and chairpersons. **Any meeting listed as a General Meeting or Program, is open to all parents in our school community.**

Please come to our next general meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a parent program and share general PTA information. We will be adding some additional general meetings later in the year.

Getting involved is easy. Simply call or email any one of the officers. Our contact information is in the newsletter and in our school directory. We will be happy to find a role for you in the PTA that fits your time and interests.

I know I've shared a lot of information in this letter, but I hope I've also answered some questions you may have had about PTA.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Liz Wager

## Treasurer's Report

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Hello All,

Thanks to all the students, families and friends who showed their support for the 2nd annual Jogathon. In this economy we know it can be difficult to find extra funds to share.

We've collected \$13,285 in donations to-date. We had 257 student participants who generated 665 donations from individual donors. Way to go LES! Just a short note. We are currently on track to raise about \$20,000

this year, for use in funding programs for the 2009-2010 school year.

Look for information in our next newsletter regarding our Winter/Spring fundraiser. This will be an important fundraiser, insuring that we can meet our goals as a community to provide the richest learning environment for our kids.

Thanks again,!

Debbie Breitman, Treasurer



## Reflections Update

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Thank you to all of our talented students who submitted work to Reflections. There is some beautiful work on display in the front entrance of our school. Please take a moment to check out it out.

A big "Congratulations!" to the following students whose work will move on to the district level for judging: **Jessie Johnson, Eden Maddy, Sangya Dickey, Josie Meere, Mckenzie Jenkins and Ashley Gustafson.**

Also, a huge "Thank you!" to our community judges: **Betsy Stroomer, Susan Nagle, Valerie Pierce, Lori Larsen, Janet Commodore and Marissa Perry Saints.** Reflections would not be possible without the generous help of these wonderful volunteer judges. Thank you to everyone who participated! Look for Reflections, a PTA sponsored arts program, at our school again next fall.



## Volunteers needed!

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Thank you to the parents who have signed up to take a more active role in our PTA. We really value your help! Thank you to Monica Oliveira-Gajdys for stepping up to take the role of 2nd Vice president. We are excited to have you join the board. We do still have some needs we could use your assistance with. Two board positions still need filling and we need some support with our upcoming Book Fair!

### Program Chair:

Enjoy coordinating events and organizing? The Program Chair works closely with the 1st VP, coordinates PTA programs for general

meetings (3 more this school year) and acts as a support person for coordinators and/or committees of PTA events (such as Family Nights). **Please contact: Jennie Bickel at (303) 666-6011**

or [jennie.bickel@gmail.com](mailto:jennie.bickel@gmail.com).

**Community Building Chair:**

We are looking for a volunteer, working closely with the 2nd VP, to build and foster relations within the Lafayette community. Responsibilities include working with Project YES, overseeing the Cougar Wear program (led by it's own coordinator), and working with the Green Team. Come join a fun group of parents and fill an important role in the LES PTA!

**Please contact: Liz Wager at (303) 464-0199**

or [lwager2@comcast.net](mailto:lwager2@comcast.net).

### Book Fair volunteers:

The Scholastic Book Fair runs Mon-Thurs, Nov 17-20 and offers a wonderful opportunity for students, families and teachers to browse, purchase and bring home books. It also provides the school funding to purchase additional books for LES classrooms. We are seeking a few people to help our librarian work the Book Fair.

#### Needs:

1. Set-up on Thurs, Nov 13, 2-4pm (we need 2-3 people)

2. Cashier on Mon, Nov 17 (one person per 2 hr shift): A. 2:30-4:30pm, B. 4-6pm, C. 6-8pm

3. Cashier on Tues, Nov 18 (one person per 2 hr shift): A. 2:30-4:30pm, B. 4-6pm, C. 6-8pm

4. Cashier on Wed, Nov 19 (one person per 2 hr shift): A. 2:30-4:30pm, B. 4-6pm, C. 6-8pm

5. Cashier on Thurs, Nov 20, (one person) 2:30-4:30 only

6. Break-down on Thurs, Nov 20, 2-4pm (we need 2 people)

**Please contact Sara Wendland at [tandswendland@aol.com](mailto:tandswendland@aol.com) to sign up for a 2 hour shift.**



## Kung Fu Panda is coming!

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Date: Friday Nov. 21st

Join us for an evening of family fun!

Participate in giveaways

including Kung Fu Panda activity CDs and the Kung Fu Panda DVD.

Time: 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Location: Lafayette Elementary Cafeteria

Bring a pillow and blanket!

Free popcorn !

Water will be available for \$.50.

## Dining for Dollars

Dining for Dollars is an easy way to support Lafayette Elementary School. Put your Dining for Dollar guide on your refrigerator or in your car. When you are dining out, pick one of the participating restaurant and at least 10% of your tab goes to support Lafayette Elementary School. Simply keep your receipt and put it in your child's Friday Folder, or put it directly in your child's classroom's Box Top For Education Baggies.

Here are some popular restaurants who are supporting the program.

\*KT's BBQ - Every Meal, Every Day.

\*Zamparelli - Monday - Saturday (Excluding Friday's).

\*Protos Pizza - Monday - Saturday (Excluding Friday & Tuesday).

\*Cinos - 10AM-1PM Every Day

\*Abo's—Every Day

\*Quizno's— Every Day 4-9 pm

\*Canopy Grill— Sun-Wed

Please refer to your Dining For Dollars Guide for the complete list or refer to the LES Website.

## Membership update

We had a great membership drive this fall – 106 members! It isn't too late to join if you haven't already. Soon you will be receiving your membership card and if you supplied your email with your membership material, you should be getting information from National PTA by email. Your individual membership benefits include PTA discounts on magazines and other items and services, online parenting resources, leadership training opportunities, and more. PTA dues enable our school to access resources to help our students, teachers, and community as well as to advocate for issues that affect all children. Most importantly, though, is the role that each member of our community plays through involvement in Lafayette Elementary. Please contact Chris Cameron (303.926.9528 or [clcameron@peakpeak.com](mailto:clcameron@peakpeak.com)) for more information.

### Thanks to our volunteers!

We would like to show our appreciation to all the folks who helped in recent PTA events. We wouldn't have been able to do them without you!

Jog-a-Thon - Thanks to Jacque Molenaar and Allison Bird and their team of volunteers who made this event such a fun success. Thanks also to Mr. Buchanan for making this day possible.

Walk to School Day - Penney Parker & her team of volunteers. Thanks for helping kids get to school safely and handing out healthy snacks and stickers to those who participated.

Lafayette Hometown Parade - Renee Jacobsen and Sue Grant. Thanks for coordinating this community-building experience where the Lafayette Cougars showed off their school pride.

All Cultures Festival – Thanks to Jennie Bickel and her team of volunteers who helped put on this celebration. We especially want to acknowledge Nicole Jenkins for her donation of flowers and to Lafayette Florist for their flower donations. Thank you to Dottie Maierhofer and the Trebol soccer girls U16 team who helped make the dinner portion of the evening run so smoothly!

The PTA would like to thank our fabulous art teachers, Ms. Thom and Ms. Shepherd for helping our students create such wonderful pieces of art for our Original Works fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without you!

The Lafayette Lions club gave \$263.50 to our PTA from the proceeds of their Pancake Breakfast during Celebrate Lafayette Day. Thank you very much Lafayette Lions Club. We greatly appreciate your donation!

## Holiday Baking is just around the corner!

**REMINDER:** Don't buy your holiday turkey without using your grocery certificates! King Sooper and Safeway gift cards are a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays! They can be purchased on a one time basis in increments as low as \$25 each and are a great holiday gift for a teacher, mailman, house cleaner.....or just to buy all those holiday goodies. Gift cards can be redeemed for their face value at their designated grocery store. The PTA earns 3-5% of all sales and you don't have to spend any extra money to help support the school. Paying with cash or check??? - call Jennie Bickel @ 303-666-6011 ([jennie.bickel@gmail.com](mailto:jennie.bickel@gmail.com)). Credit card, orders can be placed before the 10th of each month by calling Nanette Schunk @ 303-666-8338 ([nanetteschunk@msn.com](mailto:nanetteschunk@msn.com)). Happy Holidays!