

We're down to the final stretch. Pre-kindergarten graduation is Friday along with the fifth grade awards ceremony. Then a short week with the fifth grade promotion ceremony and the final day on the 14th. And on to summer with vacations, camps and family trips.

All grades are starting to work at setting up classes for next year. The sending grades meet with the receiving grades and discuss the children who are moving up. The purpose is to develop balanced groups of students for each class. Other teachers and our counselors also participate in the process. We don't build classes for specific teachers. We are hiring some new grade level teachers for next year with Ms. Stanton on family leave and Mr. Nikolic moving to Puerto Rico. We hope to have all our vacancies filled by the end of this month. But sometimes the unexpected occurs, and teachers have had to leave during the summer. And we will have about 70 new students to Lafayette that we will have to place in these classes over the summer. So we find building balanced groups work best even if they sometimes fall a little off-kilter when we tuck in our new arrivals.

Mrs. Bright is registering students as fast as she can enter them into the computer. We are just past the 50% mark. Don't even think of going away for the summer without completing registration for next fall. Remember we don't need your medical information at this time. Schools are being told that if they do not meet certain registration targets over the summer they will be in danger of losing teachers. We don't want that to happen at Lafayette. If you know of people in your neighborhood who are also coming to Lafayette, encourage them to get up to school and register now. Forms are on the DCPS website. Staffing really is a numbers game and the numbers will be carefully checked weekly.

The summer reading guide is ready and will be posted on the website soon. This Saturday, June 9th, Politics and Prose will have copies of the books available for you to purchase with a share of the proceeds coming back to the school. The school supply lists are being finalized and will be posted ASAP.

We're returning to school a week later this year. Not until August 27th. Over the summer, our new super trailer will be installed and teachers will be moving to new locations throughout the building. Other updates about summer and early fall activities will be posted on the website, so check back to it frequently. The biggie will be class lists that will go out the week of August 20th.

We know it is time for this school year to come to a close. The fifth graders are chomping at the bit to move on to middle school. Fourth grade is ready to finally be the big kids. The Pre-kindergarten students will be showing some of what they learned to their parents on Friday morning. Class parties and picnics are on the calendar. We have lockers and desks to clean out and shelves to fill with books. The library is on its way to being organized for a well deserved summer vacation. Computers will be stored, PE equipment placed in storage and the cafeteria refrigerator emptied. The building will seem very large and lonely for a few weeks. But before we know it, the new school year will be here and everything will be unpacked and put back into use. Thank you for all your patience as we wind things down at Lafayette. It's a frantic race to the finish line.