

June 12, 2012

From the Principal
Lynn Main

And so we come to the end of another school year. Our PK students had their ceremony last Friday morning looking simply adorable in their white robes and caps. Tomorrow morning the fifth grade will have their promotion ceremony. They will be singing songs they have learned, some they have created and watching a slide show of all their activities this school year. And then they will get a certificate that tells them they are ready to move on to a new school next fall. Ready to take on the challenges of middle school and beyond.

Other grades are also celebrating. Picnics and parties are going on at the school and up in the park. Classrooms are getting a good cleaning out. Large bags of stuff are getting ready to be sent home. By Friday, for the most part, the school takes on the look of a ghost town as everyone leaves for summer vacation. No more art on the walls, bulletin boards in classrooms, student work on display. The library all neatly organized and still. No more aromas coming from the cafeteria. No screams from the playground. Just lots of quiet.

The office is open and busy. We continue to register students all summer long. We'll have about 70 new boys and girls arrive over the summer. We are still missing lots of registration forms from current families. Please take care of this as soon as possible. We need to be making enrollment targets all summer long to keep all of our teachers at Lafayette.

The school website will be your friend this summer. The summer reading guide is ready to post as well as the school supply lists. Class lists will go up the week before school starts so you don't need to call the office from the beach and you can see who is in your child's class. Any other changes or important updates will be posted there, too.

So here is the last new update. I have been asked by the Chancellor to look at other leadership opportunities in DCPS, specifically at the high school level. Most of you may not know, but until I came to Lafayette most of my experiences in schools had been on the secondary level. My experiences in elementary school were mostly on the parental side, classroom volunteer, Spring Fair chair and PTA president. Teenagers were who I worked with. And then I came to Lafayette. I am still in complete awe of anyone who can get 20 four and five year old students to follow directions, share and cooperate all day long with hardly a meltdown. To teachers who start children off on the road to learning. Who teach all the things I feel as if I have been able to do forever.

So things are a little undecided in my life right now. I will be meeting with various school communities in the next few days, getting questioned about my secondary experience. I expect that the Chancellor will make a decision to have me take over a high school in the fall. Sitting here, with wonderful schools like Deal and Wilson right around the corner, it

is easy to forget just how many challenges students in other parts of the city have. As I come to the ending of my career, I guess I would like to have one last opportunity to see if I can make a difference in the lives of some other students. So you may be getting a few more Tuesday bulletins this summer as we continue to update all of you as to where I will be and how a new principal will be selected if this change moves forward.

Lafayette is such a special place for everyone who walks through the doors. Last Sunday night the class of 2006 had its senior picnic in the park. I don't know any other elementary school that has such a tradition of getting together again as its former students move on to colleges and universities. Last spring I hosted a 50th reunion for former Lafayette students who came to the school and marveled at the changes. A cafeteria (we went home for lunch). No walls! Lafayette will always be such a special place for me, too. So no matter where I am in the fall, I will never forget the kindness and generosity of this school community. The exceptional staff that gives so much each day. The parent leaders who have been so supportive. But mostly all the children. The ones who arrive wanting to learn something new each day. The ones with special challenges who need extra attention to thrive. The ones who spend a few years here but return to far flung corners of the world with a little Lafayette in them. And the ones who I jokingly say are doing Life at Lafayette. I have been truly blessed for the past 11 years. Thank you for every minute.