

And then our older instrumentalists took to the stage with their strings, winds and percussion instruments. What an exciting evening.

This week the third grade takes over in the cafeteria for their annual DC Theater Café. Each year the café is focused on a different aspect of life in Washington. One year we celebrated the return of major league baseball. Other years have looked at Duke Ellington and the U Street corridor or Chuck Brown and the rise of Go Go. This year the children have gone back to the past and are studying the Civil War in Washington. Last summer, Mrs. Jensen participated in the Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows program, a week of classes and trips to important Civil War sites in DC. The idea was to allow teachers to visit various sites in the DC area, learn more about Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass and other significant historical figures. On Wednesday and Thursday all the students at Lafayette will be invited to attend a performance and see just what the third grade has been learning about.

We have another Arts Night on the schedule the week of the 21st. While you are attending parent teacher conferences, the display wizards will be hard at work hanging a whole new display of work from our older students. They will be taking to the stage in a series of performances. And our recently formed Step team will be performing again after the thunderous applause they received last Wednesday in the Great Hall.

But even with all this effort, there will be many projects you will not get to see. It's Asian Pacific Heritage Month and last Friday our first grade students completed their Indonesian dragon puppets. A few parents and I got to watch as the students presented their scary dragons to us behind a sheet so we could see the shadow effect that is used in an Indonesian puppet show. Many of the songs that were learned in music earlier in the year will not be performed. We just don't have the time or space to do everything. But we do hope that you get a better perspective on all we have done by looking at the complete displays for each grade level. Students were asked to pick their best work. That is what is on the walls. But not everyone picked the same piece. So while we know you want to find that super special piece of art, look around and see what else was completed this year. I think you will be surprised at the range of expression that is found in all this work. I know that I always am.