

I've waited to write this until Monday so that I could fill you in with some information about happenings around Lafayette over the winter break. It was busy here even with the teachers and students taking a well deserved break. Thanks to Mrs. Bright and Mr. Hover for manning the front office so I could also get some time away from school.

Out front the landscaping project continues and is almost completed. Large bollards are being installed along the edge of the hillside to help with night time lighting and keep children from running up and down the hillside. So far the plants seem to be doing well even with the limited amount of rain we have received. I am told that next spring when the roses are in full bloom it will be really spectacular out front and much of the erosion problem will be solved.

Inside the custodians spend much of winter break on cleaning jobs that are hard to do with students in the building. Floors are thoroughly scrubbed and finished with a new coat of polish throughout the school. The book room was reorganized thanks to Mr. Hover. Minor repairs were made to furniture, plumbing and lighting fixtures. The day to day maintenance of a building of almost 120,000 square feet is pretty demanding. To have a time like this, and again in April during Spring Break, is helpful in keeping Lafayette looking as nice as it does.

We have a wonderful building engineer who is working this year at keeping the heating and cooling system working within normal limits. Much of the time Lafayette has two temperatures, subtropical hot or Arctic circle cold. Mr. Braxton has been stopping by almost daily to help with these issues and so far this is one of our best years ever for even temperatures in the building. And he was here Monday morning to check in and see how things were going before the day began.

Last week a team came from the operations office to do a security assessment of Lafayette. There are a lot of challenges that need to be addressed. One thing that is coming is a new camera system for the front door that will allow us to actually see who is at the door and then have someone in the front office release the lock. The team is looking at other ways to let people have access to other entrances to the building, too. There will be a central office meeting on Wednesday where the information collected will be shared and then plans will be shared with us. When I have more definitive plans I will let you know.

The first day of the New Year went off very smoothly. Such a long break brings us challenges each year. There is a lot of reminding going on about class rules and policies. Remembering the daily schedule can be difficult. Lunch has just started and some kids need help again opening various items they haven't seen recently. But almost every student was excited to see classmates and teachers again. I was at the PK entrance today and lots of hugs and kisses were shared as classmates arrived. Only a few weepers were visible and that stopped as soon as a teacher appeared. So it looks like 2013 is off to a good start. Happy New Year to all as we keep on learning at Lafayette.