



Bear Facts



Vol. 12, No. 6

Salute to 5th Graders!

Welcome Jaylena:

Meet Mr. Rogall's New Baby

by Paulina Inglima, 4CJ

Third grade teacher, Mr. Rogall, has adopted a daughter! Her name is Jaylena. Mr. Rogall and his wife, Crystal, had been training to be foster parents for a long time. Finally, they got notice that a little girl needed a home, and they stepped right up for it. But becoming a foster parent isn't as easy as it may seem and adopting a child is even more complicated. I was able to interview Mr. Rogall to get the inside scoop!

See *Interview on p. 4*



Jaylena visits her dad's classroom.
She is Lafayette's newest bear cub!

Life in the New Lafayette Trailers

by Joanna Chait, 5S

In school year 2016-2017, Lafayette Elementary School is going to have a new building. The renovation will take this summer, all of the next school year, and then part of the summer 2016. The renovation will be done by August 2016. Until then, the school will be in trailers. There will be a trailer for everything, including a library trailer. All classrooms will be in trailers, and there will be a P.E. tent. I had a few questions about the trailers and what it will be like next year. I interviewed Ms. Campbell who is a teacher member of the team looking into the renovation. **Continued on p. 4**



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Will the sign be back next year? Or will it return when the renovated school is ready?

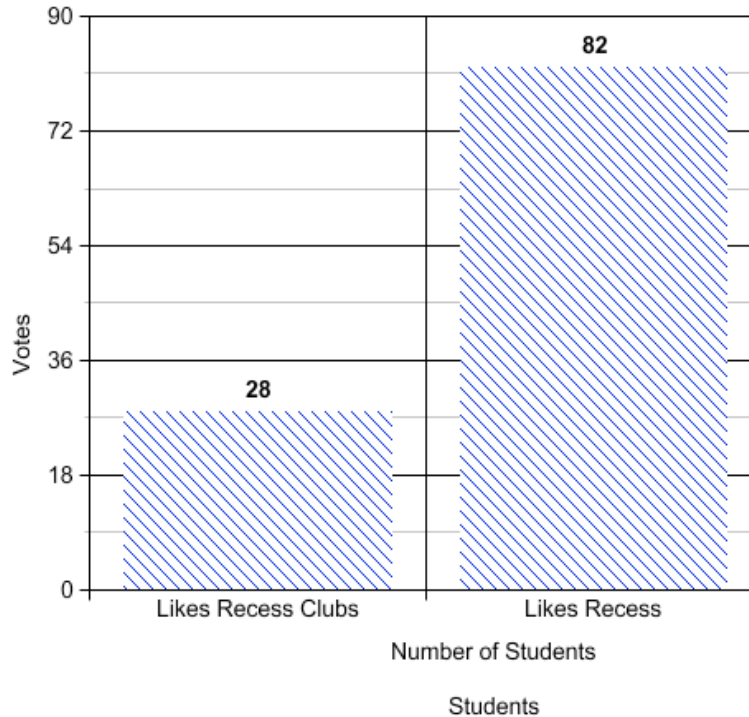
Recess: In or Out?

by Hannah Bocian, Harper Dunn 5S, Katie Kennedy, 5C

There are only a few short weeks left of school, and the recess clubs ended last Friday. We polled 110 students in first through 5th grades about which they liked better--recess clubs, or recess. Turns out that 82 students that we polled prefer outdoor recess. Only 28 preferred clubs. What do you think?



Recess Or Recess Clubs?



A 4th Grade View of Fifth Grade

by Addy Darnell, 4F

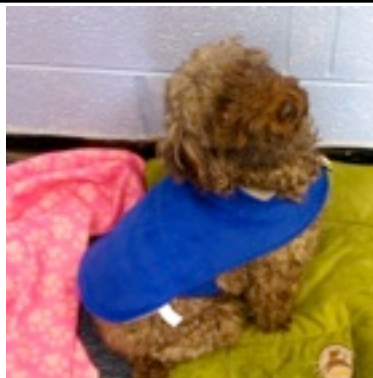
With the renovations to our school beginning in June, Lafayette is on the move--on the move to trailers on the field! School life will be different for everyone next year, but for next year's fifth graders who have spent six years in the old building it will be the biggest change of all. Fifth grade is a special year because it's the last one. How are future fifth graders feeling about all these things?

For this story I went to different fourth grade classes and asked students how they felt about going into fifth grade next year. The first thing I asked was if they were nervous about anything. Most kids were pretty confident about fifth grade, but some were not at all. Next, I asked those who were nervous about their concerns. New teachers came up a lot. "What if I get a teacher I don't like?" some said, while other worried about harder work. Then, I asked them what they were looking forward to the most. Field trips, lockers, and even new teachers were all answers.

The last question was: "Do you think that your fifth grade year will be affected by the renovations?" Now, for that, I got a lot, a lot of responses. Some kids wondered about where they will play. Some kids said that they thought it would be a little weird, and some kids said not at all.

"Where will we have our graduation? In a giant bubble?" one fourth grader asked. So, some kids were nervous and some weren't, but all seem ready for fifth grade. Good luck to them next year!





Kozy Girl

by Vance Gootman & Sammy Taubman, 5G

Many students have been wondering where Kozy Girl, Ms. Kuhn's dog is. [Ms. Kuhn is the school psychologist], We have interviewed some people to find out who Kozy Girl is, and why she is not here in the school.

To find out why Kozy Girl isn't in the school we interviewed the principal, Dr. Broquard.

Bear Facts: Why is Kozy Girl no longer in the school?

Dr. Broquard: She wasn't banned. She was a service dog and the point of a service dog is to help somebody. Nobody in Lafayette needs help.

BF: Why is she gone *now*? Did a rule change?

Dr. B: There is a place called OSI and this fall there was a conversation where they realized nobody needed a service dog.

BF: Thank you for your time.

Dr. B: You're welcome.

To find out more information we interviewed Kozy Girl's owner, Ms. Kuhn, the school psychologist.

Bear Facts: How do you feel about Kozy Girl no longer being in the school?

Ms. Kuhn: Many kids at Lafayette are very sad that Kozy Girl is no longer allowed in the building. Because the kids are sad, that makes me sad too.

BF: What did Kozy Girl do for the school?

Ms. K: She comforted students during counseling sessions. She visited 4th grade classrooms and helped to create an atmosphere of kindness and respect. Kids read to her during DEAR time, and she participated in recess.

BF: Have a lot of people asked about her?

Ms. K: Yes.

BF : What are some good memories you have of her in the school?

Ms. K: She made the school happy and makes the school climate fun.

BF: Thank you for your time.

Finally, we interviewed Guy Kenny, a fifth grade student. He has a very **STRONG** feeling about Kozy Girl being gone.

Bear Facts: How do you feel about Kozy Girl no longer being at Lafayette?

Guy Kenny: I feel terrible for the people who lost Kozy Girl and her benefits. I also think that Kozy Girl helped a lot of people.

BF: Why do you feel this way?

GK: Because Kozy Girl helped many students. She had been here for a long time and she could help because she is a licensed therapy dog.

BF: What are you doing to show that you feel this way?

GK: I made many petitions for people to sign asking to bring Kozy Girl back. I also shared this with fourth graders so that this will live on after the fifth graders leave.

BF: Thank you for your time

Mr. Rogall Interview *Cont'd from p. 1*

by Paulina Inglima, 4CJ

Bear Facts: Hello, Mr. Rogall!

Mr. Rogall: Hi, Paulina, Welcome back to the classroom!

BF: How did you feel when you got notice that you could finally adopt Jaylena?

Mr. R: Well, we were happy--and relieved--because there was a chance that we wouldn't be able to keep her.

BF: How old is Jaylena?

Mr. R: She just turned one year old.

BF: If you could use one word to describe her, what would it be?

Mr R: Umm.. that's hard because so many words could describe her, but I think curious best fits.

BF: Was the adoption process hard or easy?

Mr.R: It was very complicated.

BF: How long did you have Jaylena before you adopted her?

Mr. R: We had her for almost the whole year. She came to us when she was four weeks old.

BF: Are there more challenges in having an adopted child than having a birth child?

Mr R: Yeah, I think so. She looks different than we do, so we stick out in a crowd. People might come up to us and ask about our story. But, we do the same family activities that most people do.

BF: Do you think that Jaylena has any skills?

Mr R: She is very friendly, she'll say, "Hi!" and wave to anyone. So people think she is really cute and adorable.

BF: Does she sleep at night?

Mr. R: Yes, most nights she sleeps.

BF: Thank you for your time!



Renovations Interview with Ms. Campbell *cont'd from p. 1*

by Joanna Chait, 5S

Bear Facts: Could I interview you for Bear Facts?

Ms.Campbell: Sure!

BF: Will each classroom have walls and a door?

Ms. C: Yes, there will be.

BF: Will there be a computer lab?

Ms.C: I am not sure yet.

BF: Will each grade have its own mega trailer?

Ms.C: There will be a series of mega trailers. There might be some overlap.

BF: Will there still be Pearl's Paradise Cafe?

Ms.C: Ms. Murphy will still be with us.

BF: Will there be Lafayette basketball teams?

Ms.C: I'm not sure.

BF: Where will the gym be?

Ms.C: In a heated and air conditioned tent with the lunch room.

BF: Where will most kids have recess?

Ms.C: We are still working on that, but I think the upper field and newer park on the hill.

BF: Will there be a stage? If so, where will it be ?

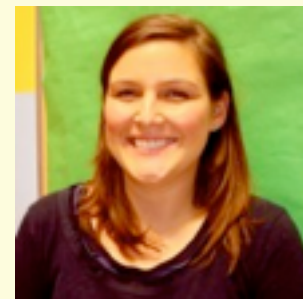
Ms.C: I have not heard of plans for a stage.

BF: Will there be a lap room, and if so, will it have its own trailer?

Ms.C: I think it will share space with the gym and lunch.

BF: Thank you!

Ms.C: You're welcome!



Ms. Campbell

Field Day Is Right Around the Corner

Editor's Note: *Field Day is a little earlier this year due to the upcoming move. Pre-K and kindergarten will have their field day on Wednesday, May 13 and grades 1-5 will have theirs on Friday, May 15. Bear Facts reporter Brendan McKalip talked to Ms. McClure about the event.*



The Scoop on Field Day

by Brendan McKalip, 4S

Bear Facts: What's the theme of this year's Field Day?

Ms. McClure: This year's theme is Moving Day which refers to how the classrooms will be moving their location next year but also means how we should always be moving.

BF: Is there a new sticker system for Field Day at Lafayette?

Ms. M: No, no one will have stickers this year.

BF: What will the Field Day activities be?

Ms. M: The activities will include Broken Down, Moving Truck, Packer Throw Away, Movie Box Transfer, Clean Sweep, Pack the Dishes, and Pizza Run.

BF: When will Field Day take place?

Ms. M: It will happen on May 13 for the PK and K and May 15 for Grades 1-5.



Earth Day Activities

by Jahari Miller, 5C

Earth Day is April 22, a special day set aside to celebrate our earth. We celebrate planet earth because it is valuable and we should keep it clean. That's why we have a special day that we can honor it!

There are lots of events that happen on Earth Day. One of those activities is picking up trash found on the ground. In this way, we help to keep our earth clean and healthy. Another great thing we can do is to grow, cook and eat healthy food.

On, April 22, there was a celebration in the cafeteria. They had food and a chef who cooked it. He cooked a food called Grilled Cucumber Salsa. It was burnt lettuce cut up and onions. The chef also added honey and vinegar to his recipe. It was very good. The honey popped out the flavor. Nurse Cockrell also had a stand for fruits and vegetables. The pineapple was my favorite type of food. Earth day is a great holiday to celebrate, but we should eat healthy foods and pick up trash to make our earth cleaner every day of the year. What's not to love about planet earth? Eat healthy and make our earth a better place.



Lafayette's New Positions for Next Year

by Hannah Bocian, Christopher O'Brien 5S, and Alli Bowman 5G

There will be many new staff members next year at Lafayette. We interviewed Ms. O'Malley and Mr. Wieand, two of the teachers on the personnel committee, the committee that interviews candidates for new positions at Lafayette.

Bear Facts: What are the new positions that are open?

Ms. O'Malley: An instructional coach who basically teaches the teachers, two world languages teachers, one for the younger kids and one for the older kids, and another fifth grade teacher.

Mr. Wieand: Yes, we will add an instructional coach, another fifth grade teacher, and two world language teachers to our staff.

BF: Who will fill the new positions?

Ms. O: The personnel committee [the committee in charge of finding the new teachers] has been conducting interviews, but we don't know yet.

Mr. W: We don't know who's going to fill them yet. We have candidates, but we haven't hired anyone yet.

BF: Will the new teachers have their own classrooms?

Ms. O: I'm not sure what they'll do because we will be in the trailers next year, but they will be like special teachers.

Mr. W: The new 5th grade teacher will have her own classroom, the instructional coach will have her own office, and we're not sure about the language teachers.

BF: Who will pay for the new teachers?

Ms. O: The positions are paid for from our school budget, the money DCPS gives us.

Mr. W: They will be paid by the central office and by the school budget.

BF: When will the new people start working?

Ms. O: Teachers start working a week before the students return, but the new teachers come a week before the other teachers for orientation.

Mr. W: If they're new to the [DCPS] system they have to do a week of orientation but otherwise they'll start with the other teachers on August 17. School starts for students on August 24.

BF: What sorts of questions do you ask the candidates in the interviews?

Ms. O: There are three parts: an interview, a writing test, and then we have them teach a class.

Mr. W: The specific questions are confidential because we don't want people to get an unfair advantage by knowing the questions ahead of time.

BF: Thanks for your time!

It seems like there will be many new positions in the 2015-2016 school year. But we won't know all the details until next year!

Book News:

Percy Jackson Series Is Popular in 3H

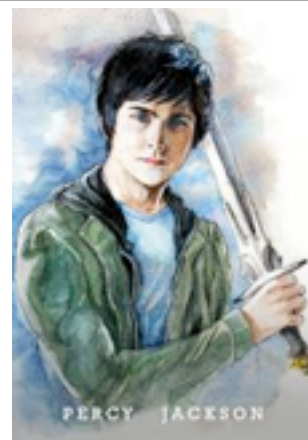
by Jack Pagano, 3H

Some people in Ms. Harn's third grade class are reading the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. I wrote this article because I want other third graders to read this series.

Malachi Meriam was the first person in 3H to start reading the series. He is now on the second series. He recommended the books to Finn Boyle. Malachi told Finn that the series has lots of adventure and scariness. Finn is on the third book of the first series now. He recommended that I read these books because of the battles that have lots of action.

SPOLILER ALERT!

Many people don't know that there are two more series of books by Rick Riordan. The first two series are about Percy Jackson. There are five books in the first series. The first series is about Greek gods in real life. The second series, which has four books, is about Percy Jackson and Roman and Greek gods. The third series, which has three books, is about Egyptian gods. Carter Kane and his younger sister, Sadie, are two of the main characters in that series. Both of their parents are descended from the Pharaohs.



Spring Fair Fun

by Katy Whipple and Sasha Gold-Moritz, 4S

Editor's Note: We all had fun, doing rides in the sun, but now it's over. The Spring Fair took place last Saturday, May 2, but these reporters wrote their story before it happened. The key chain winners were John Joire and Matias Hernandez. Read to see if your spring fair experience lived up to expectations!

The spring fair is coming on May 2 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. The theme is Lafayette Under Construction; everything is awesome! Anybody in the community is allowed to come. Some of the things that will be there are:

- Carnival rides and moon bounces
- Karaoke Machine
- Face painting and arts\crafts
- Book sale
- Bike swap
- Lots of yummy food + yummy treats

Instead of T-shirts, this year there will be key chains. We interviewed some fourth graders from Ms. McGrath's class.

Bear Facts: Are you looking forward to the spring fair?

Kieran McIlreavy: Yes, I am looking forward to the spring fair.

Hailey Howard: Yes.

Aaron Gorman: Sort of, I might not go.

Sofia Jamie: Yep.

BF: What do you think will be the best part?

KM: Probably the food.

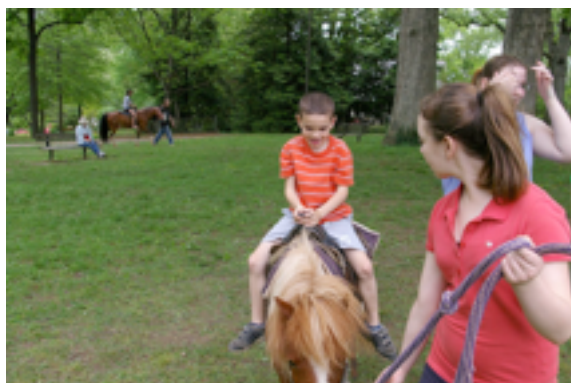
HH: The rides.

AG: I don't know, I'm not thinking about it

SJ: Rides.

BF: Who are you going to hang out with mostly?

ALL: Friends!



This little cowboy is taking his pony ride at the 2009 Spring Fair. A jolly rancher to the first 5 students who can identify him! See a BF editor or Ms. Echave.

Spring Baking

by Alli Bowman, 5G and Zoe Friedman, 5C

Winter is gone and Spring is here--time to do some spring baking with color and fresh spring ingredients. Here are three of our favorite recipes.

Recipe #1: Lavender and mint cupcakes with lavender brittle (Recipe serves 12.)

Ingredients for Butter cake

½ cup of butter softened

¾ cup sugar

2 large eggs

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour

1 ½ teaspoon baking powder

½ teaspoon salt

½ cup milk

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

white paper cupcake liners

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat butter and sugar at medium speed with electric mixer (or electric hand mixer) until creamy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating until blended after each addition
2. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt; add to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture.

Beat at low speed until blended. After each addition stir in vanilla.
3. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the middle of the cupcake comes out clean. Let cupcakes cool completely

For Wild Honey Frosting

½ cup butter, softened
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
¼ wild honey
⅛ teaspoon salt
1 (16-oz) package powdered sugar

1. Beat first four ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy.

Cont'd on p. 8

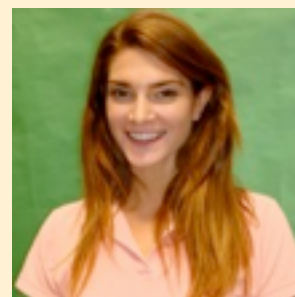
First Year at Lafayette Is a Roller Coaster

by Cyrah Meredith and Mia Sampson, 5C



Ms. Raugitinane

This year, many new teachers came to Lafayette. In the fifth grade alone, we got two new teachers. We have had a great year with them, but it is coming to an end. To find out how Ms. Skubel and Ms. Raugitinane felt about their first year, we interviewed them.



Ms. Skubel

Bear Facts: May we interview you for Bear Facts, please?

Ms. Skubel: Sure! **Ms. Raugitinane:** Yes, Sure.

BF: What did you expect when you first came to Lafayette?

Ms. S: Well, I had gone to Lafayette as a kid, so I knew what great teachers there were. Also, I had heard great things from other people in my program who had student taught here.

Ms. R: I was expecting a lot of help. This school is filled with community. And I really got that help.

BF: How has your first year here been?

Ms. S: It has been great. I have the best students.

Ms. R: It has been a roller coaster. There have been some ups and downs and those weird loopde loops!

BF: Why did you want to work at Lafayette?

Ms S: Because I went here, and it is across the street from my dad's house.

Ms. R: I interviewed and they offered me a job, so that's why I am here.

BF: What do you like about Lafayette in particular?

Ms. S: I love how much the teachers support each other.

Ms. R: I like how the parents and family are involved .

BF: Why did you choose to teach fifth grade?

Ms. R: It was the only position open, But, I like teaching this grade, especially, because they are going to middle school next year.

Spring Baking, Cont'd

from p. 7

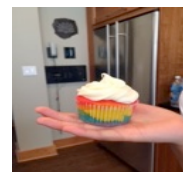
2. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating at low speed until blended. Beat at high speed for two minutes or until creamy.
Lavender Brittle

Vegetable cooking spray
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon dried lavender
Line baking sheet with heavy duty aluminum foil; coat with cooking spray. Then, combine sugar and ¼ cup water in a small sauce pan. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring

gently until sugar dissolves. Cook 4 minutes or until golden. (DO NOT STIR.) Remove from heat; carefully stir in lavender. Rapidly spread mixture onto prepared sheet. Cool completely' break into pieces.

Alli's Review: When making the brittle make sure you have an adult with you. When you are breaking the brittle make sure it isn't too big or too small. The cupcakes taste sweet but not too sweet and my favorite part is the lavender brittle because I love the crunchiness of it.

For the delicious rainbow cupcake (left) and the strawberry one with blueberry frosting (right), check out the online edition of **Bear Facts** at www.lafayettehsa.org. The lavender and mint cupcakes are below.



Deal with it!

Onward and Upward

by Zoey Chineme, 5G

We've all enjoyed our time at Lafayette but at some point we have to move onward (and upward). Most of the fifth grade students are going to Deal, so I asked a few of them what they are looking forward to next year and what they are not excited about!

Interview #1

Bear Facts: May I ask you a couple questions?

Jamilah Springer: Sure.

Matias Hernandez: Okay.

Paloma Benach: I'm fine with that.

BF: Good. What are you looking forward to about Deal?

JS: A bigger and better school.

MH: More freedom.

PB: Extracurriculars.

BF: What are you not looking forward to about Deal?

JS: Some of my friends aren't going to be there.

MH: More homework and less free time.

PB: How organized it is.

BF: Thanks for your time.

Interview #2

Bear Facts: May I ask you a couple of questions?

Esther Nachbar-Seckel: Okay.

Aicha Sanogo: Sure.

Maddie Lewis: Yeah.

BF: What are you looking forward to about Deal?

ENS: Getting a phone and having more freedom.

AS: Definitely the clubs.

ML: Just going to a new school is exciting.

BF: What aren't you looking forward to about Deal?

ENS: Homework. I'm not looking forward to more homework and responsibility.

AS: Yes, more homework is not a plus.

ML: I'm not really looking forward to changing classes.

BF: Thanks for your time.

So, no matter how excited you are to go to a new school, it will always have flaws. Since this is the last time I will ever be writing in **Bear Facts**, I just wanted to thank my amazing teachers these past years. Thanks Ms. Phillips, Ms. Harn, Mr. Rogall, Ms. Fratto, and Mr. Gregal!! Goodbye to you awesome teachers and for the kids going to Deal, I'll see you next year.

Moving On To Middle School *by Tusani Jackson, 5C*

Our fifth grade class consists of 99 fifth graders who are all moving on to middle school next year. I interviewed fifth graders about the schools that they'll be attending next year, and the majority are planning to go to Deal. Others aren't. Let's start with Ms. Skubels Class.

Bear Facts: Hi, Charlotte. May I take some of your time to ask a few questions?

Charlotte Guy: Sure.

BF: What Middle School are you going to next year?

CG: I'm going to Alice Deal Middle School.

BF: Are you nervous?

CG: Yeah, I'm nervous.

BF: Hi, Jax. What middle school will you go to next year?

Jax Coad: Alice Deal

BF: Are you nervous?

JC: No not really.

Now let's go on to Ms. Raugitinane class.

Bear Facts: Hi! May I please borrow some of your time?

Agnes Burke: Sure

BF: What school will you be attending next year?

AB: Deal

BF: Are you nervous?

AB: Sure!

Bear Facts: Hi, Vasco. What middle school will you be attending?

Vasco Hollar: Deal

BF: Are you nervous?

VH: Not really Let's get going

Mr. Gregal's class.

Bear Facts: Hi, Reign. What middle school will you go to next year?

Reign Mosby: Deal, probably, but I'm not

sure yet.

BF: Are you nervous?

RM: Yes, kinda'.

BF: Thanks and good luck on finding your school.

Bear Facts: Hey, Luka. What school will you be going to next year?

Luka Morad-Kostovski: Deal

BF: Are you nervous

LMK: Kinda

We're on to our last class, Ms. Campbell's fifth graders.

Bear Facts: Hey.

Cyrah. What school will you be going to next year?

Cyrah Meridith: Either Deal or a private school. I'm not sure yet.

BF: Are you nervous?

CM: Not really.

Bear Facts: Hey, Niko. What about you? What middle school are you going to attend?

Niko Galanis: I will be going to the European School of Varese in Italy.

BF: Are you nervous?

NG: No not really.

So, there you have it. Whether taking the next step at Deal. going to private school, or even going across the ocean to Italy, Lafayette fifth graders are ready for the next step...and maybe just a little nervous.

Back in the Old Days

by Esther Nachbar-Seckel, 5G

Doesn't everyone remember back in the old days, like kindergarten? Well, this article will bring you back to the simpler days....ahhhh, relaxation. So, for this article, I asked many fifth graders to describe what their favorite thing was about one year in particular up to fourth grade. Then, for fifth grade, I had the teachers explain their favorite thing about teaching that grade. Here it comes! Enjoy!

Pre-K

Justine Hollar: My favorite thing about Pre-k was Ms. Pajor and nap time.

Matias Hernandez: Mr. Johnson and....Mr. Johnson.

Kindergarten

Maddie Feldman: Our 100th day celebration.

Paloma Benach: No homework and fun field trips.

First Grade

Zoey Chineme: Less homework and the good feeling of learning something new.

Maddie Lewis: It was a new school and my teacher, Ms Plummer, rocked!

Second Grade

Tess Cassol-Pawson: Seeing my teacher's baby. [Ms. Stanton]

Agnes Burke: American-Indian tribe studies. We were Hopi and got to run around the class bare-foot during lunch.

Third Grade

Charlotte Guy: I liked DC theater café and Pudgy the Hedgehog.

Schuyler Phillips: Ms. Powell was awesome. And, almost no work.

Fourth Grade

Manoela Barretto: I liked not having many responsibilities.

Annelise Jacobson: I thought the Washington animal rescue league visits were fun.

Fifth Grade

Ms. Raugitinane: You all are fun to talk to. I like having conversations with you.

Ms. Skubel: My favorite thing has to be the students. I have the best students.

Mr. Gregal: My favorite thing about teaching fifth grade? I don't know--probably getting to know the kids.

Ms. Campbell: My favorite part is cleaning out the file cabinet at the end of the year and seeing all the progress my students made.

And there you have it. Since this is my last **Bear Facts** edition, I just want to say: Thank you. To all the teachers and students. And I know this is super cheesy, but I've had a great time at Lafayette since I started here in Pre-K, and now I just feel the need to say thank you. Especially, to Ms. Echavé for making the **Bear Facts** possible. And to all my teachers (Mr. Johnson, Ms. Shapiro, Ms. Plummer, Ms. Cobb, Ms. Jensen, Ms. Shapiro, and Mr. Gregal) who have made my life so much better. All you guys rock! Bye!

When Bear Facts First Started

by Tusani Jackson, 5C

Have you ever wondered when **Bear Facts** began, or maybe when the first newspaper at Lafayette was started? Who it was started by? When it was started? Well it's your lucky day. I'm going to get all of that information to you. I'm going to interview Ms. Echave and you will hear all you need to know when it's finished.

BF: When was **Bear Facts** started?

Ms.E: In 2003, but it wasn't the first student newspaper here. Lafayette had one way back in the 1960s. Maybe, even earlier than that. The library used to have copies of student newspaper called the **Lafayette Gazette**.

When I came to Lafayette in the late 1980s, the school newspaper was called **A Smaller View**.

BF: Why do you think that **Bear Facts** is good for us?

Ms. E: Writing for a school newspaper is real writing. It's for an audience and it has a purpose. Some reporters have gone on to be on their middle and high school newspapers and a few continue in college and even have jobs in TV and journalism. Even if they don't do any of these things, they all learn important skills.

BF: Do you enjoy doing **Bear Facts**?

Ms.E: Very much. I like to see students develop their own ideas as they learn about interviewing, note taking, and writing skills. Students start to respect DEADLINES.

BF: How long have you been doing **Bear Facts**?

Ms.E: Since it began. Then I added the **Sports X-Treme** in 2007 because I realized that some students who were reluctant writers enjoyed writing about sports. **SXT** was a big hit with students and this year we even have our first-ever girl editors-in-chief!

BF: Why do you want to continue doing **Bear Facts** next year?

Ms.E: For all the same reasons, I think it's just as important for the upcoming 5th graders as it has been for past students. As I said, students need to have authentic opportunities to write...and not just class assignments.

BF: Do you plan on stopping **Bear Facts** next year due to the trailers?

Ms.E: That is hard to answer. I don't plan to stop it, but it might not continue. With the whole school housed in trailers, there isn't going to be space for all the activities that happen now. Also, I hear that there may not be DEAR time next year. I don't know how student reporters could do their work without that mutual time to research, write and do interviews with others.

BF: Does anyone help you with **Bear Facts**?

Ms.E: Yes. Now that so much work depends on computers, Mr. Wieand teaches students the protocols, how to make graphs, insert pictures and all sorts of stuff. He has an important part in it all. Also, Mr. Benab handles sports coverage ideas for **SXT**. And the wonderful fifth grade teachers are always willing to have their classes fold newspapers as needed. I would like to thank all of them and, of course, the editors and all the reporters.

BF: Thanks for your time.

Ms.E: You're welcome!



The Bear Facts

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Spring Baking, Cont'd

Recipe # 2: Strawberry Cupcakes with blueberry frosting *Recipe serves 12.*

You will need:

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup strawberries sliced in half
a few drops of red food coloring
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all purpose flour
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 pinch of salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup milk
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup unsalted butter
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
2 large egg whites
a few drops vanilla extract (optional)

For the frosting:

as many blueberries as you want
4 cups powdered sugar
a few drops of vanilla extract
3 tablespoons milk
1 cup of butter, softened

Directions:

First, preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Next, grease your cupcake or muffin pan, set aside. In a small bowl combine flour, baking powder and salt, set aside. In a blender puree the strawberries and set aside. Next, cream the butter. Gradually add the sugar until well creamed. Then add the egg whites and vanilla extract. Mix together the milk and strawberry puree. Lastly, mix the dry, wet and strawberry puree mixture together. Bake 20-25 minutes or until lightly brown.

For the frosting:

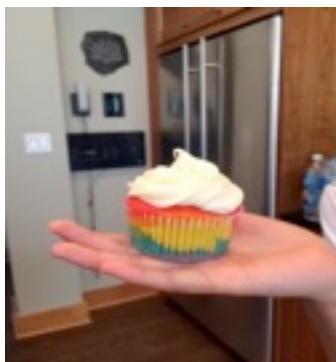
Mix together the ingredients until it forms a smooth consistency, and you're done.



Recipe # 3: Rainbow Cupcakes *(This recipe serves 8)*

Ingredients for Butter cake

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter softened
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
2 large eggs
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
white paper cupcake liners



Directions:

1. preheat oven to 350 degrees. beat butter and sugar at medium speed with electric mixer (or electric hand mixer) until creamy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating until blended after each addition
2. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt; add to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ended with four mixture. Beat at low speed until blended after each addition stir in vanilla.
3. divide batter in 6 equal groups and place in bowls, dye each bowl a color of the rainbow. (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple). Spoon in purple batter first in each cupcake liner and shake the pan to spread the batter in the liners. Do the same with the rest of the colored batters.
4. bake in the oven for 12 to 15 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in the middle of the cupcake comes out clean. Let cupcakes cool completely **Cont'd on next page**

Rainbow Cupcakes, Cont'd from previous page

Ingredients for Cream Cheese Frosting

½ cup butter, softened

1 (8oz.) package cream cheese, softened

2 (16 oz.) packages powdered sugar

¼ teaspoon salt

1. beat butter and cream cheese at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy.
2. gradually add powdered sugar and salt beating at low speed until blended. Beat at high speed for 2 mins.
3. With a ziplock bag cut the bottom corner and add frosting.

Alli's Review: This recipe is supposed to make 12, but when I got to filling the orange layer in the cupcake liners. I realized there wouldn't be enough to fill the cupcake liners so I only filled 8 cupcake liners. I chose white cupcake liners so you could see the rainbow batter together. The cupcakes tasted really good and it was cool to see the colors together. Just be prepared for you fingers to be dyed different colors!



