

We reached a big milestone for this school year today at Lafayette. Today we celebrated the 100th Day of School. Over the last few years elementary schools across America have embraced this day as a way of showcasing various number concepts and skills. This week Lafayette joins the crowd as it will be filled with activities dealing with the number 100.

All year long number lines have been kept in classrooms counting the days of school so far. In some class rooms student have kept three different ways of counting to 100. First teachers used a traditional number line. We have number line caterpillars snaking across a number of walls in our primary classes. Other classes have been using number cubes, 10 rods and today got their first 100 flat. Every time 10 cubes were counted out, it turned into a 10 stick. It seems like they have been waiting forever to get to trade in those sticks or a 100 flat, but today was the big day. And as a third way they have also been using coins to measure their progress towards 100. Pennies turned into nickels and then dimes. Another way to make numbers meaningful.

In kindergarten, Mrs. Haigler's class has been sharing treats from Zero our Hero. Every 10 days a different staff person brings down some special round treats for the children in honor of reaching a count that ends in zero. Round mini Oreos, grapes and Cheerios have been some of the treats this year. Today Zero our Hero and his partner the Number One finally made the long expected appearance as the class had its own 100th day celebration.

The activities didn't end there: 100 second challenges, 100 word poems, singing 100 bottles of milk on the wall and finding out how long it takes. Some children have brought in 100 items from home. Paperclips, Cheerios, M & Ms, and buttons are favorites. We have teachers with 100 days of school shirts. And an announcement over the PA system when we reached the 100th minute of the school day. Good fun all day long.

The late January parents' tour had the normal share of questions and concerns. I wish I had been sharp enough to remember the 100th day of school when the potential pre-k parent asked me about math enrichment activities for pre-k students. When I think of all the things 4 year old children deal with in coming to school, separating from parents, learning to get along with other children their age, and figuring out how to deal with being in a group, I must say that math enrichment does not figure very high on my list of necessities at that age. But along with everyone else the pre-k students celebrated a number that to them seems so big and important. They don't understand place value, nor should they, but they do know that when they count, getting to 100 is a big deal.

So thank you for helping your child fill the many requests for 100 of something. Don't be surprised if your Orange Base child firmly believes in Zero our Hero and his partner the Number One. Ask your older children about any 100 challenges they did today. We had a lot of crazy fun all day long. What a great starting point for some interesting dinner conversations tonight. But the counting will continue tomorrow. We still have those caterpillars to grow. It's 100 days down, 80 to go!