Dear Lafayette Families –

And just like that…we find ourselves saying goodbye to February and hello to March! Although February has been a short month, we have managed to pack in a lot of great things, with more to come in this last week! First, thank you to everyone who participated in Parent/Teacher conferences. It was a terrific day of sharing the great things we see from our students every day. Second, a huge “Congratulations” to our Girls’ basketball team. They won the regional championship and are headed into the city play-offs. Please join us **Tuesday, 2/24 at 4 pm at Burrville Elementary.** We wish our girls the best of luck! As a result of this win, we have rescheduled Jump Rope for Heart. **Jump Rope for Heart** will now be **Friday, 2/27**. The times will remain the same.

March promises to be just as busy as February. A few highlights include our parent Coffee Talk (March, 6th; All Things PARCC), an HSA General meeting (March 5th, Update on the Modernization), the Student Council Winter Dance (March 6th), a visit from author Kate DiCamillo (March 16th), assemblies from the Maryland Science Center, PARCC testing, Kindergarten Plays, Music in Our Schools, and the Auction (March 28th)! During our parent Coffee Talk, I will be doing an overview of the upcoming PARCC testing, including showing examples of test items, discuss the relationship to the Common Core State Standards and answering questions. Please join us Friday, 3/6 at 8:50 am in the Upper Library Room if you are interested.

The modernization continues to roll out full steam ahead! Skanska was named as our building in February. Skanska and our architect firms have recently finished building Brookland Middle School and have a long standing working relationship with one another. This is a tremendous positive for us as we start to work through all the details of our move and our swing space. We now have a project executive through Skanska, as well as a Move Coordinator and a Project Manager. Skanska has shared with me that they plan to start building the trailers for our swing space in late spring. Please be on the lookout for opportunities to help volunteer – we will need your help to clean out storage areas, pack, and generally support teachers in moving their classrooms.

As we think about how we can support one another, I need your help with morning drop off. There have been several very negative interactions that have occurred during morning drop off in the last two weeks. One incident involved Eddie (our crossing guard) being verbally assaulted. The other issues have happened in our morning drop off lane. Both Eddie and our drop off lane volunteers work hard every day to secure our children. They care deeply for our kids, and often go above and beyond the call of duty. I think Eddie knows more students’ names than most of us! It saddens me to think that a handful of adults in our community would name call, yell, or otherwise accost those who work hard to keep our kids safe. Please be part of the solution, and demonstrate the kindness and consideration that we work hard to teach our kids every day. Thank you to all of you who demonstrate high levels of respect and kindness. It is much appreciated! If you use the morning drop off lane, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Morning Drop-off operates from 8:30 – 8:45. The doors close promptly at 8:45 (regardless of weather).
2. No adults may leave the car – driver or passenger. This creates an extremely dangerous situation.
3. Students must exit from the passenger side of the car. Again, no exceptions due to safety issues.
4. Be nice. The people in the drop off line are volunteers, parents, and part of our community ☺.

Please be patient and remember that moving 700 students into a school in the morning is an amazing feat! It’s remarkable that we generally get it accomplished in 15 minutes.

Let’s work together and keep our fingers crossed that spring finds its way to DC soon!

Have a great week,

Carrie Broquard, Principal