

## **This Week at LES—February 21, 2017**

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Dear Bulldog Parents,

Our students, staff, and parents are AMAZING... We had 250 students enter a total of 105 projects in our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) Expo; exceeding last year's entries. I love the STEAM Expo as I learn much from our students and enjoy seeing the pride of accomplishment as they proudly share their efforts with our community.

Because of our students' commitment to applying their research and experimentation in the creation of authentic projects, they earned participation in a "duct-taping" competition where students competed to see which grade could keep their designated adult volunteer taped to the wall the longest! The kindergarten and fifth grade students were the winners!

We'd like to thank our incredible PTA Science Expo co-chairs, Layle Barbacci and Mara Kreishman-Deitrick, for their work to ensure that all our students benefited from participating in the Expo. These committed parents also volunteered to be duct-taped to the wall with me and one of our awesome second grade teachers, Mrs. Patty Milligan. Thank you, Mrs. Milligan! Pictures of the duct-taping completion are posted on our website! Please be sure to check them out! We'd also like to thank the many parent and community volunteers who helped with the Expo set-up and who also provided feedback to our students and their projects. Finally, thank you to Mrs. Amy Buras for her work to plan and facilitate the duct-taping completion.

Our school community is amazing!!! Thank you for sharing your precious children with us each day!

Have a wonderful week!

Donna Sagona

Principal

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/laytonsvilles/>

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## **“Read Across America” Week and Guest Reader Day Celebration**

We look forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday during the week of February 27<sup>th</sup>. One of the main events that week will be our Guest Reader Day planned for Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. On this day, Board of Ed members, MCPS Central Office Staff, and a variety of community members will

visit and read their favorite children's books to our students. We'd like to thank our wonderful reading specialist, Mrs. Donna Scott, for her work to coordinate this important event!

The SGA is also sponsoring a variety of activities to encourage reading during this week. See the list below. Thank you SGA!

**Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>** : “*One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*” Wear RED and BLUE

**Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** ; “*Fox in Socks*” Wear CRAZY socks

**Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> Guest Reader Day!!!**: “*Green Eggs and Ham*” Wear GREEN

**Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss**: School Wide Read –a- thon at the end of the day. “*Thing One and Thing Two*” Find a friend and dress as TWINS!

**Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** “*Cat in the Hat*” Wear your favorite HAT!

As a reminder, March 3<sup>rd</sup> is an EARLY DISMISSAL day.

## **Community Service and Social Responsibility** **Alive at LES**

Helping others is a value that is demonstrated on a daily basis at LES. Students understand that in order to help others, they must first help themselves by working hard to do and to be their best. The following community service projects were recently organized by our students and staff:

**SGA's “Souper Bowl of Caring”** – Our incredible Student Government Association (SGA) facilitated the collection of food items to coincide with the NFL's Super Bowl. Our students correctly predicted that the Patriots would win the Super Bowl by voting with canned food items. We surpassed last year's collection by donating 650 cans to a local food bank!

**Jump Rope for Heart**: Once again, the gym was jumping on Valentine's Day! Our awesome physical education teacher, Mr. Juan Aznar, coordinated this jump roping event to raise awareness of the importance of heart health and to collect funds for the American Heart Association. Our community raised over \$4,000.00!

## **International Night-March 10—6:30-8:30 p.m.**

This event would not be possible without our amazing LES families! There are many opportunities to participate:

- Host a family table representing a country or region of the world
- Participate in the fashion show
- Greet attendees and hand out passports and programs
- Volunteer for crafts (SSL hours are available for middle and high school students)

Sign-up by clicking on the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4ba5a72fa57-2017>

**A special note on hosting a table:** We welcome any family who would like to host a table representing any country or region of the world! You can use this opportunity to showcase a country or region you are from, have traveled to or are interested in researching and learning more about. This could be a wonderful opportunity to involve your children in learning about a different country or region of the world!

For more information on International Night, please contact Kavitha Mehta at [kavithamehta@gmail.com](mailto:kavithamehta@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, March 10th!

## **25<sup>th</sup> Annual LES Variety Show-May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Does your child have a talent they would like to share? They can dance, sing, juggle, perform magic tricks or karate moves – all talents are welcome! More information and participant signup can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuUaM86h\\_arQVYmFAzyS3icboWWTC3Ep7ch79fhkWgG3f\\_rhA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuUaM86h_arQVYmFAzyS3icboWWTC3Ep7ch79fhkWgG3f_rhA/viewform)

## **Unity Area Boundary Study-Dr. Smith's Recommendation to the Board of Ed**

Members of the Laytonsville Elementary School community who live in the Unity area, located in the northeast portion of the school service area, requested that the Board of Education consider a cluster reassignment from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Board of Education authorized a boundary study to review the school assignments for the Unity area. A Boundary Advisory Committee convened to solicit input on the possible reassignment of the Unity area from the Gaithersburg Cluster to the Sherwood Cluster. The Committee met on December 22, 2016, and January 11, 2017. On February 8, 2017, the Committee submitted its report to Dr. Jack Smith, Superintendent of Schools. The following excerpt is from Dr. Smith's report and recommendation to the Board of Education. You can access the complete report on the MCPS website at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/unityarea.aspx>

### **Dr. Smith's Summary in his Recommendation to Board of Education Members:**

*"My recommendation is to maintain the Unity area as currently assigned—Laytonsville Elementary School, Gaithersburg Middle School, and Gaithersburg High School. This*



*recommendation is consistent with analysis of the impact of all four factors outlined in MCPS Regulation FAA-RA Long-range Educational Facilities Planning. First, due to the small number of students included in the scope of the study, the proposed boundary reassignment does not significantly impact the factors of enrollment, utilization, and demographic characteristics at the schools included in this boundary study. Thus, analysis of these factors does not support the proposed boundary change. Second, as the existing boundary is contiguous and a proposed change would not result in walking access to the schools, the current conditions meet some of the features of the geographic proximity factor. Third, stability of school assignment would be disrupted by the proposed change. Distance to secondary school is the sole aspect of all of the factors that is affected positively, and it is an aspect that is shared by many areas and neighborhoods in the school district. Barring unique or isolating circumstances, and in the absence of benefits gained from the other factors, that single feature alone should not lead to a boundary reassignment.”*

## Calendar of Events

- February 20, 2017: Presidents’ Day: No School
- February 27-March 3, 2017- Read Across America Spirit Week- SGA sponsored
- March 1, 2017: LES Guest Reader Day
- March 3, 2017: **Early Dismissal- Grading and Reporting**
- March 9, 2017 Third Grade Trip to the College Park Aviation Museum
- March 10, 2017 International Night
- April 6, 2017 End of Marking Period 3
- April 7, 2017 Professional Day for Teachers- No School for Students
- April 10-17, 2017 Spring Break- No School for Students and Staff
- April 27, 2017 “Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day” – Theme- Dependability
- May 1-5, 2017 PTA-Staff Appreciation Week
- May 4, 2017 Variety Show Rehearsal Gaithersburg HS
- May 5, 2017 Variety Show- Gaithersburg HS
- May 4 and 5, 2017 Kindergarten Orientation- NO School for CURRENT Kindergarten Students
- May 12, 2017 Muffins for Moms Celebration
- May 19, 2017 Fifth Grade Service and Patrol Picnic
- May 20, 2017 PTA-Spring Festival

May 29, 2017 Memorial Day Holiday-No School Students and Staff

June 15, 2017 Fifth Grade Promotion- 10:00 a.m.

June 16, 2017 Last Day of School for Students

