

This Week at LES: February 6, 2012

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Greetings Bulldog Families,

As my husband watched the Super Bowl, I watched a YouTube video mix of interviews conducted with Will Smith, an actor who often plays a SUPER hero! (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5nVqeVhgQE&feature=related>) Much of what he shares aligns with our work as parents and educators as we prepare our children *to create* their successful futures. Will Smith's words resonated as he spoke of the importance of having a passion for life and a belief in the power of serving others. He demonstrates a growth mindset that values effective effort, skills developed from practice, and persistence.

Connections can be made to the super work that is done at LES each day and how important it is for us to communicate that the ability to succeed and contribute is in all of us. I remember a line in a poem that read, "We are all meant to shine, as children do." It is our mission to ensure that all students, staff, and parents DO shine at LES. This is not an easy task. It begins with the development and communication of a common vision of what this environment looks like, sounds like, and feels like. Learners shine when they are engaged and absorbed in their work. Engaged learners need power, purpose, affirmation, and challenge. They must also have opportunities to contribute so they see that they make a difference in their world. This is our work, to create an environment where these needs of students and staff are met on a daily basis. As a staff, we are committed to walking the talk of these beliefs by continuously improving our craft. You will see our commitment as we participate in collaborative planning, professional development opportunities, and discussions of books such as *Drive and Mindset*. You will see our commitment as we facilitate lessons that foster a deep understanding of important concepts and encourage critical thinking, effective effort and persistence. You will see our commitment as we work to enhance our implementation of Curriculum 2.0 as it is designed to create this engaging learning environment.

During our PTA meeting on February 9, we will share how Curriculum 2.0 aligns with our work to realize of our vision.

Have a SUPER week,

Donna Sagona, Proud LES Principal

WLES Student News Broadcast Now on Website!

We are especially proud to share our WLES student news broadcasts with you via our webpage link, <http://www.youtube.com/user/WLESLaytonsville?blend=2&ob=0> WLES is a weekly closed-circuit TV broadcast produced and directed by a crew of nine fifth-graders alternating the roles of director, anchor, camera, sound, titles/graphics, and

floor manager. Each broadcast includes a Book of the Week Recommendation, a Mapping the News segment (where a piece of national or world news is reviewed and located on the map) and an announcement of student and staff birthdays. Christine Young, Media Assistant, leads the WLES effort, formulating content, writing the scripts, and taking the students through several practice runs to hone their skills. She also meets with the students each week to review the show footage and exchange feedback for ways to improve the broadcast. Our wonderful parent volunteers, Eugene Wooden and Scott Frohman, generously share their time and talent with the WLES crew. These fathers use their industry expertise to add to the quality of the broadcasts. We have plans to expand student involvement by creating more segments. In the near future we hope to upgrade equipment to include the use of a green screen and more computer generated graphics.

Celebrating African American Month at LES

At LES we recognize and celebrate our diversity and the many contributions from all cultures. See the information below regarding how grade levels are honoring the contributions of African Americans:

Kindergarten and first grade students are reading stories that illustrate the impact that African American heroes like Martin Luther King, Jr. have on our country.

Second graders are researching African American heroes with a focus on how their work positively changed America.

Third graders will also research African American heroes. They will create poems to share information about their selected hero. The poems will demonstrate the student's ability to use figurative language to express ideas.

Fourth graders are analyzing song lyrics to understand the importance of respecting others and valuing differences. They are discussing how people worked to stop segregation in schools during the 1950's. Students are writing about how they can make a difference in the lives of others.

Fifth graders are researching the accomplishments of African Americans and their effect on the development of our country. They will display on a grade level timeline.

In music and art, students will study a variety of African American musicians and artists and discover how they expressed their feelings about civil rights through their art forms. Jazz, spirituals, and blues will be enjoyed in music and the work of Faith Ringgold and Jacob Lawrence will be shared during art class. A wide variety of books about the contributions of African Americans will be showcased and read when students visit our media center.

The Final Souper Bowl of Caring Score: Giants 235 and Patriots 200...Our Community Wins! (Bulldogs Prediction Correct!)

Our Bulldogs participated in the SGA sponsored, "Souper Bowl of Caring" drive. Students voted for their favorite Super Bowl-bound team with donations of soup or other canned food items. We'd like to thank our SGA for providing this wonderful opportunity for our students help feed needy members of our community.

Valentine's Day Celebrations

Classroom Valentine's Day celebrations begin at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 14th. **Items containing nuts or nut products are NOT to be served in the classrooms.** Please note that there will be alternative activities for those students whose parents opt not to have them participate in the afternoon's events. Please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible to let him/her know if you do NOT want your child to participate in the class party. Parking will be available in our school lot as our staff will be parking in the church lot.

PTA Fundraiser Survey

Fundraisers are vital for your LES PTA to provide technology, events and support to LES and its students and staff. Each fall our PTA holds a fundraiser that raises the most money for us to run our PTA **AND** to gift the school technology, books, classroom supplies, etc. Please take the 2 minutes that it takes to fill in the survey to let us know what **you** think of our Fall Fundraisers and how we should plan for next fall. Click here to take the survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/F36NGTT>

Please remember to visit our LES website for everything Bulldog!
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/laytonsvillees/>

Calendar of Events

February 6-10

:::: National School Counselor Week

February 9, 2012

:::: General PTA Mtg- Math Curriculum 2.0 7pm

February 14, 2012

:::: Classroom Valentines Day Parties 2:15 pm

:::: JUMP ROPE for HEART AM

February 20, 2012

:::: No School- Presidents' Day Holiday Observance

February 22, 2012

:::: Grade 3 Trip to Maryland Science Center

March 2, 2012

:::: Early Release Day 12:55 pm

March 12-24, 2012

:::: Maryland School Assessment Administration Window (Grades 3-5)

March 16, 2012

:::: PTA International Night

March 30, 2012

:::: Professional Day for Teachers- No School for Students

April 2-April 9, 2012

:::: Spring Break and Easter Holiday

May 3 and 4, 2012

:::: Kindergarten Orientation

May 15, 2012

:::: Million Minute Reading Challenge Deadline