

This Week at LES: February 12, 2018

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Dear Laytonsville Elementary School Families,

"If you love your job, you never work a day in your life." I have been blessed to have lived this quote throughout my career. Therefore, it is with mixed emotion that I write to inform you that I will retire at the end of this school year. This was not an easy decision as I have been honored to be entrusted with your children's care for the past eight years. Leaving this incredible community and the work that I love will be difficult. How can you retire when you've never worked a day in your life?

I consider all students, parents, and staff my second family and I have cherished every minute of our time together. However, after 39 years as an educator, 29 of which have been with Montgomery County Public Schools, it is time for me to focus on my "first" family. Retirement will allow me more time with my husband as well as time to visit my growing number of grandchildren living in Florida and Tennessee.

I began my career at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic School in Silver Spring and vividly remember Sister Chabanel handing me an envelope containing my first paycheck. I couldn't believe I was actually getting paid to do what I love! This feeling of awe has never subsided. I have been blessed with being able to live my passion in my service as a special and general education classroom teacher as well as a staff development specialist, assistant principal and principal. Montgomery County Public Schools has provided me with the highest quality learning experiences and the incredible opportunity to serve the Poolesville, Monocacy, Sherwood, Great Seneca Creek and Laytonsville Elementary communities.

Rest assured, there will be a smooth transition as the new principal is selected and introduced to Laytonsville. Mr. Eric Wilson, director of school support and improvement of elementary schools, will begin the selection process. Two meetings will be held here at Laytonsville Elementary to obtain the characteristics you seek in the next principal; one meeting with school staff members and the other with parents/guardians. The dates for these two meetings will be shared soon.

I remain committed to serving you and your beautiful children until my last day at LES, Friday, June 29, 2018. I will also provide support to the new principal who will be fortunate to work with this remarkable community of learners. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for your many years of support and for allowing me to be a part of your lives. Thank you for sharing your precious children with me. It has been my privilege to serve this community.

Fondly,

Donna Sagona

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Valentine's Day Celebration- February 14th

Our Valentine's Day celebrations will **begin at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14.** Individual teachers will share grade level specifics in their weekly newsletters. **As a reminder, only store bought food items made in NUT FREE factories/bakeries may be served in classrooms.**

Please complete and return the letter notifying classroom teachers IF you do NOT want your child participating in the Valentine's celebration. Students NOT participating will view approved videos and/or have independent work/reading time in the media center. **You only need to return the form if you DO NOT want your child participating.**

Jump Rope for Heart- February 14

During the morning of February 14, 2018, our school will once again participate in the annual *Jump Rope for Heart* event to raise funds for the American Heart Association. **This year donations will only be accepted online. Please go to www.heart.org/jump and register to collect donations.**

Because our Jump Rope for Heart event takes place during the school day and all students participate, permission slips are not required. Letters and online donation directions were distributed to students. A special "thank you" to our physical education teacher, Juan Aznar, for coordinating this meaningful, heart-healthy service event.

STEAM Update: Duct Tape Goal Reached!

We met both goals for STEAM Expo participation -- 90 projects, and 224 kids! Bulldogs, start planning your duct tape suspension systems for adults on the gym wall! :) Thanks to everyone who submitted their entry forms! Because of the lead time needed to order t-shirts, the order has been placed. We will have a few extras, but any additional entries will unfortunately not be guaranteed a t-shirt. Stay tuned for more info on Expo Day volunteer sign-ups (including opportunities for SSL hours), and info on the 5th Grade pizza and bake sale!

Guest Reader Day Celebration

We look forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday during the week of February 26th. One of the main events that week will be our Guest Reader Day planned for Thursday, March 1st. 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 will also be sponsoring a variety of activities to encourage reading during this week. Stay tuned for more information!

Calendar of Events

February 12, 2018 Gaithersburg Middle School Counselors to meet with Fifth Graders 2:15 PM

February 14, 2018 Jump Rope for Heart AM

February 14, 2018 Valentine's Day Celebration: 2:15 to 3:15 PM.

February 19, 2018 Presidents Day- No School

February 22, 2018 Science Expo: 6:30 PM. -8 PM

February 22, 2018 Bulldog Bank Day

February 27, 2018 Center for Enriched Studies Testing: Grade 3 Applicants Only

February 27, 2018 Grade 5 Parent Meeting- Family Life Materials

February 28 & March 1, 2018 Preview Acts for Variety Show- at LES 6:30 PM

March 1, 2018 Guest Reader Day at LES

March 2, 2018 Early Release Day

March 6, 8, 9, 2018 MISA Science Testing- Grade 5 Only

March 21 & 22, 2018 Open Stage for Variety Show- at LES 6:30 PM

March 26-April 2, 2018 Spring Break⁶

April 5, 2018 Dress Rehearsal LES Variety Show- at Gaithersburg High School 6 PM

April 6, 2018 Class Pictures

April 6, 2018 LES Variety Show- at Gaithersburg High School- 7 PM

April 9, 2018 Early Release and End of Marking Period 3

April 23, 2018 Grade 2 Trip to Montgomery College Planetarium

April 26, 2018 "Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day"

May 3-4, 2018 Kindergarten Orientation

May 16, 2018 "5th Grade Service Trip and Patrol Picnic"

May 19, 2018 PTA Spring Festival and Town of Laytonsville Parade

May 28, 2018 Memorial Day Holiday- No School

May 30, 2018 5th Grade End of Year Trip- Bar T

June 11, 2018 5th Grade Promotion 10 AM

June 13, 2018 NEW...Last Day of School for Students- Early Release

