

Lutie Lewis Coates Elementary School



Parent Newsletter

March 7, 2019

Principal's Message

Families,

Great things are happening at Coates! We're well on our way into the third quarter, and here's what you need to know:

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **April 6** from 10-1:00. That's when we will be throwing a huge birthday party for our school. Coates turned 10 this year! We'll have a dance party and some games in the gym, followed by some words by Mr. Kraft, Mrs. Karen Siple (first principal of Coates), Mrs. Toni Rose (second principal), and Mrs. Shelia Coates, daughter-in-law of Lutie Lewis. There will be some other surprises as well, and lots of former teachers and students will be visiting! We will have a special gift for all students to help commemorate a decade of our awesome school! If you know an former student or alumni, please spread the word and invite them to come!



100th Day of School was Feb. 15. Zero the Hero helped us celebrate!

In related news, I hope to interview student volunteers about their experience at Coates. If your child is interested, please find the flyer in this week's Thursday Folder for more information.

In other news, our **PTA** continues to do great things! Thanks to our families who came out to our recent Chuck E. Cheese night. It was fun for us, and it made great money! The PTA has enough news this month to exceed the page limits on this newsletter so they will be sending announcements through a *News You Choose* email soon. Watch for it. So many great events and ideas on the horizon!

We continue to be proud of the **accomplishments** of Coates this year! You may remember that our PTA won a state-level award for largest gains in membership this past summer. Following that, 6th grade teacher Mr. Jim Olsen was named the Coates Outstanding Teacher by the staff for his initiatives that take student learning far beyond the SOLs and his original programs that go beyond his own class to push students to be better people. Crossing Guard Joe McDonald won the VDOT Outstanding Crossing Guard Award for his above-and-beyond approach to taking care of our kids. Finally, I was nominated for the Outstanding Principal Award and have been named the winner for Region 5 of FCPS. The winner for all of FCPS is announced in June, so fingers crossed. As you can imagine, we're all proud to be Coates stars, and it's fun to have so many honors as we celebrate our 10th anniversary as a school.

I want to also thank the many parents and staff members who participated in a "**Welcoming Atmosphere Walkthrough**" yesterday. This informal process helps us reflect on how inviting and accepting our school is to our families. We thank everyone for their honest insights and ideas. We do our best to show our families that we care, and we're always working to improve our processes. If you ever have feedback for us related to our school culture (or anything about our school), please let me know.

Please continue to check Facebook & Twitter as the year continues. Important announcements and great insights into our school are always featured!

Jesse Kraft, Proud Principal of Coates ES

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Last week, we had Read Across America Day. The Cat in the Hat showed up!

The Coates Mission

We can't say it enough – we're proud of our mission statement that calls for all of us to work together to empower students to become:

Strong Individuals (high achievers with responsibility & grit)

Collaborative Teammates (effective communicators with empathy)

Bold Thinkers (risk-takers)

Kindergarten Orientation & Registration

If you have a child who will turn 5 on or before September 30, please join us for Kindergarten Orientation on Friday, April 5. Bring your child so that s/he can make friends and participate in learning activities. The staff will also talk to parents about the kindergarten experience and help parents with registration paperwork.

Please spread the word among your neighbors. Many of our future families do not have access to this newsletter so we need your word of mouth to get families in the loop.

This is especially important because our enrollment dictates the number of teachers we are allocated each school year. If many families don't register or register late, we may have to "de-staff" a kindergarten teacher and assistant due to low enrollment in the lead-up to school. To avoid these late changes, we hope to have accurate and timely registrations for new families. Thanks for your help with this!

Parents,

If you buy any food products with a **Box Tops for Education** logo, please cut out the logo and send it into school with your child. If we collect enough box tops, we can cash them in for money for school!

There's a place to deposit Box Tops in the lobby!



Mark Your Calendar

March 11—Students dismissed at 1:00

March 20—Spirit Night/ Noodles & Co 4-8pm

March 29—PTA Mtg & Movie Night 6:00 pm

April 5—Teacher work day/student holiday

April 5 Kindergarten Orientation/ Registration 1-3:00

April 6 —10th Anniversary Celebration 10-1:00

April 11 —Spring pictures

April 15-19 —Spring Break



We continue to teach character strengths each week. March will feature the following topics:

Mar. 4-8 Cheering Others' Success

Mar. 11-15 Love of Learning

Mar. 18-22 Forgiveness

Mar. 25-29 Fairness