Not only Mardi Gras festivities are in progress. Today is the day that the Lafayette Day Nurseries, Inc., celebrates the opening of its shiny new building on Pinhook Road with an open house from 2 to 4 o'clock.

For that event, invitations were delivered last week that really should become collector's items. The covers are decorated with drawings of three giant sunflowers, an original sketch by local artist Ivan Boudier, and the inside is a delightful drawing of the building and children at play done in pre-school style by five-year-old Carolyn Breaux.

The new brick building really deserves a celebration. Its completion is tangible proof that a worthwhile project CAN be conceived, developed and supported by local people and local funds.

In the late 1940's, two Lafayette children burned to death in a house heated by coal oil burners while their mother was at work. The city's shock over this tragedy was converted into action by the members of the Federated Women's Clubs, and a survey was taken that showed many low income families were forced to leave children unattended in order for the mother to work and add to the family income. The club women founded the Day Nurseries and have supported the project for the past twenty years. The efforts of the individual clubs on behalf of the nursery have for the past several years been coordinated through the Lafayette Federated Club Council.

The club women and the other dedicated citizens who have worked for the success of this project deserve to take a bow. Instead, they'll just be beaming with pride as the rest of us visit the school this afternoon during the open house.