

LaFayette

GREEN SHEET – School District News

February 2016

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The Stars Are Aligned for Pleiades – The Seven Dancers: A Mid-Winter’s Constellation



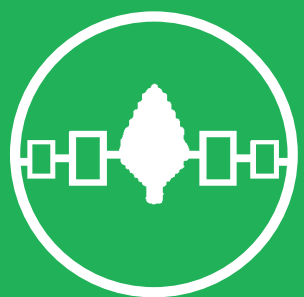
The stories of the star constellations and moon phases announce the time for a New Year to begin. Around the world many cultures acknowledge the New Year. The word Rosh Hashanah is the name of the Jewish New Year that occurs in the fall and Kwanzaa is the name for the African community’s New Year celebration that takes place at the end of the calendar year.

The Onondaga Nation School primary grades were fortunate to have two teachers tell us about these holidays, they are Mrs. Oliver and Ms. Kagan. These teachers taught us the New Year celebrations of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Ms. Kagan is an ONS literacy professional developer and the school’s tennis coach. She shared a math game that uses a Dreidel, a toy used in a traditional game in Jewish homes during Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights which falls in the middle of winter.

Mrs. Oliver was delighted to provide the ONS Kindergarten students a cultural experience about the holiday of Kwanzaa. The children learned that Kwanzaa is based on the harvest festivals that take place throughout Africa today. Mrs. Oliver said, “Kwanzaa means Fruits of the Harvest in Swahili and the celebration takes place December 26th – January 1st every year.” The Kwanzaa holiday has 7 principles and are symbolized through the 7 piece candle holder called a Kinara which holds 3 green, 1 black, and 3 red candles. A candle is lit each evening during the 7 day Kwanzaa celebration.

Learning about Kwanzaa, Rosh Hashanah and Hanukkah focused on international cultural and religious celebrations around the world. Many cultures celebrate a new beginning or New Year season at approximately the same time as the Haudenosaunee prepare for the New Year. This winter season the Onondaga Community begins their New Year acknowledgement known as Gaihwano:wensgo:nah on January 30, 2016. Done:toh.



Issue #7 of 11


Applebee's
 Enjoy a short stack
 for a tall cause.

You're invited to an Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support LAFAYETTE LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
Tickets are \$6 • 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the foundation.

When: February 7th • 8-10 a.m.
Where: Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, 3189 Erie Blvd., Dewitt, NY
 315-445-7000

LaFayette Players presents:

**DINNER,
 DRAMA
 AND SONG**

Friday, March 4th, 2016
 Dinner starts at 6:00 – show time at 7:00

Saturday, March 5th, 2016
 Dessert & Coffee at 1:00 Matinee show at 2:00
 Dinner starts at 6:00 – show at 7:00

ALL TICKETS ARE PRESALE ONLY!
 MORE INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News

Budget Development Committee

For the second consecutive year, we convened a Budget Development Committee that offers the opportunity for the community to participate in the development of our school budget.

Thanks to Mrs. Turner, School Business Official, for leading the committee through the process which we believe generates more transparency and a better budget than we would have had without the community input.

Anyone with questions or comments about the process or the budget itself is invited to contact Mrs. Turner at 677-5504.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Ron Cooper

Ron Cooper contributes to student achievement by providing LaFayette Central School District students with safe and reliable transportation to and from school each day.

Mr. Cooper joined LaFayette Central School District as Transportation Supervisor this school year. He manages all aspects of the district's Transportation Department, including coordinating and scheduling school bus runs, administering department assignments, and evaluating and providing training to employees. He also works to ensure the department follows transportation laws and regulations, best practices and district policies.

"It's a challenging job and I really enjoy it," Mr. Cooper said.

Mr. Cooper holds a degree from Onondaga Community College and has worked at various school transportation jobs for more than seventeen years. He has transported students as a school bus driver, turned wrenches and tackled repairs as a bus mechanic, and has spent countless hours mapping out efficient bus routes as a transportation supervisor.

His goals for this year include implementing new ideas to enhance student safety and providing transportation staff with additional training opportunities.

"There's always something new to learn," Mr. Cooper said. "The more we can challenge ourselves, the more successful we will be."

When he's not working, Mr. Cooper enjoys spending time at his camp in Alexandria Bay, N.Y., and riding on his motorcycle.



Each month, Staff Spotlight will highlight a LaFayette Central School District employee.

Family Session Information

Led by Karen Ocque, Director of Instruction and Pupil Services

*Please note: The Introduction to Committee for Pre-school Special Education Part I originally scheduled for February 4th has been cancelled and will be combined with Part II on March 3.

Introduction to Committee for Preschool Special Education Part I & II
 Thursday, March 3, 2016
 6-7pm • Jr/Sr Library

Introduction to Committee for Special Education Part I
 Thursday, March 17, 2016
 6-7pm • GS Library

Introduction to Committee for Special Education Part II
 Thursday, April 14, 2016
 6-7pm • Jr/Sr Library

Introduction to Committee for Special Education Part III
 Thursday, May 12, 2016
 6-7pm • GS Library

Introduction to Committee for Special Education Part IV
 Thursday, May 26, 2016
 6-7pm • ONS Library

Drug Awareness

Over the past several years, there have been reports of a drug known as Strawberry Quick or strawberry meth. It reportedly looks like candy, is intended for children and may also come in other flavors. Although these reports have generated mixed responses about their credibility, it provides an opportunity to engage in conversation with our students and to remind them never to take anything from strangers or ingest anything that is suspicious.

March Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is Friday, **February 12**. The LaFayette News (Green Sheet) is published eleven times per year and is available online at www.lafayetteschools.org. All material is subject to editing. Information should be sent to: ehayes@lafayetteschools.org.

It is requested that all articles be emailed in Word format whenever possible. Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi. Thank you.

School Notification System

Are you signed up to receive text message alerts from LaFayette Central School District?

Parents and guardians who haven't signed up already can opt-in to LaFayette CSD's text messaging system by texting the word "subscribe" to 68453. (There is no area code or additional digits.) An automated response will indicate enrollment was successful.

The text messaging system, which was rolled out with the start of the 2015-16 school year, is used to notify families about issues that affect students, such as emergency school closings and delays.

Text messages are automated and transmitted through the SchoolMessenger system and user responses are not read or forwarded to the district. Parents and guardians wishing to follow-up on a text notification may do so by contacting his or her child's building principal.

The text message service is supported by many cell-phone providers, including Verizon Wireless, Sprint, AT&T, T-Mobile, Alltel, Boost, Nextel, U.S. Cellular and Dobson. Message and data rates, if applicable, are determined by cellphone provider and coverage plan.

Participants can opt-out of the system at any time by texting "stop" to 68453.

Emergency School Closings

During the school year, there may arise an emergency situation when school may close, or be delayed, or dismiss early, i.e., weather emergencies.

Please listen to the following stations for school related information:

95X Radio (95.7 FM)

93Q Radio (93.1 FM)

Y94 FM Radio (94.5FM)

WSTM TV (Channel 3)

WTVH TV (Channel 5)

WSYR TV (Channel 9)

Your News Now: (Time Warner Channel 10)

WSEN Radio (92 FM)

WHEN Radio (620 AM)

WSYR Radio (570 AM).

Traffic Safety

Are you aware that the speed limit in front of the Grimshaw School on Route 20 is 20 mph while school is in session? Please adhere to the speed limit to protect our elementary students...besides, it's the law, and you will be ticketed if caught driving beyond the posted speed in any School Zone.

The School Zone in front of the Jr./Sr. High School is 35 mph. Again, it's the law that this speed be enforced.

Also, it is law that vehicles not pass school buses in ANY school driveways or parking areas when school buses have their red lights flashing.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

LaFayette Offers Online Courses

According to Inside Higher Ed, "Distance education at community colleges continues to increase even as overall enrollment at two-year institutions falls."

A survey of technology leaders at community colleges in April, 2015, found that distance education enrollments accounted for nearly all recent student growth at two-year institutions. The leaders reported approximately a 4.7 percent increase in student enrollment in online programs from fall 2013 to fall 2014.

In that same article, Carol Spalding, president of Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in North Carolina, said that students tend to drop out of an online course within the first 10 days just as they would a face-to-face class. "Often students are going in unprepared and they're too busy for the course," Spalding said.

Our district's strategic plan calls for students to be prepared for college or career upon graduation. We also have a goal to increase different course offerings to our students. Offering online courses would help us to meet both of those goals and help to ensure that our graduates are not among those who are unprepared for online courses at the post-secondary level.

To that end, we are pleased to announce that starting second semester, we are utilizing the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES to offer online courses to juniors and seniors who are good candidates. To be successful in online learning, students need to be good managers of their time, self-motivated, and have the ability to complete what they start. Ms. Janna Keefe from Cayuga BOCES visited classrooms with Mr. O'Leary and me to introduce the idea, then students who were interested met with Mr. O'Leary to discuss their potential as online learners.

For a small, rural district that can not offer as many courses as a larger district, online learning is a wonderful way to bring more opportunities to our students. To help ensure their success, Ms. Keefe will be the e-learning specialist who will support the students as they take their courses. If you would like to discuss this idea for your child, please contact Mr. O'Leary for more information.

School Lunch Menu Notification

Please refer to the LaFayette School website:

www.lafayetteschools.org to find out what the menu is for your child's school.

There were often changes made after the menu was printed in the school's newsletter, and it was decided that it would be more accurate and up-to-date to post the menus on the website.

If you do not have internet access, please call your child's main office and a menu will be sent home for you.

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News

2016-17 Budget Development Plan & Calendar

2016-17 Budget Objectives

In developing the 2016-17 budget, the Board of Education will:

1. Work to balance the community’s desire for excellent school programs and reasonable taxes by critically evaluating current practices, proposed expenditures, and revenue sources other than taxes.
2. Ensure that LaFayette CSD graduates have the skills, knowledge and attitudes as outlined in the district’s 21st Century Framework for Learning document so they can compete in a demanding and technologically sophisticated workplace. This includes support for innovative and instructional models and programs that have proven to be effective ways to deliver services, as well as support for the professional development necessary for such innovation.
3. Engage the community to share their perspectives on school programs they wish to support with their tax dollars.
4. Actively lobby state legislators to reform the mandates outside of school districts’ control that currently drive up costs in the areas of instruction, personnel, and construction.

Calendar of Budget & Election Activities

- Jan. 6 First Community Budget Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
Junior/Senior High School Library
- Jan. 12 Second Community Budget Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
Junior/Senior High School Library
- Jan. 21 Third Community Budget Committee meeting, 5 p.m.
Junior/Senior High School Library
- Jan. 28 Budget Environment/State Budget Update at Board of Education meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11 Board of Education Budget Workshop - Administrative and Capital budget components
- Feb. 25 Board of Education Budget Workshop - Program and BOCES budget components
- Mar. 1 Deadline for school districts to submit tax levy limit information to the state comptroller
- Mar. 24 Board of Education Budget Workshop - Revenue and Tax Levy Limit
- Apr. 7 Board of Education Budget Workshop - Full Budget Draft
- Apr. 18 Board of Education candidates’ filing deadline
- Apr. 21 Adoption of the Proposed 2016-17 Budget during Board of Education meeting, 5:30 p.m.**
- May 5 Budget Hearing as part of regular Board of Education meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- May 17 Public Budget Vote and Board of Education Election 1-9 p.m. in LaFayette Junior/Senior High School lobby**

Context for Developing the 2016-17 Budget

New York State’s economy has improved in the recent past with officials at the state level indicating a desire to eliminate the Gap Elimination Adjustment and potentially increase Foundation Aid for the 2016-17 school year. This has the potential to bode well for overall state aid increases to LaFayette CSD. Below are some factors that will impact development of the 2016-17 budget. To help gauge the impact of the following factors, 1% of the LaFayette CSD property tax levy is \$57,000. Hence every \$57,000 in additional expense - or lost revenue - that is not ultimately balanced by new revenue or reductions elsewhere in the budget results in roughly a 1% tax levy increase. This is approximately equivalent to one full-time staff position.

1. One of the largest areas of cost decrease for the 2016-17 school year will likely be in costs related to required contributions to the state retirement system. The average required employer contribution rate for members of the State Employee Retirement System is currently 18.2% and is decreasing to 15.5%. This should result in lower expenditures in these areas when compared to 2015-16.
2. Teacher health insurance costs have decreased for 2016-17. The LaFayette CSD and its teachers union negotiated a new contract that includes a less-costly insurance plan with higher co-pays. Medical insurance plans remain unchanged, but teacher-paid health insurance premiums under the new contract will be lower by 8% due to the prescription drug co-pay change.
3. We have received guidance that the starting point for the tax cap calculation for the 2016-17 budget year will be at or near 0%. We expect tax cap exclusions for the 2016-17 school year to increase due to the capital exclusion associated with the voter-approved 2013 bond referendum. As promised, the 2013 capital referendum will not impact the tax levy due to a state aid increase and use of reserve funds.
4. LaFayette CSD is fortunate its residents by and large support high-quality programs when balanced by reasonable taxes. The May 2015 budget proposition, which was within the district’s tax levy cap, was approved by a 78% passing rate.
5. From the beginning of the Great Recession, weighted average tax rate increases have averaged 1.9% due to controlled expenditure growth.
6. Long-range financial planning and careful control of spending have helped LaFayette CSD maintain a balanced budget over the years.

Year	Tax Levy Inc.
09-10	1.92%
10-11	1.97%
11-12	2.0%
12-13	2.0%
13-14	2.0%
14-15	1.98%
15-16	.98%

◆ **Junior/Senior High School News** ◆

From the Desk of the
JSHS PRINCIPAL

Course Selections for 2016-2017: When you read this, the process for developing student schedules for the 2016-2017 school year will have started. The process is very important as it informs our decision with respect to the number of sections we will offer in each subject area. A link to the course catalog can be found on the Junior-Senior High School web page. In addition to course descriptions, it provides important information on graduation requirements and options available to students to earn credits. Hard copies are available through the counseling office. If you have any questions about your son or daughter's schedule for 2016-2017, please contact the counseling office at 677-7849.

Attendance: Schools are responsible for educating your child. However, we cannot do it when your son/daughter is absent. Learning is a process that builds from day to day. When a day of school is missed, a day of learning is missed.

Being late for school has a negative impact on learning as well. A student who is late just ten minutes each day will miss almost an hour per week of learning time. During a ten week quarter, that is about eight hours of lost learning.

Students can make up missed assignments, but the classroom discussions, teacher questions and explanations are lost. Those things are critical to effective learning. Your child's success in school is dependent upon building a solid background from day to day. That will happen only through regular daily attendance.

James Chupaila, Interim Principal

Valentine's Day Carnation Sale

The Junior High students will be selling carnations for Valentine's Day. The cost is \$2/flower and will be delivered on Friday, February 12, 2016. If you are interested in purchasing one for your student, you can do so by emailing Mrs. Meaney at kmeaney@lafayetteschools.org and dropping off the money in the main office. The deadline is February 10th.

Booster Club News

We would like to thank everyone who donated their cans and bottles for a good cause. The LaFayette Athletic Booster Club greatly appreciates your generosity and support. Your donations will help fund equipment needed for our Varsity teams that our budget simply cannot cover. We appreciate your time and effort in helping make our Booster Club a success!

2016 Scholastic Art Awards

Over 60 individual entries from the Junior Senior High School were submitted for judging to the Central New York Scholastic Art Awards Competition this January. Our students competed with over 90 other junior and senior high schools throughout the CNY region. There was a record number of artwork submitted to the competition this year reaching over 5,000 individual entries. Two days of rigorous judging resulted in twelve of our students receiving a total of eighteen awards in this prestigious competition.

All award winners have their artworks on display at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College. On opening night, the Gold Key winners are invited to a special Awards Ceremony and a first look at the exhibit which takes up an amazing three floors of display space. The exhibit is on view to the public beginning Friday, January 15th and closes on Friday, February 26th.

Gold Key winners will have their work go on to compete at the National Competition in New York City in March. Mrs. Carr and Mrs. Robinson wish to congratulate these students for their hard work and achievement!

Gold Key

Jazmynn Crandall - Photography
Cassandra Dodge - Art Portfolio

Silver Key

Cheyenne Bush - Drawing & Illustration
Corinne Sheley - Digital Art
Mary Conover - Photography
Jazmynn Crandall - Photography
Keegan Hemlock (3 pieces) - Photography
Adam McIntyre - Printmaking

Honorable Mention

Keegan Hemlock - Photography
Charlotte Ryan - Sculpture
Sarah Gregg - Mixed Media
Jazmynn Crandall - Photography
Ana Waters - Photography
Tamirah De la Roza (2 pieces) - Photography
Kaylee West - Drawing & Illustration

YEARBOOKS

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2015-2016 ACT/SAT DATES

ACT

April 9, 2016
June 11, 2016

ACT recommends registering online at: www.actstudent.org/start

New SAT

March 5, 2016
May 7, 2016
June 4, 2016

SAT recommends registering online at: sat.collegeboard.com

Deadline to Register

March 4, 2016
May 6, 2016

Deadline to Register

January 29, 2016
April 8, 2016
May 6, 2016

◆ **Junior/Senior High School News** ◆

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Congratulations to the students who have been accepted to colleges for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year:

Ryan Agedal	Rochester Institute of Tech.
Robbie Bender	Le Moyne College
	SUNY Polytechnic Institute
Levi Krebs	Mansfield University (PA)
	Utica College
Jacob LeBlanc	Keuka College
	SUNY Cortland
KaNahRahTens Oakes	Green Mountain College (VT)
	Cazenovia College
Megan Skinner	Cazenovia College
	Keuka College
Katelyn Tiller	SUNY Oswego

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

SUNY'S Statewide Financial Aid Days are offered as a service to all prospective college students and their families. The programs are designed to answer questions and provide assistance regarding the financial aid application, types of aid available, and the award process.

Many campuses will provide hands-on assistance from SUNY financial aid professionals in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This will be held on February 20th. The FAFSA is required for all financial aid, including New York State assistance. Web access to complete the online FAFSA will be offered on some campuses. You may register online at www.suny.edu/studentevents or by calling 1.800.342.3811.

SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships that come to the guidance office are listed online on Naviance. Most you can apply to online; some you may have to pick up an application form in guidance.

STUDENT SCHEDULING

Once again, the course guide will not be mailed home. It is available online on the guidance webpage. If you do not have computer access at home, your child can pick up a printed copy in the guidance office.

A course selection sheet was mailed home with the report cards. The parent signs it and the student returns the form to guidance. An appointment to schedule is then made. Students are signing up for their courses for the upcoming 2016-17 academic year. Please call the Guidance Office at 677-7849 if you have any questions or would like to set up an appointment with Mr. O'Leary or Mrs. Cool regarding student schedules.

Parents of 8th and 11th grade students are invited to sign up for scheduling meetings with their school counselor. This is the time to plan and learn about high school and graduation requirements for your student and we encourage you to attend. Mrs. Cool will be meeting with 8th grade families and Mr. O'Leary will be meeting with 11th grade families from 2:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 25th. Please call 677-7849 to set up an appointment for these evening meetings. Students must attend these meetings with their parents.

March Madness Box Top Event

The Junior High students are also going to partake in a March Madness Box Top Event at the end of March. The object of this is to have the students collect box tops. In another month they will receive the official form which is where they will place their box tops and submit them. If they submit a box top sheet, they will be entered into a drawing where they will then have the opportunity to do a foul shooting contest among the other students who were selected. All the details are not worked out yet, but let the clipping begin. Look for the official form coming soon.

Junior High Fun Nite

The Senior High Honor Society will be hosting a Junior High Fun Nite on Friday, February 26, from 7- 9 pm. Lots of games and activities including competitions will take place. Food will be available, also. Come and have some fun on a Friday night!

Spanish Club News



Hello from the Spanish Club! We have done some very exciting things so far this year. As a part of the Spanish 4 curriculum, we had to learn about the novel, *Don Quixote*, written by Miguel Cervantes. First, we researched him to learn about the time period from which he wrote the famous novel. Then we watched the movie, giving us great insight into those times.

For the Christmas season we had a Christmas Party and everyone brought a dish to pass. We also did a "Secret" Santa gift exchange with each other. Overall, it was a very successful Christmas in Spanish class.

In Spanish 4 we have done some extensive research on the Aztec, Mayan, and Inca civilizations. We are beginning to make masks using this information. We began them by making the general shape of the mask with newspaper. Now we are making the details of the face with clay. Soon we will be finished with that aspect and will begin to paint.

◆ The BIG PICTURE School News ◆



Lip Synch Battle

Friday, March 4th

Big Picture will host our 2nd Lip Sync Battle. Last year our Lip Sync Battle was a huge success. Please save the date and look for upcoming details.

Open Enrollment

It is the time to begin planning for next school year. Open enrollment begins for the 2016-2017 school year for the LaFayette Big Picture School.

We will host our first **Open House on Wednesday, March 9th from 6:00-7:00.**

Is the Big Picture School right for you?

We believe that students learn best when they are doing something they are passionate about. In the Big Picture School, students are encouraged to explore interests and work on subjects that they are passionate about. One of the basic structures in a Big Picture school is that students will spend two days a week out of the building at an internship site.

By Learning Through Internship (LTI), the students will learn math, science, reading, writing, and many more 21st century skills that they need to be successful. At the LTI, students will learn the skills needed to go on to college and beyond.

Each student in a Big Picture school has an Individual Learning Plan. The Learning team (the student, parent, mentor, and advisor) work together to create a challenging and exciting plan. These meetings will be held three/four times a year. Students will work towards the goals that they have set and three/four times a year will exhibit his or her work. Each student will have an advisor that knows them well and helps them work toward their Individual Learning Plan goals.

Families play an important, perhaps the most important, role in a student's education. From helping the students plan his or her Learning Plan to participating in events, we will rely on parents as an integral part of our community.

Things you should know:

We have the capacity to enroll 15 new freshmen.

Students will be graduating with a New York State Regents Diploma.

You will also have the opportunity to ask questions of our advisors, staff, students, and parents during the Open House.

Even if you have a child who is not interested in enrolling, we encourage you to still attend and learn more about our school.

The Big Picture School has moved to the Junior Senior High School. Please come and visit our new location and see how we have designed to space to meet our innovative learning philosophy.

If you have additional questions or cannot attend the Open House, please contact Susan Osborn at 504-1000 or email at sosborn@lafayetteschools.org

We have many more exciting success stories to share with you at our **Open House on Wednesday, March 9th from 6:00-7:00.** We will have additional Open House events in the spring.

◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆



*From The Desk Of Ms. Ellsworth
Onondaga Nation School Principal*

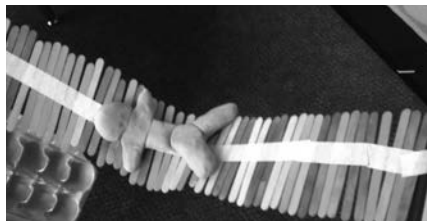
Gingerbread Man STEM Project

Back in December, the Pre-K class learned about the story the Gingerbread Man. In the version they read, the Gingerbread Man gets eaten by the Sly Fox at the end of the story. We didn't like that ending so we decided to change it.

In order to keep the Gingerbread Man safe, the Pre-K students decided that he needed a way to get over the water without the help of the Fox. Our ideas were making a boat or a bridge.

This was our first STEM project (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) of the year and we did a great job. We built several bridges that were able to support the weight of our clay gingerbread man.

We had many FAILED (first attempt in learning) bridges but we worked hard and made our bridges stronger. We used all sorts of tape, cardboard, popsicle sticks and many other random things we thought would be useful. We had lots of fun and cannot wait until our next challenge.



Box Tops for Education

The Onondaga Nation School continues to collect Box Tops for Education. We recently received a check for \$183.70 from our fall submission. This money will go towards purchasing sleds for winter recess outside as well as games for when recess is kept indoors. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.



ONS Physical Education



James Naismith is credited with the invention of basketball. A Canadian and an American professor, Naismith taught at a YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1891, Naismith decided to create a game to play in the winter. He nailed up peach wicker baskets for students to shoot at. The first hoop looked like a peach basket with a base, when a team scored, the referee had to climb a ladder to get to the ball.

Students at ONS are now working on Basketball. Pre-K – 2nd grade are working on their dribbling skills. The older grades continue to work on dribbling, passing and shooting skills. Students learn about the history of this sport and participate in basketball games during the PE class period.

Pre-K through 3rd grades are also learning juggling. Starting with scarfs, students will try to juggle bean bags, and balls. Peacock feathers will be used to work on balancing and concentration.

ONS Computer Classes are Busy

Pre-K is continuing to work on controlling the mouse. K and 1st graders have almost mastered the basic skills behind using a school computer, including logging in, logging off, and navigating from the district website to the website they need. 2nd and 3rd graders are continuing to work on basic word processing skills. 4th graders continue to work on their keyboard skills. 5th and 6th graders are beginning to explore spreadsheets. 7th and 8th graders are going to be starting to create their own ePortfolio Website.



◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

PRINCIPAL INPUT

Happy February! This month, our primary grades will celebrate the 100th day of the school year. It is difficult to believe that we are already half-way through the 2015-16 school year.

Since the school year is moving so quickly, we need to start planning for next year. If you have a child who will be **4 years old by December 1st, 2016**, please contact the Grimshaw Main Office to inquire about our Pre-K program. We currently offer an AM/PM program and the LaFayette After-School Program offers wrap-around care for the students who require child care. We would love to have your child as part of our Grimshaw family. If you have a child who will be **5 years old by December 1st, 2016**, please contact us as we are beginning to start the sign-up for Kindergarten screening.

Continue to stay warm and thank you again for your continued support of our students and staff.

*Jennifer Blossey,
Grimshaw Principal*

Plastic Bottle Tops

Thank you to everyone for saving your plastic bottle tops. There is a huge bin full in the Art Room. Please keep them coming. The more we collect the more murals we can create. We are going to begin with 2 recycled art murals.



Merry Christmas, Cats and Dogs!

The first graders in Mrs. Davidson's, Mrs. Terrell's and Mrs. Zehner's classes made Christmas into a charitable event in December.

Instead of doing the ordinary gift exchange, students were asked to contribute to a class basket of items to donate to a local animal shelter. The three classes are pictured here with their class's basket. Great job 1st graders.



◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

Health Office News

Paula Bush, Grimshaw Nurse
Phone: 677-5501

Fax: 677-3154
pbush@lafayetteschools.org

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the “winter” weather in January with your children and stayed healthy too! Even when temperatures are unseasonably warm please dress your children for outdoor play as classes will go outside whenever possible. Also please be sure all primary grade students have extra clothes in their backpacks/cubbies/lockers in case they need them.

After we returned from Christmas break in January we had some children sick with a stomach virus as well as a variety of upper respiratory infections including some flu cases. We were seeing a few cases of strep throat as well as a virus with a fever. As always we ask that you keep children home for 24 hours after having a fever of 100 or greater, vomiting or starting on antibiotics for a bacterial infection. These measures help immensely in decreasing the spread of infectious diseases at school and I appreciate your cooperation on following the “24 hour rule”. Please remember to notify me directly (677-5501 or pbush@lafayetteschools.org) whenever your child is out of school for any reason.

A few more 2nd and 4th grade physicals came in this month- only 10 more to go! Please send or fax the paperwork in as soon as your child’s is done. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation in getting these physicals completed.

Remember if your child is restricted from gym by a physician I must have a note from a physician to release them to play again. This issue comes up from time to time so hopefully this clarifies it for you.

Another reminder regarding medications- I must have a physician’s note or prescription as well as parent permission to give your child any medicine at school. This would include any OTC meds as well as prescription meds. All meds must be in the original container and should be delivered by a parent. I can’t give your child any meds sent in an envelope or other container or with a parent note only. These measures are for your child’s safety and must be adhered to.

As mentioned last month the Tdap vaccine is now required for students entering 6th grade as soon after they turn 11 as possible. 5th Grade parents should receive a letter around report card time with a detailed explanation of this requirement. If your child is 11 when school starts in September they should have had this vaccine to comply with N.Y. state education law. If your child has had only 1 chickenpox vaccine they will need a 2nd one to enter 6th grade as well. Please discuss these changes with your child’s doctor to be sure they’re up to date before school starts next fall. Also as was detailed in last month’s newsletter, the meningitis vaccine will be required to enter 7th grade.

Please keep updating any emergency numbers and contacts so I can reach you quickly if needed. As always feel free to call me with any questions or concerns regarding your child’s health. Enjoy your February break!

Community News ◆ Community News ◆ Community News

LaFayette Public Library News

Imagination Lab events for February. Registration is not required but appreciated so we know how many to prepare for:

- 3rd:** Candy Heart Experiments
- 10th:** Valentine’s Day Cards
- 17th:** Lego Free Play
- 24th:** Mini Marshmallow Shooter

Tuesday Tea – February 9 – 2-4 p.m. Tea/coffee and cookies. Bring your book club, or your knitting, or a good book and relax.

We have an ongoing **Teen Book Club** that meets at 6pm on Tuesdays. The book scheduled for February: “*Stella by Starlight*” by Sharon M. Draper. Hope you can join us!

On Wednesday, January 13 the Library hosted a **Meet the Orchestra Event with Symphoria** where a violinist from the Syracuse Symphony came to the library to talk about music and in particular about the string instruments.



LaFayette Public Library News

Attention LaFayette Community Members:

In addition to the student art that we have on display the LaFayette library is looking to **celebrate the artists in our community**.

We would like to display your pieces of art around the Library. **Bring your art** (paintings, drawing, pottery, etc.) to the library with a name plate. This is an ongoing display. Come visit the library to see the talent of others in the community.

A reminder that we have a **children's computer** that has over 60 educational programs on it. It is very popular and we encourage everyone to come and use it.

As always, we are constantly **updating our collection**, whether it is print, audio, or video. Come on in and "check out" the collection (pun intended).

We continue to offer **computer training** for our patrons. This is a one on one session by appointment only. Please call 677-3782 and ask for Scott to make arrangements.

Story time hours:

Wednesday
10:30 – 11:30

Thursday
6:30 – 7:30



COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Current Youth Sports:

Basketball – Grade 5 boys, grade 6 boys, grades 5/6 girls and grade 2 boys/girls; mid-week practices and Saturday games through February; Grimshaw gym.

Wrestling – boys and girls grades 1-6; Tuesday and Wednesday practices, 6-8 p.m.; LaFayette High School wrestling room; matches on Fridays and Saturdays through February

Upcoming Youth Sports:

Notices with starting dates, times and locations will be sent home from school for the following activities:

Basketball - 3rd/4th grades; practices will begin Saturdays after the February school break

Volleyball – will resume in March, date and time to be announced

Baseball and **Lacrosse** sign-ups will be in March

Adult Exercise:

Men's Basketball – Mondays; 7-9 p.m.; Grimshaw gymnasium

Daytime/Senior Exercise Class – Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.; LaFayette Community Center

Yoga – Mondays and Wednesdays; 6:30-7:45 p.m.; Grimshaw School

Tabata (interval training) – Will resume in March; Thursdays; 6:30-7:30; Grimshaw Cafeteria

Zumba/Aerobics – Wednesdays; 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Grimshaw Cafeteria

Adult and Youth Activities:

Hall Walking – weekday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Grimshaw School

Ski Club – Friday evenings; Song Mountain

Information about Community Council programs can be obtained through the following sources:

24/7 on the Town's web site: www.townoflafayette.com under the "Depts." (Departments) tab.

By calling 677-7272 - leave a message/ask a question and a board member will return your call. (Messages are retrieved at least twice a week.)

By speaking to an LCC representative during the new "Open for Business - Town Hall Tuesday Nights" at the Town Offices. every Tuesday from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

E-mail: lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnyemail.com

LCC Mailing Address: P.O. Box 98 LaFayette, NY 13078

Community Council
677-7272 • LCC, PO Box 98
LaFayette, NY, 13084
www.townoflafayette.com
(departments-community council)

Indoor programs held at Grimshaw, HS or ONS gyms. Outdoor programs held at any LaFayette town park or Toolon. Both travel to opposing team's towns as well.

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20, West
LaFayette, NY 13084

Non-Profit Organization
CAR-RT Presort
US Postage Paid
PERMIT NO. 3
LaFayette, NY 13084

OCCUPANT
Rural Route/Boxholder
LaFayette, NY 13084

NYS Income Tax Code: 325

Laura Lavine, Title IX Compliance Officer, LaFayette Central School, 5955 Route 20, West, LaFayette, New York 13084

The LaFayette Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, national origin, race, sex, or handicapping conditions in its employment practices or educational programs.

February IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Please check your LaFayette Central School District Directory/Calendar for the many activities going on in the month of February, 2016. Particular dates to note are:

February	4	Progress Reports Mailed
February	11	BOE Meeting
February	15-19	No School - Winter Recess (GS, HS, BP)
February	22	School Reopens
February	25	BOE Meeting