



# LaFayette

GREEN SHEET – School District News

January 2015

## CENTRAL SCHOOLS

### FEATURES:

#### DISTRICT

Message from the Board of Education. . . . . 1

Message from the Superintendent . . . . . 2

Athletics . . . . . 13

#### BUILDINGS

Junior/Senior High School . . . . . 6

Big Picture . . . . . 9

Grimshaw School . . . . . 11

Onondaga Nation School . . . . . 12

#### COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community . . . . . 15



### FROM THE DESK OF THE SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

#### “Good News from the Board”

Hello LaFayette,  
Board of Education President Matthew Dodge and the Board of Education are happy to bring you a review of the myriad great educational opportunities the District is providing our students.

#### Jr./Sr. High School News

Mr. Mike Picciotti, Chemistry Teacher, received the email below from a former student:

*Mr. Picciotti,*  
*I'm not sure if you remember me, but I was a student of yours waaaaaaaay back when (approximately 2002-2003). Anyway, I have wanted to send this email for a while, but I just forgot (or I already did send it...and forgot). I think last time we spoke I was about to go to grad school at the University at Buffalo, and as you have probably guessed, I got my PhD. and I'm now on the faculty at the Chemistry Department at Tennessee Tech University.*  
*The reason I'm telling you all of this is because you're really the reason I got here. I still remember one morning during AP Chemistry when I was failing miserably; you called me up to the front of the room and told me to get my act together. That conversation still remains with me today and it's largely the reason I turned things around and put me in a position to accomplish what I have so far. Long story short, I wanted to say thank you. I don't know if there's anything I can do to repay you for what you've done for me, but if you can think of anything just let me know.*  
*Hope all is well with you.*  
*Chad Rezsnyak*  
*Assistant Profession, Department of Chemistry*  
*Tennessee Technological University*

Physics Teacher Mrs. Kristin Angello received a \$1,000 STEM Teaching Tools grant from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association's Educational Foundation. This is in addition to the \$5,000 grant that she received last year. Kristin wrote: "I actually was awarded a \$5,000 STEM Teaching Incentives Scholarship last year while I was still enrolled in my graduate degree program. To my surprise, I learned that the scholarship came with the \$1,000 STEM Teaching Tools grant that is renewable for a total of three years! So two more years of this ☺." Mrs. Angello is considering investing in a computerized photo-gate system to improve the accuracy of measurements that students take during their projectile motion unit.

...Article continued on page 3

**Megan Field singing the National Anthem at the Carrier Dome for the NFF Championship Football game vs. Bishop Grimes on Sunday, November 9.**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### What keeps a Superintendent awake at night?

At a recent meeting, new superintendents were asked, “What parts of your job keep you awake at night?” Many indicated that making the decision to cancel or delay school due to bad weather is at the top of the list.

The safety and security of students and staff is of



Sensor

paramount importance, as is students’ academic achievement. With our focus on time-on-task and student engagement, we can not afford to have students miss school, nor can we put their safety in jeopardy by holding school when transporting them to and from is hazardous.

The decision to close or delay the opening of school, or to close early, is not made lightly. Fortunately, our community has knowledgeable and experienced people on whom to rely to help make the decision.

I met with Town of LaFayette Highway Department Supervisor, Mr. Greeley, because his department plows the roads

for a large portion of the district. He explained the role that his department plays in informing the superintendent of the weather and road conditions. He showed me the radar app that his department uses to gauge weather, explained the timing of their assessment, which sometime begins at approximately 3:00 a.m., and demonstrated the technology that they use to measure not only the air temperature but the road temperature, as well. The technology takes the form of a sensor that sends a beam to the pavement which, in turn, indicates the temperature of the road.

I also spoke with Mr. Darling from the State Department of Transportation because they are responsible for plowing Route 81 and the Onondaga Nation. We discussed how different the weather can be between the northern and southern points of the district, and that decisions have a chance of being different for each respective end of the district.

Our Transportation Supervisor, Mr. Sawkins, participates in the discussion about school delays and closings, and I also communicate with my counterparts in neighboring districts about their plans. Keeping in mind that weather at one end of the district can be dramatically different from that at the other end, when all is said and done, I feel confident that I am using the best information available. It is possible that there will be divided opinions on whatever decision is made, especially since closing school can create a hardship for families. My request of our families is that they have back-up plans--at least a Plan A and a Plan B--in place, and make sure that our students know the plans. It would also help if you discouraged your children from putting cotton balls in the freezer, wearing their pajamas inside-out, and everything else they do to try to bring on a snow day!

*Note about our championship Football Team:* Someone mentioned that our community might not be aware that our Football Team is comprised of players from both the LaFayette and Fabius-Pompey Central School Districts. It is not unusual for small districts to collaborate in the area of athletics. Our Football Team is a fine example of the camaraderie among area districts that result in more opportunities than students would have without such collaboration. Congratulations again to the players and coaches.



Temperature Gauge

FROM THE  
DESK OF THE

# SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

*...Article continued from page 1*

Thanks to Principal Bump's research and initiative, the Jr./Sr. High School's Project Lead the Way Engineering Program has expanded to incorporate the integration of the VEWX Robotics Design System. This is an "exclusive robotics platform" offered to PLTW schools. Our classes will now be able to incorporate sophisticated project-based robotics lessons into their coursework.

## Big Picture School News

Big Picture hosted visitors from Lemoyne College: Dr. Stephen Fluery, Chair of the Education Department and David Ringwood, Field Placement Coordinator from the Department of Education attended student exhibitions and spoke with students and staff.

They also hosted Stephen Uebbing from the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. Professor Uebbing has been selected by the State Education Department in Albany to lead the restructuring and redesign of East High School in Rochester. It was deemed a failing school. Professor Uebbing is including a Big Picture Learning School as part of the redesign. Our Big Picture program hopes to help influence a positive and important change in Rochester City Schools.

Mr. Keech took two students to Troy, New York, to participate in the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIANIANE) Listening Session. Both students shared their educational experiences and how much LaFayette Big Picture School transformed their lives and their views on education. Their testimony is part of the White House public record. The Executive Director of WHIANIANE, William Mendoza, spoke to our students and said he would share the students' stories with his bosses, "Arne" and "Barack" (Arne Duncan and Barack Obama). There were only about 25 other people present for this full day listening session. LaFayette was proud to be represented.

## Onondaga Nation School News

Onondaga Nation School continues to implement the new Reading Intervention Program both during the school day and the After School Program. In December, they will administer the SRI assessment to see what progress has been achieved at the mid-year mark.

Ms. Ellsworth is proud to announce the awarding of the National Native American Community Service Award to Denise Waterman. She received her award at the National Native American Education Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

Mrs. Simone Thornton was selected to present at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference. Presenting at a national conference is a high honor for which Mrs. Thornton is heartily congratulated.

The ONS staff, along with the rest of the District, continues to learn more about Google: Mail, DOCS, Sheets and Calendar. In the next few weeks, they will offer the staff more training by Ms. Murray and Ms. Burt. This training will be offered during the staff planning time and after school.

## C. Grant Grimshaw School News

Grimshaw had a busy month with the introduction of Google to the Grimshaw staff who are enthusiastically working toward implementing Google Tools in their classrooms.

Grimshaw continues the beginning stages of its implementation of the new reading series in the kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms. They have also received all of the necessary licenses to provide Read 180 which is being taught by Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Woodworth to some of our 6th graders.

Grimshaw's third grade students each received a dictionary and a bookmark from the Tully Rotary Club. Thank you!

## Superintendent News

- In keeping with our move toward becoming Google schools, we are switching from Lotus Notes email to Gmail.
- Due to safety reasons and to lower energy costs, Ms. Lavine asked the Principals to advise all staff members that personal appliances will no longer be allowed in classrooms or other unauthorized spaces.

## Evaluating the Principals:

- Ms. Lavine will observe each Principal conduct a teacher evaluation. In most cases, that will include the pre-observation conference, the observation itself and the post-observation conference. She will then review each principal's performance as an evaluator. She is grateful to Nadine Drexler, April Palmer, Teresa Fisher, and Ron Spicer for agreeing to be observed in this new way.
- Another component of Ms. Lavine's evaluation of the Principals will be for her to observe each one conducting a faculty meeting. Again, she will then provide feedback to the Principals about how she thinks they performed.
- Ms. Lavine receives copies of all faculty meeting agendas so as to keep apprised of building-level priorities, news, and events.

## Student Voice

- The YouthTruth Survey results have been received. They reveal very important information about our students' feelings about school and will be taken very seriously. Ms. Lavine is engaging the YouthTruth Survey organization to help the administrators analyze the data then determine the next steps.

*...Article continued on page 4*



## District News ♦ District News ♦ District News

FROM THE  
DESK OF THE

# SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

*...Article continued from page 3*

- The APPR Committee met to finalize the editing of our APPR document. This had been worked on for a couple of years but was not completed. The Committee is pleased to have finished this task.

- Ms. Lavine met with Jerry Kelly to discuss the logistics of our Co-Curricular Policy, specifically how the District will improve communication to families. Until now, the student was expected to notify his/her parents/guardians about being deemed ineligible. In the future, parents will be contacted directly by school staff.

- Each building now has its own Technology Committee. Two members from each committee will represent their respective schools at the District Technology Committee. At its recent meeting, the topics discussed included surveying staff about their preferred next steps for professional development. They also discussed the District's proposed allocation from the Smart Schools Act that was passed and how they will utilize those monies.

- Ms. Lavine and Mr. Kesler have cast a wider net to find different companies to provide security as part of our Capital Project. They attended a vendor show at Onondaga Community College which opened the doors to some new ideas. To follow up, they arranged for the vendors to attend meetings at the District, which were also attended by our architect and construction management companies.

- Ms. Lavine and Mrs. Ocque, our new Director of Instruction and Pupil Services, spent several hours on Mrs. Ocque's first day to map out the priorities in the areas of curriculum, instruction, assessment and pupil services. They created a graphic organizer that shows the relationships among the priorities and will use it as their Action Plan.

- Ms. Lavine, Ms. Ellsworth, and Mr. Kesler met with architects assigned by the New York State Education to visit the Onondaga Nation School. They had an extremely worthwhile discussion about a renovation and eagerly await the next steps. This is the furthest this proposed project has gotten so they are very optimistic.



### February, 2015, Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the February, 2015, Newsletter is Monday, January 5.

The LaFayette News (Greensheet) is published eleven times per year and is available online @ [lafayetteschools.org](http://lafayetteschools.org).

Information should be sent to: [ritabush@secny.net](mailto:ritabush@secny.net) It is requested that all articles be emailed in Word format whenever possible. Pictures should be emailed in JPG format at 300 dpi. It is important that a photo is not inserted or embedded within the actual Word article.

Your adherence to these requests is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations  
Class of 2014!

# District News ♦ District News ♦ District News

## Dear La Fayette Community,

I am pleased to join the LaFayette Lancer community as the new Director of Instruction and Pupil Services. In my role, I will oversee all aspects of curriculum, instruction, and assessment as well as support services, such as home schooling, 504 plans, and special education services.

Before arriving in LaFayette, I was the Director of Special Programs for Oswego City School District. In this position, I oversaw all aspects relating to Special Education programs, services, faculty, and staff as well as 504 plans and the Homebound Tutoring program. My supervision responsibilities included evaluating teachers using Charlotte Danielson's Framework For Teaching rubric. I also facilitated professional development with an emphasis on Co-Teaching, Differentiated Instruction, Program Modifications, Test Accommodations, and the Common Core. Additionally, I chaired 504, Committee on Preschool Special Education, and Committee on Special Education meetings. I also collaborated with the Business Office and BOCES regarding Medicaid reimbursement. Lastly, I developed and managed the department budget as well as the 611 and 619 grants.

Prior to my position in Oswego, I was employed as principal of Donlin Drive Elementary School. My responsibilities included: supervising and evaluating sixty-five instructional and non-instructional staff, overseeing the welfare of over four hundred students, hiring staff, and reviewing the building's budget. I facilitated the School Excellence Team, the Crisis Team, the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Team, and the Safety Team. These teams concentrated on the academic and behavioral goals for the students and adults who were part of the Donlin Drive community. The teams used Professional Learning Communities and Positive

Behavioral Interventions and Supports to achieve these goals.

Preceding my principalship, I was employed as Director of Special Education at Liverpool Central School District. In this capacity, I oversaw Special Education programs K-12, in particular the K- 5 Integrated Co-Taught classes and K-12 Resource teachers. I collaborated with principals, faculty, staff, and families to address issues surrounding services, scheduling, staffing, and academic and behavioral challenges. I also evaluated probationary teachers, wrote supervisory reports about their progress and I chaired Committee on Special Education meetings at the preschool and school age levels. During the summer, I was the principal for the Extended School Year (ESY) program. As ESY Principal, I supervised approximately 65 faculty and staff and 100 students.

Prior to working at Liverpool Central School District, I was a Reading Recovery Teacher at Palmyra Elementary School as well as an Administrative Intern for the Palmyra-Macedon Central School District. My responsibilities included: providing individual instruction to children who qualified for Reading Recovery services, supporting first grade teachers as they implemented guided reading, developing and implementing staff development based on Palmyra-Macedon's Balanced Literacy Framework, facilitating Building Planning Team and the 4-7 Summer Institute Committee, participating on the District's Instructional Council, scheduling summer programs, and developing and monitoring Palmyra-Macedon's Consolidated Grant, which included Title I, Title IIA and D, Title III, Title IV, and Title V.

I look forward to working with the LaFayette team to provide a guaranteed and viable curriculum that meets the needs of students and the community as a whole.

*Sincerely, Karen Ocque*

## School Lunch Menu Notification

Please refer to the LaFayette School website: [www.lafayetteschools.org](http://www.lafayetteschools.org) to find out what the menu is for your child's school. There are changes that are made after the Menu is 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 with your child.

## 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 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 (6.20 AM)*

*WSYR Radio (5.70 AM)*

## ♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

### *From the Desk of the* **JSHS PRINCIPAL**

#### **Web Based Learning Tool**

Castle Learning is a web-based service that provides online review of courses in Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, English, and Spanish. Students can create practice sessions to review everything from basic addition at the elementary level to preparation for a Regents examination. A Castle Learning account has been set up for your child. To access this program, go to: [www.castlelearning.com](http://www.castlelearning.com). Their Castle Learning ID is the same as their school computer login ID. If your child has not yet set a password, they should leave the password field blank the first time they log in and then follow the steps to establish their initial password. Students can use Castle Learning throughout the school year, with access 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. They can use Castle Learning from any computer connected to the Internet at school, home, or in the local library.

#### **Online SAT/ACT Prep**

Castle Learning also provides students with a program for SAT and ACT preparation. Through their partnership with Method Test Prep, students can watch video explanations of how to solve commonly asked SAT and ACT questions while receiving immediate feedback on their answers. Students can listen to a professional tutor explain the concepts and questions, and they will be able to identify their strengths and areas needing focused attention. This SAT and ACT review program can be accessed through the students' Castle Learning accounts.

*Greg Bump, Principal*

### **ACT/SAT Test Dates:**

<b>ACT Test Deadline</b>	<b>Registration Date</b>	<b>Late Fee Required</b>
4/18/15	3/13/15	3/27/15
6/13/15	5/8/15	5/22/15

*ACT recommends registering online at: [www.actstudent.org/start](http://www.actstudent.org/start)*

<b>SAT Test Deadline</b>	<b>Registration Date</b>	<b>Late Fee Required</b>
1/24/15	12/29/14	1/9-13/15
3/14/15	2/13/15	2/27/15-3/3/15
5/2/15	4/6/15	4/17-21/15
6/6/15	5/8/15	5/22-27/15

*SAT recommends registering online at: [sat.collegeboard.com](http://sat.collegeboard.com)*

## **GUIDANCE/COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS**

#### **COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES**

Congratulations to students who have been accepted to colleges for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year:

Chase LaCava

Roberts Wesleyan College

Cazenovia College

McKenna Merwin

Cazenovia College

Kaylee Skeval

Johnson & Wales University

Cazenovia College

#### **SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Alyssa Murray, Chloe Terrell, and Margaret Coulter were awarded a Scholarship for Academic Excellence. As long as they attend a college in NYS, Alyssa will receive \$1,500 annually and both Chloe and Margaret will get \$500 per year.



Chloe Terrell



Margaret Coulter



Alyssa Murray

#### **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). 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](http://www.suny.edu/studentevents) or by calling 1.800.342.3811. The dates are not yet available but will be by the time this goes to print. It is typically on a Saturday in February. OCC is one of the schools that can provide assistance (you do not need to apply to OCC to receive financial aid assistance in filling out the form).

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

All scholarships that come to the guidance office are listed online on Naviance. To log in to Naviance, students will use their ID # which is listed on their schedule/report cards. It begins with 610. Their password is their first initial and last name. Most scholarships you can apply to online; some require you to pick up an application in guidance.

#### **ATTENTION JUNIORS**

Beginning in late January, Mr. O'Leary will meet with juniors and their parents/guardians. The purpose of this meeting is to schedule for the senior year and discuss preparing for college or other post-high school plans.



## ◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

### Honor Roll - 1st Quarter 2014-2015

#### 7th Grade

##### High Honor

Victoria Albro  
Jack Caughey  
Candace Converse  
Nikolas Cromley  
Collin Dix  
Allison Evans  
Raegyn Garbutt  
Layton Harris  
Victoria Kostiv  
Adam McIntyre  
Douglas Soules  
Ryan Zajac

##### Honor

James Baker  
Noah Brothers  
Lily Buck  
Terri Clarke  
Grady Collingbourne  
Jazmyynn Crandall  
Heaven Elliott  
Marissa Evans  
Sarah Gregg  
Emma Gretskey  
Calen Hill  
Timothy Kramak  
Kailyn Leach  
Allison O'Kane  
R. J. Shaver  
Aaron Stroup  
Nicholas Wager

#### 8th Grade

##### High Honor

Celia Bertlesman  
Alyssa Capps  
Leanna Crouse  
Joshua Denué  
Mya DeJoseph  
Kyle Lamson  
Carol Ann Meldrim  
Bethany Miller  
Nathan Mott  
Ashley Ohstrom  
Olivia Prince  
Regina Prince  
Charlotte Ryan  
Brianna Szentmiklosi  
Michael Wais  
Cartha Williams

##### Honor

Alexandra Campbell  
Timothy Crouse  
Jackson Denué  
Isaac Dow  
Samantha Formoza  
Anna Guenther  
Emily Haines  
Cory Hart  
David Jackowski  
Nathan LaJoie  
Thomas Long  
Mary Moltion  
Grace Quick  
William Tiller  
Kyle Tracy  
Bradley Wallis  
Taylor Watson  
Christopher Wieszczynski  
Amanda Wilson  
M. Anthony Young

#### 9th Grade

##### High Honor

Sean Corby  
Ian Evans  
Edre Ibarra Contreras  
Joseph Lamson  
Patrick Prince  
Roman Reiss  
Tucker Reiss  
Ian Schaefer  
Morgan Shute  
Carla Soules  
Evan Spratt  
Brennen Thrall

##### Honor

Catelyn Battelle  
Marissa Booth  
Samuel Camaione  
Caitlin Campbell  
Mackenzie Caron  
Allison Carroll  
Parris Chrysler  
Andrew Clemens  
Madison Coon  
Molly FitzPatrick  
Claire Frier

Alexi Harrington  
Serena Harrington  
Riley Jones  
John Mongellow  
Cameron Reiss  
Jacob Shaffer  
Taylor Tummino  
Bridget Walsh  
Bert White  
Kevin Williams

#### 10th Grade

##### High Honor

Rhiannon Abrams  
Logan Booth  
Andrew Hall  
Shelby Ohstrom  
Grace Terrell  
Zackery Thrasher

##### Honor

Samuel Adams  
Sara Beresovoy  
Mattie Caughey  
Jacob Doster  
Kayla Doupe  
Lauren Gates  
Lashiva Gonnella-Sigworth  
Jannah Grant  
Jonathon Grass  
Ronnie Jones  
Jennie Lamson  
Riley LaCava  
Cameron Leach  
Emily Long  
Wadely Miller  
Vivian Mueller  
Natasha Powless  
Sophia Powless  
Cecelia Robinson  
Gunnar Schumacher  
Dana Scofield  
Victor Scott  
Olivia Travis  
Thomas Whitney

#### 11th Grade

##### High Honor

Ryan Agedal  
Justin Applegate  
Robby Bender

Samantha Claffey  
Rachel Coulter  
Allie Esposito  
Jacob LeBlanc  
Christopher MacMackin  
Katelyn Tiller

##### Honor

Hannah Blum  
Michel Dehn  
Cassandra Dodge  
Matthew Hughes  
Benjamin Kramak  
Jordyn Marchiano  
Cierra Oakes  
Evan Pelton  
Elizabeth Pierce  
Jack Ramie  
Emerson Shenandoah  
Megan Skinner  
Silas Slater  
Liam Stout  
Cayla Stroup

#### 12th Grade

##### High Honor

Margaret Coulter  
Carl Dickhut  
Cassidy Doster  
Maureen Fagan  
Kevin Fontana  
Kara Knudsen  
Chase LaCava  
Kali Loughlin  
Mckenna Merwin  
Alyssa Murray  
Kaylee Skeval  
Chloe Terrell  
Jade Williams  
Erica Wirth

##### Honor

Allison Baird  
Jeanette D'Agostino  
Nicholas Geswaldo  
Morgan Gonnella-Sigworth  
Zachery Palin  
Dustin Rosello  
Connor Thornton  
Zachary Travis

## ♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

### Transparency in Technology at LaFayette

Once, a few years ago, when listening to a discussion of how we all depend on certain technologies, the example of the telephone landline was given. Seems like everyone used to know that, no matter what happened around us, the telephones always worked. The landline technology was consistently reliable and dependable, making it virtually transparent to the users.

Enter the computer age, and there isn't a person using it who can't list and detail what programs, devices or systems that don't really work. Common refrains: "Sorry, our computers are slow today." "I can't access your account. Call tomorrow." We have all been there.

Keeping in mind the many hassles, issues and problems that balky computers and programs create for teachers attempting to move more completely into the use of technology in the classroom, the potential of using Chromebooks in a pilot program in AP Biology at LaFayette Junior/Senior High School was still appealing.

That lessons would not launch, systems would not function, and students would be struggling to simultaneously learn new material and new technologies, was foremost in my mind. How much time would we lose trying to make these devices work within our school and curriculum while the countdown to the AP Exam in May continuously moves closer? Not only were we, students and teacher, proven too skeptical, but we were completely amazed at how seamlessly the Chromebooks and the Google Classroom slid into our lives to widen and deepen our college-level course learning experiences. Students had no difficulty in figuring out how to use the devices and also the Google applications made available to them. If there was some application or action that confused us, there was always someone in the class who could figure the "work around" and teach us how to use the same skill.

Placing notes summary documents in the Google classroom allowed the students to develop collaborative study notes (normally done individually) for quizzes. Assignments in Google.doc format assigned in the classroom were opened, completed and turned in for grading. Quizzes were made, assigned and finished remarkably easily. Grading was simple, effective, and papers returned electronically was just a click away that would take me to their individual work, my comments made, and scores taken. Online animation and video activities concerning the polarity of water and proteins with written Google.doc questions were easily completed by all students. No more tracing lost e-mailed assignments, lost memory stick, or misplaced or unprinted papers... All work done in one place.

Students were able to sign out the Chromebooks at the beginning of each day, and there were five students of the eleven in the class who did this every morning of the pilot program without fail. They used the Chromebooks for other classes as well as during AP Biology, as they had little available Computer Lab time within their schedules.

What stuck with me was the comment made by a student as she went out the door last Friday. She stated that all of our work on the Chromebooks had flipped how we learned in AP Biology without our even realizing it. Knowing her tendency to complain about 'how ridiculous anything affecting teenagers might be' made me realize that we had made our AP Biology learning function transparently shift through effective lessons using close-at-hand Chromebook technology. We didn't even see it happen. In their own words: This has allowed me to understand how to use a Google account better. I had one before we got the Chromebooks but was never able to utilize it. This experience has made it easier to understand and has also allowed me to work more on assignments for other classes whenever I have free time. Classwork could be done and studied from during school day. It was easier to access our documents and share them with classmates.

It was resourceful by allowing me to not have to be in the library or in the computer lab to access a computer. Also, giving me the freedom to access my work on a Google drive and having the knowledge to do so, is very helpful. We have been able to work on collaborative notes, and have the information of the Internet at our fingertips whenever we needed it. It was difficult for me to have them in school but not at home. Being someone who has never had a personal laptop available to them, the Chromebook was a great thing to have and I learned to rely on it during school. Then, when I left school, I found myself wishing I still had the Chromebook with me. There was nothing terrible about this experience, although it would have been better if we could take them home to finish assignments that were more easily done on the Chromebooks. The only bad thing about the Chromebooks is when we have to give them back.

AP Biology is an extremely difficult course. In the past, our LaFayette students have proven that they are up to the challenge. This year's AP Biology students had the opportunity to also prove that they are ready for the challenges of college-level technology.

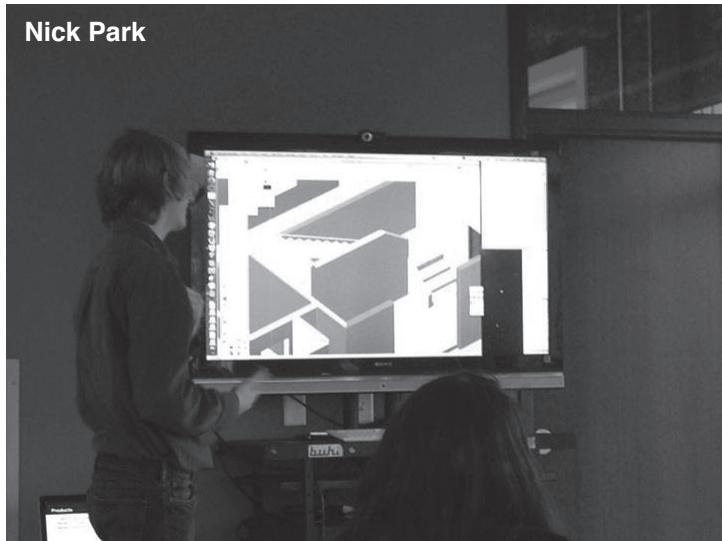
*Nancy Hummel  
Biology Teacher at LaFayette Junior/Senior High School  
Adjunct Instructor at Miami University: Project Dragonfly  
Graduate Program*



## ◆ The BIG PICTURE School News ◆

**A**t LaFayette Big Picture, we are constantly in pursuit of making learning real and relevant. We strive to have our students out of our building and in buildings in the community working with experts in the field. One example of this is the work done by Nick Park, 10th Grade/201 student. Nick gave his 201 First Trimester Exhibition in the conference room at his internship site at King and King Architects. King and King Architects have been generous partners with our school for a few years. It was a fantastic presentation. The exhibition panel sat in one of King and King's conference rooms and Nick glided with ease back and forth between conversing with his audience, drawing our attention to his PowerPoint, teaching his audience how to use architecture software, and reflecting on his learning. He was rehearsed, confident, and set a high standard of excellence for Exhibitions in the future. Nick not only presented many diverse products, but also was able to reflect on his Learning Goal achievements. In particular, his skills with 3D modeling and blueprint design using the CAD program Vectorworks were clearly evident during the Exhibition. He demonstrated mastery of many of the program's intricacies, easily navigating his audience through different textures, layers, and renderings of his plans. Nick never missed a beat in his presentation and spoke with a confidence we have never heard from him. His presentation skills have improved tenfold since last year. Presentation skills aside, what made his exhibition quite possibly the best we have seen are the details. This included using strong vocabulary, proper research, insightful reflection, and teaching the panel what he learned.

Nick Park



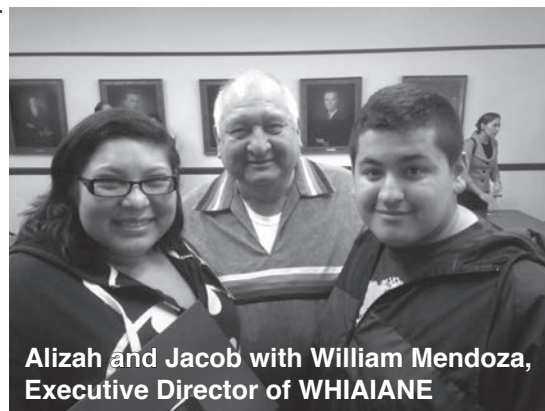
Another highlight this month was taking Jacob and Alizah to Sage College in Troy, NY. Ken, Jacob and Alizah attended a White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education (WHIAIANE) Listening Session. They heard different Native students share their personal stories about their educational experience. At the conference, different Native students spoke of the struggle to overcome racism, poverty, and cultural loss in the process of obtaining college and high school degrees. Katsitsionni Fox, Co-Vice Chair of NAEIA/NY moderated this group of students. They watched a presentation given by Dr. Michael Taylor about the degrading use of stereotypical Native imagery in team mascots, in both historical and current contexts. Dr. Richard Rose spoke about the discrepancy between the number of Native students reported by urban school districts and census results. Apparently, in many urban schools, Native American enrollment numbers provided by schools are drastically lower than what is reported by the census. Dr. Rose hypothesized that schools under-report Native numbers in an attempt to keep Native students from becoming a "reportable" minority group, thereby amalgamating their educational data into a larger group where their successes and failures become statistically insignificant. This practice, which Rose discovered is very common, is not only marginalizing the educational experience of a minority, but is also literally stripping Native American students living in cities of their identities.

We are specifically proud of Jacob and Alizah, who both spoke to the audience about their educational experiences. During the moderated session, they were candid and spoke honestly and openly about their life experiences and struggles with education. Tears were shed both by these students and the audience alike. Ken was bursting with pride at the end of the conference when Tom Porter came over to embrace Alizah and Jacob, telling him how thankful he was for their courage. Additionally, William Mendoza, Executive Director of WHIAIANE, said that he would relay all of the students' words to his bosses, Arne Duncan and Barack Obama. Mendoza was also inspiring to Alizah and Jacob, thanking them for their contributions to the listening session.

**Students pursuing real work in the real world.** If you would like additional information regarding Big Picture, please contact Susan Osborn at [sosborn@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:sosborn@lafayetteschools.org) or 315-504-1000. We would love to have you come visit our school. If you think you might have a profession or learning to share, please contact us!



Jacob and Alizah with Tom Porter



Alizah and Jacob with William Mendoza, Executive Director of WHIAIANE

## ◆ The BIG PICTURE School News ◆



401 Advisory at Big Picture presenting a check to Lafayette Outreach Director, Cheryle Jepson. Students raised \$950.00 at their Empty Bowls Event to donate to Lafayette Outreach.



Morrisville STEP will begin prepping for participation in the Destination Imagination Statewide Competition held in Binghamton. The Destination Imagination program encourages teams of learners to have fun, take risks, focus and frame challenges while incorporating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), the arts and service learning. Morrisville STEP will have three separate teams competing in the Destination Imagination Technical Challenge, Scientific Challenge, and Improvisational Challenge. The Technical Challenge will consist of building a creature that uses technical methods to perform actions. The Scientific Challenge will consist of designing and constructing an incredible sound machine that produces two different sounds. The Improvisational Challenge will consist of a team creating three different improvisational sketches.

Any STEP student interested in joining one of these teams and competing at the statewide competition with the opportunity to compete in the international competition should contact STEP.



Trevor Regan, Jeremy Reynolds, and Jane Schaffer



Justin Young

Big Picture students helped the Salvation Army collect donations for the Holiday Season by ringing bells at one of their red kettle destinations in Destiny USA. Big Picture students rang the bells on four different days in the months of November and December.



## ◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

### PRINCIPAL INPUT

*From the Desk of the Grimshaw Principal*

As we begin 2015, we should take a moment to reflect on some of the great things that happened at Grimshaw during the month of December. We started the month with a canned food drive for the LaFayette Outreach. Our students collected many non-perishable food items that were donated for the needy in our surrounding community. The community service continued with a pajama day that gathered funds for a young child in the area battling pediatric cancer.

Students in 5th and 6th Grades did an amazing job with their version of Annie Jr. Congratulations to all of the students and the staff for all of their hard work and dedication to putting on such a great show.



Congratulations to Grades 4/5/6 on their amazing Winter Concert.

To hear and see all of the students hard work exhibited is so rewarding.

Grimshaw staff and students would like to wish each and every one of you a prosperous 2015.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to our school and their activities.

*Jennifer Blossey, Grimshaw Principal*

### Jingle Bell Run



*In November, LaFayette teachers Stephanie Pettitt, Courtney Amidon, Amanda Reppi and Kelly Cook ran in the annual Jingle Bell Run 5k located on the OCC campus. This run raises funds to help find a cure for arthritis, the nation's leading cause of disability, while wearing holiday-themed costumes. The girls enjoyed running for a great cause and representing LaFayette School District!*

## Health Office News

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break! Welcome to winter! Please be sure your child is dressed for the cold weather with hats, gloves and boots as well as a warm jacket.

As for illnesses, we've mainly been seeing a variety of upper respiratory infections (colds/bronchitis/pneumonia/croup) and a stomach virus here at school (as of press time anyway!). No doubt flu season will be here soon, and may be by the time you read this. Please notify me if your child is absent for any reason and please keep them home for 24 hours after a fever, vomiting or starting on antibiotics. It would be best if you call me directly (677-5501) even if you let the teacher/office know. You may leave a message on my voice-mail if I'm not available, or send me an e-mail.

A relatively new immunization requirement for 6th graders is the Tdap vaccine which is given after the student's 11th birthday. A detailed letter about the Tdap requirement will be sent home with students with their report cards in February. If your child will be in 6th Grade next year, please discuss this vaccination with his/her physician so your child can have this done and on record before school starts in September. Also, on the topic of immunizations, there were some significant changes in the immunization schedule this year that affected some of our students. Thank you for all your cooperation in updating your child's immunizations if the changes affected your child.

Every year, each student at Grimshaw has a vision and hearing screening done. You will be notified if I feel that your child needs further evaluation. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any concerns regarding your child's vision or hearing. If your child has a professional exam please send a copy in to me for their record.

Physicals are required in grades Pre-K, K, 2 and 4, and if you are new to the district. At this time, there are about 20 students with outstanding physicals so we're in good shape thanks to all your cooperation! If you're one of the last 20, please notify me of the date your child's exam is scheduled and send in a copy of your child's exam as soon as it's completed.

Remember to keep updating those emergency phone numbers and be sure extra clothes are available for your little ones.

Another reminder regarding medications: A note from a physician, as well as a parent, is required to give any meds at school. This includes over-the-counter meds as well.

One last reminder: If a doctor writes your child out of gym class, he/she must have a doctor's note before they can resume gym or other physical activity.

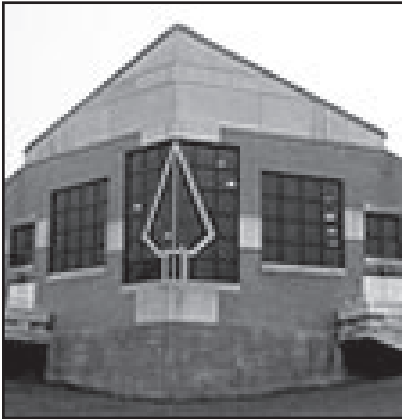
Feel free to call me with any concerns/questions, and thank you again all for your cooperation and support!

*Sincerely, Paula Bush, Grimshaw Nurse*

677-5501 • 677-3154(fax) • [pbush@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:pbush@lafayetteschools.org)



## ◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆



### ***Dear Parents and Community Members:***

We had over 500 people attend this year's Harvest Dinner at the school. Everyone enjoyed the food and conversation, as well as spending time with family and friends. Each class worked hard in preparation for the day by making food, decorating the school and providing the table decor.

Report Cards were mailed out the week before the Thanksgiving Break. This report shows your child's progress for the first 10 weeks of school. Please review the report card with your child, and should you have any questions or concerns, we ask that you contact your child's teacher. If you did not receive your child's report card, please call the school.

Each day your child brings home notices from school or homework. We ask parents to take a few minutes to look into your child's backpack and have some conversations with your child on how his/her day was at school. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

There are occasions when parents need their child to go to another location after school that is not their home. We understand that these situations arise from time to time. To ensure that your child arrives at the proper location, we ask that you write a note and have your child bring it to school in the morning. Should you need to call the school, we ask you do so before 2:30 p.m. as this will give us time to inform all necessary parties (classroom teacher, bus driver, security personnel). We deem this a safety issue and hope you will honor our request by calling before 2:30 p.m.

We all know that snow and cold weather is upon us. Please make sure your child dresses warmly for school. Grades PreK-6 go outside each day for recess, weather permitting, and we want to make sure your child stays warm while he/she is outside.

When you see the following teachers congratulate them on being recognized by their peers:

- a) Ms. Denise Waterman was awarded the Community Award by the National Native American Education Association this year for her community service and her work with the Iroquois National Lacrosse Team.
- b) Mrs. Simone Thornton was selected from over 2000 submissions to present at the National Council of Teachers of English Conference. She presented The Impact of Oral Story-Telling at The Onondaga Nation School.

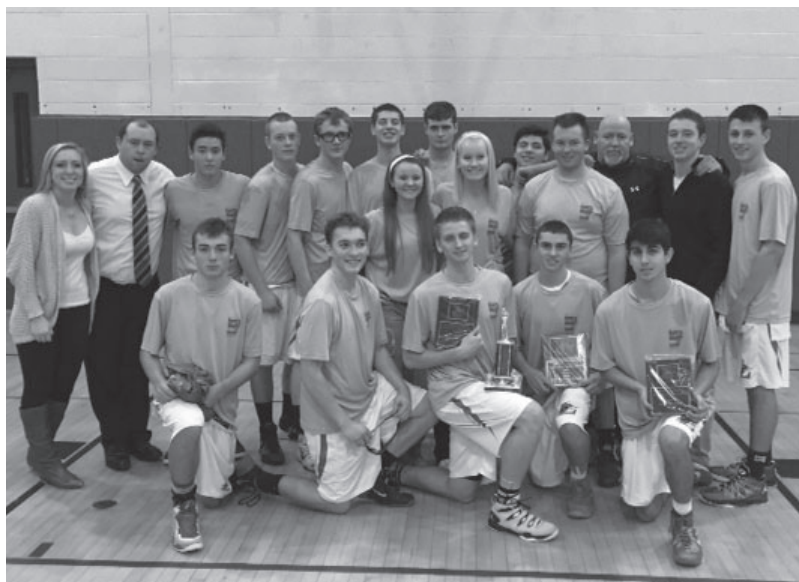
As the year came to a close and a new year begins, I often reflect upon what my mother told me. December is the month of Peace and January is the month of renewal. It is a time to reflect upon how we treat others and how we would want to be treated. We are all human beings living together. We strive to make our lives and the lives of our children better. We may not always agree; however, we should respect each other's differences and enjoy our similarities. During this month and the year to come, I wish you and your families all the joy that peace can bring.

***Diane Ellsworth, ONS Principal***



## ◆ ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT NEWS ◆

Congratulations to the **Varsity Boys Basketball** team's Thanksgiving Weekend win in the Lancers vs. Cancer Pre-season Basketball Tournament. Congratulations to Brynner Holland and Chris MacMackin who were selected to the All Tournament Team, and Chase LaCava who was the Tournament MVP. Great job!



*Varsity Boys Basketball team after their win in the Lancers vs. Cancer Tournament held Thanksgiving Weekend (Nov. 28 & Nov. 29) at LaFayette High School*

Congratulations to the **Lady Lancer Volleyball Team** on winning the Section 3 Class D Sectional Title. Congratulations on a great season!!!

Congratulations to **Maggie Coulter** who was selected as Third Team All State, and **Sophia Powless** who was Fourth Team All State!!

Congratulations to the following athletes who were

selected to **All League Teams for Volleyball:**

Maggie Coulter	1st Team
Sophia Powless	1st Team
Maureen Fagan	2nd Team
Logan Booth	Honorable Mention
Chloe Terrell	Honorable Mention
Rhiannon Abrams	Honorable Mention

Congratulations to the **VARSITY FOOTBALL** team who went undefeated and won the NFF West Division and then went on to win the NFF Championship Game at the Dome. Great job, coaches and players!!!

Congratulations to **Ryan Agedal** who was the Offensive MVP in this game. GREAT JOB!!!

Congratulations to the following teams that qualified as **Scholar Athletes** and the members of those teams that qualified:

### Girls Soccer

Samantha Claffey	Jade Williams
Sara Beresovoy	Alyssa Murray
Kali Loughlin	Allie Esposito
Cassidy Doster	Jannah Grant

### Boys Golf

Mike Weiss	Ryan Zajac
Tim Kramak	Tom Whitney
Jake LeBlanc	Jake Ramie
Tom Long	

### Girls Volleyball

Maggie Coulter	Allison Baird
Logan Booth	Rhiannon Abrams
Jeannette D'Agostino	Sophia Powless
Grace Terrell	Chloe Terrell
Maureen Fagan	Morgan Palmer

## CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE

Save your cans and bottles for a good cause!  
Donate your cans and bottles to the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. We could use the Help!!!

**WHEN: DECEMBER 1ST – JANUARY 15TH**  
**WHERE: THE DOLLAR GENERAL PARKING LOT**

Your donations will help to 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!***  
Every Nickel Counts



## Booster Club News

The Booster Club would like to Congratulate Morgan Jachim, a 6th Grade Grimshaw Student, for winning the \$50.00 iTunes gift card. She sold seven wreaths, which was the most any student sold this school year. Thanks you for all your help, Morgan, and to any student who assisted in selling holiday wreaths.

We would also like to welcome our new Vice President, Karen Doster, who will be a great asset to our Booster Club organization.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

### Grades 5/6 Basketball

Games will begin on January 10th.

### Grades 5/6 Girls Volleyball

Will be held late February and March.

### Grades 3/4 Boys and Girls Basketball

Will be held late February-March.

### Grades 7/8 Boys Basketball

Will be held on Saturdays in January.  
Call 677-7272 for information.

### Grades 1-6 Wrestling

Begins January 6th, 6-7:30 p.m. at HS wrestling room.

**Wanted:** Temporary, clean, dry storage for three wrestling mats (12'x3'x3'). Help us hold on to these quality mats for our program.

### Hall Walking

Walk the Grimshaw halls for exercise!

Weekdays, 5-7 p.m. Enter by cafeteria, sign in book and have dry shoes.

### ADULT PROGRAMS

Times are listed below--call for pricing:

**Yoga** . . . . . Mon & Thurs, 6:30-7:45 p.m., Grimshaw

**Zumba** . . . . . Mon & Wed, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Grimshaw cafeteria

**Tabata Based** . . . . . Thurs, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Grim cafeteria

**Daytime/Senior Exercise** Tues/Wed/Thurs, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Community Center



## LaFayette Public Library News

Town Commons, 2577 Rt. 11 North, PO Box 379, LaFayette, NY 13084

Telephone: (315) 677-3782 • Fax: (315) 677-0211

Email: lafayettelibrary13084@yahoo.com

Website: www.lafayettelibrary.org • Accessible Wireless Internet

**HOURS:** Monday 10 AM - 8 PM

Tuesday 10 AM - 8 PM • Wednesday 10 AM - 5 PM

Thursday 12 PM - 8 PM • Friday 10 AM - 5 PM

Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM • Sunday closed

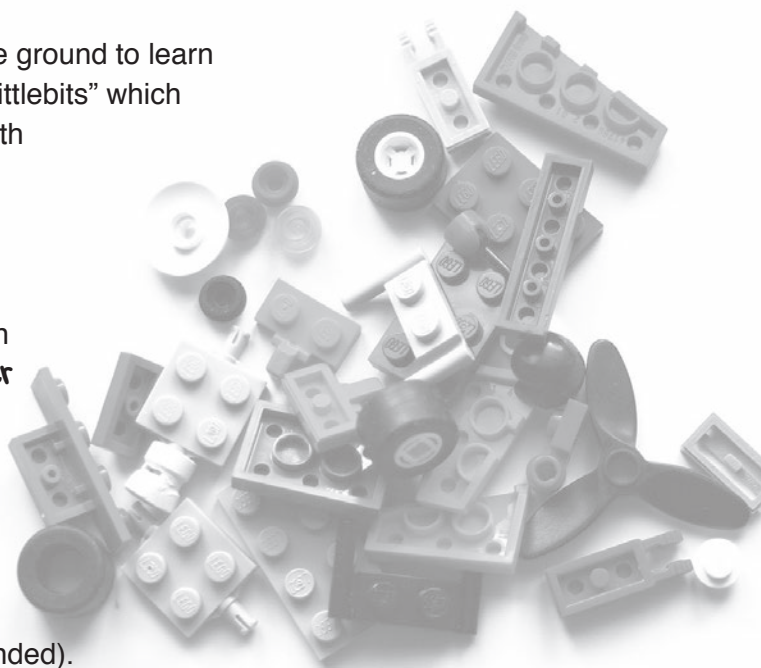
We are now expanding our **LEGO mindstorms**

collection. We are getting some programming off the ground to learn and/or use our materials. We are also investing in “littlebits” which are sets of electronic modules that snap together with magnets and are for innovative invention. This is a nice addition to the Lego Mindstorms sets and the 3D Printer in our “Maker Corner.”

In addition to updating our print and media collection in the children’s area, 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 be print, audio, or video.***

Come on in and “check out” the collection (pun intended).



### Teen Task Force

We are still looking to add to our, grades 6-12, to do brainstorming about programming, collection development, etc. If you are interested, please contact Kyra Nay at 677-3782 or knay@onlib.org. There is also a Teen Book Club underway.

Come and check it out!

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 hours:**

**Wednesday, 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

# 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

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.

## January

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

*Please check your LaFayette Central School District Directory/Calendar for the many activities going on in the month of January, 2015. Particular dates to note are:*

Monday	January 5	School Resumes in All Buildings
Thursday	January 8	Board of Education Meeting, Grimshaw School, 6:30 p.m.
Monday	January 12	GAPS Meeting, Grimshaw Library, 6:30 p.m.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL – All Buildings</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance</b>
Thursday	January 22	Board of Education Meeting, JSBS LGI, 6:30 p.m.
Monday	January 26	Regents Exams
Monday	January 26	JSBS Parent Group Meeting, Room 117, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	January 27	Regents Exams
Wednesday	January 28	Regents Exams
Thursday	January 29	Regents Exams
Friday	January 30	Regents Exams
Friday	January 30	Career Fair, Grades 7-8, JSBS, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 30</b>	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL – All Schools – 11:30 a.m.</b>