

## New York State Education Commissioner visits LaFayette CSD



To discuss the current state of education and observe first-hand the learning taking place at Onondaga Nation School, New York State Education Department Commissioner MaryEllen Elia recently visited LaFayette Central School District.

"I first met Commissioner Elia last year at which time we discussed the idea of her paying us a visit," LaFayette CSD Superintendent Laura Lavine said. "Her reputation for being committed to her school districts is certainly well-earned as evidenced by her following up on that conversation and traveling to see us."

During her October visit, Commissioner Elia and her delegation participated in a roundtable discussion with Superintendent Lavine, Assistant Superintendent for Business Tiffany Turner, and Director of Instruction and Pupil Services Karen Ocque. She then toured Onondaga Nation School where she

visited classrooms and participated in a forum focusing on Native American students to learn more about how the New York State Education Department (NYSED) can help to support them.

Addressing forum participants including Superintendent Lavine, ONS Principal Diane Ellsworth, Tadadaho Sid Hill and Onondaga Nation Chiefs, Clan Mothers, Faithkeepers and other Onondaga Nation community members, Commissioner Elia indicated strong support for continuing Onondaga language instruction as an integral part of the instructional program. She had high praise for the language and culture programs, and the other teaching that she observed in the classrooms.

Elia discussed the changes to teacher evaluations and state education standards. In September, NYSED announced that approximately 60% of the Common Core English standards and 55% of the mathematics standards underwent some type of change based upon more than 750,000 pieces of feedback from teachers, administrators and parents. She explained that the results of the NYS 3-8 assessments are no longer tied to teacher evaluation, and shared that the assessments have been shortened in length with the ability for students to take as long as needed to complete them.

As a token of their appreciation, during a small ceremony in the school's Cultural Center, ONS students and staff presented Commissioner Elia with a hand-beaded replica of the Hiawatha Belt, which is symbolic to ONS and the Haudenosaunee culture, along with a plaque commemorating her visit, both of which were created just for her.

"As far as we know, this is the first time that a NYSED Commissioner has visited LaFayette," Superintendent Lavine said. "She and her team have our gratitude for giving us their time, and for lending their expertise and support during this historic event."

## NJHS College Visit

The National Junior Honor Society Chapter has an established tradition of visiting a local college campus. The students get a chance to see what the campuses are like, talk to current students and tour guides, and learn about what they need to accomplish in high school to make their college dreams a reality.

This year's Junior Honor Society annual college visit was a combined trip to SUNY ESF and Syracuse University. The day began with a tour of the ESF campus. The group got to see all of the lab rooms and where college students have their classes. We also learned about the ways green infrastructure is built into the campus environment. After the tour, the group listened to a lecture from a PhD candidate about the nationwide discussion of GMO's, followed by an activity analyzing quotes taken from people speaking at public meetings that addressed GMO labeling.

Later, we walked over to the SU Admissions Office. There the group participated in an informational talk and Q & A session presented by an Admissions Counselor/ Native American Liaison. We then split into groups for guided tours of the campus. We had a lot of fun. We learned about college life and classes and what it takes to get into college.



## ◆ District News ◆

### From the Desk of the SUPERINTENDENT

For the second time, we administered the YouthTruth survey to our secondary students. The purpose of the survey is to provide a vehicle for students' voices to be heard anonymously, and to assure them that their opinions matter and are given due consideration. We asked for their thoughts about Academic Rigor, College and Career Readiness, School Culture, Relationships with Teachers, Student Engagement, and Safety. The survey also provided space for written comments that would allow the students to address topics that might not have been in the survey questions or given them enough opportunity to share their feelings.

The participation rate of 93% was outstanding, according to the YouthTruth organization so a big "Thank you" goes to all of the students who answered the questions and wrote hundreds of comments, all of which are being read.

Some students are very satisfied with their education at LaFayette, some are in the middle, and others are less than satisfied. What seems clear is that we are doing better than two years ago in some areas but not in others. I am pleased that in the area of safety, there is a noticeable increase in students' perceptions but, as with most things in life, there is room for improvement in all areas.

Every comment that students wrote is important. That is not to say that every complaint can or will be addressed but I want the students to know that we take their opinions very seriously so, to the student who wrote, "This survey doesn't even matter. The chances of someone actually reading this are slim considering no one cares about one student's opinion", I give assurance that the survey results do matter, we are reading all of the comments and, most important, we do care about your opinion. I also assure you that we will continue to strive for excellence in our practice so that all of our students will feel the way that many students do, some of whom wrote,

"All of the teachers in our school are very helpful and strive for the excellence of the students. The teachers all work to assist any students that need it and push for students to do their very best and try their hardest in their schoolwork. They offer extra help and answer questions to the best of their abilities. If a student still doesn't understand, they don't give up on trying to teach it to them and keep trying."

"Teachers are always willing to help you understand something. They all also want to see us succeed."

"I find support from all the teachers here and will help us in anything in school or out of school. The teachers know what they are teaching so I know I'm getting a very good education and if I need the help they would be happy to help me."

"I chose this answer because the teachers do care about personal problems going on outside of school. They want to help as much as possible."

Thanks again to our students for giving us their valuable feedback. Their opinions are important to us and will guide us as we continue to work to make LaFayette Central School District the best in every way.

All the best to you and yours for a happy and healthy holiday season.

*Laura Lavine, Superintendent*

## ◆ JSHS News ◆

### 2016-2017 SAT DATES

#### SAT

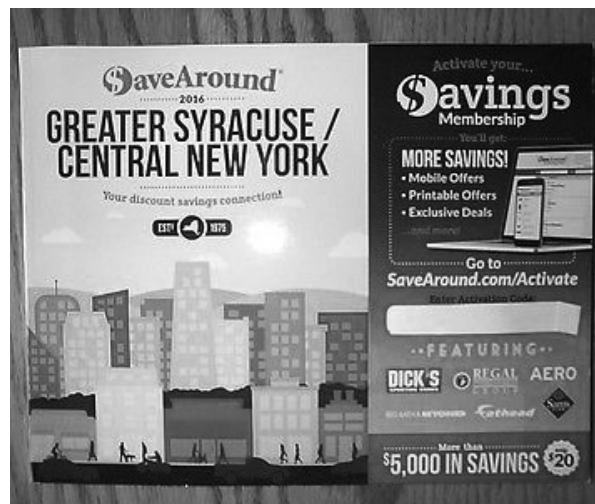
#### Deadline to Register

December 3, 2016	November 3, 2016
January 21, 2017	December 21, 2016
March 11, 2017	February 10, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017

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

### After Prom Party

The LaFayette After Prom Party (a drug and alcohol free party) is selling SaveAround Greater Syracuse coupon books for \$25 each – there are many great coupons and you will make your \$25 back so quickly! Scotch and Sirloin, Melting Pot, Ichiban, The Distillery, Moe's, Byrne Dairy, Sky Zone, Wonderworks, the Zoo, the MOST, and so much more!



Please contact Kerry Evans at 857-6766 or [kandsevens@hotmail.com](mailto:kandsevens@hotmail.com) to purchase. They make great gifts. Thanks for supporting a great cause.

### 2016-2017 ACT DATES

#### ACT Test

#### Deadline to Register

April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017

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



## ♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

### *from the Desk of the* **JSHS PRINCIPAL**

The past few months have seemed to fly by quickly and it is hard to believe that the first quarter is already behind us. During these months, we have seen great student achievement and have much to celebrate. As a school, we have sent students to compete in both the build'em and bust'em bridge tournament at the MOST and the Women in Engineering Day at Lockheed Martin. In both cases, our students competed at the utmost level and represented LaFayette in a positive manner.

In regards to athletics, we had a successful fall season, with several of our teams reaching postseason play. The girls varsity volleyball team won a section 3 title and reached the regional round of the state playoffs. We are excited about the accomplishments of our fall athletes and look forward to what we will achieve this winter.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and guardians of the importance of having students arrive to school on time. Through the combined efforts of our teaching staff, we have seen an increase in student performance. This is evident by a decrease in the number of students have reached a status of ineligibility. With that said, we are still seeing a number of students having difficulty arriving to school in a timely manner. Educational instruction begins promptly at 7:55 am. We all know that education is a collaborative effort and we are asking for your support in ensuring that our students arrive to school in a prompt fashion.

I am excited about the changes I have seen over the past few months and look forward to what is to come. Our students are eager to learn and we have an instructional staff that is motivated to teach them. I wish everyone a wonderful and restful holiday season.

*Jason Ryan, Principal*

### **YEARBOOKS**

Yearbooks can be purchased through  
**Jostens.com**

starting Nov. 1, 2016 for \$50+sh/h.  
Prices will go up to \$60+s/h on Jan. 1, 2017.

On picnic day, yearbooks will be \$75+sh/h  
so don't wait – **ORDER EARLY!**

**Parent Ad:** If you are interested in purchasing an ad in the yearbook for your senior see the prices below. Space is limited so please reserve your page early. A deposit of half the ad cost will reserve your ad space. Contact Amy Flemming or Maria Nastasi with your interest. Procedure will be discussed in the initial contact. The balance is due upon ad completion. Space is limited; don't wait until the last minute!

Advertising Space	Reserved by Dec 31, 2016	After Jan 1, 2017
Full page	\$250.00	\$350.00
Half page	\$130.00	\$180.00
Quarter pg.	\$ 70.00	\$ 95.00

## **GUIDANCE/COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS**

**COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES:** Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted to colleges for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year:

Jennie Lamson	Florida Institute of Technology
Cecelia Robinson	Hartwick College
	University of the Sciences (PA)
Zackery Thrasher	Slippery Rock University (PA)
	Point Park University (PA)

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** There is a scholarship box set up in the college/career area of the School Counseling Office. However, most scholarships are assessed online. Any scholarship that comes in can be viewed on Naviance. The link to Naviance is on the guidance webpage. Periodically, as new scholarships come in, an announcement is made to remind students to check Naviance.

**SENIORS – MID-YEAR GRADES:** All mid-year grades will

be sent for seniors who applied to any four-year colleges. Seniors are reminded to do well this first semester for their mid-year grades can ultimately decide whether or not they are admitted to a college.

Additionally, all applications to four-year colleges should be out prior to Thanksgiving break. The applications must be out prior to Christmas break.

**SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS: PSAT SCORE REPORTS** score reports will be back around the second week of December. Mr. O'Leary will meet with each student to review their scores, including strengths and weaknesses that should be focused on before taking the SAT/ACT. Please ask your child to review their score report with you.

All juniors went on to Naviance to begin their resume. The resume will be updated each year. Students, however, can access this site anytime they wish to update their resume. The resume will/can be used for college and job applications.

## ◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

### PRINCIPAL INPUT

This year seems to be flying by. We have already completed the first 10 weeks of the school year and are entering the snowy season. With the seasons changing so dramatically, we need to remind the students to come to school dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Students should be wearing coats, hats, and gloves to school because you never know when we may need to go outside. As a reminder, please tune in to your local television and radio stations for all updated school closings and delays. Closings and delay information can also be found on our Facebook page and through School Messenger.



Each year, the Tully Rotary and Pompey Lions Club provide free dictionaries to all of the area third graders. A big thanks goes out to them for their continued support and providing us with this great learning tool.

We had a record number of deposits this month for Dollar Dog through Empower Federal Credit Union. There were 22 deposits made when we usually average about 12-15. Currently, we have 32 participants enrolled in the program and they have only done 4 visits so far this year. Keep up the saving Grimshaw!



Thank you again for the continued support our school receives from the community. I know our students, faculty and staff truly appreciate everything.

*Jen Blossey, Principal*

**Paula Bush, Grimshaw Nurse**  
Phone: 677-5501

## Health Office News

Fax: 677-3154  
[pbush@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:pbush@lafayetteschools.org)

We had a fairly healthy November here at school but we did see some respiratory viral illnesses and some cases of strep throat, conjunctivitis and croup. Please continue to keep your children home after any illness until they are fever-free for a period of 24 hours without the aid of medication. Following this rule of thumb helps tremendously in containing the spread of viral illnesses. The 24 hour rule should also be followed after vomiting or starting on antibiotics. I appreciate all of your cooperation as we try to keep our school healthy. I know many of your children have received flu shots which will also help to keep us all healthy. Please consider getting your child a flu shot if you haven't already done so as well as yourself.

Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent for any reason. Please try to call by 8:30 am if possible. You may also leave a message before school or the night before or send an email if that's more convenient for you. Even if you notify the teacher please notify me as well.

Most 2nd and 4th grade and new students have now had their physicals and handed in the paperwork – thank you. We have some students scheduled for private exams who still need to have their exam and/or hand in the paperwork. Please get this information to me as soon as possible after your child has had their exam. If your child has an appointment scheduled please notify me of the date if you haven't already done so.

All 6th grade students are required to have a Tdap vaccine when entering 6th grade or when they turn 11 years old. If your child was not 11 when school started they will need to have the vaccine as soon as possible after turning 11. Please notify me of the date your child is scheduled to have the vaccine and turn in the documentation as soon as completed. Parents of 5th graders should keep in mind the Tdap vaccination will be required for their child next year and plan ahead for this. It can be given as soon as your child turns 11. Most students have received 2 Varicella (chicken pox) vaccines before 6th grade but if they haven't they will need a 2nd one for 6th grade under the new regulations.

Please remember all medicine given at school must have a prescription or written note from a physician. This includes all over-the-counter medications such as Motrin, Tylenol, cough syrup, antacids, and even cough drops. If your child needs a rescue inhaler or Benadryl or Epipen at school please be sure we have them available here.

Please continue to update emergency information and be sure your child is dressed warmly for the winter weather as most classes do play outside daily (weather permitting). Please remember to have extra clothes available for your K-2 students for an "emergency".

As always don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns. I wish you all a very Happy Holiday season with your family and friends!

## ◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

### Pizzeria Visit

Two fifth grade students from the Onondaga Nation School, Bruce B. and Emily W., along with Mrs. Pratt, went to Robbie T's Pizzeria in Jamesville on November 2, 2016. As part of the students' project to develop their own pizzeria, they created interview questions to ask Robbie about how he began his career as a business owner. Robbie T. was gracious enough to open the restaurant prior to normal business hours in order to answer the interview questions. Bruce and Emily enjoyed asking questions and giving Robbie two small gifts as tokens of their appreciation for his time. Mrs. Pratt would like to thank Robbie T. for his time, and our transportation director, Ron Cooper, for providing the school van for the trip.



### Box Out Bullying Assembly at ONS

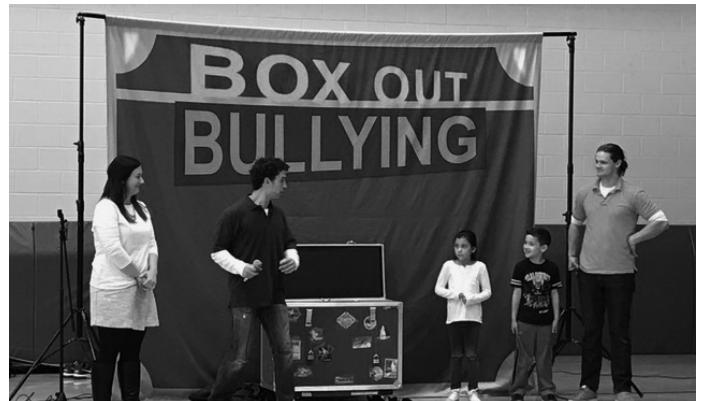
On Wednesday, November 16th, the Onondaga Nation School hosted the Box Out Bullying Assembly Production. This is a nationally acclaimed program for students of all ages. The program is geared to provide students with ways to make relationships better among each other. The program was part of our School Citizenship Goal of building our own character strengths and seeing the good in others.

The students and staff enjoyed the interactive presentation. Students and staff were asked to be part of the assembly as characters in a 'game show' skit. Both students and staff commented on how much they enjoyed the performances which led to the classes having good conversations about the program and the message that was delivered.

The program was age appropriate for each level. The presentation covered differences between conflicts vs bullying, how to include everyone, empathy and helping, the difference between telling and tattle-tailing, cyberbullying and how to tell an adult about situations.

The assembly was outstanding. Students were engaged, listened and enjoyed the assembly.

*Diane Ellsworth, Principal*





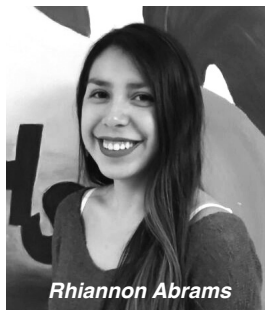
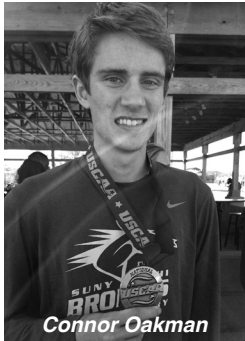
## ◆ ATHLETIC NEWS ◆

In the last Greensheet, it was incorrectly stated that Thomas Long was 1st Team All-League for Soccer. It should have been for Golf. Sorry about that, Tom, and great job.

**Congratulations** to the Varsity Volleyball team on an outstanding season. League champs, Sectional champs, an overall great year! Good luck to a great group of seniors, you will be missed. Great job to the coaches on an outstanding season.



**Congratulations** to Rhiannon Abrams and Connor Oakman. Abrams has been selected as the Time Warner Cable's Scholar Athlete of the Week. LaFayette graduate Connor Oakman earned 2nd Team All American honors and his Delhi cross country team won the National Championship in November.



Rhiannon Abrams

### **New Football Mascot Name:**

The LaFayette Lancers and Tully Black Knights will be merging their Varsity Football programs next summer. A contest was held to decide what the new mascot should be! Thanks for your support.

## **Can & Bottle Drive**

Please save your cans and bottles to donate to the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club.

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 25 – JANUARY 15TH**

**WHERE: THE DOLLAR GENERAL PARKING LOT**

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!



## **LaFayette Headbands**

The LaFayette Athletic Booster Club is taking orders for: Green headband with Gold embroidered "L" or White headband with Green embroidered "L". They are \$10 each.

Any questions please call 415-7932. You can see Patsy in the High School Main Office for ordering.



## LaFayette Public Library News [www.lafayettelibrary.org](http://www.lafayettelibrary.org)

Thanks to all of you that supported our fundraisers: both our Election Day bake sale and our Barnes & Noble Fundraiser. There is another way of supporting the library. Do you use Amazon? The next time you go to shop on Amazon, instead of logging on to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) go to "Smile.Amazon.com". Then logon to your account as you normally would. The first time you use that portal, you will be asked to choose a charity. Type in "LaFayette Public Library" (make sure you choose the one in LaFayette, NY). From then on, anytime you long on to [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com) to shop on Amazon, .5% of your purchases go to the library. So for every \$1,000 spent, we get \$5. And you will be spending the same amount of money as you did before! So remember, [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com).

As one of the Imagination Labs, we are having a return performance of the McCarthy family doing holiday favorites.

**Imagination Lab** schedule for December:

- December 7th – McCarthy Family holiday concert
- December 14th – DIY Ornaments
- December 21st & 28th – No Imagination Lab

**Teen Book Club:**

- December 6th – *Noggin* by John Corey Whaley
  - January 10th – *\*The Crowns Game* by Eveyln Skye
- and *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon

*\*Note:* Due to the winter break, both books will be discussed on the same date. The time span between the December and January meeting is 5 weeks.

A reminder about our Tuesday Teas which are held every third Tuesday of the month from 2-4 p.m. People bring everything from knitting to coloring books or just bring yourself. The next one is December 20, 2:00 p.m.

There is a new art display from the art students of LaFayette Jr/Sr High School in our teen area: Ivy Bennett, Caitlin Campbell, McKenzie Caron, Rita Lyons, Taylor Watson, Amanda Wilson, Bridget Walsh, Allison Carroll, Kaylee West and Claire Frier. Come take a look!

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.

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 times: Wed 10:30-11:30 am • Thurs – 4-5 pm

## LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

**LCC Mailing Address: PO Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078**

### YOUTH SPORTS

**Basketball:** Grades 5-6, boys and girls. Practices begins the week of Dec. 6; a flyer with the exact date and time will be sent home. Games will begin in Jan.

**Volleyball:** Girls grades 3-6 will begin soon.

**Wrestling:** Practices begin Jan. 4, 2017 and will be M-W-F, 6-8 p.m. in the HS wrestling room. Optional matches on Fridays or Saturdays. For boys and girls grades K-6.

**Ski Program:** LCC supervised ski nights begin Friday, January 6, 2017. If you haven't already registered, contact LCC immediately: 677-7272.

**Coaches:** If you are interested and able to help out with the basketball, volleyball or wrestling programs, please contact LCC at 677-7272. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches.

### ADULT EXERCISE

**Daytime/Senior Exercise:** Classes are held T-W-Th, 8:30-9:30 am, at the LCC. The current mini-session runs until Dec. 22. The next session begins Jan. 3, 2017 and runs through Feb. 9, 2017. The cost for this session is \$35. Walk-in fee is \$4 per class.

**Yoga:** Classes are held M & W, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at Grimshaw Elementary. Current session runs through Dec. 21. The next session begins Jan. 9, 2017 and runs through June 21, 2017. Costs for this are \$63/one per week, and \$126/two per week. Walk in fee is \$4 per class.

**Zumba/Aerobics:** Classes are held M & W, 6:30-7:30 pm in the Grimshaw Elementary's cafeteria. The current session runs through January 25. Walk-in fee is \$4 per class.

**Tabata** (interval training): Classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:15-7:15, in the wrestling room at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. Cost is \$5 per class. Call 677-7272 for additional information.

**Tai Chi:** Beginner classes are held at Grimshaw School on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Advanced classes are held at the LaFayette Community Center, Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Call 677-7272 for additional information.

**Men's Basketball:** Monday evenings, October through March, 7-9 p.m. in the Grimshaw Elementary School gymnasium.

**LaFayette Tree Lighting:** December 4. LCC will be serving warm beverages and other refreshments prior to Santa's arrival.

# 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.

## December IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Thursday	1	BOE Meeting
Wednesday	7	Grimshaw Holiday Concert, HS 7pm
Friday	9	Half Day - Dismissal at 11:30am
Wednesday	14	ONS Winter Concert, 6pm
Thursday	15	HS Concert, 7pm BOE Meeting
Friday	16	End of 15-week Marking Period
Thursday	22	Progress Reports Mailed
Friday	23	Day of Giving
December	26-30	Holiday Recess

