



PE Fitness Challenge Winners

*Pictured above are the afternoon Pre-K class, winner(s) of the **Healthy HOLI“YAY” Vacation Fitness Plan**. **Teagan Vossler** was the winner for the **Determined** In December portion of the fitness challenge, pictured below.*



Onondaga Nation School News

We would like to start with some thank yous to our staff. Staff members Laurie Rabideau-Rutter, Marie Hayes, Diane Pratt, Denise Waterman, Lisa Jasinski, Cathleen Clemens, Mackenzie McElhannon, Megan Burns, and Elizabeth Gawinski successfully guided our staff and students through a tough schedule of January testing/screening to evaluate and monitor our students' academic progress. These teachers initiated and effectively managed the scheduling, placement, rotation, and testing of students. The planning and work done by this group led to a very smooth process for both our classroom teachers and students. We would also like to thank Melissa McElroy Elve for allowing us to use the Library as a testing center throughout this process.

In our kindergarten classes, with Mrs. Murray, students have been learning about and conversing via Polycom technology, with students from Pulaski, New York and Atlanta, Georgia. Our students made a “monster” in their own classroom, wrote a description of their monster, and shared that description with the first graders in Pulaski. They then received a comparable description from Pulaski, recreated the monster from the description and then both shared the “mutual monsters” through the video conferencing. In the second long distance learning opportunity, students connected with the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, Georgia. They learned about different versions of the Gingerbread Boy and then made their own Gingerbread Boy Shadow Puppet guided by the beautiful puppetry they viewed in the presentation from Atlanta. Thank you to Mrs. Murray for the wonderful learning experience she provided for her students.

We appreciated Mr. Belfield coming to our January faculty meeting and sharing the work done to date on the LaFayette District's vision and mission statements. As part of that same meeting we did a close reading of the Onondaga Nation School Philosophy. In future meetings we will reflect on both our mission and the philosophy to meeting the needs of the children of the Onondaga Nation.

On Thursday, February 15, we will host our first monthly family night meeting. The evening will (...continued on page 2)

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News

Message from the Superintendent



Department highlighted some of the vital work ahead for school districts across New York State:

The ESSA plan emphasizes fostering equity in education for New York's students; expands measures for school support and accountability and student success; and requires school-level improvement plans for the lowest performing schools overall, as well as schools with the lowest performance for certain student populations.

Here are some of the key points that both students and parents should know:

Schools and districts will be measured annually on elementary and junior high school student performance in English Language Arts, Math and Science. Progress will be monitored and measured for English language learners as well as in reducing chronic absenteeism in our student population (students absent for 18 or more days). High schools, additionally, will be evaluated based on performance in the following areas: Social Studies, graduation rate, college/career/civic readiness (such as taking advanced coursework or earning technical education certificates). In the future, schools will also receive ratings based on numbers of out-of-school suspensions, student readiness for high school, and "learning environment" indicators (e.g. class size, access to classes in the arts). LaFayette is committed to providing students with an exceptional education that ensures a successful path to either a career or college. We are looking to increase participation in career and technical education courses offered through BOCES and to increase the number of college-credit bearing courses that we offer to students. The 2018-19 school year will see LaFayette High School offering additional college credit courses in Spanish, photography, art and biology.

New York is working to reduce testing time and improve the testing experience for students. Starting this April, the length of English Language Arts and Math assessments for grades three through eight have been reduced from three days to two days. Students with special needs will also have increased access to testing accommodations on New York State exams. New York is also looking to explore new ways to assess student knowledge through alternative means, such as performance tasks, rather than solely through traditional testing measures. With these positive changes, New York is looking to reduce the number of students opting-out of assessments. In the coming months, we will be hosting informational sessions for parents and students highlighting

these changes in testing. LaFayette is currently identified as a "Focus District" due to inadequate participation on state tests for students in grades three through eight.

New York is currently improving preparation programs for teachers and school leaders. The New York State United Teachers Association released an article last school year projecting a large teacher shortage in the coming years. The state is looking to attract and retain talented professionals in the field of education. The state will also be conducting a two-year study on possible revisions to the teacher and principal evaluation process to improve the quality of feedback given to all professionals working with students.

The state is also seeking input from parents, teachers, and students on ways to improve low performing schools based on these new quality measures. Schools will also be looking for increased parent input on local spending when it comes to federal funding allocations. LaFayette receives a small amount of federal grant money to serve students with special needs as well as those who are struggling with reading and math.

The state will also provide parents with public reports showing information on test scores, graduation rates, and other outcomes for schools, districts, and the state. These reports will include information about class size and opportunities for students to participate in the arts. Reports will also provide parents with information about how much each school is spending per student. Current school report cards will be revised based on these new quality measures. You can always access our school performance by visiting the following website: www.data.nysed.gov

I am looking forward to this new state-wide education plan. Our goal in LaFayette is to provide high-quality opportunities for students that ensure excellence up through graduation and beyond. I look forward to partnering with parents, students, and staff to implement this new plan. Thank you for your continued support!

*Sincerely,
Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools*

Onondaga Nation School News

(...continued from page 1) begin at 4:30 pm with a presentation on a variety of community services and organizations. At 5:00 pm, we will have an opening followed by a community dinner. The remainder of the evening will be dedicated to making individual wampum bracelets. These individual bracelets will be combined to make a larger, wampum belt. A social will end the evening's activities. This evening, facilitated by Virgil Brave Rock, community liaison, created by Gawa ji ya' ge hen' En yonde:hga', translation, "They gather the families," will bring forth additional events in hopes of strengthening the ties between the Onondaga Nation School and the community it serves. – **John Gizzi and Simone Thornton**

♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

From the Desk of the **JSHS PRINCIPAL**

During the month of February, we will begin the scheduling process for next year. Students will have had the opportunity to take a short survey that apprises them of all of the possible course offerings for the following year. After the interest survey, each student in grades 9-12 will meet individually with their counselor to create their schedule for the following year. Currently, we are working with Onondaga Community College in hopes to add up to three new college level offerings. These college offerings would be a great addition to our already extensive number of college courses. During the scheduling process, our goal is to use the resources we have in place to provide the best opportunities to all of our students. If you have any questions about the scheduling process, please feel free to reach out to your child's counselor. For students in grades 7-9 contact Kristeen Cool at kcool@lafayetteschools.org and for students in grades 10-12 contact Bill O'Leary at boleary@lafayetteschools.org.

The LaFayette Jr. Sr. High School is excited to announce the creation of a new award titled the Optimist Achievement Award. Through the financial support of the LaFayette Optimist Club, the district was able to create this student achievement award. Each month one male and one female student will be recognized for exemplifying excellent moral and ethical character, as well as displaying values that align with that of the Optimist Creed. Very often these students go without recognition of their good deeds. The purpose of this award is to highlight their accomplishments and reward them for being positive contributing members to our community. We are grateful to the LaFayette Optimist Club for their support in helping us celebrate the positive contributions of our students.

Jason Ryan, Principal

2017-2018 ACT DATES

ACT Test

April 14, 2018
June 9, 2018
July 14, 2018

Registration Deadline

March 9, 2018
May 4, 2018
June 8, 2018

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

2017-2018 SAT DATES

SAT Test

May 5, 2018
June 2, 2018

Registration Deadline

April 6, 2018
May 3, 2018

SAT recommends registering online at: sat.collegeboard.com

College Acceptances

Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted to colleges for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year:

Catelyn Battelle

Lynchburg College

Alexi Harrington

Roanoke College

Serena Harrington

SUNY New Paltz

Molly FitzPatrick

SUNY Cortland

Cienna Oakes

SUNY Oneonta

Brennen Thrall

SUNY Cortland

Bridget Walsh

SUNY Cortland

St. John Fisher College

St. Bonaventure University

University of Hartford

The University of Maine

Binghamton University

University at Buffalo

LeMoyne College

Ithaca College

SUNY ESF

LeMoyne College and St. Joseph's

College of Nursing (Dual Degree

Partnership in Nursing)

♦ Grimshaw School News ♦

Is Your Son or Daughter a Dollar Dog Saver?

Grimshaw Elementary School students are saving their money and taking advantage of our in-school banking program with Empower Federal Credit Union.

Every other Tuesday as students arrive for school, an Empower Federal Credit Union representative accepts students' monetary deposits. Our Empower representative verifies all deposits and students receive special Dollar Dog surprises to reward their positive saving habits. A receipt of their deposit is printed and mailed directly home.

Saving is important! If you would like your son or daughter to be a Dollar Dog saver, please contact Lauri Hoover at 315.728.3474 or lhoover@empowerfcu.com.

*Membership eligibility required.
Empower Federal Credit Union is
federally insured by the National
Credit Union Administration.*



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

Jeremy Belfield, 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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 2 | Half Day Students /
Professional Development |
| 8 | BOE Meeting |
| 19-23 | No School - Winter Recess
(GS, BP, JSHS) |
| 26-March 2 | Dr. Seuss Week at Grimshaw |

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

