

Looking Back, Looking Forward: Some 2017 Memories from ONS



On the first Friday of the new school year we faced a dilemma at ONS: a witch had been found in the 5th grade classroom! Thinking quickly, Mrs. Powless stuffed her into the closet, but not before the witch used her evil to leave behind a trap for the unsuspecting 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. In order to escape the witch's wicked wrath, students had one hour to solve the clue that revealed their team, uncover hidden combinations to four locked boxes, and retrieve the key that would guarantee their escape to safety. And they had to do it all before the clock struck zero.

Maybe you've been to one of the escape rooms or other live-action entertainment venues popping up locally. Their growing popularity has led to a new trend in collaborative learning (just like the witch's takeover at ONS): breakout EDUs. These immersive learning games are gaining steam because they compel students to work together in a way that doesn't feel contrived. Students unite into teams and assume roles naturally based on their personal strengths. Success demands problem solving skills and critical thinking. The time clock creates a sense of urgency in students and it is only natural for everyone to learn to fail forward--if it doesn't work, try something else. They build grit in students without them even noticing all the effort because, above all, they are just plain fun.

After escaping (or failing to escape) the witch, our students took part in some powerful debriefing. They praised their teammates, examined their own strengths, and used the breakout as a metaphor for how they approach academics. And, of course, they can't wait to do it again.

Run to Yosemite



The students at Grimshaw Elementary are enthusiastic, determined, and goal seeking individuals. At the beginning of our cross-country running unit, students learned about the history and benefits your body gains by running. Students were given a goal of running 2,785 miles across the country to Yosemite National Park in California. This was the most miles Grimshaw has ever attempted. Along the way, we virtually visited many national parks, which included Shenandoah, Mammoth Cave, Yellowstone, Zion, and the Grand Canyon. Each national park was viewed via live web feed while students were running so they could enjoy the beauty that the parks have to offer.

Students counted laps during their physical education classes and we tallied them to come up with mile counts for each class. Each day we were able to see how many miles we accumulated and moved ourselves from Grimshaw Elementary across the map toward our final destination in California. As the unit progressed, the students were excited to see if we had made it to the next park during their class. On our final day, with only 90 miles to go to reach Yosemite, our 6th grade students tallied another 119 miles to get us there! With the miles from the final day, our goal was reached and surpassed. Grimshaw Elementary students ran for a total of 3,127 miles.

Building Inspections

Fire and insurance inspections were conducted throughout the district on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Inspections began at 8 a.m. in the Transportation/Maintenance Building and concluded at approximately 5 p.m. at the Jr./Sr. High School. The inspectors were very pleased with the district's buildings and their conditions. There were some minor violations detected, however, none of the violations were serious enough to require a re-inspection. Most items were corrected immediately. Those items that could not be immediately corrected due to scheduling with outside contractors were corrected by end of December 2017. A report will then be generated and sent to the State Education Department. Inspectors were: Donald Warnow of OCM BOCES, Connie Wallis of Wright Insurance and Jim Kesler, Director of Facilities. If you have any questions regarding this most recent inspection, please feel free to contact Jim Kesler at 315-677-7725.

Message from the Superintendent



As the month of January begins, school districts across New York State will begin to sharpen their pencils and get out their calculators in preparation for the development of school district budgets. Here in LaFayette we look forward to involving the community as we develop our 2018-2019 school district budget. Our goals for the budget process are as follows:

- 1) Present a balanced budget to our community which supports high quality programs for our students.
- 2) Provide resources which support the mission and vision of the school district.
- 3) Analyze school district resources to determine areas for increased efficiency.

We value input from the community on how to best support our students as we plan for the 2018-19 school year. Please consider joining us during our community budget meetings which will be held on the following dates in the Big Picture Commons Area:

- January 8, 2018 - 5:00 PM - Big Picture School
- January 22, 2018 - 5:00 PM - Big Picture School
- January 31, 2018 - 5:00 PM - Big Picture School

LaFayette Central Schools receive most of their revenues from New York State, due to this we will be watching the New York State Budget process very closely. In 2007, New York State developed a formula for distributing school aid that would sufficiently fulfill the promise of the New York State Constitution to provide a sound education to all students. Unfortunately, schools experienced increases in state aid for only one year as the national and state economy soured the following year. Schools were then forced to forgo any promised increases in state aid. This continues to affect us as we estimate that the LaFayette Central School District is underfunded in New York State Foundation Aid by approximately \$84,874. Please consider reaching out to our elected officials to let them know that we appreciate their support when it comes to providing adequate and equitable funding to our school.

You can keep track of our budget process by visiting our school district website and clicking on the "Quick Link" for 2018-19 School Budget. Assistant Superintendent for Business Tiffany Turner will be posting important budget documents that will continue to keep our community informed. We look forward to working with the community to create a budget plan that supports our greatest asset, our students. Thank you and have a happy new year!

*Sincerely,
Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools*

From the Office of Instruction and Pupil Services

From the New York State Education Department:

Education Department Encourages Students to Apply for the 2018 New York State Summer School of the Arts Program Currently Accepting Applications; Auditions and Portfolio Reviews Begin in January

The New York State Education Department today announced that applications are currently being accepted for the 2018 New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA). Students in grades 8-12 throughout New York State are encouraged to apply. NYSSSA is comprised of seven component schools: Theatre, Ballet, Modern Dance, Orchestral Studies, Choral Studies, Visual Arts, and Media Arts. Auditions begin in January and will be held across the state. A schedule of audition sites and application materials are available at the NYSSSA website.

The New York State Summer School of the Arts, a program of the New York State Education Department, provides over 400 of New York's most talented students the opportunity to study with professionals in the visual and performing arts. Founded in 1970, the summer arts residential program offers highly competitive pre-professional training to promising artists from a variety of disciplines. Four weeks of intensive work and interaction with internationally acclaimed artists and performing arts companies, such as the New York City Ballet and the Philadelphia Orchestra, give students a unique opportunity to experience the rigors of their chosen arts field. Each program culminates in a public final presentation or exhibition.

"From dance to theatre to choral studies, the Summer School of the Arts gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class artists and performers while developing their artistic talents," said Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa. "We're proud to offer this program to children across New York and I encour-

age all those interested to apply and audition this winter.”

“We’re proud to celebrate another year of the New York State Summer School of the Arts,” said State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia. “The longevity of this program is a testament to the talent and dedication of students across the state. The education students receive at this program helps them develop their artistic skill and discipline for not just the summer but for years to come as they pursue careers or further study in the arts. I urge students across New York to apply and also ask art and music teachers to encourage their students to apply.”

“Arts education is profoundly important and enriching for our children,” said Regent Roger Tilles, Chair of the Board of Regents Cultural Education Committee. “That’s why we’re proud to host the Summer School of the Arts program for hundreds of talented high school students every year. I urge students statewide to apply and audition for this extraordinary program.”

“I am humbled to lead this amazing program,” said Molly Hennighausen, Director of the New York State Summer School of the Arts. “The New York State Summer School of the Arts is a remarkable program that offers students the skills of artmaking, from music to performance to material arts, in various locations across the state. I am in awe of the students and the tremendous talent, hard work, and commitment they exhibit throughout the program.”

Students are accepted into NYSSSA through a competitive audition and review process conducted by the artistic staff. Tuition rates are maintained at a modest level and tuition assistance is available, enabling every student who qualifies the opportunity to participate in the program.

NYSSSA serves an important need to foster and enhance the artistic abilities of the state’s most gifted young artists regardless of race, religion or economic status. Follow-up studies on the program have identified former students who now hold positions within top professional companies around the world.

♦ **ATHLETIC NEWS** ♦

Congratulations to the following teams
who were Scholar Athlete Teams:

Girls Cross Country Team – Taylor Tummino, Molly FitzPatrick, Evelyn Ryan, Marissa Evans.

Girls Soccer Team – Shari Manchester, Leanna Crouse, Mya DeJoseph, Claire Frier, Jasmine DePalmo, Carha Williams, Kendra Doupe, Olivia Prince, Celia Bertlesman, Rylie Meier, Julianna Capone, Charlotte Ryan, Catelyn Battelle, Allison O’Kane.

Volleyball Team – Raegyn Garbutt, Alexi Harrington, Serena Harrington, Grace Quick, Grace Dow, Bethany Miller.

Varsity Boys Soccer Team – Kyle Lamson, Nik Cromley, Adam McIntyre, Ryan Zajac, Joe Lamson, Colin Morel, Tim Kramak, Mason Shute, Reid Jackowski, Cory Hart.

Boys Cross Country Team – Jack Caughey, Dan Conover, Colton Keane, Luke Wanlass.

Golf Team – Ben Appel, Thomas Meaney, RJ Shaver, Michael Wais
Football Team – Brennen Thrall, Patrick Prince.

Congratulations to the **Varsity Girls Basketball team**
who won the OCS Thanksgiving Weekend Tournament.

Congratulations to the **Varsity Boys Basketball team (below)**
who won the Lancers vs. Cancer Basketball Tournament.



♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

From the Desk of the **JSHS PRINCIPAL**

In the high school, we are preparing for the January Regents Exams. The exams will begin starting Tuesday, January 24th and run through Friday, January 27th. Even though some of our students will be taking Regents exams during this time, the Junior-Senior High School will function on a normal daily schedule. All students are expected to report to school as usual during this time period.

Last month, our students had the opportunity to participate in a “de-stress” day; in an attempt to help our student develop healthy coping strategies for dealing with stress. The day was comprised of several different sessions where teachers and community members taught students a variety of activities that could help our students manage their stress levels in a healthy way. The activities varied in nature and included things like Jig Tying, yoga, painting, crafts, music and much more. The day culminated with a building-wide assembly that included a hypnotist. Overall, the day was a great success and students were able to learn productive ways to manage their stress.

On Friday, December 22nd the Junior-Senior High School students participated in our annual “Day of Giving”. Students donated their time by lending a helping hand to a variety of different charities. On this day, we transported students to a variety of organizations so that they had the opportunity to experience the rewards associated with helping others. This is a special day and I am always amazed at our students eagerness to help those in need.

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

March 10, 2018
May 5, 2018
June 2, 2018

Registration Deadline

February 9, 2018
April 6, 2018
May 3, 2018

SAT recommends registering online at:
sat.collegeboard.com

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING DEPARTMENT NEWS

College Acceptances

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

Catelyn Battelle Cazenovia College
Pace University
University of New Haven

Allison Carroll SUNY Canton
Sean Corby SUNY Oswego
SUNY Plattsburgh

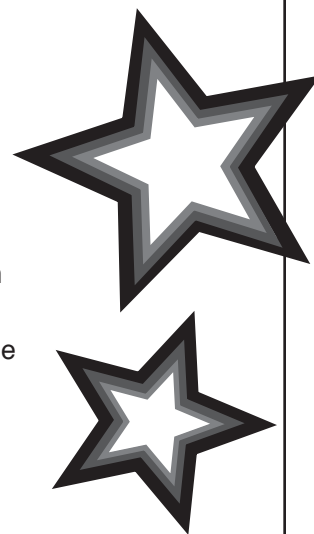
Molly FitzPatrick SUNY Brockport
Keuka College
St. Bonaventure University
Roberts Wesleyan College

Alexi Harrington SUNY Oswego
SUNY Oneonta

Serena Harrington SUNY Oswego
Patrick Prince SUNY Canton
SUNY Oneonta

Jacob Shaffer Elmira College
Siena College
SUNY Potsdam
Wells College

Brennen Thrall Hartwick College
Bridget Walsh Keuka College
Utica College



◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

December began with a faculty discussion about the celebration of children. Students who have been exceptionally kind and helpful to other students and staff have been given “kindness notes” and championed as representatives of the values embedded in the Positivity Project. During one week in December our 5th grade class was recognized for having perfect attendance. ONS will soon have television monitors mounted in different places in the building. The monitors, in addition to providing information, will serve as “digital bulletin boards” that highlight the efforts and accomplishments of our students.

The month ended with a New Year celebration. On December 22 all the students rotated through learning centers where topics focused on the natural processes of winter. In the afternoon students gave and received greetings and cookies baked by staff members and parents to celebrate the beginning of a new year.

On Thursday, December 14, ONS hosted a Kindergarten Day for parents and their children. Parents came in and had lunch with their children, which was catered by Firekeepers Restaurant. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Clemens shared what the students are learning and what is expected of them in kindergarten. Mr. Virgil BraveRock gave parents information about attendance procedures and policies. Mrs. McElroy-Elve provided the students and parents with information on access to the reading program MyOn. The program allows students to access six thousand electronic books at no cost, and the program has the capability of assessing reading comprehension. Mrs. Capella had students from many grade levels make beautiful pine cone and evergreen centerpieces. Students gave their parents two gifts, a snowman made from an outline of their own footprint and a glittery pine cone. Thank you to all who made this day happen. A special thank you to all of the family members that came in to share the day with their children. We plan on having a luncheon for every grade level before the school year is over.



Pre-K to 3 staff are hard at work implementing the LIPS Program, a program that focuses on phonological and phonemic awareness. Recently, 8th grade students went into third grade classrooms and provided a private recitation of original poetry.

I am very proud of the Pre-K to Grade 2 teachers who have established some integrated power standards for literacy, specifically in line with the NYS standards for reading that will serve as a common focus for instruction.

– John Gizzi, Interim Principal and Simone Thornton, Dean of Students

◆ The BIG PICTURE School News ◆

National Sparkhouse Conference



Big Picture Student representatives were invited to attend the *National Sparkhouse Conference* in Washington, D.C. *Sparkhouse* is part of the Education Reimagined community that strives to connect learner-centered educators, schools, and students from across the country.

Cailin Beebe, Mary Conover, and Cole Mirizio were picked to represent the school. They joined students from all across the country to discuss their learning environment and how to support one another through the Education Reimagined community. Cailin, Mary, and Cole became the experts on learner-centered

education as they demonstrated the unique strengths of the LaFayette Big Picture High School. This conference also allowed students to see that there are many schools across the country that approach education with the same philosophy as the LaFayette Big Picture High School. Education Reimagined has support from companies such as GE and the Walt Disney Company.

Our students also had the opportunity to visit parts of the Nation's Capital. They were able to visit the National Mall, White House, and the Capitol Building. Cailin, Mary, and Cole have continued to be a part of this learner-centered community through videoconferences. They plan to update our school community as involvement in the Education Reimagined community grows.

STEP Programs

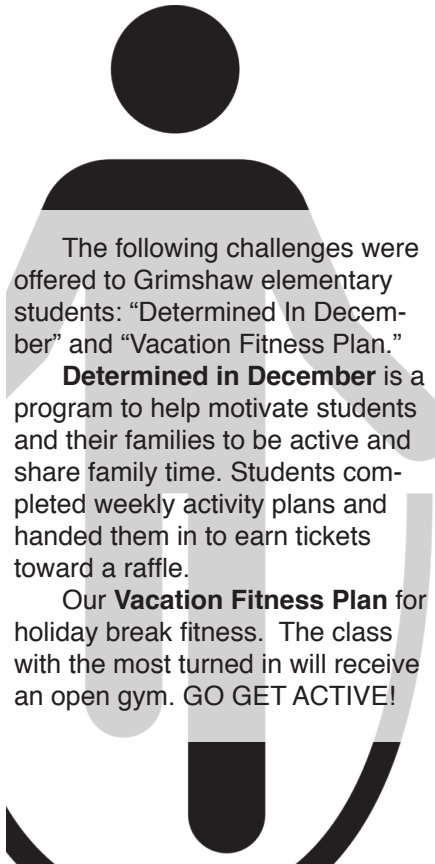
STEP will begin a series of after school workshops for students to join.

Video Game Development on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Students will learn how to develop their own 2D video game. Instruction will include how to create the art, music, and program the game.

Painting Exploration on Wednesdays after school. Students will be able to express themselves through a student led painting experience. There is a limited number of spots, please contact STEP if you are interested.

◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

Fitness Challenges



The following challenges were offered to Grimshaw elementary students: "Determined In December" and "Vacation Fitness Plan."

Determined in December is a program to help motivate students and their families to be active and share family time. Students completed weekly activity plans and handed them in to earn tickets toward a raffle.

Our **Vacation Fitness Plan** for holiday break fitness. The class with the most turned in will receive an open gym. GO GET ACTIVE!

Grimshaw's Music Department

Congratulations to the talented 5th and 6th Grade students of Grimshaw Elementary School for putting on a wonderful holiday concert. The concert took place on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00pm in the LaFayette JSHS Auditorium. The Concert Band, directed by Mrs. Rebecca Pethybridge went first and performed a wonderful set including songs "Gizmo" and "Merry Kisimusi". The Concert Band also had some Grimshaw staff members join them on stage! The Grimshaw Chorus, directed by Mrs. Kelly Snyder, performed next singing some holiday tunes including "Santa Makes the Rounds" and "Holly Jolly Christmas" in which the kids got to show off their kazoo skills! The 5th and 6th Grade students have been working really hard in Band and Chorus rehearsals since the beginning of school and got to finally show off their skills.

Another upcoming Grimshaw performance to look out for from our 5th and 6th Grade students is Grimshaw's performance of the musical Honk Jr. , which will be performed on Friday, January 12th at 7:00pm in the LaFayette JSHS Auditorium.

Dollar Dog

Because Dollar Dog wants you to learn good saving habits, here's his Winter/Spring 2018 Dollar Dog

Deposit Day calendar:

- January 16
- January 30
- February 13
- March 6
- March 20
- April 3
- April 17
- May 1
- May 15
- May 29
- June 12 (Last one for school year)

Not yet a Dollar Dog Saver? Contact Lauri Hoover at 315.728.3474 or lhoover@empowerfcu.com to join.

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

Paula Bush, Grimshaw Nurse
Phone: 677-5501

Health Office News

Fax: 677-3154
pbush@lafayetteschools.org

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, boots, and a warm jacket. Classes are allowed to have outdoor recess if the temperature is 25 degrees inclusive of the wind chill factor.

As for illnesses we were mainly seeing a variety of upper respiratory infections(colds/bronchitis /croup/strep) before the break in all grade levels. 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 voicemail if I am 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 next September. Most students have had 2 Varicella (chickenpox) vaccines by 6th grade but if they haven't a second one will be required to

enter 6th grade. There is also a new requirement for 7th and 12th graders now. Beginning in September 2016 students entering 7th and 12th grade are required to have a meningitis vaccine.The recommended ages for the Meningitis vaccine is to have the 1st dose at age 11 or-12 followed by a 2nd dose at age 16. If your child receives their 1st dose at age 16 or older a 2nd dose is not required.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 me a copy for their record.

Physicals are required in grades Pre-K, K, 2 and 4 and if you are new to the district. Thanks to all of you who have gotten those exams done and in to me for your child's record. If your child hasn't had his/her physical yet 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.

LaFayette Public Library News

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone has had a wonderful holiday season!

We have an ongoing jigsaw puzzle exchange in the entryway to the library. Pick up a puzzle or two – leave a puzzle or two. It's very popular and we have some really cool puzzles come through here.

We have a display case in which we like to change the contents monthly. If you would like to display your craft, hobby, or collection, or know of someone who might be interested in displaying their work, please let us know and we would be happy to schedule an exhibit.

Imagination Lab (Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30)

Jan 3rd – Free-fall foreshortening art

Jan 10th – Wonder dough, cornstarch, washable paint

Jan 17th – Newspaper art

Jan 24th – Minecraft selfies

Jan 31st – world in a Jar

The library system has a number of databases available that range from full courses to Newspaper archives to genealogy. Many of these databases are available on any device that can access the internet using your library card and pin number. Others are in-library use only. An example of that is Ancestry.com, a robust genealogy database, which is avail-

able for free in any library in the county on a device that's connected to the OCPL network. One of our public access computers is connected the OCPL network and has Ancestry bookmarked in Chrome.

Thank you for your continued support in using Smile. Amazon.com!

Speaking of imagination, our 3D printer is available for public use. Please come on in and be creative!

Just a reminder about our Tuesday Teas which are held every month on the third Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. People bring everything from knitting to coloring books or just bring yourself. We also have a jigsaw puzzle set up. The next one is January 16. Come join us!

Don't forget to visit: www.lafayettelibrary.org. You can also follow us on Facebook

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: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Imagination Lab: Wednesday 3:30 – 4:30

LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

CURRENT YOUTH PROGRAMS

Basketball: The seasons for girls/boys in grades 5 & 6 are underway. Practices are mid-week and games will be played on Saturdays in January and February.

Volleyball: This program is for girls in grades 3-6. The program is conducted on Wed. evenings, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Grimshaw's gym and will run through January 31.

Wrestling: For boys/girls grades K-6. Practices for Grades K-3 are Wed. and Fri., 5:15-6:30 p.m. Practices for grades 4-6 are Mon., 6-8 p.m., and Wed. and Fri., 6:30-8 p.m. Practices held in the wrestling room at the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School, located in the school's basement. There will not be any practices during school break in February. Matches will be held on Saturday mornings; the coach will provide schedule. The season runs through mid-March.

Registration and first practice will be on Wed., Jan. 3, at the respective practice times (grades K-3: 5:15 p.m.; grades 4-6: 6 p.m.). Registration fee is \$5.

UPCOMING YOUTH SPORTS

Basketball: The basketball program for girls/boys in grades 3 and 4 will begin after the February school break and run through March.

Baseball and Lacrosse: Apple Valley League Baseball and Upstate Lacrosse Association sign-ups will be held in early March.

OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

LCC Supervised Ski Nights: bus transport (cost of \$10) from Grimshaw and the Jr./Sr. High School to Song Mountain and lessons begin Friday, Jan. 5. Riders must register and make payment prior to riding the bus. The lessons will be held January 5, 12, 19, and February 2, 9, 16. Please note that there are NO lessons on Friday, January 26. In the event that a group misses a scheduled lesson during the program, make-up lessons will be conducted on March 2, but no bus transportation will be provided.

Community Council Board Meetings: 7 p.m., first Thursday of each month. Next meeting is December 7.

Please consider becoming a member of LCC as a board participant or a coach – we can't provide our programs without your help.

LCC Contact: www.townoflafayette.com • 315 677-7272 • P.O. Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078
Town Offices every Tuesday from 6:00-6:30 p.m. • lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnymail.com

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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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.

January

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | No School - Holiday Recess |
| 2 | School Re-Opens |
| 11 | BOE Meeting |
| 15 | No School - |
| | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| 22-26 | JSHS Regents |
| 25 | BOE Meeting |
| 26 | Half day for students |
| | Junior High Career Fair |
| | End of 20 weeks |

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

