

Successful Maple Project Builds Leadership and Community

For a number of years now the Big Picture School has been working on a project. We have wanted to tap the sugar maple trees on school grounds and produce our own maple syrup. Over



the course of the past 4 years we have experimented with different tapping techniques, boiled sap on our stove to produce small batches of maple syrup and even made a little maple candy. We have seen some successes and some failures but they were all learning experiences that prepared us for what was yet to come.

After the repeated setbacks from COVID, we were able to build a modest sugar shack last spring led by a senior student for his STP (senior thesis project). This year, one of our seniors, Kyler, stepped up to be the lead student to make this dream a reality. All of the lessons learned from staff and students had brought us to this point and though there was much more to learn, Kyler ...*Article continued on page 4.....*



LAFAYETTE ROCK FEST

Friday May 13th

Live Bands
Food & Fun

Donation \$5

Oliver's Campers Inc. Est. 1966

The "South Lot" 6-10pm
LaFayette Jr/Sr High - all are welcome



OPEN HOUSE

PARENTS AND STUDENTS ARE INVITED

VISIT WITH LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE STAFF

LEARN ABOUT US

BIG PICTURE STAFF WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE AND SHARE ABOUT OUR SCHOOL!

WEDNESDAY

MAY 25

6:00-7:30PM

YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR THE SCHOOL, ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT BIG PICTURE LEARNING, LEARN ABOUT INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, LEARN ABOUT INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WORK, AND UNDERSTAND HOW WE MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.



Legend of Learning: HEATHER VADALA

Congratulations to Ms. Heather Vadala, Custodial Worker and Shift Supervisor at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, who was selected as the March 2022 Legend of Learning!

The staff member who nominated Heather shared, "Heather goes above and beyond for our students and staff at the high school. Heather takes great pride in providing clean classrooms for students, and making sure that everyone has a school that sparkles each morning. Heather makes sure that sporting events, school events, meetings, and evening activities are set up and have everything that they need while using our high school facility. Thank you Heather for doing an exceptional job to provide a clean, healthy school for our students and staff!"

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

◆ LaFayette District News ◆



Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Jeremy Belfield,
Superintendent of Schools
jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org
315-529-9550 (cell)

Spring has finally arrived in LaFayette! One of the things that I love most about living in Central New York is the changing of the seasons. We have many great things to look forward to as we enter the Spring months. Be sure to check out our athletics schedule so you can cheer on our student athletes and coaches as spring sports will be in full swing during the month of April.

Our students and staff at Grimshaw Elementary have been participating in a community wide reading event during the month of March. Every family in grades Prekindergarten through fourth grade received a copy of the book Poppy. We had several guest readers record a read aloud for various chapters in the book. You can follow along by checking out the website setup by Ms. MacDonald, Grimshaw School Librarian- <https://sites.google.com/lafayetteschools.org/poppy/home>. Students at Grimshaw will also participate in the Battle of the Books with a building level competition occurring on April 8th.

If you have not already, be sure to check out Kyler Potak's Senior Thesis Project at Big Picture. Kyler and BP Advisor Lenny Oppedisanno have been processing sap from maple trees at the High School into maple syrup. Kyler and his fellow BP students spent one Sunday afternoon gathering over 35 gallons of sap for processing. You can read all about this incredible project in the Big Picture weekly reflection, TGIF, posted on the Big Picture webpage.

Our High School students will have the chance to celebrate cultures from around the world during Heritage week in April. Our high school staff and leaders are planning a week of events focused on celebrating culture from around the world. Also, be sure to congratulate our recent inductees into the National Junior High Honor Society. Our Senior High NHS students recently spent time giving back to a community organization called Sleep in Heavenly Peace, which provides beds for families in need. We are fortunate to have great students who are dedicated to serving our community.

The Onondaga Nation School has been working with the Onondaga Nation Farm and Food Bank to provide a food pantry at the school for students and families. The school is in the process of making space in a storage room for this food pantry and is working with community partners to stock the pantry. With rising food prices and family budgets strained, it will be great to have additional support available.

Be sure to check out our school district budget website. Our projected spending plan for the upcoming school year continues to support all existing programming for students and will include a new social worker at Grimshaw Elementary to help better serve the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students. We pride ourselves in LaFayette on using our resources to help support one another. We are fortunate to have such a supportive community, great students, and great families. I look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces at our school events during the spring months.

Volunteers for Board of Education Elections

If you are a qualified voter and would like to volunteer as an election poll worker on May 17, 2022, please contact District Clerk Paula Hibbert at 315-677-9728 or by email phibbert@lafayetteschools.org.

The election hours are 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Seeking volunteers for 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For more details please contact the District Clerk.

Parade of Baskets: May 6, 4-7pm in the Grimshaw Elem Cafeteria

We are hoping to have 80+ baskets with themes from Play-dough to chocolate, lottery tickets and tickets to entertainment venues. Drawings will be at 7pm, you do not need to be present to win. Tickets are 1 for \$1, 15 for \$10. All proceeds will go to the Grimshaw Student Council and Music Department.

More details will be posted on the Grimshaw Elementary website closer to the event. Any questions? Or if you would like to donate please contact: Jenn McDonald - jmcdonald@lafayetteschools.org or Becky Pethybridge - pethybridge@lafayetteschools.org.

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

BIG PICTURE LEARNING

Successful Maple Project Builds Leadership and Community

Article continued from cover...
was ready for the challenge.

In the bitter cold of early February, Kyler worked to finish the sheathing on the sugar shack, build a cupola for the roof, and assemble the evaporator. Building the evaporator involved installing insulation and firebrick to the inside of the arch, assembling the flue pan and finishing pan and mounting the float boxes. We also ran a smoke stack from the arch through the roof, installed the cupola and built a stand and feedline for the sap holding tank. Learning how to do this required hours of watching instructional videos, reading numerous manuals and consulting with experts.

Neil from SUNY ESF visited our school and showed Kyler how to identify and tap sugar maples. Using Neils guidance, Kyler and others tapped over 40 trees in our little sugar bush. Barb from Pied Piper Maple Syrup also visited to give pointers on operating the evaporator and hosted us to see her impressive



operation. Using guidance from Barb, Kyler and I did a clean boil, and sweetened the pans.

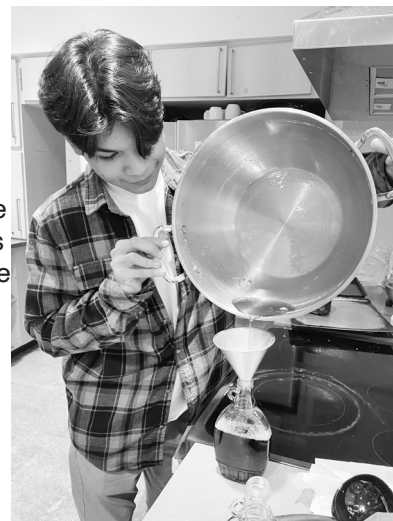
With a mix of excitement and nerves, Kyler finished and bottled the first batch of syrup on March 15th. We finally had a product to show for all our effort. It was a very exciting moment to hold that first warm golden bottle of sweetness. But in my opinion, the real success of this project has been realized in the learning and community building that has occurred. Literally dozens of students besides Kyler have had some role in producing that first bottle.

Students split the wood and tended the fire in the arch. Students tapped the trees and carried the sap from the woods. They monitored the flue pan and skimmed the foam.

They sanitized the bottles and filtered the syrup as the bottles were filled. Students also offered their knowledge in many areas. This ranged from different techniques for splitting wood, ways to make the sap collection easier, and how to finish boil the syrup without burning it.

The learning continues each day as Kyler and his peers evaluate and refine the process. They have figured out which area in the woods produces the most sap, how to keep the fire at a stable temperature and use the minimum amount of wood, and how to control the color of the syrup by leaving it in the finishing pan just a bit longer.

We wouldn't call ourselves experts and still have a great deal to learn. But keeping in the spirit of our school we are learning by doing and the progress is driven by true student leadership. The value of this project is summed up in just a few words. The other day I told Kyler I was proud of him and his reply was "I know, I'm proud of myself".



Nominations for Legends of Learning

You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who: **Help to advance the mission and vision of the district; Go above and beyond; Demonstrate that they put our students first; Support student learning; Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion; and/or Embrace creativity and innovation.**

Nominate a staff member today through an online survey which is available on our website.

♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

LaFayette Returns to Science Olympiad with a Strong Performance



Mr. McKenna & the Science Olympiad squad (R. Casler not pictured)

On Saturday, March 5th the Junior High Science Olympiad squad traveled to North Syracuse Junior High School to participate in the Regional Competition.

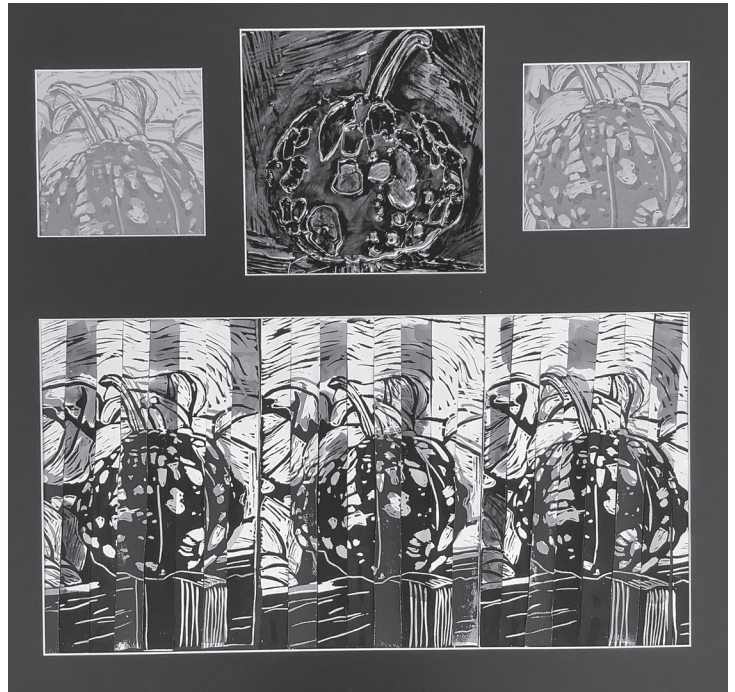
The team consisted of 9th Graders Rayna Casler & Ryan Ortleib, with Darren Benjamin, Hudson Borchert, Amelia Evans, Payton Lazore-Crouse, Oliver Newell, and Cameron White from the 8th grade. Students competed in a variety of events - from a test about Astronomy to building a "Rube Goldberg" device - performing against 22 other schools from the area.

All in all, students did well and medals were earned for the following events: Bridge - Hudson & Peyton; Bio Process Lab - Amelia & Hudson; Green Generation - Peyton & Oliver; Rocks & Minerals - Amelia & Hudson; and Write-IT, Do-IT - Amelia & Peyton.

Congratulations to the entire team for all of your performances!



Art Student Receives National Silver Medal



The 2022 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were announced this week. The art department is excited to share the news that Michael Bestul's artwork titled Pumpkin Patch has received a National Silver Medal. His art will be displayed in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Online Galleries at artandwriting.org in June. His name will also be listed in their Yearbook 2022!

More than 100,000 students submitted more than 260,000 works of art and writing to the 2022 Scholastic Awards. Michael's work was selected by some of the foremost leaders in the visual and literary arts for excellence in originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Less than 2,000 works receive a National Medal, which places Michael within the top 1% of all submissions!

The LaFayette Athletic Booster Club
Invites Everyone to

Stix it to Cancer event

The Crossroads Cup Saturday, May 14



♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦



NHS Students Volunteer with Sleep in Heavenly Peace

On March 16th, 11 National Honor Society students accompanied by Mrs. Edwards and Ms. Bang, volunteered with the organization **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**. These Lancers sanded, cut, drilled and branded wood, working with several others to build 30 beds that will be delivered to local children in need of a safe place to sleep. Thank you to Tyler Fabend, Sarah Wells, Jenna Reese, Olivia Virnoche, Claire Virnoche, Ben Haskins, Grace Caughey, Evan Farewell, Scott Heath, Aidan Griffin, and Andrew Kostiv for your hard work!

The Syracuse chapter of SHP serves families within a 25 mile radius of the city. If you are interested in volunteering, looking to donate bedding/other materials or are a family in need of support, please check out the website: <https://www.shpbeds.org>

The LaFayette Athletic Booster Club Event: THE CROSSROADS CUP

Please join us for our **STIX IT TO CANCER** event at LaFayette High School on **Saturday May 14, 2022**

We will be hosting a full day of athletic events. Lacrosse Players from the Boys and Girls Lacrosse Team at LaFayette and Tully High School are teaming up to fight cancer. The two lacrosse teams will be competing for the Winning Trophy. As rivals they meet on the field raising money to battle cancer.

There will be concessions, baked goods, coffee, henna, 50/50 raffles, and music, food, and fun.

Game Times:

Varsity Baseball Double Header begins at 11am vs Mater Dei

Varsity Girls Lacrosse begins at 11am vs Tully –10:45 T-shirt dedication introduction

Varsity Boys Lacrosse begins approximately at 1 pm vs Tully –12:45 T-shirt dedication introduction



We expect a big crowd and are always in need of volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand, please reach out to one of the officers ASAP. For more information regarding the day lacrosse games and/or to pre-order t-shirts visit our Facebook Page – LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. Any Questions Please feel free to reach out to an officer or call/text 315-415-7932 or email us at LaFayetteABC1@gmail.com

Organizations who will also be in attendance:

LaFayette Athletic Booster Club – Apparel and Accessories

Class of 2024 After Prom – Concession Stand Food

The Native American Club – Scoon Dogs, Strawberry Drink, Tacos, Water

Student Council – Sno Cones and Cotton Candy

The LaFayette Lacrosse Association – Milkshakes

Big Picture – Baked Goods, Coffee, Henna Tattooing

Yearbook Committee – Caramel Apple Pie Popcorn

Teen Institute – Art Auction

Class of 2026 & 2027 – Send a Gram of Love (this is great for parents and grandparents)

Also in participation with some kind of fun stuff will be the LaFayette Optimist Club and LaFayette Community Council

ORDER SHIRTS:



venmo

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER THEIR FIGHT..... IS OUR FIGHT!

◆ *LaFayette Community News* ◆

2022 SOUTHERN HILLS STORM YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER

FABIUS-POMPEY • LAFAYETTE • TULLY

REGISTER ONLINE NOW AT: www.storm1stand10.com

Season begins in August

CHEER FEES:

Grade	Team	Before June 1	June 1 – Nov. 1
K-2 (must turn 5 before 12/1/2022)	Flag Football Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
3-4	C Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
5-6	B Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
7-8 (cannot turn 15 prior to 12/1/2022)	A Cheer	*\$70	*\$85

FOOTBALL FEES:

Grade	Team	Before June 1	June 1 – Nov. 1
K-2 (must turn 5 before 12/1/2022)	Flag Football	*\$30	*\$40
3-4	C Football (Tackle)	*\$90	*\$110
5-6 (cannot turn 13 before 12/1/2022)	B Football (Tackle)	*\$90	*\$110

*There will be a \$40 fee added to the registration costs listed above. Registrants are given an opportunity to earn that \$40 back by selling the two raffle tickets given to you (\$20 each). You may sell the tickets and return the stubs for entry in the drawing, or simply elect to enter yourself into the drawing.

The \$40 fee for your raffle tickets is NOT included in prices shown above.

- Grades for registration are as of **FALL 2022**
- Partial payments option available
- For scholarships and all other questions,

please call: 315-575-0728



Sponsored by STORM 1st and 10 Club

◆ LaFayette Community News ◆

LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

• Web Site: www.townoflafayette.com • Mailing Address: PO Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078 • 315-677-7272 •

Youth Programs

Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball: Boys and girls in grades K-6. Practices will begin in April. Regular season games are scheduled to be played May 2 through June 10. Registration information and direct registration link has been provided through the school and is on the town website and Facebook. Registration is open through April 4.

Instructional Tee-Ball: Boys and girls in Pre-K & K (2021-2022 school year) that have not played tee-ball in the past. The sessions will be three weeks and will start in April/May. Registration information and direct registration link has been provided through the school and is on the town website and Facebook. Registration is open through April 4.

Lacrosse: Boys and girls K-6. Registration information and direct registration link has been provided through the school and is on the town website and Facebook. Program planning for each age group will be determined by the registration numbers. Registration is open through April 13.

Swim Lessons (boys and girls all ages): Generally, lessons are offered in conjunction with the Town of Pompey and are conducted at Cazenovia College in two separate 3-week sessions. Lessons are conducted daily, Monday-Friday, with 45-minute time slots beginning at 8 a.m. There is no cost to residents of the Town of LaFayette; participants must provide their own transportation. Once arrangements are finalized, details will be provided through the school and will be available at the LaFayette Town Hall or online at the Town's LCC website.

If you are able to help with the LCC programs – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 315-677-7272. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches. Thank you.

Announcements

Crossroads Cup – Stix it to Cancer, sponsored by LaFayette Athletic Booster Club on Saturday May 14, 2022 – LCC will have a tent at the fundraising event.

Memorial Day Parade - All LCC participants are invited to march with LCC in the Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 30, 9:00 a.m. Meet at LaFayette Alliance Church, 6069 Us Route 20, at 8:15 a.m.

Community Day - Saturday, June 4 at Stafford Park, LCC will be providing popcorn and sno-cones, and conducting other activities, including the Annual Duck Race. Stop by our table; enjoy some refreshments and GET YOUR DUCK!

Pickle Ball – If anyone is interested in starting a pickle ball league, please contact LCC.

Updates on all LCC programs can be found on the Town's web site under the "Community Council" tab. Information is also posted on LCC's Facebook page and the Town's social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook). When possible, notices will also be provided through the LaFayette School District.

LCC Contact Information

Contact: Call 315-677-7272 - leave a message/ask a question and a board member will return your call. (Messages are retrieved at least twice a week.)

E-mail: lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnyemail.com

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

Thank You

LCC would like to thank the following individuals who volunteered their time and efforts as coaches and helpers for LCC sports fall/winter programs: Soccer - Kevin Morel, Colin Morel, Amy Shute and members of the LaFayette School District's Varsity Soccer Team; Tom Schwartz and Gail Ruterma; Arif Karicic, and Kurt Shafer. Wrestling – Pat Dwyer, Todd Briggs, Carl Shaw, Matt Moses and Mike Johnson; Caitlin Shaw for communications/scheduling volunteers; and many individuals who helped out with score and time keeping during the home wrestling matches that LaFayette hosted and to all contributors for the items at the wrestling banquet. Volleyball – Alyssa Armstrong, Yut Yang, Heidi Johnson, Karen Reynolds and Cam Joyce. Grades 2-3 Basketball – Sally Morel. Grades 4-6 Basketball – Nate Loughlin, Eric Mangold, Jay Anderson and Corey Sullivan. **Thanks to each of the individuals and businesses that have provided donations to LCC programs and events. Your generosity is very much appreciated.**

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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LaFayette, NY 13084

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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.

April

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6 NJHS Induction
- 8 ONS Spring Dinner
- 11-15 Spring Recess
No School
- 18 BOE Meeting

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.



NHS Students Volunteer with Sleep in Heavenly Peace