

Big Picture Hydroponics Project



The LaFayette Big Picture School has been involved in a hydroponics project since January. It began with a grant from the Gifford Foundation for supplies. Rick Kolceski, a local Controlled Environment Instructor, has been coming in once or twice a week to guide us through the process.

The project began with basil, cilantro, jalapeno peppers, Tiny Tim cherry tomatoes and beefsteak

tomatoes. Rick brought in seedlings that he had started and students planted them in bucket and tray systems. Both organic and inorganic plant food were tried for the various setups, and pumps and aeration stones were added. When large enough, the seedlings were transplanted into baskets.

For the next month and a half, students monitored the pH and ppm (parts per million) of the solution that the plants were growing in. Students monitored and adjusted the solution multiple times each week and watched the plants thrive.

Over the past couple of weeks attention has been shifted to pruning the excess plant growth, hand pollinating the flowers and adjusting the light cycles to promote fruiting. At first it was intimidating to see how much plant material needed to be removed during pruning. The students soon learned that it was necessary to direct as much energy to the fruit as possible.

The whole school is excited to see tiny tomatoes and peppers forming and we have been enjoying the cilantro and basil all along. There have been many other benefits from the project. The setups have been used to guide instruction in Living Environment. The project is shared with any curious visitor that expresses interest, and the green plants improve the atmosphere of our main room during the bleak winter months.

Big Picture is looking forward to enjoying the fruits of our labor and are pursuing opportunities to scale up the hydroponics project.



\$100,000 Capital Outlay Project

The LaFayette Central School District is planning a \$100,000 capital outlay project. The proposed scope of work includes replacing carpeting in certain classrooms, hallways, and other spaces at the Jr/Sr High with tile floors. The plans must be submitted to NYSED and the project must be advertised in budget documents and budget proposition. The project is eligible for NYS School Building Aid.

Call for Nominations

On May 21, LaFayette Central School District voters will choose two district residents to serve on the Board of Education.

Candidates may be nominated only by petition and must collect at least 25 signatures from qualified school district voters to be placed on the ballot. Petitions, which are available now, must be filed by 5 p.m. April 22 with the District Clerk, LaFayette Central School District Office, 5955 US Route 20, LaFayette, NY 13084. Contact District Clerk Vanessa Tryon at 315-677-9728 or by email vtryon@lafayetteschools.org for a nominating petition.

Comprised of seven school district residents elected by voters, the LaFayette Board of Education is the official policy-making body of the school district and is responsible for carrying out the laws and regulations pertaining to the education of children living within the district. The board adopts district policy, curriculum, programs of study, and approves the hiring of all personnel, as well as establishing the conditions of employment. The board is also responsible for maintaining district facilities, establishing an annual budget and setting a tax levy.

Two terms of office will expire on June 30, 2019. In May, two candidates will be elected for three-year terms (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2022).

Board members are not financially compensated.

Individuals who are interested in learning more about serving on the board are invited to meet with LaFayette CSD Superintendent Jeremy Belfield. To learn more, contact Jeremy Belfield at 315-677-9728 or jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org or visit <https://www.nyssba.org/about-nyssba/running-for-the-school-board/>

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News



As we turn the corner to April, we welcome spring and the opportunity to get outside and cheer on our spring athletes. Thank you for your patience with all the delays and closings, it was a long winter!

We had a lot to celebrate during the month of March. Seven LaFayette student athletes who participate with the Syracuse Cougars Ice Hockey team won the NYS Ice Hockey State Championship. Congratulations to Kyle Lamson, Wyatt Weil, Skariwate Papineau, Kaleb Benedict, Cameron Walsh, Nelson Jones, and Aidan Griffin on an outstanding season. We honored the Ice Hockey team along with all of our varsity student athletes and coaches at the March 28th board meeting.

Our students excelled on stage with the performance of "The Little Mermaid". Our talented actors and actresses brought the house to their feet on Friday March 8th and Saturday March 9th. Thank you to the entire cast, stage crew, and the staff who assisted with an incredible show!

During the months of April and May, our students in grades 3-8 will take the NYS ELA and Math exams. Every school is participating in computer-based testing, this means that students will use their Chromebooks for these assessments. We are encouraging all students to take the exams and to try their best. The results of these exams are no longer used to evaluate principals or teachers, we will, however, use the test results to help inform professional development and school improvement plans. In the past, LaFayette has experienced a lack of participation from students in the NYS 3-8 testing program. New this year, we are offering a local assessment for any student who chooses not to take the New York State exams. These local assessments are aligned to the state learning standards and we will use the results to make sure that our students are receiving the best possible education. The NYS ELA exam and local assessments will be administered during the first week of April and the NYS Math exams and local assessments will be administered during the first week of May.

During the month of April, the district will be welcoming representatives from the New York State Education Department to the Jr/Sr High. NYSED will visit the Onondaga Nation School during the month of May. Both schools have been identified as comprehensive support and improvement schools due to a lack of student participation and low student performance on the NYS 3-8 Math and ELA exams. Representatives from NYSED will visit classrooms and work with our school principals to provide feedback on ways that we can improve student outcomes both in our classrooms and on state exams. We welcome the feedback from these visits, and we will use the results of the state visit as we write our school improvement plans.

Be sure to check out our school district webpage for updates on our budget process for 2019-20. We are looking to continue all the great opportunities for our students while also making the following improvements: increased security hours at Grimshaw Elementary, increased elementary sections to address class size, and the addition of instructional coaches/interns to help support our school improvement efforts and our students. Thank you to our school community for your continued support!

Sincerely, Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools

Junior/Senior High School News ♦



Positive Inspiration

New York State is looking to implement mental health education in schools over the next few years. Mr. Fox has teamed up with Ms. Bristol, the Guidance/Counseling Office, and students in his Psychology and Sociology classes to launch an initiative this year aimed at promoting Mental Health Awareness. Positive Inspiration cards are located all around the JRSH building, and free to anyone at our table set-ups during music concerts, sports games, musicals, and other school events. Please stop by to grab a few supportive words and messages. They are a wonderful way to remind a friend or loved one they are valuable and worthy!

You can contact the New York State Office of Mental Health for anyone in need of help at (800) 597-8481. A crisis hotline can be reached by texting Got5 to 741741. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-TALK (8255) suicidepreventionlifeline.org. www.omh.ny.gov

♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Jason Ryan

With the onset of Spring, the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School has much to celebrate. Our students just completed their spring musical performance, which was an absolute success. It was amazing to see all the students' hard work pay off with the culmination of what turned out to be a great performance. I want to give a special thank you to all the teachers, parents, and community members for their help and support during the preparation of the musical. The success of the performance was a direct

result of the time and effort everyone put forth.

The 2019-2020 scheduling season is upon us. Our counseling staff has been meeting with students on a regular basis to create schedules for next year. In addition to individual meetings, teachers have been talking with students about the various elective opportunities we offer here at the Jr./Sr. High School. If you have any questions about the scheduling process or would like to be a part of your child's individual scheduling meeting, you are urged to contact your child's counselor at 315-677-7849.

I am excited to announce that our SECNY Lancer Branch is in full swing. The student run bank is staffed and open to students on Tuesdays and Thursdays during all lunch periods. I cannot say enough about how grateful we are to SECNY Credit Union for bringing this opportunity to our students. In addition to working at the bank, students receive weekly instruction around the topic of financial literacy. These lessons will help our students to make smart financial decisions resulting in a higher rate of overall future success.

Our 7th and 8th grade students had the opportunity to take part in the ECHOES program facilitated through the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theater. ECHOES is the largest middle school writing competition in the United States. After a brief classroom workshop, students are encouraged to submit original pieces of writing to the program. If selected, the ECHOES program will turn the students writing into a poem, song, story or skit. Actors from the Merry-Go-Round Playhouse then visit our school and perform a 45-minute production that is made up of the various selected writing pieces. The program typically receives up to 4,000 creative writing pieces. We are excited to announce that this year we had seven of our students recognized by the production.

Jason Ryan, Principal

♦ Grimshaw School News ♦

PRINCIPAL'S
MESSAGE *from the desk of Mrs. Blosssey*

This month has been busy for students at Grimshaw. We have

been working hard to collect items to help replenish our local food pantry. Each classroom collected a specific item to refill the shelves. Thank you so much for all of those that donated items to help with this worthy cause.

Congratulations to Paul Wells and Gregory Wheeler who were featured as showcase authors in the Echoes performance put on by Merry Go Round Theater. Caroline Davidson and Ryan Ortlieb received awards for Excellence in Writing. The following students received Honorable Mention awards for their submissions: Caitlyn Fabend, Caroline Davidson and Carlee Clemens.

We continue to show amazing progress this year with attendance. As of this month we have 45 students who have maintained perfect attendance. However, as the weather continues to fluctuate and the germs continue to swarm around our students, please remind them to dress appropriately for school and be proactive about keeping the germs away through regular handwashing. Keep up the great work Grimshaw students.

Jenn Blosssey, Principal

PARADE OF BASKETS

Presented by: Grimshaw's Reading Department & Student Council

Grimshaw Elementary Cafeteria
Friday, May 3, 2019 ♦ 4:00pm-7:00pm

Basket drawings @ 7:10 ♦ Need not be present to win
13 tickets for \$10 ♦ 6 tickets for \$5 ♦ 1 ticket for \$1

90+ Baskets, Gift Cards and Admissions to
Local Attractions as well as Popular themed baskets.

In recent years, donors have included LaFayette Veterinary Clinic, Wegmans, Movie Tavern, Sky Zone, Rosamond Gifford Zoo, the MOST, Seabreeze, 5 WITS, Delmonico's and Darien Lake.

We welcome donations of themed baskets, merchandise, gift cards or admission tickets from your family or business!
Please contact us if you can help: (315) 677-3152

ebailey@lafayetteschools.org
cwoodworth@lafayetteschools.org
mzehner@lafayetteschools.org
jmcdonald@lafayetteschools.org

Concessions will be available from Cue-Dogs

◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

From the Desks of
**JOHN GIZZI &
SIMONE GONYEA**

On Friday, March 15, 2019, ONS held its annual talent show. For nearly two hours, students and staff performed to the delight of a packed gymnasium. Students performed a variety of musical genres including traditional Haudenosaunee social dance songs, hand drum

songs, pow wow fancy dance songs, contemporary popular songs, and classical band music. There was joke telling, gymnastics, a fashion show, and the little ones performed a Dino Stomp, "There was a Crocodile", and the Alphabet Song. The show ended with many ONS staff members performing a SuperHero song and dance routine. It was wonderful to see children so proud, so confident, having so much fun expressing themselves, as well as the realization that we have SOOO much talent at ONS. Parents expressed their gratitude and asked if we would please record the entire performance next year so that they could keep the memories in digital form.

Thank you to all the kids for performing. Thank you to staff for both performing and supporting the kids. Thank you to the ONS Student Leadership Group for organizing the event and announcing each act. PTS was present and had strawberry drink for everyone to enjoy - Nyawēñha to PTS.

The final Family Night occurred on the evening of Wednesday March 13th. Another delicious shared meal was provided by Firekeepers. The vendor tables present at the event included YMCA programs, Girls Scouts, Sue Ellen's Group, Sjisawhishek, RC Car - STEP project with Mr. Stablein, ONS music program with Ms. Downs, PreK and Kindergarten registration table with Mrs. Peronne, Mrs. Murray, Ms. Haumann, Mrs. Gawinski, and the LaFayette Library with Scott Kushner. Ashley Bennett, from PTS, provided door prizes. Over dessert, Mr. Marc Crouse, from OCM Boces, shared the Onondaga Nation School designation as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) School. In addition, Mr. Belfield explained the specific criteria, attendance and test participation, as the reasons for the state designation. Mr. Belfield answered questions from community members providing a context for ONS staff, the community and district to work together for the benefit of our students. The evening concluded with social songs performed by: Sophia Hill, Kaidence and Chevelle Cronin, Olivia Elm, Olivia Stern, Adrianna Paige, and Joshua and Noah Thompson.

As the weather changes from winter to spring, that means one very important thing--the sap is running in the sugar maples. This season we are so excited to have some new equipment and processes in place. A portion of the pavilion, behind the basketball court, has been enclosed and it is housing a new sap evaporator that will boil sap in greater volume and efficiency compared to what was in place in the past. Parker Booth is heading up the planning and tapping hundreds of trees with a pipe and tubing system that will have hundreds of gallons of sap flowing very soon. The new equipment and tapping process will allow ONS to produce so much more syrup for the school and community. The greater production will give students more opportunities for engaging in learning about the traditional process of sap boiling and for making a contribution to the Nation community. We look forward to hosting a pancake breakfast using the syrup processed in our new evaporator!

Upcoming Events at ONS:

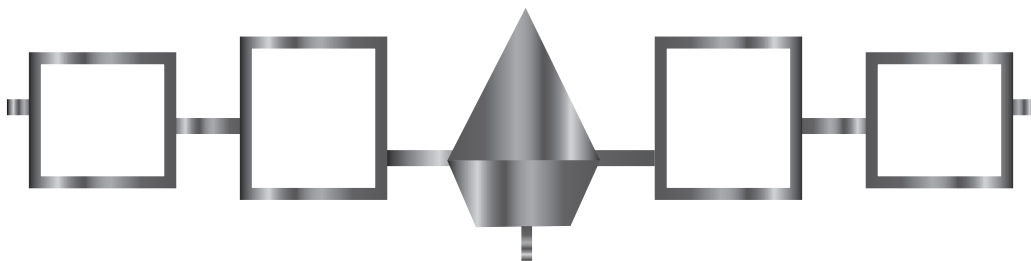
Thursday March 28th
Bruce Coville, visiting author

April 3 and 4th
New York State ELA Testing

April 5th
End of third marking period

April 15 - 19th
Spring Recess

April 26th
ONS Spring Dinner



LaFayette Public Library News

2577 US-II, Lafayette, NY 13084 • (315) 677-3782 • www.lafayettelibrary.org

First we like to **apologize for some unplanned early closings** in the last couple of months due to the lack of sufficient heat in the library. The issue has been resolved. Sorry for any inconvenience!

There is an international project called “Drawdown” which is an effort to combat climate change. There is a book in our collection by the same name which offers a comprehensive list of solutions. During the month of April the **Drawdown Ecochallenge**, which is a fun and social way of taking action, is held. There are teams from all over the world formed by community organizations. If you are interested, go <https://drawdown.ecochallenge.org/> and search for and join the LaFayette Public Library team. There is a short video that describes the process. Come join us!

Reminder: The library has three **Empire passes** that allow access to any of the New York State Parks, and two passes to the Onondaga County Parks. The Empire passes and the Onondaga County passes can be checked out for a three day loan period, only one per family at a time and no holds or renewals. Enjoy!

We would like to **thank you** for your ongoing support when using Amazon Smile <https://smile.amazon.com/>, login as you normally would, and choose LaFayette Public Library for your charity of choice, and for every \$1000 spent Amazon donates \$5.00 back to the library – with no extra charge to you! Thanks!

Along with many other libraries in Onondaga County, LaFayette Public Library is working with an organization called “**Field Goods**”. They deliver fresh foods from small farms. The library serves as a drop off/pick up place to deliver the food. This is a “local supports local” effort. There is an option to add \$1.00 to your order that will go to the library so it serves as a fundraiser besides helping to support the local economy. It is custom ordering so you can pick what you want delivered. The food is delivered on a weekly basis on Wednesday. For more information or to sign up, go to <https://www.field-goods.com>.

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

April 4, 2-4 p.m.

Estate Planning with
Tim P. Crisafulli in the
library’s community room

Imagination Lab - April

April 3rd: Sensory Balls

April 10th: Homemade Floam

April 17th: Negative Space Art

April 24th: Jar Terrariums

April 17, 2-4 p.m.

Tuesday Teas are held every month on
the third Tues. People bring every-
thing from knitting to coloring books
or just bring yourself.

Wednesdays @10 a.m.

Step Up to Stop Falling:
in the library community room;
program runs through May 22.

If you would like to **display your craft, hobby or collection** or know of someone who might be interested in displaying their work in our display case, please let us know.

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 puzzle set up in the library so come in and fit a piece or two (or three).

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. Ancestry.com is one that is accessible for in library use.

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 also have two ipads in the children’s area with lots of fun and education apps on them

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.

Don’t forget to visit: www.lafayettelibrary.org

You can also follow us on Facebook.

For any questions regarding closing due to weather, event schedules and other information, please go to our website – www.lafayettelibrary.org or our Facebook page for up to date information.

Story times:

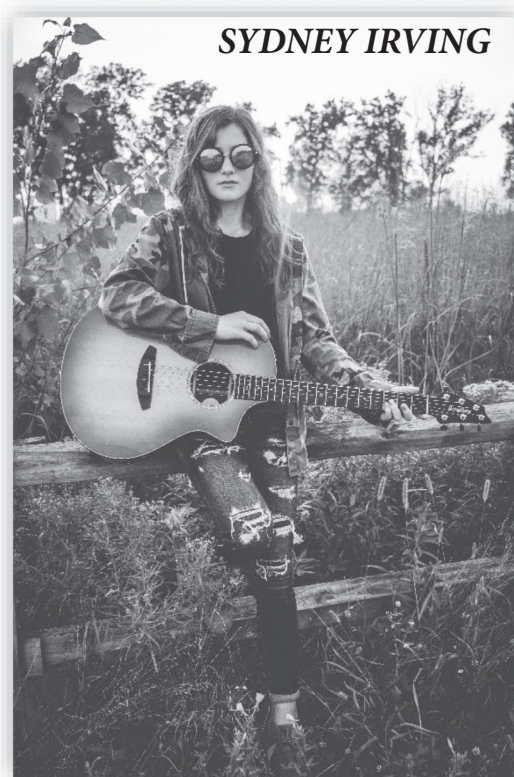
Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

June 7 • 6-10 p.m. at the Apple Fest Location

Join the American Cancer Society to celebrate lives, save lives, and lead the fight for a world without cancer

Come and watch SYDNEY IRVING perform live music!

Fun games for all ages, including a Cornhole Tournament!



Luminaria Ceremony to remember those lost. Dedicate a bag in honor/in memory for a \$5 donation.
Are you a survivor? Join us to celebrate YOU on June 7th! You are why we Relay!

For more information, contact: Margaret DeNeve 315-415-1318 or email rflapplecountry@gmail.com
TO SIGN UP YOUR TEAM TO TO: www.relayforlife.org/applecountry

YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER REGISTRATION

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.storm1stand10.com

DIVISIONS

Football:

Grades 5 and 6 - 'B' TEAM (tackle)

Grades 3 and 4 - 'C' TEAM (tackle)

Grades K thru 2 - FLAG FOOTBALL (Not tackle)

CHEER:

Ages 9-12 by 12/31/19 - B CHEER SQUAD

Ages 7-10 by 12/31/19 - C CHEER SQUAD

FEES:

Tackle Football (B and C Levels) - \$95 / \$80 *early bird

Flag Football - \$30 / \$25 *early bird

Cheer (B and C Squads) - \$65 / \$55 *early bird

Partial Periodic Payment Plans Available.

***Early Bird
Discounts
for registering
by May 31
QUESTIONS?
CALL 315-575-0728**

Sponsored by
Storm 1st and 10 Club



LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Youth Programs

Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball: Boys/girls in grades K-6. Practices will begin in April. Regular season games are scheduled to be played April 29 through June 7.

Pre-Season Baseball and Softball Workouts: Saturdays, April 13 & 27, 12-3 p.m. Girls/boys in grades 3-6 are welcome to attend these sessions to work on skills. If necessary, these workouts will be held in the Grimshaw School gymnasium.

Instructional Tee-Ball: Boys and girls in Pre-K & K. Begins in May and runs through mid-June. Fee is \$5.

Lacrosse: Instructional programs for girls/boys in grades K-2 (full-day kindergarten), and developmental programs for boys and girls in grades 2-6. Programs will begin the week of July 8 and run for six weeks. Fee is \$5. *PLEASE NOTE: This is not ULA (Upstate Lacrosse Association) – LCC will not be hosting ULA teams this year due to past difficulties finding coaches and fielding teams.*

Swim Lessons* (boys/girls, all ages): Lessons offered in conjunction with the Town of Pompey and are conducted at Cazenovia College. There are two separate 3-week sessions: July 1-19 (no class July 4th), and July 22-August 9. Lessons are conducted Monday – Friday, with 45 minute time slots beginning at 8 a.m. There is no cost for residents of the Town of LaFayette. Participants must provide their own transportation. Registration forms are available at the LaFayette Town Hall or on line at the Town's LCC website. The registration deadline is May 17, 2019.

Soccer Camp* (boys/girls grades PK-6): LCC hopes to host this camp, offered by The Ultimate Goal, again this year. Details of the camp are TBD, but likely the camp will take place the last week of July at Stafford Park.

Tennis Camp* (boys/girls entering Grades 3- 7): LCC hopes to host this camp, conducted by LaFayette Sr. High School Varsity tennis coach, Joe Fox, again this year. Details of the camp are TBD, but likely the camp will take place the last week of July at the Stafford Park tennis courts.

*Flyers with registration form and additional details for programs will be sent home from school. Information and forms can also be found at the Town Offices and on the Town's website under the Community Council tab.

For additional information about the Youth programs, or if you are able to help out – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 677-7272 or send e-mail to: lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnymail.com. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers. Thank you.

Adult Programs

Daytime/Senior Exercise: Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., at the LaFayette VFW on Rte. 11. The current session runs April 2 – May 9. The cost per session is \$36 and cannot be prorated. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class.

Yoga: Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Grimshaw Elementary School. The current session runs through June 19, 2019. The cost for this session is \$76 if attending class one night per week, either Monday or Wednesday, and \$152 if attending class both Monday and Wednesday. Fees cannot be prorated. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class.

WERQ® (This class replaces Zumba and Tabata): WERQ® is a dance fitness class that tightens and tones the entire body through athletic moves and dance steps choreographed to dance, pop and hip-hop music. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Grimshaw Elementary School. The current session runs through June 19, 2019. The cost for this session is \$76 if attending class one night per week, either Monday or Wednesday, and \$152 if attending class both Monday and Wednesday. Fees cannot be prorated. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class.

Tai Chi: Beginner and advance classes. Call instructor Lynn Perrine at 315-677-8114 for details.

Men's Basketball: Monday evenings, 7-9 p.m. in the Grimshaw Elementary School gymnasium. Program runs through May 2019. Participants must sign a waiver, which are available online or at each session. The cost for this program is \$20 for the entire session or \$5 per week walk-in fee.

Other Programs

Walking: Don't let the weather keep you from getting some exercise during the winter months; the hallways of Grimshaw Elementary School are available for walking weekday evenings from 6-8 p.m., until April 30, 2019. Please use the gymnasium entrance and bring dry footwear to wear while walking the halls. A note book will be provided in the gymnasium foyer for sign-in. The recreation path at Stafford Park is also available, every day, dawn to dusk. During the winter, only the south section of the path will be maintained for walkers.

"Step Up To Stop Falls": A falls prevention program, held on Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m., in the LaFayette Public Library's conference room. NO FEE for this program.

Community Council Board Meetings are scheduled for 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

"Open for Business - Town Hall Tuesday Nights" at the Town Offices every Tuesday from 6-6:30 p.m.

www.townoflafayette.com • 315-677-7272 • lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnymail.com • PO Box 98 LaFayette, NY 13078

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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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.

April

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 3 | National Junior Honor Society Induction |
| 11 | BOE Meeting |
| 15-19 | No School - Spring Recess |
| 22 | BOE Meeting |
| 26 | ONS Spring Dinner |

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

