

Teens Shine at Heart of New York Teen Institute Conference



Once again this year, LaFayette was well-represented at the Heart of New York Teen Institute conference, held November 14 - 17 in Speculator, NY.

Seven students in grades 10-12 attending as first-year participants engaged in four days of ice-breakers and challenging team-building activities, attended presentations on leadership and healthy decision making, and learned how to create positive changes in their home communities. They willingly turned off and relinquished phones -- A difficult task, but one that led to real, genuine conversations and connections with a diverse group of peers from across the state.

LaFayette was also represented by 5 Youth Staff. These students attended the Heart of New York Teen Institute conference as participants in years prior, and applied for positions on the Youth Staff -- a small group of motivated students who dedicate a vast amount of their time after school, on weekends, and over the summer to be trained as peer leaders and facilitators. They design and run multiple activities over the four-day conference.

We are proud of the great participation from all of our attendees, and look forward to seeing the difference they make in their community now and in the future as leaders. Great job, LaFayette Teen Institute!



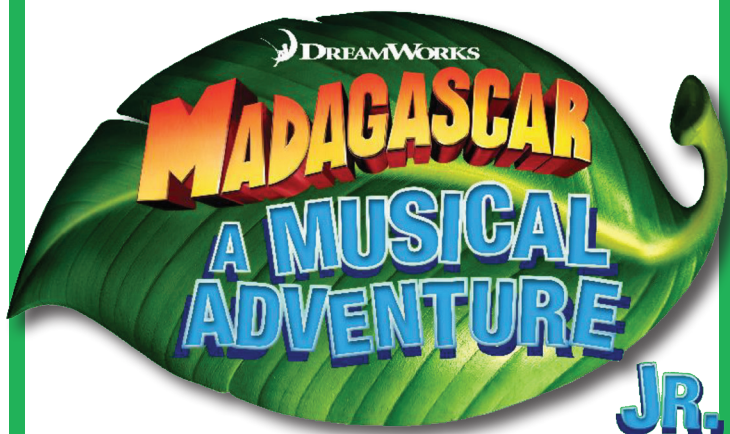
National Honor Society Induction



In November the LaFayette Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted ten new members. Former NHS member and 2016 valedictorian, Ryan Agedal (inset), made an appearance to talk to the inductees about how the four pillars of National Honor Society will play a role in life after high school.

Congratulations to Brandon Benjamin, Lindsay Carroll, Kendra Doupe, Grace Dow, Harlee Farrar, Colton Keane, Evelyn Ryan, Megan Sanders, Mason Shute, and Luke Wanlass.

**Grimshaw Elementary 5th and 6th Grades
present**



Friday, December 6th at 7:00 pm
LaFayette Jr/Sr High School
\$5 per person or \$20 per family

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News



Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

During the month of November, our school community had many opportunities for celebration. Most notably, November marked Native American Heritage Month. Students at the Onondaga Nation School celebrated through a school spirit week that featured highlights from Native Culture, such as “Wear Your Beaded Bling”, “Rock your Nation”, “Rock your Mocs Day”. Our ONS students also had the chance to give back to their community by celebrating Harvest Dinner serving over 400 guests.

November marked our fourth annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. Several notable athletes, teams, and contributor Lars Tiffany, coach of the NCAA Champion Virginia Lacrosse team, were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The 1963 Onondaga League Champion Lacrosse Team and the 1975 Girls Volleyball team were inducted as well. Thank you to all of our alumni, community members, and our Hall of Fame committee for a great event that highlighted the work of our past athletes, coaches and teams.

It was very fitting that just after our Hall of Fame ceremony we had the chance to cheer on our Lancers Volleyball team at the Regional Semi-Final game at Jamesville Dewitt. Our Varsity Volleyball team had a great season which included winning their league and the section title. Unfortunately, the team was not successful against a very tough opponent in Candor; however, with the talent on our current team, I anticipate this loss will leave them hungry for another impressive run next year.

On the academic front, the LaFayette chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed the following new members: Brandon Benjamin, Lindsay Carroll, Kendra Doupe, Grace Dow, Harlee Farrar, Colton Keane, Evelyn Ryan, Megan Sanders, Mason Shute, and Luke Wanlass. Congratulations to our inductees!

As we head into the month of December, be sure to check out the Grimshaw Musical, “**Madagascar**” on Friday December 6th at 7:00 PM. We will have an array of winter concerts for you to enjoy as well:

- Wednesday December 11th: **Grimshaw Winter Concert** 7:00 PM - HS Auditorium
- Tuesday December 17th: **Jr/Sr High School Winter Concert** 7:00 PM - HS Auditorium
- Wednesday December 18th: **Onondaga Nation School Snowflake Concert** 6:00 PM - ONS

For students and parents looking to get involved, we still have room available on our Parent and Student Advisory Council. We will also host our Community Budget Meetings for the development of the 2020-2021 school district budget on the following dates/times in Big Picture Commons:

- Wednesday January 22, 2020 @ 5pm- location: Big Picture
- Wednesday February 5, 2020 @ 5pm- location: Big Picture

Contact me via email to sign up: jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org.

Thank you for a great November and I am looking forward to an exciting December.

Sincerely, Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools

NYS Graduation Measures

Board of Regents and NYSED Launch Phase I of Review of New York State Graduation Measures: The Board of Regents and NYSED launched the first phase in the review of graduation measures in New York State. The ultimate goal of the review is to reaffirm what it means to obtain a diploma in New York State and what that diploma should signify to ensure educational excellence and equity for all students.

The information gathering phase includes partnering with Achieve to conduct a review of the relevant research and practices in other states and countries. In addition, the Regents and Department will hold regional meetings starting in January to help gather feedback on five guiding questions to help inform the work of a Blue Ribbon Commission to be formed next year. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will provide a \$100,000 grant to support the Department's Phase I activities.

The three phases of the graduation measures review include:

- Phase I: Information Gathering & Learning (November 2019 - March 2020)
- Phase II: Blue Ribbon Commission (May 2020 - Summer 2021)
- Phase III: Regents Discussion (Fall 2021)

The Graduation Measures web page provides information about the review process and a link to subscribe for updates. The specific dates and locations of the Regional Work Group meetings, which will begin in January 2020, will be added as they become available.

♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

By now, you should have received your child's 1st marking period

report card in the mail. It's difficult to believe that six weeks of the school year are already behind us. If you have any questions about your child's performance or would like to set up a parent-teacher conference, please contact our counseling department at 315-677-7849.

November was filled with excitement and celebration. The Freshmen class was honored at our OCC Advantage Kickoff event at Onondaga Community College. As a result of the program, every Freshmen has the opportunity to attend OCC free of charge.

We are extremely proud of the varsity volleyball team on their sectional title this year. The girls had an impressive win over Bishop Ludden to capture the Section 3 title. Congratulations to the players and coaches on an outstanding season.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to let everyone know that our Native American Liaison, Asa Shenandoah, has recently accepted a new position with IBEW 1249. Asa has been a wonderful asset to the LaFayette community as a whole, and she will be greatly missed by both students and staff. The district has posted for this vacancy using several different venues in hopes of finding a high-quality candidate. If you have any questions regarding this position or the search process, please do not hesitate to contact me at jpryan@lafayetteschools.org.

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Jason Ryan

Build 'Em & Bust 'Em



Victoria and Andrew Kostiv participated in the annual Central New York Bridges: Build 'Em & Bust 'Em bridge building competition at the MOST in Syracuse. This competition provides any 4th – 12th grade students

a hands-on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activity. This event gives students an opportunity to test their ability in engineering, teamwork, and design.

Each team builds a balsa wood bridge to test the strength and durability of their design. Victoria and Andrew competed in the Category III, 9-12th grade level. Their bridge was built to competition specifications, was light and achieved an overall efficiency rating of 765. Bridge Efficiency (E) is a ratio of how much load the bridge can handle to the mass of the bridge.

Congratulations to Victoria and Andrew on a great team design!



♦ Grimshaw School News ♦

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

Thank you to our students, staff and community, especially Ian Colburn, for spearheading the Spirit Week held in late November for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation). We donated \$315 to the worthy cause. JDRF is the world's largest nonprofit foundation supporting Type 1 diabetes research. The funds raised will assist the scientists who oversee a diverse portfolio of research tracks, leaving no stone unturned in the search for a

cure.

Grimshaw Has a Busy Month Ahead

The Grimshaw 5th and 6th Grade students have been preparing for the upcoming performance of Madagascar Jr. The performance will take place on **Friday, December 6th at 7 p.m.** at the Jr/Sr High School Auditorium. The cost of the tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for the family. We are looking forward to this awesome show.

The following week will be the Holiday Band and Chorus Concert. The concert is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11th at 7 p.m.** at the Jr/Sr Senior High School Auditorium.

With the holidays right around the corner, Grimshaw will be hosting their **Annual Spirit Week:**

- Monday, December 16th - "Hats Off" - off the Holidays, wear your favorite holiday hat, elf ears, etc.
- Tuesday, December 17th - "Holiday Sock Party" - wear a pair of crazy holiday socks to school
- Wednesday, December 18th - "Red and Green Day" - how much red and green can you wear?
- Thursday, December 19th - "Ugly Holiday Apparel Day" - bring on the ugly sweaters/t-shirts, etc.
- Friday, December 20th - "Pajama Day" - get in the spirit of wearing your favorite PJs to be comfy and cozy!!! (Please no slippers for safety reasons)

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

BIG PICTURE LEARNING

We are busy! We are going in every direction. At times, I worry about how many directions we are going in and worry that we are not settling into a “routine.” However, the growth and learning that is evident after these experiences assures me that this is the right path for our students. Here are some of the highlights from October.

We grow garlic each year on the Apple Festival grounds and this year we did a small experimental plot in our school garden. Our goal is to grow enough to sell some, make some into garlic oil to sell and reserve some for seed. The success of our crop varies depending on weather and timing. Although we didn't have a great yield last year, we learn lessons from every experience. In a typical year, students are involved in planting garlic in late fall, cutting the scapes in May, pulling the garlic from the field in July, and processing or ‘cleaning’ the garlic in September. On the production end of things we package the garlic into quarter pound bundles and make garlic oil in our kitchen. On the business end, we work out the cost of materials, derive a price and conduct the actual sales at the Apple Festival. The week of the Apple Festival students sterilized bottles, peeled garlic, weighed and packaged product and applied labels. On Saturday and Sunday, students accompanied Erin, Jessica and Lenny at our garlic booth to sell our product.



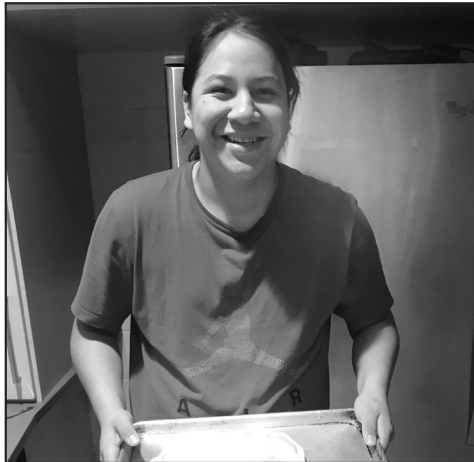
There are lessons built into every step of this process. We admit that it can be very frustrating when students complain, waste material, drift off on their phones or don't see a task through to completion. But those behaviors act as a reminder for why we do this project. We can't expect every student to walk in our doors with all of the necessary work skills. This experience is how they are formed and strengthened. At our booth, Lenny typically engages with customers and models how to draw them in and encourage a sale. Then he steps back and pushes the students to do the same. Besides a rainy afternoon on Saturday, the weekend was a success. Thank you to the students and staff that helped with the project and of course, thank you to the Apple Festival Committee for allowing us to grow garlic on the grounds and attend the festival.

Walt taught Kyle and JJ how to make fish chowder. Kyle had a large amount of locally sourced bass fillets, and he asked Walt to teach him how to make them, so Walt taught him how to make them three ways. They started off with a simple chowder this week that can be used with any mild white fish. It came out very good, and Kyle was nice enough to share with his advisory. The next week, they used the remaining bass and made a butter-crumble baked fish, and also a tempura fried fish recipe. Walt really enjoys teaching students cooking skills, because these lessons can last a lifetime.

As a school we provide weekly service to community organizations. We have a standing shift with the Samaritan Center. This month we were also able to go to the Rescue Mission Warehouse. April took the 101s and she will admit, she was not sure how it was going to go. The 101s were OUTSTANDING! We were scheduled to sort through donations in the warehouse until 11:30. And that is exactly what they did, without complaint and without stopping. The first time April looked at the clock it was 10:50 and no one had asked to stop for a drink, no one asked to go to the restroom, no one complained, no one wandered off, no one refused the task. Students just worked together. Even when the dust got to a couple of them with allergies, they didn't stop- they told me they asked for a facemask. I was SO impressed with our 101s! We were divided up into two groups in the warehouse and the group

I was with worked so intently the warehouse staff had to keep replacing the bins we filled and then we ran out of items to sort so using the fork lift they brought us two more pallets full to sort. Our first service learning experience was a huge success.

As we continue to move through the year, we will provide additional opportunities for our students to learn a variety of skills out in our community, our true classroom.



◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

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

On Friday, November 15, students and staff participated in a Friday Fun Day. Students in grades 4 through 8 went to the arena and skated. Students had a lot fun, skating, laughing, playing games, and enjoying each other's company. Students in grades Pre-K through 3 went to the Field House to play soccer, dodgeball, and the big hit, of course were the Bouncy Houses.

There was so much energy, laughter and fun. ONS plans on other fun adventurous events on half days throughout the year. Nyawēñha to the Arena and Field House for hosting us, set up and clean up, and nyawēñha to Mr. Cooper and his staff for helping us out with transportation.

ONS was fortunate to have a visit and an intimate question and answer session with Mr. Tommy Orange, the author of the bestseller, "There, There". Mr. Orange is Arapaho and Cheyenne. He grew up in Oakland, California and his upbringing there inspires his writing and voice. Mr. Orange's message was to keep trying and working towards expressing your voice no matter the odds and challenges. He has been a professional roller hockey player, musician and now, a well known author. It took six years of work to complete his current book and he shared some glimpses of upcoming works, including some very interesting short stories, and the sequel to "There, There". Nyawēñha to the Big Picture Students, Mrs. Bang and Mrs. Edwards' senior writing class for coming to the event, sharing in the ideas and preparing food and drink for the event. Community members, and college students also attended the author presentation rounding out a very thoughtful dialogue. A big shout out goes to Ms. Gonyea for her patience and persistence in making all the arrangements for this event.

Two teachers, Mrs. Powless and Mr. McCoy invited staff and community into their classrooms to sit with the budding writers they are helping to create. The writing was wonderfully fresh, clear and expressive. Students shared their thoughts, their experiences and the writing process itself. Everyone that sat, one on one with the kids came away impressed, thoughtful, reflective, energized and with a big smile. Students were so excited and happy to share, and they were smiling as well. Nyawēñha to Mrs. Powless, Mr. McCoy and all the students in grades 3,5, and 6 for sharing your talent with us.

At our recent ONS Building PLC teachers engaged each other in discussion on the data gleaned from our first quarter, STAR benchmarking. The target of the discussion was to get a sense of the needs of students, vertically in grouped grade levels and vertically, overall, from Pre-K to 8. Staff patterned needs and corresponding strategies and resources currently in use, or those still needed, will be examined and we will then take action steps to better meet the needs of our students. Nyawēñha to ONS teachers and staff for caring so much about the kids.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Monday ONS PTS Meeting December 2nd @6pm
- Tuesday ONS Picture Make-up December 3rd
- Friday ONS PTS Family Night - December 6th
- Monday Syracuse Stage- December 9th @8am
- Tuesday Community Meeting - December 10th @5pm - 7pm
- Friday 1st Grade Hospital Land - December 13th @9:30am
- Friday ONS Winter New Yeah Celebration - December 20th
- Monday- ONS Pride Day- December 23rd-
Early dismissal @11:30am**

LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Basketball: Registration and first practice for boys and girls, grades 5 & 6, will be Saturday, December 7. A flyer with the registration form and practice times will be sent home from school.

The grades 2-4 basketball program for boys and girls will begin in February 2020, after the winter break.

Wrestling: For girls and boys in grades K-6. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays: Grades K-3 - 5:15-6:30, and grades 4-6 - 6:15-7:15.

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

ADULT PROGRAMS

Daytime/Senior Exercise Class: Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at the LaFayette VFW. The next session is a mini-session, running December 3-19, and costs \$18 for the entire session. 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 cafeteria. The current session runs through December 18. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class. The next regular session will begin in January.

Aerobics: At this time, LCC will not be offering an aerobics program as we do not have an instructor available. We are actively working on locating an instructor to run these classes. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact LCC and provide contact information in order for us to notify you once an instructor is found.

Tai Chi: Beginner and advanced classes are offered. For additional information, contact instructor Lynn Perrine at 315-677-8114.

Men's Basketball: Mondays, 7-9 p.m., at the Grimshaw Elementary School gymnasium, September 2019 – April 2020. Fee is \$20.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Thank You: LCC would also like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their time and efforts to help LCC provide the youth of our community with a quality soccer program this fall; you have our sincere gratitude for all you have done.

Coaches: 5/6 boys - Lance Benjamin and Christina Hyde; 5/6 Girls – Erin Scofield and Joe Greco; 3/4 Team One – Sabrina Harmatuk and Renee Clemens; 3/4 Team Two – Tamara and Andy Reed, K-2 – Kevin Morel, Amy Shute, and Varsity Soccer Players, including Colin Morel, Mason Shute, Nik Cromley, Adam McIntyre, Tim Kramak, and Colton Keane.

Referees: Anu Scofield, Brandon Benjamin, Aidan Griffin, Ryan Zajac, Sean Zajac

Sponsor: Rhett Harmatuk and Harmatuk Construction and Concrete Services for helping to underwrite the cost of the soccer jerseys.

Thank you also to everyone who helped out in LCC's **Apple Festival** booth; adults and kids alike spent the two days of the festival selling pizza, dough knots and drinks to help raise money for LCC programs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Council Board Meetings: Are held monthly. All are welcome and encouraged to attend as we need your help and input. Please consider becoming a member of LCC as a participant on its board or as a coach – we can't provide our programs without your help.

LCC Contact Information: Information about Community Council programs can be obtained through the following sources:

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

By speaking to an LCC representative during the new "Open for Business - Town Hall Tuesday Nights" at the Town Offices every Tuesday from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

E-mail: lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnyemail.com

LaFayette Public Library News

2577 US-11, Lafayette, NY 13084 • (315) 677-3782 • www.lafayettelibrary.org

Please go to our website – www.lafayettelibrary.org or our Facebook page for up to date information about any events, closings, etc.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Step Up to Stop Falling – Wednesdays @10 a.m. in the library community room through mid-December

McCarthy Family Music – December 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Tea - December 17 – 2 p.m.

Musical Bells – “The Renigades” December 17 – 6:30 p.m.

December **Imagination Lab**:

4th – Four Seasons Tree

11th – Cupcake Tree Ornaments

18th – Geode Art

25th – Merry Christmas! – No imagination Lab.
See you next year!

Don't have access to the internet at home? We now circulate 6 Chromebooks with a Verizon hotspot. They go out for 3 weeks. You can place holds, but no renewals. They must be returned to the lending library and need to be checked in at the circulation desk. It must be verified that all parts are returned before the kit can be returned. Come take advantage of this. This is the courtesy of our county legislators so please thank them if you get a chance!

2020 Census – It's just around the corner. This year the Census will be for the first time online. Why is the Census so important? Among other things, an accurate count affects billions in federal regional funding for local projects. It also affects the number of your representatives in Congress (e.g. New York State lost some representation because of an inaccurate count). Starting in January, you will receive information as to where and how you can take the Census. Your local library will be one place you can go to for information and access to Census. Make sure you're counted!

Story time: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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 park passes can be checked out for a three day loan period, only one per family at a time and no holds or renewals. These passes are good throughout the year. 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 food from small farms. The library serves as a drop off/pick up place to deliver the food. This is a “local supports local” effort. Just to remind you, the patron is responsible for picking the goods in a timely manner. 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>.

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

The databases are back, as well as access to downloadable items. Again, thank you for your patience during this time.

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.

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.

December

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 3 | ONS Picture Make-up Day |
| 6 | GS Musical 7pm |
| 9 | GAPS meeting 6pm |
| 11 | GS Winter Concert 7pm |
| 12 | BOE Meeting |
| 17 | JSJS Winter Concert |
| 18 | ONS Snowflake Concert 6pm |
| 20 | ONS New Yea Celebration |
| 23 | No School - GS, BP, JSJS
Half Day - ONS |
| 24-31 | No School |

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

