



**Dear LaFayette School Community,**

As we close in on the last month of 2021, I wanted to share positive highlights from this past calendar year and a preview of what is to come in 2022:

LaFayette was one of just a few school districts in Onondaga County that offered in-person instruction, five days a week, at three of our school buildings during the pandemic. Larger school systems in the county struggled to bring all students back with social distancing limitations; however, our principals and teachers were able to accommodate a request from any student that wanted to return to the school building. I am forever grateful to our students, staff, parents, and school community for working together and maintaining strong connections with one another regardless of where the learning was taking place. In 2021, we worked with the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs, Clanmothers and Faithkeepers to safely reopen the Onondaga Nation School for in-person instruction. Our ONS students, staff, and families are thrilled to be back together again.

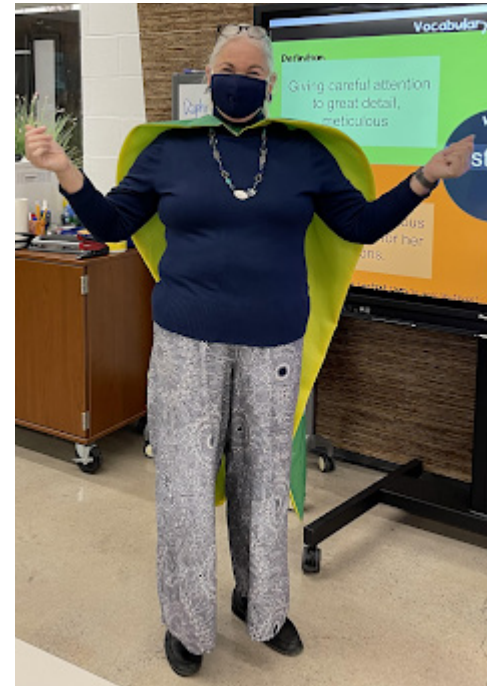
LaFayette added social workers at the LaFayette Big Picture School, and a shared social worker between LaFayette High School and the Onondaga Nation School. We have implemented a system for identifying students at risk for social, emotional, and mental health needs and we have a dedicated team ready to respond when a student needs help. We are working with new support from Onondaga County to help put proactive measures in place to help students and families deal with any challenges they are facing as we feel the toll of this pandemic. In future years, we hope to add to our team of mental health professionals to help support students and families as we recover from the pandemic.

LaFayette educators have been actively working to review our English Language Arts curriculum, prioritize which learning standards will leverage the greatest outcomes for our students, and implement new materials to help support rigorous learning in our ELA classes. As we look forward to 2022, our staff members will engage in a similar process with our math curriculum and materials.

LaFayette celebrated the performing arts by holding our annual High School musical in March 2021, "Lucky Stiff". The performance was taped and streamed to the audience due to the pandemic. As we look forward to the musical for this year, our students are preparing to perform "Freaky Friday" in March of 2022. This musical is based on the Disney tale of a mother and daughter who switch bodies. Our Jr/Sr High band and chorus also held an end of the year concert in May of 2021 and we will have a concert this month to showcase the talents of our students. We look forward to welcoming back audience members in the auditorium as long as the health department does not issue any new restrictions.

LaFayette student athletes found ways to compete and showcase their talents on our fields and courts. We had several students and teams qualify for postseason play and we look forward to carrying on our winning traditions during 2022. Thank you to our coaches, student athletes and fans for celebrating Lancer Pride in Athletics! We have welcomed spectators back for indoor events. Please remember to follow public health guidelines/requirements by *(continued on page 2...)*

**Legend of Learning**



Congratulations to Ms. Hollis Rotella, Teaching Assistant at the LaFayette Big Picture School, for being selected as the November 2021 Legend of Learning!

The individual who nominated Hollis shared the following: "Hollis is always helping the students to do their best and is always excited about everything! She always has a smile on her face and is always so enthusiastic! I love spending time with her everyday. Thank you Hollis!"

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

**You can help recognize LaFayette faculty and staff members who go above and beyond for students.**

**See nomination information on page 2.**

## ◆ LaFayette District News ◆

(...Message From the Superintendent, continued from page 1) wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and staying home when you are sick.

LaFayette CSD worked with the Onondaga County Health Department to implement weekly COVID surveillance testing and provide testing for students who develop symptoms at school. We have also hosted vaccination clinics in cooperation with the health department, the Onondaga Nation Health Clinic, and Wegmans pharmacy. For any family that has wanted to get their child vaccinated, we have worked with our partners to provide opportunities.

LaFayette CSD voters approved a \$8.6 million dollar capital project which was submitted to the New York State Education Department for approval. We look forward to bidding this project, once approved by NYSED, and starting construction in the spring and summer months. In 2022, we will work with our architects to update our building condition survey and plan for future capital needs. We have also been lobbying state officials to allocate sufficient funds to address the facility needs at the Onondaga Nation School, which is a state owned building. ONS has not had a major renovation project in over 25 years and major building systems need to be updated or replaced. Please consider reaching out to our elected officials and let them know that our Native American students at the Onondaga Nation School deserve a safe, up-to-date school facility that is on par with other school facilities throughout the state. I am committed to making a lot of noise until the state follows through on their treaty obligations to properly educate our Native American students in a suitable school facility.

As we leave 2021 behind, we certainly hope that the daily challenges of the pandemic start to wane. Many of us have lost a loved one(s) or friend(s), spent time quarantined following exposures, or suffered from the virus. As we look ahead to 2022, I wish all our staff members, students, and families improved health and happiness. Governor Hochul announced that “if we want to get to the point where we don’t need masks -- in schools especially -- we need to get through the holidays without a spike.” The Governor went on to say that she would ask for the Health Department to relax measures, including masks in school, if we see conditions improve. I am hopeful that 2022 will provide brighter days and hopefully smiling faces again in our schools. Together we can show that small communities, like LaFayette, can come out of this experience stronger than ever.

As we look ahead to 2022, take some time to dream big for our students. What programs and opportunities do you want to see in place for our students in the coming year and in the years to come? If you have thoughts or ideas, please feel free to reach out to me as we begin to plan for our school district budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Certainly, we are constrained by available resources from the state when it comes to planning new opportunities, but it always helps to know what our students, parents, staff, and community members think when it comes to planning for future needs and interests. You can also join our school district budget committee which will meet on Wednesday February 9, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the Big Picture Commons.

### Nominations for Legend 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
- Embrace creativity and innovation

Nominate through an online survey which is available on our website.

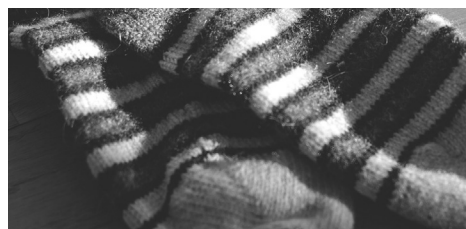


### SOCK DRIVE

Girl Scout Troop 61124 is hosting a sock drive. Please send in new adult or child sized socks to Grimshaw Elementary, which will be donated to benefit the Samaritan Center.

Our troop goal is to gather 300 pairs of socks. The drive is being held from November 29 to December 17.

Thank you from Troop 61124!!



### Happy Holidays, Dollar Dog Savers!

It is always the season to save. At holiday time or any time, save in your Dollar Dog account. Save at school through your in-school banking program or visit any Empower Federal Credit Union branch while you are on holiday break.

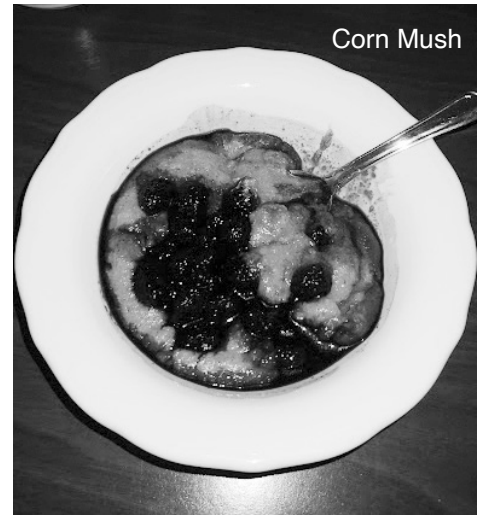
Not yet a Dollar Dog Saver? Please contact Lauri Hoover at 315.728.3474 or lhoover@empowerfcu.com to join.

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

◆ *Junior/Senior High School News* ◆

*From the Desk of the*  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**Jason Ryan**

The month of November was Native American Heritage Month. As a result, we had several activities throughout the month that celebrated and highlighted the Native American



Corn Mush

culture. Students had the opportunity to make traditional Native American dishes such as Corn Mush, participate in Native American games such as Long Ball, and meet with the Native American author Tom Porter. During 7th grade social studies, students learned the significance of the Wampum Belt and even had the opportunity to create their own.

I want to take a moment and congratulate our National Honor Society induction class of 2021-2022 (more info and pictures on the next page). Special thank you to Ms. Edwards for putting together an outstanding induction ceremony.

Lastly, congratulations to our students that participated in the **CNY Build Em' Bust Em'** competition held at the MOST: **Category II Middle School: Leah Haas and Logan Hazeltine, 9th place with an efficiency score 463. Category II Middle School: Caitlin Somerlot and Serenity Jackson, 13th place with an efficiency score 275. Category III High School: Justine Borte, Olivia Virnoche and Bella Shenandoah-Kurtz, 7th place with an efficiency score 751.** Thank you to Ms. Nicholson for organizing this opportunity.



**Students Discuss “Two Row” Wampum**

On Tuesday November 16, 7th grade students in Mr. Fox’s social studies class welcomed members of the Onondaga Nation to discuss the importance of one of the oldest treaties between the Haudenosaunee and Europeans. Considered to be a “living treaty”, Gā•sweñta’ or the “Two Row” treaty goes back almost 400 years, when the Dutch and Haudenosaunee created a wampum with two purple rows symbolizing the shared journey each nation would take, while also respecting the ways of each other’s cultures. A discussion about the historical importance of wampum was led by Kelly Gibson, Evelyn Powless, Cecilia Elm, Hazel Powless and Maureen Lyons. Students then had an opportunity to create bracelets that symbolized the “Two Row” and were able to ask any additional questions. The hope is that students would then go home and share their experience and knowledge of this day. A special thanks for organizing this day-long event should also go to Megan Smith and Shawna Booth of the Junior-Senior high school.



◆ *Junior/Senior High School News* ◆

## National Honor Society Induction



On November 9th, the LaFayette Chapter of National Honor Society inducted 12 new members into their organization. These students were eligible to apply for National Honor Society because they met the pillar for scholarship, but they were selected by the faculty committee because they are prime examples in their community of their commitment to service, character and leadership.

The students were welcomed by the current chapter president: Jenna Reese, faculty adviser, and Mrs. Edwards as well as former NHS member and first year teacher: Mrs. Caughey.

New inductees are: **Justine Borte, Grace Caughey, Ariel Clarke, Evan Farewell, Scott Heath, Andrew Kostiv, Emily McClary,**

**Elaina Saba, Jordyn Sawkins, Isabella Shenandoah-Kurtz, Claire Virnoche and Olivia Virnoche.** Congratulations to all of the new inductees!

Current Members are: Jenna Reese (President), Gabrielle Danyew, Jonathan Dix, Tyler Fabend, Aidan Griffin, Benjamin Haskins, Andrew Porter, Carolyn Redmore, Sarah Wells and Julia Zehner.



## LaFayette Central Schools Water Reporting

As required by County & State regulations, water samples were taken from District wells for analysis by Evan Todd, Safety Officer of OCM BOCES on November 17, 2021. The samples were then sent to Microbac Laboratories in Cortland.

The reports indicate that the water supplies were of a satisfactory, sanitary quality for all locations however, C. Grant Grimshaw school water supplies tested higher than 20mg/1 of sodium. Although there is not a set maximum level for sodium, it is recommended by the county that people on severely restricted sodium diets should be made aware.

Therefore for those that may be on a severely restricted sodium diet, it is recommended that caution be used when consuming the water from the C. Grant Grimshaw school.

## ◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

*From the Desk of the*  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**Simone Gonyea**

### **Skä:ñoñh swagwe:gih!**

November and Jotowe' go:nah (Return of the big cold) has been a wonderful time at ONS as we celebrated so much of our Haudenosaunee ways of being and our connection with family and friends! We celebrated our 2021 Harvest Dinner with Pre-Ordered turkey dinners

from our amazing food services.... Total count was over 400 meals served!

We had an addition of fry bread, corn soup and mush made by Sherri Hopper, Diane Gibson and Lacey Cook, our Onondaga Language Teachers. And a special addition from Firekeepers restaurant!

Nyaweñha for all who took part in the meal assembly and delivery, and of course, the eating!!! We look forward to our new moon Disuh (Long nights, short days) on December 4th.

### **Upcoming Events for December**

Picture retakes on December 3rd. The current marking period will end on December 9th. Darryl Tonemah visits classrooms on December 6th and 20th. We will have visitors from Rosamond Gifford Zoo, presenting "Zoo to You" for the 3rd and 4th grade on December 6th and 14th. Jack Gramlich, visiting scientist, will be in classrooms on December 7-8th and the New Yea Celebration is being held December 23rd (recently moved from the 22nd).



## **ANNUAL OPTIMIST CLUB BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

**Saturday January 8, 2021 • 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

(4) 7th Grade Teams and (4) 8th Grade Teams  
3 games of play guaranteed to every team

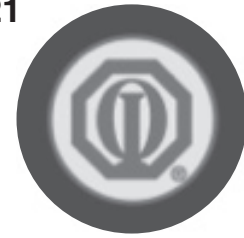
**NO COST TO ENTER**

Free uniform t-shirt. Hats provided for champions. Concessions available for food/drink.

**Registration Deadline is Thursday 12/16/21**

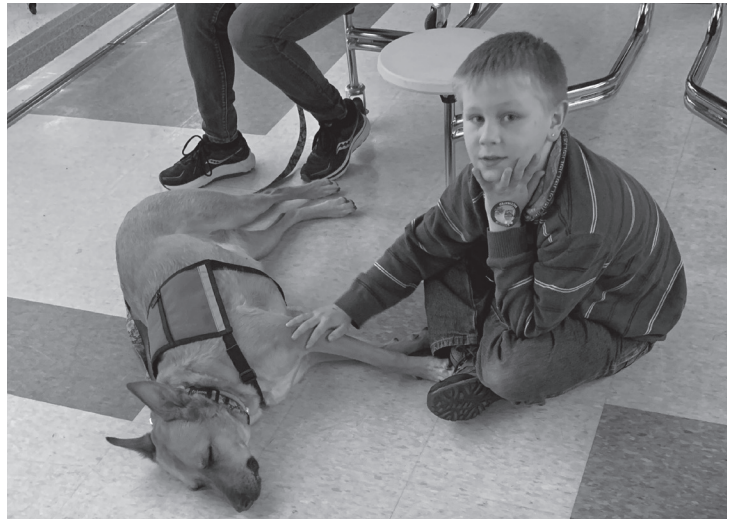


Questions? Reach out to Optimist  
President Scott Gates:  
315-406-7361  
scottlgates@aol.com



## ◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

### Therapy Dogs Provide Support During Vaccine Clinic at Grimshaw



### December Spirit Week

- Monday, December 20 ..... Plaid/Red & Green Day
- Tuesday, December 21..... Tacky Holiday Gear Day
- Wednesday, December 22 ..... Candy Cane/  
Wear Red & White Day
- Thursday December 23..... Pajama Day



◆ *LaFayette Community News* ◆

**LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS**

• Web Site: [www.townoflafayette.com](http://www.townoflafayette.com) • Mailing Address: PO Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078 • 315-677-7272 •

**Youth Programs**

**WRESTLING**

For boys and girls K-6. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Grades K-3: 5:45-6:30, and grades 4-6: 6:30-7:30. Wednesday will be optional practice for all grades from 6:00-7:00.

Practices will be held in the wrestling room located in the lower level of the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School, which is accessible through the school entrance by the loading dock (north end of the school).

Masks must be worn by anyone entering the school and kept on the entire time they are in the school. There will be registration forms available the first night of practice, Tuesday, December 7th. Fee is \$10, cash or check, and includes a t-shirt for each child registered.

**BASKETBALL and VOLLEYBALL**

To be announced. Information will be available on the web site.

Registration information for the above programs will be provided through the LaFayette School District messaging system.

If you are interested and able to help with the wrestling, basketball, or volleyball 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.

**Adult Programs**

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

To be announced. Information will be available on the web site.

**Other Programs**

**SKI PROGRAM**

LCC's Friday night skiing will begin in January 2022. Thank you to all that registered.

**Announcements**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION**

We are working to provide online registration for upcoming sports programs.

**UPDATES**

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.

When possible, additional information for the above programs will also be provided through the LaFayette School District messaging system.

**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](mailto:lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnyemail.com)

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

# LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20  
LaFayette, NY 13084

Non-Profit Organization  
CAR-RT Presort  
US Postage Paid  
**PERMIT NO. 3**  
LaFayette, NY 13084

NYS Income Tax Code: 325

Jeremy Belfield, Title IX Compliance Officer, LaFayette Central School, 5955 Route 20, West, LaFayette, New York 13084

The LaFayette Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, national origin, race, sex, or handicapping conditions in its employment practices or educational programs.

## **December** IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8 GS Winter Concert 7pm**
- 14 JSHS Winter Concert 7pm**
- 15 BOE 5:30pm**
- 23 ONS New Yea Celebration**
- 24-31 Holiday Recess - No School**

Don't forget  
to like us on  
Facebook.

