

2019 Scholastic Art Awards

Over 75 individual entries from the Junior Senior High School were submitted for judging to the Central New York Scholastic Art Awards Competition this January. Our 8-12th grade students competed with over 90 other junior and senior high schools throughout the Central New York region.

There was a record number of artwork submitted to the competition this year reaching over 6,000 individual entries. A day of rigorous judging resulted in 26 of our students receiving a total of 40 awards in this prestigious competition.

All award winners have their artworks on display at the Whitney Applied Technology Center at Onondaga Community College. On opening night, Tuesday, January 22nd, award winners were invited to a special Awards Ceremony and a first look at the exhibit which takes up an amazing three floors of display space. The exhibit is on view to the public beginning Wednesday, January 23rd and closes on Friday, March 1st. Gold Key winners will have their work go on to compete at the National Competition in New York City in March.



*Carlee Lewis
10th Grade
Photography*



*Keegan Hemlock
12th Grade
Photography*

See more art, artists and their submissions, on page 4.



The **Backpack Buddies** program was established by Rylee Andersen last spring to offer school supplies to those in need. We have collected backpacks, pencils, notebooks, folders, binders, crayons, colored pencils, markers, glue, rulers, scissors, and other school supply items. Thank you to all those that have contributed. We will supply anything we can to any student in need from Pre-K through 12th grade. If you know of a student in need of supplies, please contact Mrs. Kolbeck (akolbeck@lafayetteschools.org) at Grimshaw Elementary School.



*Elijah Kozubel
8th Grade
Design*



Message from the
SUPERINTENDENT

The month of January was an exciting month to be a Lancer. Our fifth and sixth grade students at Grimshaw put on an outstanding performance of the musical “Junie B. Jones”. We had a packed house on Friday, January 11th and it was great to see our students actively involved in all aspects of the performance. Whether it was the lead role on stage, working on the stage crew, or helping in the sound booth, our students did a remarkable job of working together. Our students were supported by our dedicated and talented staff members: Ms. Prentice, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Snyder, and Ms. Reppi. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our students!

Our varsity sports teams are having an incredible winter sports season. Both varsity boys and girls basketball teams have had some big wins that included sizable victories and close “nail biters”. We have a very talented group of athletes competing on the combined Syracuse Corcoran Ice Hockey team. We also continue to partner with the Onondaga Central School District for a combined indoor track team and a combined wrestling team with OCS and Tully. With the resurgence of the community wrestling program in the past few years, we have a number of young student athletes who will help to one day fill the weight classes on our wrestling roster. Our modified basketball teams are also working hard on the court. Be sure to come out and cheer on our student athletes.

During the month of January, our community overwhelmingly approved a \$3.1 million capital project. Thank you to our voters who came out to weigh in on the proposed improvements. We had a 90% approval rating for the proposed capital project which will help to improve the security of our school buildings. Our next steps are to work with our architects and construction management firm to design the project and submit plans to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) for design approval and issuance of the required building permits. The design and approval process for capital projects is a lengthy process which can take upwards of a year. We are hopeful to have this project designed and submitted to NYSED by March with approval by this time next year. We hope to bid the project for construction in the summer of 2020.

On a related note, our capital project that was approved by the voters in May 2017 was approved by NYSED and will be out to bid soon. Construction is planned for this summer. During the summer months, both Grimshaw Elementary and the High School/Big Picture will see improvements. The kitchen at both buildings will be renovated and the high school will see a newly renovated cafeteria, improvements to the second floor, new team rooms and an updated wellness center. A number of other items from the 2015 building condition survey will also be addressed. Since work will be occurring throughout the high school, the high school and Big Picture will be closed for student programs this summer. The summer STEP program, which is usually housed at Big Picture, will be hosted at SUNY Morrisville. Since the majority of the work at Grimshaw Elementary will be limited to the kitchen, Grimshaw will host some summer programming.

We are also hopeful that the New York State Education Department and Office of Governmental Services will address the roofing needs at the Onondaga Nation School and the replacement of several exterior doors this coming summer. We have also submitted plans to upgrade the main entrance at ONS; however, we are waiting on the state to allocate additional funding for this project. The Onondaga Nation School is a state-owned building and improvements to this building are completed when New York State allocates funding through the state budget process. Any projects at the Onondaga Nation School costing more than \$20,000 (ex: roof replacement, door replacement, upgrades to the main entrance) are subject to approval through the New York State Office of Governmental Services.

We are looking forward to a busy summer filled with lots of great improvements to our school facilities. Thank you to our community for your continued support for these improvements that address not only the safety of our students but look to enhance the quality of our learning environment and instructional spaces.

*Sincerely,
Jeremy Belfield, Superintendent of Schools*

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**New Staff Spotlight:
BRIAN BURROWS**

Mr. Burrows is our new sixth grade teacher at the Onondaga Nation School. He shared that he survived a traumatic brain injury at the age of fourteen. Brian had to deal with many mental and academic challenges that he did not fully understand

until he studied them in graduate school. When Mr. Burrows learned what he had been working through, and that many children suffer from similar challenges; he wanted to be able to use his own experiences to help students overcome their challenges in school.

Mr. Burrows earned his bachelor's degree from SU in Political Philosophy. Brian went on to earn a Master's Degree from SUNY Oswego in Early Childhood Education (1-6), and he is working on earning his certification in special education.

This year, Mr. Burrows is working on classroom organization and increasing hands-on learning with a focus on more project-based learning opportunities for students. Brian hopes to build student confidence and skills in the area of technology by creating video productions to connect their learning with the community. Mr. Burrows also hopes to complete his special education certification to help enhance differentiated instruction in his classroom.



**New Staff Spotlight:
ELIZABETH GAWINSKI**

While working at Girl Scout camp during her college years, Beth realized how much she loved working with kids. Beth found that school psychology was the perfect way to combine her interest in the field of psychology with being able to help kids and make

a difference in their lives.

Ms. Gawinski has her bachelor of arts in psychology and master of science in school psychology, both from SUNY Oswego. Beth is also a Nationally Certified School Psychologist.

Prior to working at the Onondaga Nation School, Ms. Gawinski worked in the Central Square School District for nine years.

As the new school psychologist at the Onondaga Nation School, Ms. Gawinski plans to assist students with building skills for both academic and social-emotional domains. Ms. Gawinski plans to work with staff to help support students in attaining success in the school environment.

When Ms. Gawinski is not at school, she enjoys salsa dancing with her husband and kayaking. Beth also spends time volunteering with a local organization called Person to Person Citizen Advocacy which works with adults with disabilities. Please give Ms. Beth Gawinski a warm welcome to the ONS Family!



**New Staff Spotlight:
NICOLE CAWLEY**

Nicole Cawley is our new teaching assistant at LaFayette Big Picture with our 101s. Nikki has always enjoyed working and volunteering with children. Nikki worked previously as a teaching assistant in the Syracuse City School District.

In addition to her prior experience as a teaching assistant, Nikki has over 15 years of experience with public and community service work and volunteer work. Nikki worked as a director of a senior citizen center where she planned recreational activities, health programs, trips and special events for her clients. Nikki also spent time volunteering in public school classrooms, served as a member of various parent teacher organizations, and assisted with local Girls Scouts programs.

As a teaching assistant at LaFayette Big Picture School, Nikki is looking to gain a better understanding of how Big Picture works as a whole, and to develop positive relationships with the students and staff.

When Nikki is not working, she enjoys spending time her children and husband. Nikki's family enjoys outdoor activities such as boating, snowboarding and snowmobiling. Please welcome Ms. Cawley to our school community!

**New Staff Spotlight:
MELISSA LEWIS**

Ms. Lewis knew from a young age that she wanted to work with young people and help them grow into positive, productive members of our community. Ms. Lewis also developed a great love of the Spanish language when she began studying it in school at 12 years old. Ms. Lewis participated in a study abroad program in San Jose, Costa Rica. This experience solidified her life-long appreciation for the Spanish language. Additionally, Ms. Lewis is an avid reader and recognizes how important strong literacy skills can be in our society, which is why Ms. Lewis pursued a Master's Degree in Literacy Education.

Ms. Lewis taught for 5 years in the Maryland public school system in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Professionally, Ms. Lewis plans to continue to be an active member of both the Language Educators of Central New York organization and the Central New York Reading Council. Ms. Lewis hopes to one day lead informational sessions at the yearly conferences held by these organizations.

When Ms. Lewis is not working, she loves to read, she enjoys running and being active. Ms. Lewis has run several long distance races including a half marathon, a ten-mile race and Utica's Boilermaker. For 2019, Ms. Lewis hopes to run another half-marathon. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Lewis to LaFayette Jr/Sr High School.

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GOLD KEY

Gabrielle Danyew (9th) Design
Brandy Gibson (8th) Digital Art
Elijah Kozubel (8th) Design
Carlee Lewis (10th) Photography
Charlotte Hlawa (10th) Photography
Kara Humphrey (8th) Printmaking
Kyle Farewell (10th) Mixed Media
Heaven Elliott (11th) Sculpture

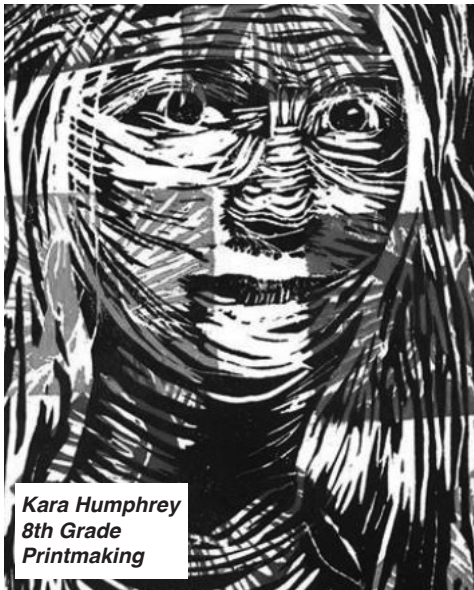
SILVER KEY

Heaven Elliot (11th) Design
Christian DeJoseph (8th) Printmaking
Keegan Hemlock (12th) Photography
Shayla Lomas (8th) Printmaking
Keegan Hemlock (12th) Digital Art
Andrew Porter (9th) Design
Jenna Sommers (10th) Mixed Media
Sarah Gregg (11th) Mixed Media

HONORABLE MENTION

Raven Bucktooth (11th) Photography
Julien Goddard (9th)
Drawing & Illustration
Kara Humphrey (8th)
Drawing & Illustration
Raven Gardinier (12th) Photography
Raven Gardinier (12th) Photography
Vera Cooper (8th) Printmaking
Keegan Hemlock (12th) Digital Art
Charlotte Hlawa (10th) Design
Keegan Hemlock (12th)
Photography (4 individual awards)
Gabrielle Danyew (9th) Mixed Media
Charlotte Hlawa (10th) Photography
Jacob Park (8th) Printmaking
Carlee Lewis (10th) Photography
Emma Shute (10th) Mixed Media
Raven Gardinier (12th) Mixed Media
Charlie Jones (8th) Printmaking
Elliana Saba (8th) Printmaking
Charlie Jones (8th) Comic Art
Elaina Saba (8th) Design
Lindsay Carroll (10th) Mixed Media
Charlotte Ryan (12th) Mixed Media

Charolette Hlawa, 10th Grade, Photography



*Kara Humphrey
8th Grade
Printmaking*



*Kyle Farewell
10th Grade
Mixed Media*



*Heaven Elliot
11th Grade
Sculpture*



*Gabrielle Danyew
9th Grade
Design*

NYSED Announces Accountability Status for LaFayette CSD

During the coming months, our teachers, administrators, and school community will put our heads together to address various academic needs of our students at the elementary and junior high levels. Recently, the New York State Education Department designated the LaFayette Central School District as a “Targeted District” due to the accountability status of two schools under the new Every Students Succeeds Act. Both the Onondaga Nation School and the LaFayette Jr High School were identified as “Comprehensive Support and Improvement” schools. This accountability status was assigned due to the low performance of students on Math and English Language Arts exams for grades three through eight.

Given this accountability status, we will be looking to involve students and parents at both schools in the coming months through surveys and community meetings to identify needs and create improvement plans. We are still learning about the requirements for improvement plans so stay tuned. We will use our website and email to send out surveys and invite families to any community meetings.

Our district will also be required to formulate an improvement plan to encourage students to take the New York State assessments in grades three through eight. While the state and federal governments recognize the right of parents and students to refuse to take these exams, school districts are still held accountable for a minimum 95% participation rate on NYS grades three through eight assessments. Last year, we saw a big improvement in test participation at the Onondaga Nation School. However, we fell short of the required 95% participation rate for the New York State testing program in grades three through eight.

LaFayette had one of the highest test refusal rates compared to other schools in the county. We will be reaching out to parents and students with additional details on the upcoming state exams as we get closer to the dates for testing this spring. Please take the time to carefully consider having your child opt-in when it comes time to take the New York State exams.

New York State also highlighted some positive data for our district. Grimshaw Elementary was noted as a school in “Good Standing” under the state accountability system. Our high school Regents exams and high graduation rate data demonstrate the long term success of our students. We continue to see an overall increase in the number of students earning mastery levels on Regents exams and an increase in students earning advanced designations on their diplomas. We are very proud of the efforts of our students and staff.

Legends of Learning

Elizabeth Sopchak

It is my pleasure to announce that Ms. Elizabeth Sopchak, Special Education Teacher at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, as our Legend of Learning for December 2018. Ms. Sopchak has helped to advance our school district by inspiring, empowering and preparing her students to achieve excellence. One of Ms. Sopchak’s nominators shared the following: Liz helps me to differentiate my curriculum for her students and she is always hosting students in her room during lunch. Ms. Sopchak is very giving of her time when it comes to working with students on school work or assisting them in developing social skills. Liz also serves as the 7th grade class advisor. Ms. Sopchak cares for all of her students. Another nominator shared: Liz is always putting her students first. Today is a perfect example of the type of educator she is. She gave up her lunch to hold a mediation meeting between two friends who were having a difficult time communicating with each other. She knew it was negatively affecting both students and took it upon herself to address the issue. She then gave up her planning period to read a test to one of her students who had missed the exam due to absences before Thanksgiving. She knows what her students need and she goes extra lengths to make sure they are taken care of. She communicates effectively with the 7th and 8th grade team and works very closely with her TAs to make sure her students accommodations are being met. When she pushes into my classroom she is constantly collaborating with me to help me differentiate my instruction. I feel very lucky to have a coworker that is so dedicated to her job and her students.

Terri Fredenberg

Congratulations to our January 2019 Legend of Learning, Mrs. Terri Fredenberg. Mrs. Fredenberg is a teaching assistant at Grimshaw Elementary in the Reading Room. Terri is a dedicated staff member who cares deeply for our students. The staff member who nominated Terri shared: “Terri is more than just a Teaching Assistant in Grimshaw. She is a valuable member of the LaFayette community. Terri treats all students with the utmost respect. She continually works to make connections with students both in and out of the reading room. She is always wanting the best for all Grimshaw students. Terri appreciates the value that a close-knit, small community can offer to our students. Prior to working at Grimshaw Elementary, Mrs. Fredenberg worked at LaFayette High School. This prior experience at the high school has given Terri a great perspective on how to best prepare our students at the elementary level for what’s next. Terri is a LaFayette Lancer Alumni, and she raised her own children here who also graduated from LaFayette. Terri is a supportive staff member and community member who has our kids as the primary focus.” Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Terri Fredenberg as the Legend of Learning for January 2019. Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

LaFayette Public Library News

2577 US-II, Lafayette, NY 13084

Visit: www.lafayettelibrary.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

TCG Player Game Night - March 4th, 6-8 p.m.

Rescheduled - Card based – Pokemon, Yu-Gi-Oh and Magic the Gathering. Come on in and play. Registration required (there's pizza involved!)

Movie Night - February 20th, 2-5 p.m.

The Incredibles 2 will be shown. Hot chocolate and popcorn will be served.

Imagination Labs -

February 6th – Big Red Cups Challenge

February 14th – Paper Quilting

February 20th – No lab. Movie 2-5 p.m.

February 27th – Building challenge (must build whatever is on given card out of provided materials)

Tuesday Tea - February 19, 2-4 p.m.

Our Tuesday Teas are held every month on the third Tuesday. People bring everything from knitting to coloring books or just bring yourself. We also have a jigsaw puzzle set up. Come join us.

Step Up to Stop Falls: The fall sessions wrapped up in December. They will start again on Wednesday, March 6 @10 a.m. in the library community room.

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. 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!

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

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.

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>.

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 new 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.

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



LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

Youth Sports

Basketball: The grades 5 & 6 girls and boys seasons are underway and will be wrapping up February 9.

Basketball for boys and girls in grades 3 & 4 will begin after the February school break. The first practice will be Saturday, March 2 at 12:00 noon. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school. Registration form and fee can be brought to the first practice. The session will run for six weeks.

Wrestling: The wrestling season is underway and will be wrapping up in early March.

Volleyball: This program is for girls in grades 3-6. The first practice will be Saturday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school. Registration form and fee can be brought to the first practice. The session will run for six weeks.

Baseball and Lacrosse: Registration for the baseball and lacrosse programs will be Saturdays, March 9 and 16, 12-3 p.m., in the Grimshaw School gymnasium foyer. Flyers with additional information and a registration form will be sent home from school.

Pre-season baseball practices will be held April 13th & 27th, indoors, if necessary, at Grimshaw School gymnasium. Details will be available at baseball sign-up.

COACHES NEEDED: If you are interested and able to help out with the programs, coaches are needed at all levels. Please contact LCC at 677-7272. Please let us know if you are planning to coach this upcoming season; we need to know of your intention to coach so that we can plan accordingly.

Adult Exercise

Daytime/Senior Exercise: Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Classes are held at the LaFayette VFW on Rte. 11. The current session runs to February 14 and will be followed by a session running February 19-March 28. The cost per session is \$36 and cannot be pro-rated. 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 pro-rated. 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 pro-rated. 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 March 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.

Hall 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.

Announcements

“Step Up To Stop Falls”: This is a falls prevention program designed to raise awareness about falls and how to prevent fall-related injuries among older adults and includes an exercise class designed to improve strength and balance. LCC, in conjunction with the LaFayette Public Library, has arranged for yoga instructor, Kate Farrar, to provide this program. Call 315-677-7272 for additional information.

Community Council Board Meetings: Are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. 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: Call 677-7272
www.townoflafayette.com under the “Depts.” (Departments) tab
E-mail: lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnyemail.com
LCC Mailing Address: P.O. Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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

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

February IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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|-------|---|
| 7 | BOE Meeting |
| 18-22 | NO SCHOOL
Winter Recess (GS,HS,BP) |
| 25-31 | Dr. Seuss Week at Grimshaw |

Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.

