

Legend of Learning

December 2020 – Mackenzie McElhannon



Congratulations to Ms. Mackenzie McElhannon, Grades 5 and 6 Teacher at the Onondaga Nation School and Varsity Volleyball Coach, for being selected as the December 2020 Legend of Learning! The individual who nominated Mackenzie shared the following: "I could talk for days about Mackenzie. She is by far one of the best all around teachers I know. Her actual skills in the classroom are remarkable. She instructs in a way that not only helps kids understand concepts, but she makes learning fun! Her knowledge of best practices is amazing, and her delivery is inspiring.

More importantly, Mackenzie constantly goes out of her way for EVERYONE! Whether it be students or staff, as well as anyone who walks in off the street, Mackenzie reaches out to support and assist in any way she can. She is the absolute perfect example of "going above and beyond", embracing challenges in stride. Mackenzie is a great example for the children and adults in our community. Our district is so extremely fortunate to have Ms. M!" Please join me in congratulating Mackenzie McElhannon as the Legend of Learning for December 2020.

January 2021 – Andrea (Ona) Amidon

Congratulations to Ms. Andrea (Ona) Amidon, Special Education Teacher at Grimshaw, for being selected as the January 2021 Legend of Learning! The individual who nominated Ms. Amidon shared the following: "I am nominating Ms. Andrea (Ona) Amidon for her outstanding commitment to education. She is highly dedicated to seeing to it that her students get everything they need to succeed. She is very patient with her students, and all of those she works with." Please join me in congratulating Ms. Amidon as the Legend of Learning for January 2021.

Thank you both for your continued commitment to excellence!

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

Art Students of the Month

The Art Department wishes to announce the 2021 Scholastic Art award winning recipients. Of the over 2,000 individual entries submitted for the Central New York Region, thirteen LaFayette students received awards, totalling 15 award winning artworks. Their work will be displayed in a virtual exhibition TBD. Opening night of the show will feature a special virtual awards ceremony to honor all recipients. Please congratulate the following students.

Gold Key Winners: John Poplawski, Thomas Oakes and Jenna Reese. **Silver Key Winners:** Keely Jocko, Elana Saba, Lillian Andrews, Lindsay Carroll and Luke

Peios. **Honorable Mention Winners:** Keely Jocko, Katie Fabend, Madison Homer, Ellie McElhannon, Lily McElhannon and Ryan Oakes.



John Poplawski



Thomas Oakes



Keely Jocko

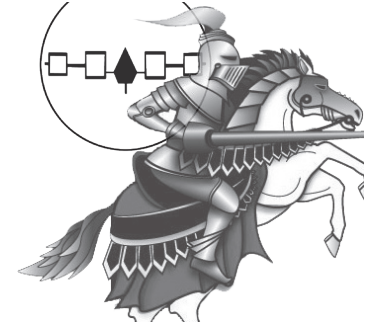


Elana Saba

District News ♦ District News ♦ District News



Jeremy Belfield
Superintendent of Schools



Dear LaFayette School Community:

Thank you for your continued support and flexibility while we navigate the many challenges presented throughout the past year. I am so incredibly proud of our students, families and staff members for all the efforts to connect, continue learning, and follow public health precautions during the current pandemic.

During the month of January, many of our staff members were able to schedule an appointment for the COVID vaccine. School employees are now eligible to receive the vaccine under Phase 1B. We are grateful that our employees have remained healthy so far. Our staff members continue to impress and amaze me with their dedication to our students and their adherence to all safety protocols during the pandemic. Our teachers have stretched their abilities this year by implementing new teaching tools and connecting with students through digital learning.

Beyond navigating the day to day challenges of teaching and learning in a pandemic, our district faces the ongoing challenge of making sure that our students and staff members are well resourced to continue learning. While the pandemic has impacted every aspect of our lives and school operation, we find ourselves facing heightened challenges relative to securing financial resources to accomplish our goals.

Unfortunately, New York State was hit the hardest by the pandemic and available resources for school funding are threatened due to the resulting economic downturn. Prior to the pandemic, our district worked hard to improve our financial condition. As a small, rural district that is heavily reliant on state funding, LaFayette strives to provide a world class education on a shoestring budget. We continue to remain sensitive to the limited resources that families have during this challenging time and we will make sure that our educational plan is affordable and sustainable. We will have additional information available on our website including a letter to our elected officials to remind them of the need for continued support from state and federal sources.

We are also very excited about the return of certain sports previously not allowed during the pandemic. Earlier this month, our Board of Education authorized student athletes to participate in high risk sports so long as safety precautions were followed and observed. Thank you to our Athletic Coordinator, Mr. Kelly, coaches, and student athletes for following the safety guidelines and representing our school on the court. Due to the social distancing requirements for athletes, coaches, and game personnel, we are unable to accommodate spectators for indoor sports.

Our talented performing artists are also hard at work planning for a virtual presentation of our Spring musical. Our directors, actors, and stage crew are working hard to prepare for a taped performance. More information will follow once rehearsals are completed and the performance has been recorded. We are pleased that we are able to find safe ways to continue all of these important activities for students.

Please continue to follow safety precautions:

Wear face coverings, wash your hands, and stay home when sick.

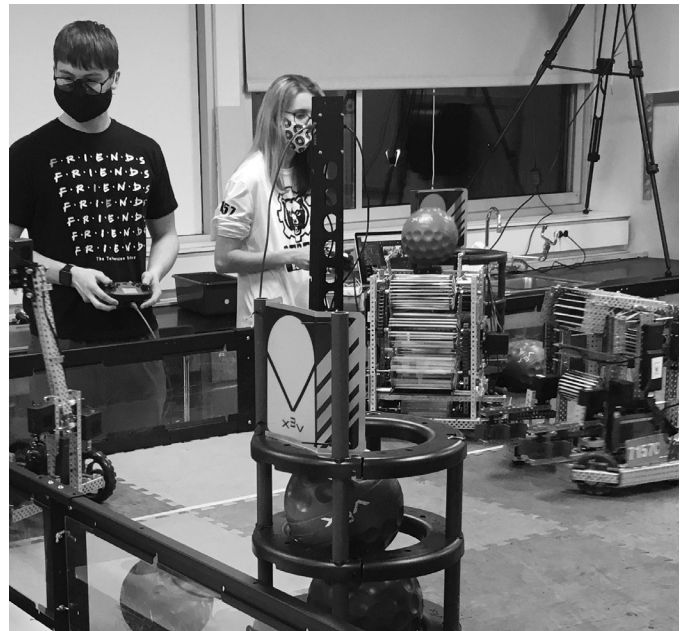
◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Jason Ryan

With the 3rd marking period coming to a close, we are officially approaching the halfway point of the 20-21 school year. The overall success of a child is a collaborative effort on both the school district and the family. This collaboration has become even more important as we navigate through this period of remote learning.

We, as a district, greatly appreciate the help and support we receive from our families!

Robotic Competition



LaFayette Robotics Club attended their first league meet in January. The organizers at Chittenango chose three schools to join them in their league and LaFayette was chosen based on our behaviors at competitions in the past. Chittenango commented to our advisor Kristin Angello at the meet that LaFayette did not disappoint - our students complied with all Covid protocols, kept their masks on the entire time (unless eating, and we were all spaced at least 10ft while doing so), and were extremely respectful. This was the first time any team played this particular game and there were a lot of rule challenges. Our kids respectfully challenged the organizers at least twice (and both rules were overturned as our students interpreted them).

Overall, I was really proud of how our kids acted: they took competing seriously, but were respectful and friendly above all else. Lancer pride!

Scheduling

It's hard to believe but scheduling for the 2021-2022 school year has started! A letter was sent home to families at the end of January detailing the scheduling process. School counselors have started classroom presentations to explain the process. These presentations are followed up with an individual meeting with each student.

If a parent(s)/guardian(s) is interested in being a part of their child's individual meeting, please contact the counseling office at (315) 677-7849.

◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Simone Gonyea

As the Onondaga Nation School continues to connect with students via a digital platform many exciting events are occurring. Here are a few highlights:

Snow Snake - Mudcat competition!

We take great pride in knowing that through tough times traditions are alive and well. This year's tournament will be participated through family pods. Meaning students may only play within their household or family unit, while at the same time, competing against their classmates. Each class has been assigned a color. Student's will be able to gauge their competition by knowing their class color and how far they need to throw to edge out their competition. At the end of the students throwing time, a warm cup of hot cocoa and hotscoon (made by the high school language students) also welcomed the students as they completed their competition time. In the next newsletter we will share the results.

Donation of Desks for Digital Learners

In January, David Perkins, co-president of the Tully Rotary and connected to Operation Northern Comfort, reached out to the area schools to fill a possible need for desks in the home of digital learners. ONS is 100% virtual for the remainder of the school year, so the possibility of providing a student desk was very welcome and timely. Currently we have a list of students who have requested a desk, and working with Mr. Perkins to complete the requests. HUGE thank you to Tully Rotary and Operation Northern Comfort for the donation!

First Annual Snowshoe Competition

During the week of February 8 the girls at ONS are going to partake in a snowshoe race. The boys will be invited to try out the snowshoes and get some outdoor physical activity.

We are grateful that a coach from SUNY Cortland and a coach from Lemoyne (father-daughter duo, Mr. Steve Beville and Ms. Liz Beville) have graciously donated some snowshoes to our school!! Now we have snowshoes for our littles too. This is going to be done in family pods just like Snowsnake. We are thankful for the donation and the SNOW supporting our students! We are SUPER excited to hold this event this year!

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆



The Big Picture Senior Institute students, our juniors and seniors, took time away from their learning plans to blow off some steam! Both classes have been working on meeting their daily goals and finishing project work and the break in the focus was needed and well deserved. The 301s and 401s enjoyed a pizza lunch and then headed outside for some winter fun. Sledding! They played. They raced. They laughed. They challenged each other. They bonded with one another. Most importantly, they had fun. It was a perfect way to pause the stress we are all feeling and enjoy the snow that finally arrived.

Our in-house culinary internship has been doing amazing work this year. Leighann, Phoenix and Carson have been cooking and baking up a storm. They are learning and we are enjoying their creations. We have sampled many dishes from chicken riggies to cupcakes to boston cream cake and cheesesteaks. We all benefit from this internship!

Darryl, a 401 senior, has been working on his Senior Thesis Project. Darryl is making and donating beds to people in need locally. Darryl also hopes to volunteer time with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization.

Currently all volunteer spots are full which is a really good problem for the organization to have!

LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Youth Programs

WINTER SPORTS

As the winter sports season began, LCC has maintained that it will parallel the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) regarding "high-risk" sports, which include basketball, volleyball, and wrestling.

On January 22, 2021, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) announced that "high risk" sports could begin practice and competition. In making this declaration, the NYSDOH released updated Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. This document, in part, states, "Effective February 1, 2021, participants in higher risk sports and recreation activities may partake in individual or distanced group training and organized no/low-contact group training and, further, may partake in other types of play, including competitions and tournaments, only as permitted by the respective local health authorities (i.e., county health departments)."

Once "high risk" sports begin scholastically under the guise of NYSPHSAA, LCC will evaluate whether it is feasible to conduct our winter sports programs, and under what circumstances. Our decision will be impacted by school district policies. LCC is working on contingency plans in the event we are unable to conduct programs in school facilities this winter.

COACHES NEEDED

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

BASEBALL AND LACROSSE

Registration for the baseball and lacrosse programs will be held Thursdays March 11, 18, and 25, 6-8 p.m., at the LaFayette Community Center. Details, including registration forms, for each respective sport, are available by clicking on the Community Council tab of the Town's website's homepage, and LCC's Facebook page.

Adult Programs

Senior exercise, yoga and men's basketball remain on hold for the time being.

Announcements

COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD

All LCC Board positions are currently vacant, as of January 1, 2021. Please consider taking on one of these Board positions: President, Vice-president, Treasurer, or Secretary. The recreation clerk will assure the continuity of programs and will be available to new Board members for guidance. If you have any questions about any of these positions, e.g., responsibilities, please call 315-677-7272 and leave a message. In addition to the Board positions, new members are needed to help us continue current programs and provide ideas and input so that we can expand the array of programs we offer.

SKI PROGRAM

LCC's chaperoned ski nights ran Fridays, January 8 to February 12, 2021. Although the chaperoned ski nights have ended, pass holders can continue to ski for the remainder of the season according to the restrictions of their respective passes.

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

Facebook: LaFayette Community Council

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

As well as the E-mail and Mailing Address at the top of this page

Community News ♦ Community News ♦ Community News

LaFayette Public Library News

2577 US-II, Lafayette, NY 13084 • (315) 677-3782

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

So, what a long strange trip it has been! Due to the fluctuations in Covid cases, our status, like many other organizations, is in flux. As of this writing, The LaFayette Public Library continues to be open for limited in house use by appointment. That includes browsing, picking up held items, and computer use. We also offer our regular services such as faxing, copying and printing. We will maintain this as long as possible. The following processes will continue:

Returning items: This process is the same as when we were closed. Whether or not you plan on coming in the building, please place all returns in the outside book drop. As things come into the library via the book-drop, they will be quarantined for 7 days before they are checked in. At that time, the check in date will be backdated to when they were put into the book-drop, so it looks they were returned on the drop off date. This way both the staff and the patrons can be rest assured that the items that are being handled for check out or put into delivery to other libraries are safe from contamination. All notifications regarding overdues, etc. have been adjusted accordingly.

Picking up items: We continue to have visits at 15 minutes intervals for patrons to come to get items, except instead of curbside pickup, you will schedule a time to come into the library to pick up items and browse. This also includes other services like making copies, faxing, etc. For now, we'll do 3 patrons per 15 minutes to better ensure social distancing.

To maintain health protocols during the pandemic, no one will be allowed in the building without face covering. We also ask that you sanitize your hands upon entering the library, with sanitizer we will provide.

Pick up and browse schedule (15 intervals)

Monday & Tuesday	10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Computer Use	in house and wireless

You can schedule a time to use a computer at 1 hour intervals. We have six slots/hour for in house computers and 5 slots/hour (places to sit) for inside laptop use (wireless is still available outside the building 24/7). If no one is waiting for either a computer or laptop spot, your time can be extended

One hour intervals:

Monday & Tuesday	10:15 – 5:15	(last slot 5:15-6:15)
Wednesday	10:15 – 3:15	(last slot 3:15-4:15)
Thursday	12:15 – 5:15	(last slot 5:15-6:15)
Friday	10:15 – 3:15	(last slot 3:15-4:15)
Saturday	10:00 – 12:45	(last slot 12:45 -1:45)

NEW ITEM: We have recently purchased “Wonderbooks” for the children’s area. They are combination of print and audiobook in one. The audio component is built right into the physical book. You read it like a normal print book with illustrations with your child, or have the book narrated while you follow along. They are shelved with the Easy Readers.

Don’t have access to the internet at home? We circulate Chromebooks with a Verizon hotspot. They go out for 3 weeks. You can place holds, but no renewals. You do that by placing a hold on “OCPL tech pack” 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. This is the courtesy of our county legislators -- County Legislature Chair Dave Knapp and County Executive Ryan McMahon in particular.

We have renewed our **Empire passes** which allow access to any of the NYS parks, and passes to the Onondaga county parks. For the county passes, please call the facility you plan to visit beforehand to make sure they are accepting the passes at this time (for example, right now the zoo is not accepting the passes for financial reasons). The Empire passes and the Onondaga County park passes can be checked out for a three day loan period, one per family, and no holds or renewals.

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. For every \$1000 spent Amazon donates \$5.00 back to the library!

YOU ARE VIRTUALLY IRREPLACEABLE

MENTOR A STUDENT

VIRTUAL MENTORING

In normal times, students at LaFayette Big Picture are out of school at internship sites for two days each week.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our students have less of an opportunity to be in the community learning from professionals.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. MENTOR PRESENTATIONS

A mentor presents their work and career, the skills and dispositions that help them in their job, their journey, and advice to the students who share similar interest.

2. INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

Professionals meet with a student or students seeking information on their career, the industry, and the corporate culture of a potential future workplace.

3. DISTANCE INTERNSHIP

Mentors meet with students on set dates and times to complete work and develop a project that is beneficial to the site.

4. MENTOR SUPPORTED PROJECT

Mentor provides industry expertise and guidance for students to develop a project with real work learning connection.

USE YOUR POWER.....BE A MENTOR
CALL THE LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE SCHOOL: 315-504-1000



LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20
LaFayette, NY 13084

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

OCCUPANT
Rural Route/Boxholder
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.



Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook.



All Students Eat Free

Why worry about packing a lunch or struggling to feed your student breakfast in the morning? Let LaFayette Food Service take care of it for free!

For the duration of the school year all students, in-person and remote, are able to receive breakfast and lunch at no cost, regardless of household income.

More information can be found on the food service page located on the District website, click the plate setting icon in the top right corner.

This opportunity provides much needed federal dollars to the Food Service program. We only receive those federal dollars if students are coming down to eat!

We also deliver, at no cost of course!

