

Congratulations



Congratulations to Grace Dow (pictured, left) who was selected to the All CNY Girls Volleyball Team. And to the Varsity Volleyball Team (pictured, right) on winning the League Title, as well as the Section 3 Title! Great job players and coaches!



LaFayette Athletic Hall of Fame

On Saturday November 16, 2019, LaFayette High School hosted the fourth annual Athletic Hall of Fame event. Two teams, the 1963 Boys Varsity Lacrosse Onondaga League Champions and the 1975 Championship Girls Varsity Volleyball team, along with 11 athletes, two coaches, and two contributors, Alfie Jacques and Lars Tiffany, were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The event celebrated the rich tradition of LaFayette Athletics and helped to celebrate the sense of unity and school pride that has taken place, and continues to take place as part of our athletics program.

Retired Syracuse Lacrosse Coach Roy Simmons III was in attendance at the event to assist with honoring contributor Alfie Jacques, lacrosse player and traditional lacrosse stick maker. Coach Simmons shared the following with one of our Hall of Fame Committee members after the event:

I can not tell you what a privilege it was to be at yesterday's event! I am so pleased to have been in attendance at such a special event. The "crew" of people that made all that happen and share such a wonderful bond with your community and the outpouring of true love and emotion of each and every recipient was very evident. The "bridging" of the gap between two very unique cultures through sport is very special and what the community of LaFayette has is truly remarkable. Again, thank you for sharing with us! Best, Roy

Congratulations to our Hall of Fame inductees and a huge thank you is in order to our Hall of Fame Committee: Dave Knapp, LaVern Doctor, Sherwin Hill, Tom LaRose, Bill McConnell, John Liddy, Jeremy Belfield, Jason Ryan,

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Legend of Learning

Congratulations to Ms. Anne Courtwright, Legend of Learning for December 2019. Anne is a Math teacher at LaFayette Jr/Sr High and also serves her colleagues as the President of the LaFayette Teachers' Association. When Anne is not at work, she enjoys spending time with family.

The student who nominated Ms. Courtwright shared: *Ms. Courtwright has helped me and other students learn at our own pace. For example, she spent a whole class period on a question until we understood it. Another thing after a test or a quiz she will let us review the answers and make corrections so we can learn from our mistakes. Also I was selling cookies one time and she gave more money than needed and told me to keep the cookies to sell. Ms. Courtwright has been a big help to other students as well and makes them understand. Also we have a lot of fun as a class. One more thing, when a student is misbehaving she tries nicely to tell them to stop and continues to teach.*

Please join us in congratulating Ms. Anne Courtwright as the Legend of Learning for December 2019.

Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!



District News ♦ District News ♦ District News



Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020! What a great time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and establish goals for the coming year. Here are some impressive accomplishments that 2019 saw:

- ♦ 95% of LaFayette High School and Big Picture School Students graduated on time with their cohort.
- ♦ High School students had access to a variety of college credits through area colleges and this resulted in LaFayette alumni graduating early from college and saving thousands of dollars on tuition costs.
- ♦ The district completed major construction in the \$5.4 million dollar capital project approved by the voters in May 2017, which included a new kitchen, cafeteria, wellness center, kitchen upgrades at Grimshaw elementary, and other improvements focusing on our last building condition survey. This recent capital project had no additional tax impact to our community. In January, the district will put our recently approved security themed capital project out to bid and begin improvements to camera systems, doors, door hardware, and a new campus notification system along with other improvements.
- ♦ The district prioritized budgeted dollars to reduce class sizes at the elementary grades and continues to direct resources towards improving the academic performance of our students.
- ♦ As we head into 2020, I invite you to actively take a role in helping our school community be the very best for our students. While we have many areas that we are proud of, we also have some challenges ahead in making sure that our resources are focused on helping our students achieve excellence.
- ♦ On the academic front, we continue to celebrate improved school attendance and review the action steps in our district comprehensive improvement plan (DCIP). Our DCIP team meets monthly, with our next meeting taking place on Wednesday, January 15 at 3:30 PM in the main office conference room at LaFayette High School.
- ♦ We have 25 teachers who are participating in virtual coaching. Virtual coaching provides teachers with the chance to talk with a thought partner about classroom lessons and consider ways to actively engage learners. I applaud the efforts of our staff to consider new and exciting ways to engage students during classroom instruction.
- ♦ Our teachers and administrators recently participated in a review of our English Language Arts Curriculum. The information from our recent review will help to inform updates to our curriculum and training needs of our staff.
- ♦ January is also the time of year when we begin our school budget process for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. If you have an interest in learning more about our school finances, we will host our community budget meetings on the following dates: Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:00 PM and Wednesday February 5th at 5:00 PM in Big Picture Commons. We will also have regular updates on the budget process at our board of education meetings starting with the February 13th meeting.
- ♦ Our first Parent Advisory Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 22nd at 6:30 PM in Big Picture Commons following our budget meeting. Our Parent Advisory Council will review results from the 2019 school climate survey and provide input on areas of focus related to school climate.

If you are interested in participating in our District Comprehensive Improvement Meetings, School Budget Committee, or Parent Advisory Council, please reach out to me at jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org or via phone at 315-677-9728. I sincerely appreciate being a part of such a supportive school community and I truly appreciate how our school community continues to put students first. Let's make 2020 a great year to be a Lancer!

State Education Department Issues Guidance to Increase Equitable Access to Advanced Coursework for All Students

The State Education Department today issued guidance to assist school districts in ensuring all students, including those that are historically under served, have equitable access to rigorous coursework. The guidance, rooted in five core principles, builds on the State's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, which uses multiple measures of success to advance equity. This includes a "College, Career and Civic Readiness Index," that measures, among other indicators, advanced course enrollment.

"For far too long, the student makeup in advanced courses across the state has not reflected the population of the school where the class is being taught," Board of Regents Chancellor Betty A. Rosa said. "If we want to create a truly equitable education system, we must ensure that every child, regardless of their race or socioeconomic status, has access to the same coursework as their peers. By implementing strategies outlined in this guidance, districts will not only be meeting their ESSA requirements, they will be better meeting the needs of their students."

"Access to rigorous coursework is essential for all of New York's students," Acting Commissioner Shannon Tahoe said. "If we want to put students on the path to success, we must be certain that they are able to engage in the coursework that will get them there. The State's ESSA plan has made fostering equity a priority and this guidance moves us even closer to ensuring that every student, in every school across the State, has access to a quality education. We thank the members of the New York Equity Coalition for their partnership in developing this guidance."

"As one of the civil rights, education, parent, and business organizations in The New York Equity Coalition, the New York Urban League is grateful that the Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department recognize that it is imperative that all students have access to the courses that will prepare them for college, careers, and active citizenship," Arva Rice, President and CEO of New York Urban League said. "Removing the barriers that all too often prevent students who are historically under served from enrolling in advanced courses is an important and necessary step to putting all New York students on the path to a bright future."

"On behalf of the civil rights, education, parent, and business organizations in The New York Equity Coalition, we commend the Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department for taking this critical step and reinforcing to parents across New York their commitment to ensuring all students have access to the high-quality academic experiences that will set them up for a successful future," said Samuel L. Radford III, past president of the District-Parent Coordinating Council of Buffalo and co-chairperson

of We the Parents. "All parents want the very best for our children, and that includes access to high-level courses that will prepare them for college, careers, and civic readiness."

Implementing the strategies outlined by the guiding principles will help districts provide additional opportunities and encourage students who are underrepresented in advanced coursework. Offering the preparation, information, and access to such courses will ultimately improve their ability to be ready for all available post-secondary options.

The following five guiding principles were established to assist districts in their efforts to provide course access equity:

- Providing a course sequence and foundation building in earlier grades that make later, advanced coursework a viable option;
- Creating multiple access points to advanced courses;
- Using equitable advanced coursework enrollment criteria;
- Offering a robust set of student supports that help all students succeed in advanced courses; and
- Publishing materials that encourage all students to participate in advanced courses and making these materials available in multiple languages.

Foundation-Building

The Department encourages school districts to implement policies that ensure, starting in the early grades, all students are provided with opportunities to access courses and curriculum that will prepare them for a range of rigorous courses by the time they reach high school. Positive practices should include:

- ensuring high expectations for all students;
- scaffolding curriculum in the early grades so that all students are prepared for advanced coursework in high school; and
- providing educators with the necessary professional development across grade spans.

Further, in school districts that have gifted and talented programs, screening should be equitable and accessible. To the extent feasible, school districts should consider screening all students during the school day rather than inviting students to apply on weekends or hosting screenings on weekends, after school, or at other times that parents may not be aware of or be able to attend.

Creating Multiple Access Points

Recognizing that an equitable course enrollment policy should be driven by the understanding that students can

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succeed in advanced courses when they are provided with appropriate supports, districts are encouraged to create multiple pathways so students can enroll in Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, and other advanced courses at various points throughout their school experience. Students should also have access to school counselors who can focus on helping them navigate course enrollment to prepare them for college and careers, and who have the skills and training to engage with families and students of all backgrounds. Information on available advanced coursework should be made available in the student's home language so that both students and parents are aware of all the options available.

Enrollment Policies

An equitable course enrollment policy uses multiple measures to identify students for advanced coursework so that no single measure excludes their participation. Positive practices include careful consideration of the relevance of course prerequisites and considering non-academic aspects of readiness for advanced coursework. An equitable course enrollment policy would, for example, limit prerequisites and entrance requirements to those that are directly related to a student's potential for success.

Student Supports

In their course enrollment policy, districts should include supports for students to allow them to succeed in advanced coursework. Positive practices include tutoring, access to technology, and support from school counselors. In addition, school districts should be aware of the provisions included in the 2019-2020 Enacted State Budget that authorizes SUNY and CUNY to reduce or waive tuition for high school dual or concurrent enrollment students. School districts should also make eligible students aware of the state provided AP and IB test fee waivers available.

Publishing Inclusive Materials and Conducting Outreach in Multiple Languages

Districts are encouraged to publish course guides, enrollment information, and letters to parents that invite students to participate in advanced courses, describe how these courses will benefit students as they pursue college and careers, and describe the supports provided to encourage student success. All documents should be provided in multiple languages or in a language the family understands.

ESSA is Equity

New York's final approved ESSA plan emphasizes fostering equity in education for all students, expands measures for school support and accountability and student success

and requires school-level improvement plans for the lowest performing schools overall, as well as schools with the lowest performance for certain student populations.

New York State is committed to ensuring that all students succeed and thrive in school no matter who they are, where they live, where they go to school, or where they come from. The plan includes strategies for supporting the professional growth of educators and ensuring that all students, including multilingual learners/English language learners, immigrant students, migratory youth, students with disabilities, homeless youth, and neglected and delinquent youth, have access to a well-rounded, culturally responsive and sustaining education that supports students' academic and social-emotional development.

ESSA strategies to foster equity include: address disparities in training for teachers to help them be effective in the classroom; provide students more access to rigorous high school coursework; make schools equally welcoming environments for all students; increase fiscal transparency in school building spending; and use multiple measures to allow students to demonstrate proficiency in state learning standards.

ESSA also provides states and LEAs with funding to provide additional support to certain groups of students as well as to schools that have been identified for additional support. The plan also includes strategies for supporting the professional growth of educators and ensuring that every child in New York state has equitable access to a high-quality education. Additional information on the state's ESSA plan can be found on NYSED's website.

Continued from cover... **LaFayette Athletic Hall of Fame**

Lisa Shenandoah-Kurtz, and Heather Storrier-Castleman. Our Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for our next class of deserving recipients.

Please feel free to reach out to a committee member or contact the district office for a nomination form. Thank you for helping to celebrate Lancer Pride and the rich tradition of excellence associated with our athletic program.



◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Jason Ryan

I hope that everyone had the opportunity to spend time with their family and friends over the holiday break. It was a well deserved break for our students and staff as they have worked extremely hard over the past few months.

By this point, all of our families should have received an individual attendance snapshot in the mail. The attendance snapshot compares each students' attendance percentage to the school average. Our hope is that this snapshot provides our families with a better understanding of where their child falls in relevance to the number of days of missed instruction. Research shows that attendance is one of the best indicators to predict a student's overall success. Together we can help all of our students reach their maximum potential.

I want to thank all of our students and staff that participated in our STAR kick-off event. The STAR exam is a universal screener that we give to all of our students in the area of ELA and Math. The exam helps our teachers better understand the needs of our students. This year we tried to increase our students' engagement by holding a kick-off event and adding incentives for achievement and growth. Overall the event was a success. We will be highlighting some of these successes in a future edition of the Lancer Glander.

The month of December had much to celebrate. Our 7th and 8th grade students earned a day of celebration through our new Multi-Tiered System of Support. This initiative provides staff the opportunity to reward positive behaviors such as writing homework down, helping out a friend, or being on time to class. The 7th and 8th-grade students were rewarded for their GOLD behavior for September-November with a celebration that included kickball, dodgeball, drawing, or reading. At the high school level, Lauren Poplawski and Lily Buck spearheaded this year's 5 for 5 food drive for the LaFayette Outreach food pantry. This is a great opportunity for our students to give back to the community.

Lastly, I wanted to remind everyone that the third marking period officially ends on Friday, January 24th. This means that we are official halfway through the 2019-2020 school year. As the year progresses, we will continue to emphasize the importance of student attendance. If you have any questions about your child's academic performance, please reach out to our Counseling Department. They can be contacted by phone at 315-677-7849.

Jason Ryan, Principal

GOLD Behavior



The students at the junior high school have been working hard to model the "GOLD" behavior expectations set forth by the team. Teachers expect students to behave following the GOLD matrix which stands for Give Respect, take Ownership, show Leadership, and Demonstrate Safety.

Based on these criteria, the 7th and 8th grade teams have chosen students for each month that they felt embodied the GOLD behavior for that month.

Some of the teachers have described our winners as follows: "They take ownership of their learning by going above and beyond in their work," "They are respectful and courteous of their classmates and teachers," and "Their enthusiasm encourages others; is a great role model." The recipients thus far are as follows: September - Jerome McDonald-Sky (8th) and Tanner Clemens (7th), October - Ellie McElhannon (8th) and Shayla Elm (7th), November - Gabbie Brown (8th) and Claire Zehner (7th).

We are looking forward to seeing who will be the future "Students of the Month!"



◆ **Junior/Senior High School News** ◆

Over 500 Food Items Donated to LaFayette Outreach



Lily Buck (L), Mr. Tim Baker (C), and Lauren Poplawski (R) after organizing the donations collected during school. Even more was purchased with the generous cash donations.

This year Ms. Maura Daly-Picciotti, who normally runs the 5 for 5 Food Drive to benefit LaFayette Outreach, went on the disabled list with a shoulder injury. As a result, the New York Yankees had to go with their backup plan of signing free agent pitcher Gerrit Cole. LaFayette High School went deep into its bench and asked Mr. Tim Baker to take on the drive this year. The big shadow cast by the success of years past was intimidating, but Mr. Baker was confident that the job could get done because he had two excellent Seniors leading the effort. Seniors Lauren Poplawski and Lily Buck should be recognized by the entire town and school communities for what they accomplished. These amazing young ladies led the charge to collect over 500 items for the LaFayette Outreach food pantry housed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and supported by St. Joe's as well as the Columbian Presbyterian Church. A special thanks to Halee Arends, as well, who aided in the delivery of supplies to the pantry. Ladies, the LaFayette town and school communities are indebted to you: well done!

During the drive, students can offer \$5.00 or 5 non-perishable food items in exchange for 5 extra credit points with a participating teacher. This year, in two weeks time, the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School and Big Picture School were able to produce well over 300 items and \$95.00 in cash donations for LaFayette Outreach. The additional money bought many toiletry items such as toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, bar soap, and hand soap, which got the total to 450 items. Mr. Picciotti and Ms. Daly-Picciotti generously donated 25 pounds of frozen ground beef and turkey. Mr. and Mrs. Baker included many more toiletry items. When all was tallied, the drive was able to provide over 500 items to the pantry. The volunteers at LaFayette Outreach were absolutely thrilled with what our school could do for needy families in our school district.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club has some awesome activities planned for the year. The club's elected officials are Scott Heath (President), Karina Magyar (Treasurer) and Jessica Hart (Secretary).

Every year the spanish classes celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), and this year was no different. To celebrate, we partied during our spanish classes, eating salsa and chips and cake, and we played games with Señora Romeu. The 7th and 8th grade classes from the junior high school and ONS watched Coco, a movie about a little boy who visits the Land of the Dead. The senior high students dressed as skeletons and passed out candy in the auditorium and paraded around the school giving out candy to other classes.

Spanish students were also treated to a trip to the Palace Theatre in Syracuse to see the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet dance group perform music and dances from different hispanic cultures. After watching singers and dancers perform to music from Argentina, Ecuador, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico and many other Latin and South American countries, selected students were asked to join the dancers on the stage for some salsa dancing. For lunch, many students went to Moe's to finish their day with tacos, burritos and more chips & salsa!

During December we will be celebrating Christmas with our classes. We will have parties with Christmas cookies and other holiday goods. We are very excited for our future in Spanish Class.

Legends of Learning: Information for Nominations

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.

www.lafayetteschools.org

◆ *Junior/Senior High School News* ◆

Honor Roll 2019-2020

Marking Period 1

Grade 7

Bucktooth, Schyler
 Casler, Rylee
 Christiana, Asha
 Clarke, Kenneth
 Clemens, Tanner
 Elm, Shayla
 Fabend, Kaitlyn
 Friedman, Isabella
 Ortlieb, Ryan
 Quick, Madison
 Shetler, Alexander
 Slishevsky, Gavin
 Thompson, Ellyse
 Williams, Savanna

Grade 8

Breed, Jesse
 Johnson, Tysen
 Mott, Aidan
 Newkirk, Aiden
 Peios, Luke
 Seemann, Benjamin
 Vossler, Jake
 Williams, Marquise

Grade 9

Bertlesman, Julia
 Bucktooth, Brett
 Clarke, Ariel
 DeJoseph, Christian
 Farewell, Evan
 FitzPatrick, Evan
 Ganoe, Rachel
 Lyons, Jesse
 McCarthy, Grace
 McConnell, Adison
 Merriman, Meadow

Grade 10

Clemens, James
 Cooke, Vernon
 Coon, Paul
 Evans, Amanda
 Griffin, Aidan
 Haskins, Benjamin
 Heath, Scott
 Homer, Gage
 Lazore, Makiyah
 Papineau, Cianna
 Pollack, Jada
 Porter, Andrew
 Post, Jennifer

Powless, Augustus

Reese, Jenna
 Thrall, Brianna
 Tummino, Toby
 Wells, Sarah
 Zajac, Sean
 Zehner, Julia

Grade 11

Aungier, Ashley
 Breed, Kylee
 Doupe, Kendra
 Farrar, Harlee
 Lamson, Jessica
 Lewis, Carlee
 Morel, Colin
 Oakman, Brenda
 Rogers, Molly
 Shaffer, Jorja
 Shenandoah, Amelia
 Spratt, Farrah

Grade 12

Baker, John
 Battelle, Jessica
 Buck, Lily
 Elliott, Heaven
 Frazier, Kenji
 Isaacs, Erika
 Martinez, Nathan
 Pope, Branden
 Poplawski, Lauren
 Wager, Nick

Marking Period 2

Grade 7

Amidon, Lily
 Borte, Jason
 Casler, Rayna
 Clemens, Carlee
 Davidson, Caroline
 Dix, Spencer
 Jennings, Alexis
 McElhannon, Lily
 Reed, Kiera
 Shute, Ava
 Simmons, Owen
 Tillinghast, Kayla
 Walker, Harlie
 Wells, Paul
 Wheeler, Gregory
 Zehner, Claire

Grade 8

Baker, Madison

Brown, Gabrielle
 Christoffel, Zoey
 Collingbourne, Digby
 Loughlin, Mackenzie
 McElhannon, Ellie
 Ortiz, Layla
 Porter, Daniel
 Ryan, Benjamin
 Shute, Amalie
 Simmons, Madison
 Stivers, Eva
 Virnoche, Charlotte

Grade 9

Borte, Justine
 Kostiv, Andrew
 McClary, Emily
 Reed, Arianna
 Shenandoah-Kurtz, Isabella

Grade 10

Danyew, Gabrielle
 Dix, Jonathan
 Fabend, Tyler
 Redmore, Carolyn

Grade 11

Benjamin, Brandon
 Dow, Grace
 Hart, Kaitlin
 Jachim, Morgan
 Ryan, Evelyn
 Shute, Emma
 Shute, Mason
 Simmons, Areiana
 Wanlass, Luke

Grade 12

Albro, Victoria
 Arends, Halee
 Caughey, Jack
 Clarke, Terri
 Collingbourne, Grady
 Dix, Collin
 Evans, Marissa
 Garbutt, Raegyn
 Gregg, Sarah
 Isaacs, Erika
 Kostiv, Victoria
 McIntyre, Adam
 O’Kane, Allison
 Rurka, Kierstin
 Sanders, Megan
 Zajac, Ryan

Congratulations

to the following teams
 who had players make
 All League teams:

Varsity Boys Soccer

Ryan Zajac and Colin
 Morel – First Team
 Jake Sanders and Mason
 Shute – Second Team

Varsity Golf

Branden Pope – First Team
 Nelson Jones –
 Second Team

Boys Cross Country

Kyle Crouse – First Team
 Luke Wanlass and Hayden
 Hemlock – Second Team

Volleyball

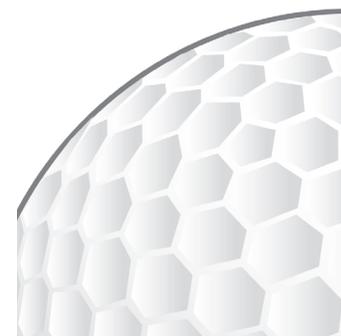
Grace Dow – First Team/
 Player of the Year
 Raegyn Garbutt – First
 Team/Libero of the Year
 Keely Jocko and Carlee
 Lewis – First Team
 Erika Isaacs and Layla
 Isaacs – Second Team
 Kierstin Rurka and Makiyah
 Lazore – Honorable Mention

Varsity Girls Soccer

Tori Albro – First Team
 Kenji Frazier –
 Second Team

Girls Cross Country

Grace Caughey –
 First Team
 Marissa Evans, Megan
 Sanders and Victoria Kostiv
 – Second Team



◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

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

Kudos to our students who participated in this year's musical, "Madagascar, Jr.". All of the Grimshaw players worked so hard with the leadership of Jenni Prentice and Kelly Snyder and behind the scenes support from Amanda Reppi and Jenn McDonald. Also, a big thank you to the

parents that put on the after-play party for our students.



This past month was also filled with another amazing event. Our 5th and 6th grade students performed their winter concert. To hear and see all of the students' hard work exhibited is so rewarding.

With the winter season upon us, we need to remind the students to come to school dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Students should be wearing coats, hats and gloves to school, because you never know when we may need to go outside. Also, as a reminder please tune in to your local television and radio stations for all updated school closings and delays.

As we enter 2020 Grimshaw staff and students would like to wish each and every one of you a prosperous year. We want to thank you again for your continued support and dedication to our school and their activities.

◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

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

On December 5, teachers and students went to Longhouse together to be a part of a Social Dance. Prior to going, Regis Cook prepared an informational sheet describing the nature and purposes of social dances. Many staff mentioned their appreciation for the information and the personal explanations provided by Mr. Cook. Most importantly, ONS staff members were so very appreciative of the gift to be at Longhouse participating in the

dances, and being a part of the overall social process of the Onondaga Nation community. We hope to have a Social at Longhouse on a monthly basis. Nyaweh̄ha to Regis, and to all those who helped ONS share in such an important process.

Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade had a unique opportunity to view arrowheads and pieces of pottery collected and stored in a vault at the Rochester Museum of Science. Chris Capella shared the importance of viewing material that is significant as well as provide a historical understanding of creations of the Haudeonsaunee people. Faculty of Onondaga Language and Culture attended the field trip to support student learning.

On December 20, we held our Winter Concert from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. All students, pre-K to 8, participated. On the same day we held our annual New Yea Celebration. At our recent PLC meeting Mr. Powless explained the historical origins of the celebration and the current cultural importance and practice. Students went to different rooms and classrooms in the building, received cookies, and shared a New Yea greeting, much like what happens in the community.

ONS was very excited to host our first ever fashion show in the gymnasium. The stage will remain up for the stylish creations of our students and community members! The amazing creations were celebrated on Monday December 23rd. Special Nyaweh̄ha to Logan Booth and Lonnie Powless for the initial idea, creation of a flyer and the energy and enthusiasm of supporting the first ever ONS fashion show.

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

BIG PICTURE LEARNING

The holiday season is not the only time of year Big Picture students provide service to our community, as we have service opportunities weekly. However, some of our favorite events are held in December. Every year, we ring the bells for the Salvation Army. We have had students work shifts four



times this year. We also participate in Distribution Day, another Salvation Army event, where our students help to sort and stack food and gifts. Students help to select gifts by gender and age in preparation for the day the families get to pick up their holiday packages. It is such a wonderful day. Our students work hard while they are there and enjoy providing the service.

Big Picture students also presented their trimester learning plans during exhibition week. Overall, the exhibitions were a great success. Advisors, parents, and students were excited about the work that was completed, proud of the projects that were created, and happy they were finished! New learning plans are being developed for the next round of exhibitions.

A few project highlights: ◆ Darryl is making a computer gaming desk. After many hours of edging, patching, and sanding, he finished constructing the two main cabinets and the top portion. All that he has to do now is create a shelf for the monitor and then he can move on to finishing work. ◆ Evan is perfecting his spot welds, making serious headway on his self-fabricated go-kart. ◆ Adam is working on perfecting his Gingerbread Latte for the On The Dot Coffee shop. ◆ Aiden worked extremely hard in his internship at Grimshaw with Mr. LaRose this week helping to set up their cross country unit and running the course with the students. When he came back to Big Picture exhausted, we were so very pleased and proud to receive a great positive phone call from Mr. LaRose sharing Aiden's interpersonal skills with the students, his positive energy and ability to follow directions.



Evan



LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Youth Sports

Basketball: The grades 5 & 6 girls and boys seasons are underway. Practices are Saturdays. Games will also be played on Saturdays beginning in January.

Basketball for boys and girls in grades 2-4 will begin after the February school break. Flyers will be sent home with additional information.

Wrestling: For boys and girls grades K-6. Practices began in December and are held Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Jr./Sr. High School's wrestling room (downstairs). Grades K-3 practice 5:15-6:00 p.m., and grades 4-6 practice 6:15-7:15 p.m. Optional matches are held weekly on Fridays or Saturdays. The season runs through early March.

Volleyball: Programs for girls in grades 3-6 will begin after the February school break. Notices will be sent home from school with additional information.

Coaches: If you are interested and able to help out with the basketball, volleyball or wrestling programs, 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 Exercise

Yoga: Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 p.m. at the Grimshaw Elementary School. The next session runs January 22 through June 24, 2020. NOTE: There is no class Mondays, January 20 and May 25. Participants in the Monday session will be allowed to make-up the two missing classes by attending two classes on Wednesdays of their choice. The cost for this session is \$80 if attending class one night per week, either Monday or Wednesday, and \$160 if attending class both Monday and Wednesday. Fees cannot be prorated. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class.

Daytime/Senior Exercise: Classes are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., at the LaFayette VFW on Rte. 11. The next regular six week sessions are: January 7 – February 13, and February 18-March 26. The cost per session is \$36 and cannot be prorated. The walk-in fee is \$5 per class.

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

Aerobics: At this time, LCC will not be offering an aerobics program; we are 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.

Men's Basketball: Mondays, 7-9 p.m., at the Grimshaw Elementary School gymnasium, September 2019 – April 2020. Fee is \$20. Participants must sign a waiver, which are available online or at each session. The cost for this program is \$20 for the entire session or \$5 per week walk-in fee.

Other Programs

Ski Program: LCC supervised ski nights begin Friday, January 10, 2020. Bus transportation and lessons begin on this date.

Bus transportation is available from the LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School and Grimshaw Elementary School to Song Mountain for seven Fridays, January 10 through February 28. Riders must register with LCC prior to January 10. Cost of transportation for the season is \$10. NOTE: There is no bus on February 21, during the February school break.

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., through April 2020. 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

Thank you to everyone who helped serve cookies, hot chocolate, and popcorn during the Town Tree Lighting festivities.

“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.

LaFayette Public Library News

2577 US-II, 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.

WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE HAS HAD A NICE HOLIDAY. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Upcoming events:

- Step up to stop falling: Done for the season. Will resume in early Spring. Stay tuned!
- Tuesday Tea – January 21, 2:00 p.m.
- January Imagination Lab:
 - 8th - Hanging paper Icicles
 - 15th - Decorate a snowflake
 - 22nd – Wii games
 - 29th – egg carton flowers/wreaths

The Census is coming! The Census is coming! That's right – it's 2020 and time to do our next Census. This year the Census is being offered online. You will (or already may have) receive a card in the mail telling you where to go to fill out the Census. If you do not have internet access, the libraries will have dedicated access to the Census website. Please make sure that whatever way you do it, that you be counted. An accurate count determines where billions in funds are directed; it means Congressional seats (e.g. New York State has lost seats due to inaccurate or under counts). We are here to help!

Don't have access to the **internet** at home? We now circulate 6 Chrome Books 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 courtesy of our county legislators so please thank them if you get a chance!

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 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. Just to remind you, the patron is responsible for picking up 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! We have a puzzle set up in the library so come in and fit a piece or two (or three).

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 educational 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 time: Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Imagination Lab – Wednesdays 3:30
Tuesday Tea – every third Tuesday – 2 p.m.

LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20
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.

January

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 1 **No School - All Buildings**
- 2 **No School - GS,BP,JSHS**
Half Day - ONS
- 3 **No School - GS,BP,JSHS**
Half Day - ONS
- 9 BOE Meeting
- 20 **No School -**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21-24 Regents Exams
- 23 BOE Meeting
- 24 **Half Day -**
Rating/Records Day

