

National Honor Society Holds Charity Drive



The National Honor Society recently held a charity drive, collecting donations for COVID patients who are spending the holidays alone at St. Joe's Hospital. Coloring materials, crafts, books, stuffed animals, and more were collected for patients of all ages. Five boxes of items were delivered on December 18th. Thank you to the community and those who supported this effort!

Board of Education Update

At the December 10, 2020 Board of Education

meeting, President Stephanie Dow informed the board that she was resigning from the Board of Education due to relocating to a new home just outside of our school district boundaries. Trustees expressed their thanks and gratitude to President Dow for her service and leadership to our school community for the past five years.



Superintendent Jeremy Belfield shared the following words of thanks to Mrs. Dow... "Since President Dow's election in 2015, the district has increased college course offerings, increased graduation rates and academic achievement rates, improved district finances, adopted responsible budgets that meet the needs of our school community, supported student participation in athletics/fine arts/performing arts, adopted a tenure attainment rubric to support retention of staff members who support excellence, reviewed

and updated the board policy book, supported the development of a board member handbook, attended student events and celebrations, and supported the work of teachers, staff, and administrators. We wish Mrs. Dow and her family continued success and health."

Trustee Shawn Reyburn was elected as the new President of the Board. The board is currently interviewing interested candidates who would like to fill the vacant board seat until the next board of education election in May 2021. If you are interested in being considered for the current vacant seat on the board, please contact the district office at 315-677-9728.

Art Students of the Month

The Art Department would like to recognize the following art students for the month for December and January. Congratulations to them for their hard work ethic and dedication in art class: Jenna Reese, Layla Isaacs, Erik Cromley, Cole Martorella, Caroline Davidson, Caitlyn Somerlot, Katie Fischer, Sye Stanton, Gabrielle Danyew, Lindsay Carroll, Keely Jocko, Carolyn Redmore and Ben Seeman.



Gabrielle Danyew



Keely Jocko



Jenna Reese

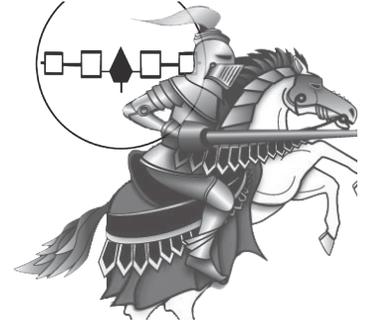


Caitlyn Somerlot

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Jeremy Belfield
Superintendent of Schools



Dear LaFayette School Community:

Thank you for your support during our most recent capital project referendum. The \$8.6 million capital campaign will provide improvements to air quality, student programming in STEM education, add air conditioning to second floor classrooms/certain common areas, create an Academic Hall of Fame, and address all of the high priority items in our last building condition survey.

We have set up several design meetings with staff members and our construction team during the month of January. One area that will be targeted for improvement is the Auditorium Lobby at LaFayette High School where we are looking to create an Academic Hall of Fame/Wall of Honor. As part of the renovations we are looking to dedicate a space to honor alumni, staff members or community members who have had positive and lasting contributions to our school community. If you are interested in serving on the design committee for the Academic Hall of Fame/Wall of Honor, please let me know- jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org or 315-529-9550 (cell). The first meeting was held on Tuesday January 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM. While we currently have an Athletic Hall of Fame to honor the rich traditions of athletic excellence in LaFayette, we also wanted to create a space to honor individuals who have contributed in other meaningful ways to our school community. We will be in touch once the space has been renovated to solicit nominations for deserving alumni, staff members, and community members and to plan our first induction ceremony. We are hopeful that renovations in the Auditorium lobby will be completed in either the summer of 2022 or 2023. We have a great school district and we are looking forward to honoring those that have contributed to making this a great learning environment.

Also during the month of January, we will begin our budget development for the 2021-2022 school year. Our community budget meetings will be held via video conference on the following dates:

- Wednesday January 20, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Google Meets
- Wednesday February 3, 2021 at 5:30 PM via Google Meets

As we begin the process of planning the 2021-2022 school year, we want to create a responsible financial plan that meets the needs of our school community, provides great programming for students, and complies with the New York State Property Tax Cap. We recognize that one of the key features that makes LaFayette a place where families want to be is making sure that our school funding plan is affordable and sustainable. I plan to connect with each of our state and federal elected officials to remind them of the great things that are happening in our school district and to let them know that we appreciate continued support from state and federal funding sources.

Thank you to our staff members, students, and families for continuing to go above and beyond during this challenging time. While we experienced a surge of COVID cases and related quarantines during the months of November and December, we are hopeful that infection rates will decline with the release of the COVID vaccine. Our school employees are now eligible to receive the vaccine and many employees have scheduled appointments and are in the process of being vaccinated. We are hopeful that as the vaccine becomes more widely available that we can soon resume many of the activities that our students enjoy. Thank you for your sustained efforts to continue learning and willingness to support each other throughout the pandemic. I hope that 2021 brings brighter days to our school community.

◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Jason Ryan

We wrapped up 2020 with many great accomplishments. We are proud of our students and staff who continue to impress us with their commitment to excellence.

Here are a few highlights of those great things happening at the Junior Senior High School....

Digital Family Citizenship Award



LaFayette Junior Senior High understands the challenges and necessary teamwork required between home and school for our digital learners to be successful. In the month of December, we selected a family that has gone above and beyond to partner with the school to support the success of their children learning from home.

Congratulations to The Olrich Family! They are connected daily, participating, and thriving in the digital learning environment. Keep up the great work!

OCC Advantage Program

The junior class attended and completed their first virtual event of the year for the OCC Advantage Program. They listened to an OCC representative speak about the program requirements and then had a Q+A with a current OCC student about his experiences with the program and college life at OCC. The students participated well and asked some great questions.

7th and 8th Grade Students of the Month

The students are chosen based on their ability to demonstrate the "GOLD" standard that is expected at the junior high school. G-give respect, O-ownership, L-leadership, D-demonstrate safety. These students have shown great participation in class, take ownership over their work, and strive to do their best every day.

The recipients are as follows: for the month of September: Lillian Andrews (8th Grade) and Kylee Haskins (7th Grade). For October: Gavin Slishevsky (8th Grade) and Hudson Borchert (7th Grade). November: Kal[^]na Dockstader (8th Grade) and May Gray (7th Grade). And December: Carlee Clemens (8th Grade) and Sophie Olrich (7th Grade)

Congratulations!

Senior Breakfast



To close out 2020, the seniors enjoyed a delicious breakfast of bagels, donuts, fresh fruit, hot chocolate, and tea. Special deliveries were made to the seniors at home too.

◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

Students Help Out Close to Home

I'd like to publicly thank the club officers of the Outdoor Education Club: President, Senior Colton Keane; Vice President, Senior Kendra Doupe; Treasurer, Junior Scott Heath; and Secretary, Junior Carolyn Redmore all discussed with me and approved a donation from the club fund that included any and all profits we made this year from various club sales and activities to LaFayette Outreach.

LaFayette Outreach is an organization that works closely with the Food Bank of CNY and Feeding America to make sure that there is ample food for those in need. The organization is supported by the Columbian Presbyterian Church and Saint Joseph's Catholic Church here in LaFayette, and the pantry itself is housed at St. Joe's. This year's club profits amounted to \$394.00, which will go a very long way to providing much needed food and supplies to those in need in our community. An additional \$230.00 in cash/check donations from community members brought our impact up to a whopping \$624.00!

Even better, donations are still rolling in, and I expect that we will be able to donate another large sum of money to LaFayette Outreach in the spring. If you are interested in donating, the pantry can always use non-perishable foods, personal hygiene items, and cleaning products. Physical goods or cash donations can be brought directly to the pantry during their normal open hours of operation at St. Joe's, which are as follows: Tuesday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon; and the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM. If you would like to donate fresh foods like produce or meat, please contact the pantry directly (Phone: 315-677-5221; E-Mail: lafoureach@gmail.com) to assure they have ample fridge and freezer space for when you arrive. If you'd like to donate money for use in any area of need at any given time, checks can be made payable to LaFayette Outreach and mailed to: PO Box 481; LaFayette, NY 13084.

Any questions or help needed delivering items can be directed to at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School: Tim Baker; LaFayette Jr/Sr High School; 3122 US Route 11 North; LaFayette, NY 13084; 315-677-3131, ext. 3148; tbaker@lafayetteschools.org. Thanks to any and all who already have or will help serve our LaFayette community!!



LaFayette Senior Kendra Doupe pauses for a photo with Mrs. Gloria Yenny and Mrs. Cheryl Jepsen of LaFayette Outreach

◆ Athletic News ◆

Congratulations to the Fall Scholar Athletes

We are proud to acknowledge the following students who earned the distinction of Scholar Athlete. To earn such distinction, a student must have a 90 or above average.

Boys Soccer: Brandon Benjamin, Digby Collingbourne, Christian DeJoseph, Aiden Newkirk, Andrew Porter, Daniel Porter, Benjamin Ryan, Adam Schaefer, Mason Shute, Sean Zajac

Girls Soccer: Justine Borte, Kara Humphrey, Hanna Pierce, Evelyn Ryan, Jordyn Sawkins, Isabella Shenandoah-Kurtz, Charlotte Virnoche, Claire Virnoche, Olivia Virnoche

Varsity Golf: Samuel Denué, Tyler Fabend, Evan Fitzpatrick, Jessica Hart, Karina Magyar, Joshua Pierce, Maria Polinsky, Dean Wilson

Boys Cross Country: Kyle Crouse, Jonathan Dix, Emmett Dix, Andrew Kostiv, Benjamin Seeman, Luke Wanless

Girls Cross Country: Grace Caughney, Amanda Evans, Ellie McElhannon, Eva Stivers

Congratulations to Selected Athletes for Section III 2020 All-League Teams

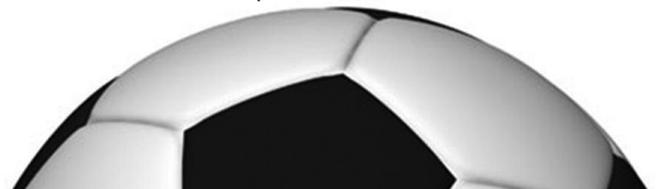
Girls Cross Country: Grace Caughy - Second Team, Amanda Evans - Second Team, Ellie McElhannon - Second Team, Eva Stivers - Second Team

Golf: Nelson Jones - Second Team

Girls Soccer: Claire Virnoche - Second Team, Justine Borte - Honorable Mention, Isabel Fontaine - Honorable Mention

Boys Cross Country: Emmett Dix - First Team, Hayden Hemlock - First Team

Boys Soccer: Colin Morel - Co-Player of the Year, Mason Shute - First Team, Christian DeJoseph - Second Team, Aiden Abbott - Second Team, Mark Humphrey - Second Team, Carter Chapman - Honorable Mention



◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

From the Desk of the
PRINCIPAL
Simone Gonyea

Nyaweñha Skanoh - Greetings from the Onondaga Nation School!

Many exciting events occurred at the end of our 2020 school year! In December the entire school celebrated together in a variety of ways digitally. The focus for December on fractions centered around baking and using measuring tools that helped families participate in a fun and delicious way.

To celebrate the school wide focus days on fractions - which occurred December 21st and 22nd - we gathered for the first ever school wide assembly. We had 64 families gather on the google meet to share cookie creations, talk about fractions and send New Yea wishes to our school community. Javin Capella won the prize of ONS swag for the closest guess - without going over - for the assembly participant number.

As we begin our new year of 2021 we bring great hope and anticipation as we continue learning and growing from home. This may not be ideal- but the moment we can gather again safely will be so very happy and joyous. I am continually amazed at the student participants and family members who faithfully arrive at google classroom meets.

We have a dedicated and committed staff and families who bring the best to every digital day!

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆



January is NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH — but it is not too late to celebrate!

Big Picture students have gained unmeasurable knowledge and skills from the mentors they have worked with in the past.. Our school design is based on internship and mentorship experiences.

Due to COVID restrictions, our traditional internships sites and experiences are limited however our students need these relationships and experiences now more than ever.

According to the report "*The Power of Relationships: How and Why American Adults Step Up to Mentor the Nation's Youth*," a quarter of adults are actively engaged in mentoring young people, and far more would be interested if they had more information on mentoring opportunities. Several of the reasons most often cited for not participating include a lack of information: 26% don't know how to get involved, 22% believe there are no local opportunities, and 8% are simply waiting for someone to ask them.

The following are ways for you to get involved and the opportunities available. I am asking you to help our students.

Mentor Presentations: You present about your work, career or hobby, the skills that you need to do your job successfully, the journey you took and share advice to students who share similar interests.

Informational Interview: Offer your time and allow students to interview you as they seek information on your career, industry, hobby and your workplace.

Distance Internship: As a mentor, you would meet with student(s) on set dates and times to complete work and develop a project that is beneficial to your site.

Mentor Supported Project: As a mentor you would provide your expertise and guidance for a student to develop a project with real work learning connections.

We are looking for not just professional mentor experiences but also those who would be willing to share about a hobby or a passion that you enjoy.

USE YOUR POWER.....BE A MENTOR

Contact Susan Osborn at the LaFayette Big Picture School: 315-504-1000

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LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

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.

In addition to the Board positions, new members are needed to help us to continue current programs and provide ideas and input so that we can expand the array of programs we offer.

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.

Ski Program

LCC's chaperoned ski nights began Friday, January 8, 2021 and will continue until the February school break. Lessons that are included with respective passes also began on that date.

Adult Programs

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

Youth Programs

Winter Sports

LCC will parallel the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) which has postponed starting "high-risk sports" indefinitely. NY state considers basketball, wrestling, and volleyball "high-risk" sports. Whether we will be able to conduct these programs beginning in January will depend on state mandates, as well as the school district policies.

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

Thank you.

Baseball and Lacrosse

Registration for the baseball and lacrosse programs will be in early March. Electronic notices with details for each respective sport will be sent out by the LaFayette Central School District. Information will also be provided through the Town's website and LCC's Facebook page.

Coaches

As spring approaches, LCC is in the process of planning the baseball and lacrosse seasons. Coaches are needed at all levels for both sports. 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.

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

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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.

LIBRARY STATUS DUE TO COVID: as of this writing, we plan to continue to open our doors providing the ability to, by appointment, to browse, pick up holds and use the computers. See the protocols for that below.

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:

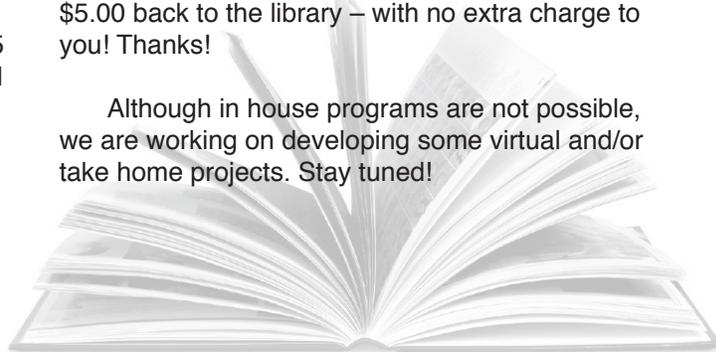
Monday & Tuesday 10:15 – 5:15 (last slot 5:15-6:15)
Wednesday 10:15 – 3:15 (last slot 3:15-4:15)
Thursday 12:15 – 5:15 (last slot 5:15-6:15)
Friday 10:15 – 3:15 (last slot 3:15-4:15)
Saturday 10:00 – 12:45 (last slot 12:45 -1:45)

Don't have access to the internet at home? Reminding you that we now circulate 7 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 the courtesy of our county legislators (County Legislature Chair Dave Knapp and County Executive Ryan McMahon in particular). Please thank them if you get a chance!

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. 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, 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!

Although in house programs are not possible, we are working on developing some virtual and/or take home projects. Stay tuned!



LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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LaFayette, NY 13084

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Jeremy Belfield, Title IX Compliance Officer, LaFayette Central School, 5955 Route 20, West, LaFayette, New York 13084
The LaFayette Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, national origin, race, sex, or handicapping conditions in its employment practices or educational programs.



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!

