

## Students Participate in Annual Oratorical Contest



On May 9th the junior high held its annual Oratorical Contest for grades 7-9,

sponsored by the Optimist Club. The topic of the speech was: Discovering the Optimism within Me and the students were graded on content, presentation, and time (3-5 minute range).

**Out of 18 participants, the winners were:** 1st Place - Jeremy Aldrich (8th grade); 2nd Place - Cambria Stanton (8th grade); 3rd Place - Rory Cawley (7th grade).

Runners Up: Maddy Amidon (8th grade), Schuyler Bice (7th grade), Marissa Bridgette (7th grade), Olivia Coppola (8th grade), Chevelle Cronin (7th grade), Jimmy Herron (7th grade), Leonard Hickey (7th grade), Delilah Johnson (8th grade), Cross Newman (8th grade), Camille Reynolds (8th grade), Brynn Rittenhouse (7th grade), Hailey Schrader (7th grade), Bryce Stevenson (8th grade), Jason Stevenson (7th grade), Caleb Young (7th grade).

Congratulations to ALL of the participants, especially the winners. Standing up in front of a room full of your peers and adults is not an easy feat, but you all handled it with grace.

A special thank you to our junior high English teachers, Maria Edwards and Mattie Caughey, for organizing the event, recruiting students and helping to develop their presentation skills. Also, thank you to our Library Media Specialist, Sue Bang, our AIS Reading instructor, Lindsey Stupp and Optimist member Scott Gates for judging the competition. As always, a huge shout out to the Optimist Club for their continued support of our students!

## Legends of Learning



Congratulations to **Ms. Megan Zehner** who was selected as the **May 2023 Legend of Learning!** Ms. Zehner is an Instructional Specialist at Grimshaw Elementary School.

The individual who nominated Megan shared the following: "Megan has devoted her entire professional career to the children of the Lafayette community. Since 2001 thousands of children have benefitted from her dedication. First as an elementary teacher, then as a reading teacher and now as an instructional coach, she has poured herself into helping children learn to read. Megan has worked tirelessly over the last few years to facilitate the implementation of our new ELA curriculum. She has spent countless hours on her own professional development and on the professional development of her colleagues. We are very fortunate to have someone who cares so much and works so hard for the betterment of our community."

Megan, thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!



Congratulations to **Ms. Catharine (Katie) Edwards** who was selected as the **April 2023 Legend of Learning!** Ms. Edwards is a custodial worker at Grimshaw Elementary School.

The individual who nominated Katie shared the following: "Katie goes above and beyond when it comes to her job responsibilities as a custodial worker. Katie is highly detailed and very caring about the appearance and cleanliness of our schools. During the pandemic, Katie and all of our custodial staff went above and beyond to sanitize classrooms, restrooms and locations throughout the school to help keep our students and staff safe. Katie is flexible, accommodating and willing to go the extra mile to help out."

Katie, thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

**Nominate a Legend of Learning!** You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who: *Help to advance the mission and vision of the district; Go above and beyond; Demonstrate that they put our students first; Support student learning; Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion; and Embrace creativity and innovation.* Nominate a staff member today through an online survey which is available on our website.

## ◆ LaFayette District News ◆



**Jeremy Belfield,**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org  
315-529-9550

Dear Families and Staff Members:

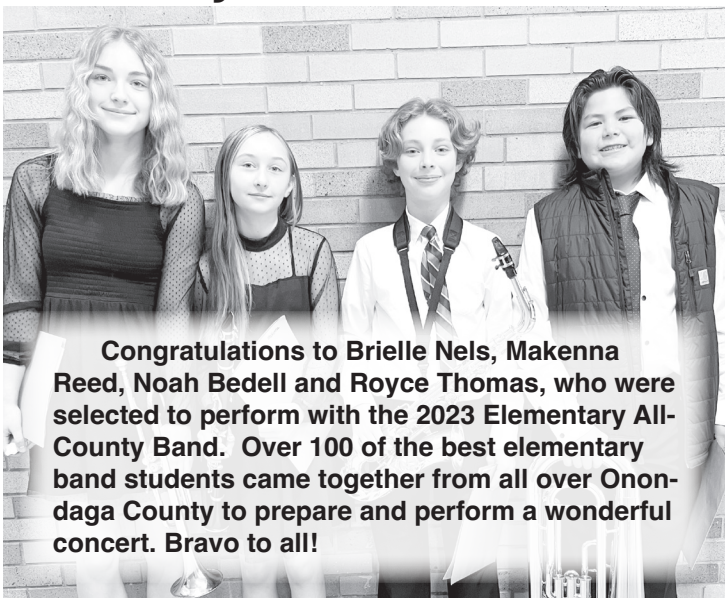
Thank you to our voters for approving the 2023-2024 school district operating budget and the student vehicle proposition. Next year's budget will allow the hiring of a fourth social worker, which will fulfill our commitment to having a social worker in every school. The budget also includes all the great opportunities that currently exist for students with small class sizes, college credit opportunities for high school students, internship opportunities for Big Picture students, and all the great clubs and athletic programs that encourage student success.

Congratulations to our sports teams on a successful spring season. As of the writing of this letter, all our teams have had positive wins and great sporting contests with our competitors. I wish all our varsity teams, student athletes, and coaches that are heading into the postseason my very best. During the month of May, the LaFayette Sports Boosters held a fundraiser for the Evans family which helped to remind everyone what a great community we live in. Joe Evans is a LaFayette alumni who has lived in LaFayette his entire life, raised amazing daughters, and retired in LaFayette after a career in the Syracuse City Police Department. Joe suffered a devastating accident just after retiring which left him paralyzed. On Thursday May 11th, LaFayette hosted "A Backyard Battle" to raise money for the Evans family. The support from our community was incredible. Thank you to the Sports Boosters for hosting this event and for reminding all of us how lucky we are to have a community that comes together to support one another in tough times.

As we head towards the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, I want to thank all our staff, students, and families for an outstanding school year. Congratulations to the class of 2023 and best wishes for much success in your future. Be sure to check out our school calendars for the exciting end of the year celebrations and events. Thank you for all your support!

## ◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

### Grimshaw Students Perform in All-County Band



Congratulations to Brielle Nels, Makenna Reed, Noah Bedell and Royce Thomas, who were selected to perform with the 2023 Elementary All-County Band. Over 100 of the best elementary band students came together from all over Onondaga County to prepare and perform a wonderful concert. Bravo to all!

GRIMSHAW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### PARADE OF BASKETS



**June 2, 2023**  
**4 TO 7 P.M.**

**GRIMSHAW CAFETERIA**

**ENTER TO WIN:** 40+ Gift Baskets, Gift Cards to Restaurants & Shops, Admission Passes, 1-Year Blink Fitness Membership, Wegmans Gift Card, Price Chopper Gift Card, and so much more.

**Raffle tickets are sold by sheet.**

**1 sheet is \$5 or 5 sheets for \$25.** We will also have Ice Cream from Crusin' Cones Ice Cream Truck



## ♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

### New Members Inducted into NJHS



The LaFayette National Junior Honor Society held their 20th Annual Induction Ceremony welcoming a new group of members on April 19th, 2023. Opening remarks were offered by ONS Principal Ms. Gonyea. Our NJHS Officers, including Cross Newman, Amelia Evans, Katie Fischer, Hudson Borchert, Logan Hazeltine, and Amanda Johnson, led the candle ceremony. Each member explains 1 of the 5 pillars that represent the National Junior Honor Society; Scholarship, Citizenship, Service, Leadership, and Character. The President's Speech, prepared by Sophie Olrich, was delivered by Amber Cooper.

We were also happy to have Lieutenant Commander Cherisa Friedlander from the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, speak with the group virtually. LCDR Friedlander talked about her path to the NOAA Corp and her career, which includes Stations Operations on board NOAA research vessels, launching ozonesondes from the South Pole, and serving as Flag Aide to the Director of NOAA. She discussed how the 5 pillars are essential behaviors for people striving to excel in her field. Finally, LaFayette Jr/ Sr High School Principal, Mr. Ryan provided the closing remarks of the ceremony.

Congratulations to our new inductees: Braylon Amidon, Rylee Andersen, Marissa Bridgette, Vivian Campbell, Javin Capella, Olivia Coppola, Kennedy Harmatuk, Sidney Hill Jr., Presley Homer, Delilah Johnson, Coen Kinsella, Graham Olin, Jerod Olrich, Gianna Papworth, Clara Parry, Brooke Rugari, Ayson Ryan, Hailey Schrader, Taheton Sullivan, Gahowa:nens Shenandoah, Madison Shute, Alanna Stanton, and Taylor Thorpe.



### Did You Know?

An estimated 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass NYS school buses everyday.

**THE LAW SAYS:** It is illegal - and very dangerous - to pass a stopped school bus when the large red lights located on top of the bus are flashing. Flashing lights mean the bus is picking up or discharging students. You must stop whether you are approaching the school bus from the front or overtaking it from the rear. You must always stop for flashing red lights, even on divided and multilane highways and on school grounds.

The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus is a \$250 to \$400 fine, 5 points on your license, and/or possibly 30 days in jail. Worse yet, the memory of hitting or killing a child may be one you carry for the rest of your life.

## ◆ The BIG PICTURE News ◆

### Spring at Big Picture



It has been an amazing few weeks sharing our school, our stories and our students with visitors from across New York State. We were honored to be asked to host the New York Internship Pathways spring convening again. We hosted 25 or so visitors for two days. The staff took the visitors into the community to visit our students at their internship sites and then the visitors were able to meet with a panel of our students to discuss the development of project work. Our guests learned what our students think about their internships, their projects, how they view the work and assessment. On the second day of the convening, guests were able to visit advisories and workshops and had more face time with our kids. The feedback was very positive and I was so proud of our students. They showed so much pride in their work. We were also visited by New York State Education Department Deputy Commissioner Angelique Johnson-Dingle, Assistant Commissioner David Frank, Assistant Commissioner Santosha Oliver, Diane Wynne from NYSED EI Office, Claris-

sa Jacobs-Roraback from NYSED Office of Indigenous Education and Colleen Viggiano, OCM BOCES Assistant Superintendent. We were able to share the success of Big Picture Learning, its impact on our students, our district and our community. We had the amazing opportunity to discuss what New York State policies interfere with the work that we are doing and what we want to do. It was incredible to share my thoughts on what our school could do and focus on if the measurements of success were adjusted. It felt almost unreal to sit at the table with policy makers and share what we as a school would do if the measurement tool was not a Regents Exam or a Carnegie Credit. It was an honor to have our students share with the State Education Department members on what they experience by attending the LaFayette Big Picture School.

### Student and Project Highlights:



In the garden, Evan volunteered his time to do some weeding, watering, and planting. He exhibited great initiative and it was awesome to see him get involved! With the help of Evan, Lyra, and Walt, we planted about 25 total plants of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. We also planted some corn seeds, cucumber seeds, and butternut squash seeds. Braxtin, Ollie, Lucas B, and Evan also put down a biodegradable weed barrier and covered the vegetable plot with compost. While a lot of work and effort, it'll pay great dividends over the growing season. The space is really coming along and we're excited to offer a summer enrichment course about gardening and horticulture this summer.

Lexi designed an STP intended to provide a luncheon for elders where the food is predominately traditional. She researched native corn and traditional methods of preparation. She practiced preparing the meals throughout



the year and gathered expertise from members of our school and the Onondaga Nation community. With help from Meg, Shauna, Rheya, Walt, and the culinary crew, Lexi conducted her event last week offering a menu of wild leek soup, roasted venison, roasted root vegetables, applesauce, succotash, cornbread and strawberry drink. The traditional cornbread was especially difficult to make due to the processing of the corn, but Kat took on the challenge and did an amazing job. We are hoping to do more of these luncheons in the future. It was a true team effort by the advisors and culinary students! The food was delicious and there were many smiles and connections made.

Lucas A. and Mya are interning at United Radio. They are working on taking apart various pieces of equipment, fixing and replacing parts, soldering, and reassembling the pieces of equipment to a repaired condition. Their mentors spoke highly of both Lucas's





## ◆ The BIG PICTURE News ◆

and Mya's work ethic, kindness, and attention to detail. They were given a new opportunity to meet and work with a gentleman who uses a 3D printer to design and create items that promote efficiency and accuracy. After learning about the 3D printer, they worked together to assemble boards with all of their components. Mike spoke highly of their work and even mentioned a possibility of summer work opportunities for Lucas and Mya.

Kanieñ Tahawi is learning how to sew her own ribbon skirt for her exhibition. She combined her interest in photography with her project. She asked Shawna if she would be willing to bring her ribbon skirts in so she could use them for

a photo shoot. After recruiting a few individuals to model the skirts, Kanieñ

Tahawi did her

first photo shoot. It was impressive to see and hear her naturally direct her models to places and positions with ease. This was a big transition from her traditional photos of nature, but she may have a knack for portraits. The results are beautiful, Kanieñ Tahawi has several shots and a variety of perspectives to include in her exhibition. Ribbon skirts are pictured on the back page.

Jade is interested in raising chickens, so she bought chicks, and this week she stained and built a chicken coop for them. It was a fun project, and the chickens are very happy with their new living situation. We are especially happy to see that Jade is not only interested in culinary, but also in self-sustainability. Hopefully we will have a good source of eggs for next year.

Billy is interested in graphic design and custom t-shirt making, and we are impressed with the progress he has been making. His goal is to make custom shirts for students, and he is starting with the 101 class. He made a design based on feedback from others, learned photoshop skills, learned vinyl printing skills and has actively been making shirts to a high standard. We are very excited to see his exhibition next week.



## Helping Hounds DOG RESCUE Drop offs in Big Picture Room 123 Donations

Dry Dog Food - Adult, Puppy, and Small Bites. Preferred brands are;

Tractor Supply Company - 4 Health  
 Authority or Simply Nourish - PetSmart's store brands

Nutro

Blue Buffalo

Any good quality food will be accepted

Staples: Mother Nature's Pet

Supply Wegmans or Tops: Petco

PetSmart, Tractor Supply Co

Canned Dog Food

Martingale/ No-Slip Collars - All Sizes

6' Leashes, Paper Towels, Dishwasher Pods, 3M Doodlebug Scrub Pads

Clorox Wipes, Bil-Jac Little-Jacs Small Dog Chicken Liver Training

Dog Treat, Pet Safe Ice Melt, Small & Medium Dog Collars, Dog Toys

Postage Stamps, Dry Erase Markers, Manila File Folders, Copy Paper

Liquid Hand Soap, Gift Card

Big Picture 101 class is doing a donation project to get supplies to support Helping Hounds. Please help us by bringing in the supplies listed. We would appreciate your support. HELP US HELP THEM!

## DEADLINE JUNE 9

## LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS • 315-677-7272

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball:** Programs are in session and will end mid June.

**Lacrosse:** Grades 3/4 and Grades 5/6 ULA teams will begin games in mid June. K-2 program will begin in mid June.

**Swim:** The town of Tully opened registration to town of LaFayette residents for swim lessons at Green Lake this summer..

If you are able to help with the LCC programs – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 315-677-7272. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers who are willing to share their expertise as coaches. Thank you.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Community Day:** Saturday, June 3 at Stafford Park, LCC will be providing popcorn and glow sticks. We will be hosting a kickball game, adults and children welcome. Stop by our duck table to get your duck for the Annual Duck Race.

### THANK YOU!

LCC would like to extend a BIG THANK YOU to all of the coaches, assistant coaches and helpers involved in volleyball, baseball/softball/tee ball and lacrosse. We would not be able to offer these youth programs without our volunteers.

Thank you to all the businesses that have provided donations to LCC programs and events. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Thank you to the volunteers at the Rockfest LCC table.

To all the Memorial Day parade participants: Thank you!

◆ *LaFayette Community News* ◆

# 2023 SOUTHERN HILLS STORM YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER

FABIUS-POMPEY \* LAFAYETTE \* TULLY

REGISTER ONLINE NOW AT: [www.storm1stand10.com](http://www.storm1stand10.com)

\*Season begins in August\*

## CHEER FEES:

Grade	Team	Before June 1	June 1 – Nov. 1
K-2 (must turn 5 before 12/1/2023)	Flag Football Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
3-4	C Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
5-6	B Cheer	*\$70	*\$85
7-8 (cannot turn 15 prior to 12/1/2023)	B Cheer	*\$70	*\$85

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR CHEER: JULY 16, 2023

## FOOTBALL FEES:

Grade	Team	Before June 1	June 1 – Nov. 1
K-2 (must turn 5 before 12/1/2023)	Flag Football	*\$40	*\$50
3-4	C Football (Tackle)	*\$90	*\$120
5-6 (cannot turn 13 before 12/1/2023)	B Football (Tackle)	*\$90	*\$120

\*There will be a \$40 fee added to the registration costs listed above. Registrants are given an opportunity to earn that \$40 back by selling the two raffle tickets given to you (\$20 each). You may sell those two tickets and return the stubs for entry in the drawing, or simply elect to enter yourself into the drawing.

**The \$40 fee for your raffle tickets is NOT included in prices shown above.**

- Grades for registration are as of **FALL 2023**
- Partial payments option available
- For scholarships and all other questions, please call: 315-575-0728

Sponsored by STORM 1<sup>st</sup> and 10 Club



◆ *LaFayette Community News* ◆

# SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

## Intro to Gardening & Horticulture

Join us for a free summer enrichment program, where students will learn the basics of gardening and horticulture. **Transportation is provided.**

### Activities include:

- Learning the basics of vegetable gardening
- Growing plants from seed
- Harvesting vegetables
- Cooking with and preserving the harvest
- Learning how to compost
- Field trips to local businesses, such as a beekeeper, local farms, apple orchard, farmers market, and more

**WHERE** LaFayette Big Picture School

**WHEN** Tuesdays & Thursdays, from  
July 11 to August 10\*\*  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

*\*\*We will not meet July 25 and 27.*

To sign up or learn more, contact Brandy Tremblay at [btremblay@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:btremblay@lafayetteschools.org)





# LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20  
LaFayette, NY 13084

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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.

## June IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Big Picture Ribbon Skirts, pages 4-5

- 2 HS Prom 7pm  
Parade of Baskets
- 6 Kindergarten Olympics 9:30am
- 8 Scholarship Night 6:30pm
- 13 GR 4-6 Olympics 8:15am  
GR 1-3 Olympics 12pm
- 14 Grimshaw Library Reopening  
4:30pm  
BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 19 **Juneteenth - NO SCHOOL**
- 20 ONS Graduation 6pm  
GS 6th Grade Graduation 6pm
- 21 Kindergarten Graduation 9am  
BP Graduation 6pm  
Half Day GS/ONS
- 22 Half Day GS/ONS
- 23 HS Graduation 6pm

Don't forget  
to like us on  
Facebook.

