

## Busy Start for the Big Picture School

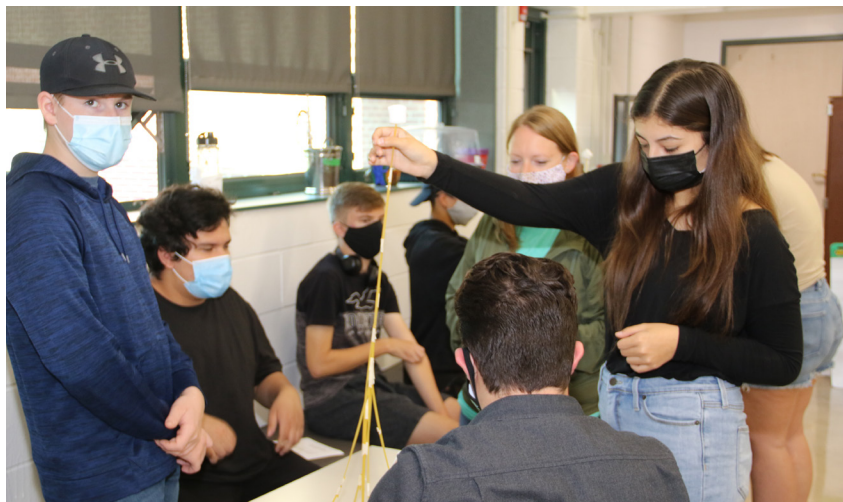
The start of the school year has been fantastic. Our students returned with energy, curiosity and humor. These are all great qualities that will serve us as we develop our learning plans for the upcoming school year.

Prior to getting started in developing our own individual goals, we used the first few days to engage our brains in solving design problems. These design challenges require teamwork, patience and creativity. One of the challenges required students to construct a spaghetti tower with tape that will support a marshmallow. The group with the tallest tower to hold the marshmallow for 10 seconds wins the challenge. One group completed the challenge with time to spare. After observing their competition they noticed a group with a sturdy tower that was 3 inches taller than theirs. Instead of giving up, they used their extra time to make improvements and adjustments to their tower to increase its height, they were able to meet the other group's height and challenge them with an extra 4 inches! This challenged the other group to improve and adjust their tower; both groups had great sturdy towers, but unfortunately 4 inches was too much for the other group to surpass. This challenge provided us the opportunity to highlight the ability to observe and adjust, trial and error, and stick-to-it-ness.

The second challenge our students participated in, involved using string to lift an empty soda can up and over a hoop. The concept is simple. The solution needs creativity and teamwork.

We were unable to participate in our overnight camping trip. Instead, we held an additional day of games and challenges. The day was first scheduled as an outside picnic but due to the rain, we stayed at school. First we embraced the rainy weather. Using limited materials, each advisory constructed an umbrella. Then they made a paper hat and had to keep the hat dry using the umbrella while venturing out in the rain. Each advisory also had two kits used to build enclosures for an egg drop. We dropped each entry from about 12 feet and assessed the damage. It was a fun event and everyone learned something.

These low risk activities provide us with the opportunity to have rich conversations about what it takes to be successful with project work, independence, goal setting, problem solving, teamwork and being curious. We now are ready to explore our own individual interests, project ideas, and internship opportunities.



## District News ♦ District News ♦ District News



### Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

**Jeremy Belfield**  
**Superintendent of Schools**  
jbelfield@lafayetteschools.org  
315-529-9550 (cell)

The 2021-2022 school year is off and running. It is wonderful having most of our students back in classrooms. Our staff members deserve a standing ovation for their efforts to make our schools a safe and welcoming place to learn. We have many things to celebrate this school year, including the implementation of a new English Language Arts curriculum as well as learning materials in grades kindergarten through eighth. Be sure to check out the article on our website about EL learning which includes links to resources for parents encouraging reading at home- <https://eleducation.org/resources/library>. Our staff members have been engaged with professional learning since last school year planning for the implementation of this program, and teachers are supported with an instructional specialist for ELA at Grimshaw Elementary, LaFayette Jr/Sr High, and the Onondaga Nation School. We look forward to creating a love of literacy within our students.

Our school district has been fortunate to secure two social workers, Danielle Smith and Crystal Butler, enhancing our existing student support and mental health team of counselors and school psychologists. The district is continuing the expansion of our social and emotional learning curriculum with a program called Second Step in grades pre-kindergarten through grades six. For more information on this program, please visit - <https://www.secondstep.org/what-is-second-step>. Students and staff members can also identify needs for social and emotional support through a school-wide screening measure called the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System (BIMAS-2). Students in grades 7-12 can complete a self-report, while there is a teacher report form for students in younger grades. The information from these reports allows our team to identify students who are at risk or who need additional support in dealing with challenging situations. The pandemic has taken a toll on the mental health of us all. If you are struggling, don't hesitate to reach out for support through resources available at our schools or through community resources - <https://www.211cny.com/>

We have taken many measures to protect our students while COVID-19 and the delta variant spread in our surrounding community. Unfortunately, as we see positivity rates increase in the surrounding community, our students, staff members, and families are impacted by the spread of the disease. We can all do our part by getting vaccinated when eligible and in consultation with your physician, staying home when you are sick, getting tested, wearing face masks in school buildings and on buses, and washing our hands. Please consider signing your child up for COVID surveillance testing which is conducted every Tuesday in our schools.

I look forward to a more normal school year. Thank you to our students, families, and staff members for all that you are doing to keep one another safe and in school!

## Legend of Learning Sept. 2021



Congratulations to **Ms. Maria Edwards**, English Teacher and Instructional Specialist at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School, for being selected as the September 2021 Legend of Learning!

The individuals who nominated Maria shared the following: "Maria has been a teacher here since 2012. She

has always been helpful in class. Examples include: showing us how work can be improved and helping us strive in the real world. She juggles NHS and year-book, along with teaching 7th and 12th grade English. Mrs. Edwards is a great teacher for school but also helps us grow and prosper in the real world.

Ms. Edwards has put her students first in many cases but I will list the top 2 that come to my head first. She is always there to read your paper even if you're not her student. For example, there was an occasion when I needed my paper proofread. I emailed her the paper and she read it and made corrections within 24 hours! The next example I would like to bring up is her always being there even outside of school she cares about her students mental and physical health. Mrs Edwards is also very empathetic; she tries to understand where we, as students, are coming from. When we walk into her room we know that if we need help she is going to help us. When she gives instructions and we don't understand she will not just repeat it and expect that we get it. Ms. Edwards makes sure that expectations are clear to all learners. This is why I am nominating Maria Edwards for the Legend of Learning

Maria is one of the most dedicated, hardworking teachers around. There aren't enough things that I could say that would properly highlight everything that she does for the students. The amount of time and effort that she puts into everything she does for LaFayette is amazing and is always done with the students' best interest in mind. She works tirelessly to give her students immediate and valuable feedback that helps to better themselves academically. She goes above and beyond to develop lessons that are engaging, relevant, and interesting. She created an innovative competition among the 7th graders to make preparations for the ELA state exam fun and exciting! She is also very involved in many other aspects of the school such as being the advisor for the yearbook, the junior class, and the National Honor Society. Maria is a huge asset to our school and our students are lucky to have her!"

Thank you, Ms. Edwards, for your continued commitment to excellence!

## ♦ Junior/Senior High School News ♦

*From the Desk of the*  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**Jason Ryan**

With the school year well underway, we are excited to announce a few upcoming events. Starting on **Monday, October 18th**, the Jr./Sr. High School will be holding **spirit week**. The Student Council will determine a different theme for each day of the week. Students will dress up in the various themes to show their school spirit. The week concludes with "color wars" which is always a favorite among the students and staff.

On **Friday, October 22nd**, students will take part in our first **homecoming parade**. Each class has been challenged to create a float or parade idea that supports their class. The various floats will be placed on display as class officers parade from the south parking lot, through the front bus loop, on their way to the north parking lot. Following the parade, students will make their way to the field behind the Jr./Sr. High School to have an outdoor pep rally.

The homecoming festivities conclude with our traditional **homecoming dance** on **Saturday, October 23rd**, which will be held at 7pm in the Jr./Sr. High School gym.

While the impact of COVID has changed some of our homecoming traditions, we still feel it is important to provide our students with these traditional High School experiences. With that being said, the safety of our students is our number one priority. It is for this reason, we will be following all recommendations made by the State and local health departments in relevance to mask wearing and social distancing.

We thank you for continuing to trust in us to provide your child with a safe and challenging learning environment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at [jpryan@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:jpryan@lafayetteschools.org) or by phone at 315-677-3131.

### Nominate the Next Legend of Learning

You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who

- 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.

### Attention All 7th Grade Parents

The 7th grade team of teachers have just launched a website to increase communication between the teachers, parents, and students.

It can be found in the left-hand margin of the Jr./Sr. High School website. It is called "7th Grade Communication". This website includes a weekly update of what your child is learning in each of their core classes, important dates to remember, the weekly homework calendar, links to the chorus and band schedules, as well as contact information.

Please bookmark this page!



### LaFayette Jr/Sr High Yearbook

October 7th is Picture Day

November 12th is Picture Re-Take Day

Have pictures for the yearbook?  
Please send them to  
[medwards@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:medwards@lafayetteschools.org)

You can order your yearbook now!  
Scan the QR code below:



## ◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

*From the Desk of the*  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**Simone Gonyea**

### Skä:noñh swagwe:gih!

With a full month of September completed ONS teachers, students and families are so excited to be present everyday! As we get into the groove of in-person learning, keeping our masks on and social distancing, ONS has made a very nice transition. Nyawenha to the entire community for doing their part to remain open!

We welcome new staff into our building beginning this school year. Welcome to Kelley Horton our new Kindergarten teacher, Welcome Madison Lyon- previously our Kindergarten teacher now teaching 3rd grade, Welcome Natalie Hotaling our new 4th Grade Teacher, Welcome ONS and LaFayette graduate Marissa Booth our new Teaching Assistant, Welcome community member Danielle Smith as our school social worker, Welcome our amazing cafeteria staff Lana Burnam and Awhen-jeyosta Myers! We are set for a strong and exciting year!

Morning Announcements and Monday Opening and Friday Closing have shifted to a new platform - the School PA system. We started our week with the Opening Remarks by the 8th grade students over our loudspeaker system. Everyday we have a small group of 8th graders participate.

### Open House Highlights

ONS conducted a virtual Open House night on Thursday September 30th. The event began with a ½ gallon of ice cream donated by the Onondaga Nation Food and Farm organization. Nyawenha for the tasty treat, good conversation and connections made virtually between staff and families!

### Every Child Matters

On Thursday September 30th ONS acknowledged “Every Child Matters” by wearing T-Shirts designed by Kyla Smoke, a graduate of Cazenovia College as well as an ONS and LaFayette Graduate. “We recognized this day to remember those who went to residential schools, and those who lost their lives to residential schooling. We wear Orange on this day to bring awareness of the thousands of Native students taken from their homes and had to experience being placed in residential schools.” shared by M.Smith and S.Booth.

### T-Shirt Design

The graphic will be printed in Orange.

### Upcoming Events in October

October 8th	“Every Child Matters” Assembly
October 8th	Early Dismissal
October 13th	Orenda Springs for 7th and 8th grade
October 22th	ONS Picture Day



## ◆ Athletic News ◆

### Winter Sports Sign-Ups Are Now On FAMILYID

Starting on September 27th, you and your child will have the opportunity to sign up for Winter Modified, JV and Varsity Sports. You can locate the registration link on our athletic website. Please find the sport that your child would like to sign up for and complete the registration process.

Modified Winter Sports are split into Winter 1 and Winter 2 sessions. These sessions have two different start dates which allows the student athletes to participate in multiple sports throughout the Winter Seasons. For example, Modified Girls Volleyball is in Winter 1 while Modified Girls Basketball is in Winter 2. You will be able to register your child for each sport separately on FamilyID. Winter 2 sign ups should be available for registration a month before the season starts.

FamilyID Link: <https://www.familyid.com/lafayette-central-school-district-athletics>

FamilyID®



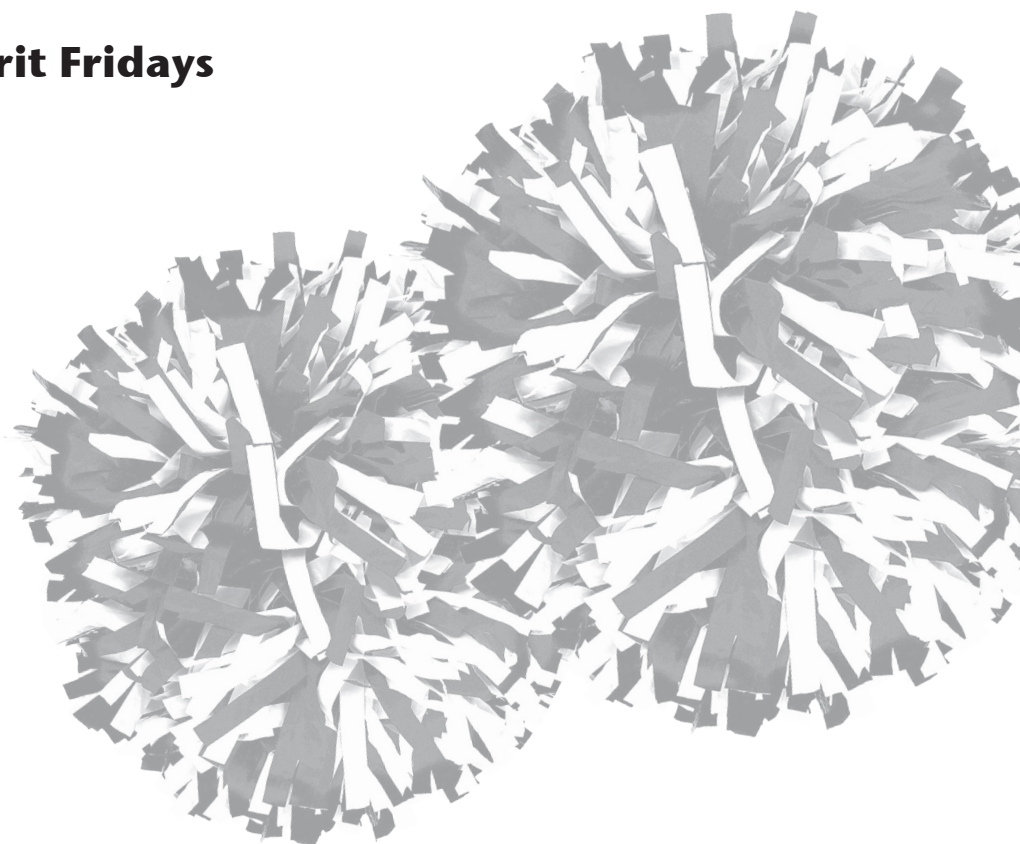
#### Winter Start Dates:

JV/Varsity Sports .....	November 15th, 2021
Modified Winter 1 (Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball) .....	October 27th, 2021
Modified Winter 2 (Girls Basketball, Wrestling) .....	January 5th, 2022

## ◆ Grimshaw School News ◆

### Grimshaw School Spirit Fridays

October 1	Tie-Dye Day
October 8	Hat Day
October 15	Wacky Hair Day
October 22	Dress to Impress Day
October 29	Halloween Day
November	Dress Like a Teacher Day
November 12	Red, White & Blue Day
November 19	Sports/Jersey Day



## LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

• Web Site: [www.townoflafayette.com](http://www.townoflafayette.com) • Mailing Address: PO Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078 • 315-677-7272 •

### Announcements

#### Apple Festival

We need your help running the pizza booth at the Apple Festival; please consider putting in an hour or two selling pizza to support our youth programs. Kids are welcome to help too.



### Youth Programs

#### Summer Sports

Lacrosse wrapped up August 18. The LCC Board of Directors would like to thank the following individuals who helped with the program: Tyler Gale, Kevin Gale, Britany Gale, Terri Clarke, Marissa Evans, Gianna Anthony, Bean Miner, DJ Mahar, Nate Loughlin, Pat Dwyer, Ryan Agedal, Ian Evans, Jon Dix, Jameson Bucktooth, Junior Bucktooth, Josh Growth, Drew Bucktooth, Trevor Jones, and Aidan Griffin. On behalf of the kids, thank you.

#### Fall Sports

Soccer is underway and will conclude mid-October.

#### Winter Sports

We hope to be able to conduct our winter programs, including basketball, volleyball, and wrestling. Whether we can conduct these programs will be dependent on state and local mandates, as well as LaFayette School District requirements.

A flyer with specific information and registration form for the above programs will be sent home from school.

#### Coaches

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.

### Adult Programs

#### Men's Basketball

LCC is working on arrangements for this activity to begin in the fall, dependent on state and local mandates, as well as LaFayette School District requirements.

### Other Programs

#### Ski Program

LCC's Friday night skiing will begin in January 2022. We will hold two information and registration sign-up nights: Thursdays, November 4 and 11, 6-8 p.m. at the LaFayette Community Center. DEADLINE FOR FORMS AND PAYMENTS IS NOVEMBER 15. Pricing information and forms are available on the Town's web site under the Community Council skiing tab.

### LCC Contact Information

Information about Community Council programs can be obtained through the following sources:

#### Facebook

Updates on all LCC programs can be found on the Town's web site under the "Community Council" tab. Information is also posted on LCC's Facebook page and the Town's social media outlets (Twitter, Facebook). When possible, notices will also be provided through the LaFayette School District.

Call 315-677-7272 - leave a message/ask a question and a board member will return your call. (Messages are retrieved at least twice a week.)

E-mail: [lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnymail.com](mailto:lafayettecommunitycouncil@cnymail.com)

24/7 on the Town's web site: [www.townoflafayette.com](http://www.townoflafayette.com) under the "Depts." (Departments) tab



## LaFayette Public Library News

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

Please go to our website – [www.lafayettelibrary.org](http://www.lafayettelibrary.org) or our **Facebook** page for up to date information about any events, closings, etc.

We hope everyone has had a pleasant summer. What a strange trip it's been! We started the summer lifting the mask mandate for people coming into the building that have been vaccinated. However, due to the uptick in Covid cases, we ask that masks be worn in the building, use hand sanitizer at the entrance, whatever your vaccination status. That goes for anyone over 2 yrs. of age. If there is a drop in cases, we will reconsider. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping us all healthy!

### Returning Items

The outside book drop is open 24/7, so you can use that anytime. The book drop inside is also available during library open hours. We are no longer quarantining items. Items will be checked in as they are returned to the library, instead of waiting 3-7 days.

### Picking Up Items, Browsing and Computer Use

In late Spring, we eliminated scheduling visits to the library and for computer use. Even though we are asking people to wear masks inside the building, we are not bringing back scheduled visits. We have resumed our normal services like making copies, faxing, etc.

The following are our permanent hours going forward:

Mon. & Tues: 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.\*

\*Closed Saturdays July – Labor Day

Please note that all services except check out end 15 minutes before closing. We appreciate your cooperation.

Thanks to all who participated in the Summer **Reading Program**, and congratulations to all our prize winners! We were happy to have been able to safely provide some live programming as well.

Please take a look at our **Wonderbooks**. They are a combination of print and audiobook in one. The audio component is built right into the physical book. So you can 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.

We continue to circulate our ever popular **Tech packs**. They are a kit that consists of a Chromebook and hotspot that can be checked out for 3 weeks.

These are in high demand, so please return them on time and with both components fully charged, in consideration for your fellow patrons. Thanks!

We have renewed our 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, Jamesville beach is closed).

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!

### Story Times

Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. back at last. When they are not outdoors, please respect the mask mandate. Thanks!

### Imagination Lab

Wednesdays 3:30 – Depending on the status of the pandemic, we'll either have it in house, or create pick up/take home projects. Please contact the library for more information.

### A Personal Note, from Scott Kushner

After nineteen years as Director of the LaFayette Public library, I am retiring in October.

It's been a pleasure serving in this community, and I hope to stay in touch. Many thanks for years of support from my Board and the community.

A special shout out to Dave Knapp for his ongoing support of the library, allowing us to keep up with technological changes – not an easy task – made easier from his support!

# LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

5955 Route 20  
LaFayette, NY 13084

Non-Profit Organization  
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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.

## October

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 7 JSHS Picture Day  
JSHS Open House 6:30pm
- 8 Half Day
- 11 No School
- 13 BOE Meeting 5:30pm  
ONS Picture Day
- 14 ONS Picture Day
- 18 GAPS Meeting 6:00pm
- 20 GS Picture Day
- 29 GS Halloween Parade 1:15pm

Don't forget  
to like us on  
Facebook.



Paper hat/umbrella challenge at Big Picture school, article on page one.