

Students Learn About Haudenosaunee Culture by Preparing Traditional Dishes



Native American Heritage Month falls during the month of November. It is a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories, as well as acknowledge the important contributions of Native American People. Native American Heritage Month is also a time to educate our neighboring communities about the Native Communities in our area. It also helps in educating others about different Native traditions they pass on from generation to generation.

During the week of November 13th to November 17th, Meg Smith, My Brothers Keeper Liaison, and Mallory Charpentier, High School Culinary teacher, engaged students in many activities within the students scheduled Culinary classes, as a way to educate our students about Haudenosaunee culture through food. Delores (Dee) Thompson and Rhea Cook joined us from the Onondaga Nation and enriched our students with many different traditional foods and drinks from the Haudenosaunee culture. Dee and Rhea shared their knowledge of different plants in our very own backyard that may benefit one's health.

Our crowd pleaser for students and staff was the home-



made "Medicine Ball Tea," which was made with organic peppermint tea, organic peach tea, warm lemonade and honey. Dee and Rhea also helped the students prepare several traditional Haudenosaunee dishes including White/Brown and Blue Mush. Mush is corn that has been boiled, ground up and then cooked like oatmeal. Rhea shared another crowd pleaser, a Traditional Wild Rice Dish, made with fresh berries, cinnamon, and local maple syrup. Some other recipes were Hot Scoons, and Strawberry Drink.

Students all participated in the daily preparation of Traditional Corn Soup over the week long period. They helped in the preparation and cleaning of corn, the sifting of ash, the boiling and rinsing of the corn, the removal of the "eyes" off of the corn, mixing and forming hot scoons, grinding and preparing homemade traditional cornbread and more. Our students were so engaged and experienced wonderful hands-on experiences with all of these traditional dishes.

This is the third year that our students have had the opportunity to participate in this amazing experience. We look forward to participating in upcoming years.



◆ LaFayette District News ◆



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

Dear Families and Staff Members:

Welcome to 2024! Thank you to our students for putting on amazing concerts during the month of December. If you were unable to attend, a recording is available on our Facebook page. Our student athletes and coaches are hard at work on the basketball courts, wrestling mats, and indoor track. Our academic clubs and robotics clubs are highlighting the incredible brain power of our students. Be sure to check out all the great school events featured on our school and athletics calendars.

At the district level, we are beginning our budget development process for the 2024-2025 school year. Our school business official, principals, and non-instructional supervisors have gathered a list of needs for the upcoming school year. As we head into planning for the upcoming school year, our district also remains committed to providing a safe, secure, and supportive learning environment; extra curricular and after school activities for students; opportunities for students to earn college credits at the secondary level; personalized learning and internship opportunities in our Big Picture School; and a commitment to Indigenous language studies for students from the Onondaga Nation.

On Wednesday February 7, 2024, we will host our Community Budget Meeting at 5:00 PM in Big Picture Commons. If you are interested in providing input on the budget development for the upcoming school year, please feel free to join us. You can also learn more about our proposed spending plan for the 2024-2025 school year by attending any of our regular board meetings during the months of February and March. Here are the upcoming important meeting dates for community members to provide input on the 2024-2025 school district budget:

- Wednesday February 7, 2024 5:00 PM - BP Commons
Community Budget Meeting
- Wednesday February 14, 2024 5:30 PM - BP Commons
Administrative/Capital/Program/BOCES Budget Presentation
- Wednesday March 13, 2024 5:30 PM - BP Commons
Revenue Budget
- Wednesday March 27, 2024 5:30 PM - BP Commons
Full Budget Presentation for Board Adoption
- Annual District Budget Vote - Tuesday May 21, 2024
12:00PM - 9:00 PM LaFayette Jr/Sr High School Main Entrance

We are lucky to have caring staff members and an incredibly supportive community that looks to prioritize the needs of our amazing students. Thank you to everyone for a great start to 2024! I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming school events.

Legend of Learning: Jessica Nguyen



Congratulations to Ms. Jessica Nguyen from Turner Construction who was selected as the December 2023 Legend of Learning! Jessica is an Engineer with Turner Construction Company, which is the construction management firm that works with LaFayette Central School District.

The individual who nominated Jessica shared the following: "Jessica arrived in LaFayette as part of our construction management team in 2022 after successfully completing a capital project with the Whitesboro Central School District. Jessica assisted the construction and design team with coordination of bid award, construction schedule, coordination with contractors, managing the budget, and a variety of other related tasks. Jessica updated the Board of Education on a monthly basis and demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in her ability to coordinate a successful capital project that led to several facility improvements which included the renovation of libraries, the addition of air conditioning in second floor classrooms, the renovation of the technology suite at the high school, roof replacement for the auxiliary gymnasium, masonry repointing, parking lot repaving and sealing, and several improvements to critical infrastructure. Jessica also presented to students at Grimshaw Elementary and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School to highlight careers in the construction industry." Jessica, thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

Big Picture Project Overview



We have so many interesting projects being explored at Big Picture, I thought it would be fun to provide an overview of many of the things we are learning about.

Lucas finished his Toys for Tots STP drive. The marines who coordinated the event came by and picked up all the donations in a large military truck, which was really neat. Lucas did a great job with his gathering efforts, and they were very happy with the donations. In addition to collecting donations, Lucas also went to the sorting facility and helped with sorting toys.

We have been catering the monthly Elder’s luncheon on the Onondaga Nation. The last menu consisted of Honey baked ham, roasted chicken thighs, steamed vegetable medley, garlic rice pilaf, rolls and assorted holiday cookies for dessert. Kat, Jade, Cody J, Kingston, Brooke and Anne have been working hard honing their culinary skills.

Adam crocheted a hat. Dredin built a model of the Eiffel Tower. Angela constructed a rabbit hutch. Jax baked macaroons. Kenna made chili. Bryce built an RC car from the nuts and bolts up. There were also new instruments learned and new recipes tried.

Lucian presented on the importance and effects of allies for transgender people. Jadya showcased her work at BOCES about early childhood education and her research on day-cares. Jordan explained to us what he learned about barbers and cutting men’s hair. Cusin updated us on his Senior Thesis Project (STP), he now has funding and started building his first dog house. Raelyn explained what she is learning from managing the On The Dot Coffee Shop at school. Gabby showcased her work at BOCES in the culinary program and her photos from her photography internship. Maddy showcased her work at BOCES in the CNA nursing program. Lyra updated us on her STP, she now has selected native trees for her guilds and understands more of the growing conditions needed. Roy explained to us his hydroponics project, homemade pesto, and the electrical skills he learned. Ryan showcased his progress at BOCES, his internship at Sauve Brothers, as well as his project plans to modify a lawn mower to operate at faster speeds. Lucas A explained what he learned about turtles and how to care for our new class pet turtle. Jaden C presented on his horror film making and development, as well as software, jobs in the film industry, and prop making. Mykala explained to us what she learned about lash technicians and how to do lashes.

Mya started off with her exhibition centered around microchip technology with the dashboard of vehicles. She explained how manufacturers send the speedometer screen that has problems and how she fixes them. Iley did an amazing job explaining how she learned how to play and taught how to play multiple musical instruments. She played every type of flute, and also learned how to play the violin. Alina showed her cosmetology skills learned at her internship as well as at home. She explained how different hair styles are done and the cost analysis of each haircut. Mason completed his project on making apple pie that he learned how to make at his internship. Ti really showed evidence of his culinary skills with a multitude of foods. Wyatt presented his learning in the shop. He demonstrated the melting of metals that can be recycled for other products. The process was very *(continued on next page...)*



◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆

Big Picture Project Overview, continued...

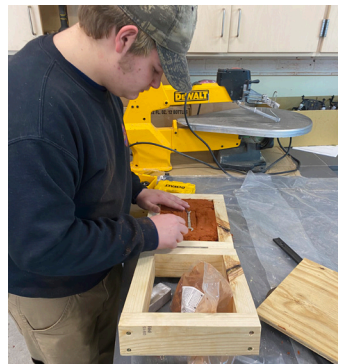
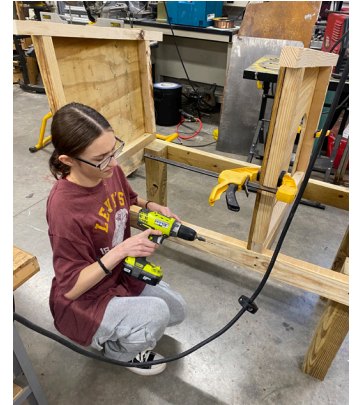
demanding, and he accomplished this, as well as exceeding expectations.

Beauden used his culinary skills during his exhibition by baking a cake from scratch. Jonathan provided evidence of his learning through coding and robotics. He was able to code and perform tasks with his robot. Hampton continued to perform at a high level with his presentation on 3D real estate tours as well as using a drone that showed the property in and out of the houses and our school. Wes made sushi. He showed the entire process that included the origins and types of sushi made over centuries.

Oliver worked with students at the elementary school centering his project on stress relief. He made games and manipulatives for students to use when stressed. Ian was flat out amazing. He performed skills that were learned through his internship at the music store. He showed the class how to string a guitar as well as explaining each part of it and different types of guitars. Jeffery brought in a robot he built in his internship. He explained each part of it and gave a demonstration on how it was programmed.

This is not an exhaustive list of all of the learning that was happening! Big Picture is always a busy place!

If you would like more information about Big Picture Learning, please contact Susan Hart at 315-504-1000 or sehart@lafayetteschools.org



◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

ONS Updates

ONS has been busy with many community events, student activities and academic endeavors. On our most recent Family Night students and their families were led by Nation community members in the making of corn husk dolls, corn husk flowers, dogbane twining, and natural dye applications. Adults and children stayed in the gym, completely engaged, long after the official designated ending time. Just after Family Night our ONS band students performed two concerts, one for our school and one for the community. Students did a great job and all in attendance at both performances enjoyed themselves and were very appreciative. In recent days ONS students and staff have been in attendance at Midwinter Ceremonies. Many of our grade 4-8 students have attended Longhouse and students are learning and are appreciative of the opportunity.

As we move towards the half year mark teachers are deeply engaged in the preparation and implementation of lessons and student activities. Grades 3,5, and 8 will take the NYS Test simulations in math and science. IXL continues to be included as part of daily and weekly routines so that teachers can provide increased support for student learning. Our afterschool program has 35 to 40 students on a regular basis. Teachers have been working so hard on developing relationships with students. Since students have a greater

sense of belonging and calm, office/behavioral referrals are a rarity.

Student government has planned two spirit weeks in the last few months. Crazy Hair Day was a huge success and family and student involvement was so wonderful as expressed in the absolutely creative hair dos worn by all-staff and students. There are plans in the works by the student government for activities between now and June.

Our Language and Culture Department has provided staff with an overview of traditional Haudenosaunee life in winter to serve as guide for student awareness and lessons as winter progresses from now until March. Members of the Nation Snovsnake Team, when the natural time is right, will take our 8th graders to select a tree from which the boys will make mudcats, and the girls will make ladles and spoons. Mr. Capella will work in conjunction with the community members to create a great learning experience. We plan on having other community members come in who will share traditional stories and other expressions of Haudenosaunee culture.

Upcoming Dates of Note February 28–ONS Family Night; March 28–ONS Community Give; May 15–ONS Family Night; May 23–ONS Spring Dinner; May 30–ONS Spring Concert.

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

Congratulations Students - Second Marking Period Accomplishments

High Honor Roll

Grade 7

Hannah Bauer
Evelyn Borchert
Jacob Christoffel
Merrit Gates
Austin Johnson
Rose Kendall
Greyson Mangold
Jacob Meyer
Brielle Nels
Cowan Newman
Makenna Reed
Samuel Szczesny
Royce Thomas
Paisley Wiers

Grade 8

Atticus Allen
Schuyler Bice
Kennedy Harmatuk
David Kostiv
Jerod Olrich
Gianna Papworth
Hailey Schrader
Mary Wellman

Grade 9

Jeremy Aldrich
Logan Booher
Tristan Costello
Grant Gates
Caden McClary
Cross Newman
Cambria Stanton

Grade 10

Hudson Borchert
Amelia Evans
Katherine Fischer
Gisele Greco
Leah Haas
Logan Hazeltine
Serenity Jackson

Lynn Jones
Landon Kendall
Sophie Olrich
Caitlin Somerlot
Thomas Somerlot
Sye Stanton

Grade 11

Jason Borte
Gracie Burns
Asha Christiana
Carlee Clemens
Caroline Davidson
Kalina Dockstader
Isabella Friedman
Alexis Jennings
Isabella Kermers
Ryan Ortlieb
Rayna Poplawski
Rylee Poplawski
Kiera Reed
Gavin Slishevsky
Kayla Tillinghast
Lucas Wallis
Paul Wells
Claire Zehner

Grade 12

Madison Baker
Digby Collingbourne
Emmett Dix
Payton Kremers
Mackenzie Loughlin
Ellie McElhannon
Aidan Mott
Aiden Newkirk
Kayleigh Olrich
Daniel Porter
Benjamin Ryan
Amalie Shute
Madison Simmons
Eva Stivers
Marquise Williams

Honor Roll

Grade 7

Noah Bedell
Kya Bucktooth
Chloe Capella
Ian Coakley
Aiden Kosturik
Teagan Lundy
Andrew Morel
Dycen Nanticoke
Adrianna Paige
Natalie Stanton
Louca Tumolo

Grade 8

Rylee Andersen
Marissa Bridgette
Landon Clemens
Sarah Ganoe
Leah Heath
Leonard Hickey
Presley Homer
Coen Kinsella
Jackson Loughlin
Graham Olin
Lillian Peios
Ayson Ryan
Levi Seemann
Madison Shute
Taheton Sullivan
Taylor Thorpe
Caleb Young

Grade 9

Dominick Albro
Ashtin Carrier
Chloe Chapman
Mia Cooke
Olivia Coppola
Josephine Davidson
Claire Fischer
Amanda Johnson
Garrett Keefe

Camille Reynolds
Gahowa:neñs Shenandoah
Teagan Vossler

Grade 10

Darren Benjamin
Ian Colburn
Ella Harris
Kylee Haskins
Brycin Jones
Owen Moltion
Maxiums Race

Grade 11

Chylure Bucktooth
Riley Bucktooth
Tanner Clemens
Spencer Dix
Shayla Elm
Joselin Garcia-Cirino
Aubrie Jones
Maddox Lazore
Lily McElhannon
Rachel Power
Aubrey Reynolds
Owen Simmons

Grade 12

Abubakar Ali
Brooke Branch
Carter Chapman
Harley
DeOrdio-Malone
Kensington Keane
Aiden Keefe
Bryant Moses
Luke Peios
Sophia Townsend
Jake Vossler

◆ LaFayette District News ◆



Art Show

Please join us for our first district-wide art show at the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School on Thursday, May 9th from 6-8pm.

On display will be artwork from LaFayette students of all schools, in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, as well as a variety of LaFayette staff members. We hope to see you there!

A colorful graphic for the 'Lafayette District Art Show'. It features the words 'LAFAYETTE DISTRICT' vertically on the left. The word 'ART' is written in large, bold letters across the middle, with 'A' in white on a green background, 'R' in yellow on a blue background, and 'T' in purple on an orange background. The word 'SHOW' is written in large, bold letters at the bottom, with 'S' in purple on a light purple background and 'HOW' in black on a light purple background. The date and time 'THURSDAY MAY 9TH, 2024 6-8 PM JR/ SR HIGH SCHOOL' are written in white on a red background.

Legend of Learning: Tom LaRose



Congratulations to Mr. Thomas LaRose, Physical Education teacher at Grimshaw Elementary, who was selected as the January 2024 Legend of Learning! Mr. LaRose has been a physical education teacher with our district since 1985 and recently announced that he will be retiring at the end of this school year.

The student who nominated Mr. LaRose shared the following, "Mr. LaRose helps our district by making sure that we are as healthy as possible. He has gone above and beyond because he always helps students and he makes sure we understand what we are learning about in physical education. Mr. LaRose puts us first because he loves kids and loves to have fun. Mr. LaRose always says, "Good Morning" or "Good Afternoon" because he wants to make sure you feel welcome and respected."

Staff members shared the following, "Mr. LaRose goes above and beyond to make physical education fun for our students. The Grimshaw Olympics has been an epic event for our students and it would not happen without Tom's leadership and organization. Thank you for your dedication to our students, our school and our community!"

Tom, thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

You can help recognize LaFayette staff members who:

- ◆ Help to advance the mission and vision of the district
- ◆ Go above and beyond
- ◆ Demonstrate that they put our students first
- ◆ Support student learning
- ◆ Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion
- ◆ Embrace creativity and innovation

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

◆ LaFayette Community News ◆

LaFAYETTE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

• www.townoflafayette.com • PO Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13078 • 315-677-7272 •

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Winter Sports

Wrestling and basketball are underway and going great! Basketball has over 100 participants grades 1-6 and basketball has over 50 participants grades preK - 6. Thank you to all our volunteer coaches for helping make this program happen.

Volleyball is planned for the later winter season - stay tuned for registration details.

Spring Sports

Baseball and softball are planned for the spring season - stay tuned for registration details.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Basketball

Mondays from 7:00-9:00 PM at Grimshaw Elementary. Participants are asked to register every time they attend via QR below (also posted at gym).

Volleyball

Fridays from 7:00-9:00 PM at Grimshaw Elementary. Participants are asked to register every time they attend via QR below (also posted at gym).

If you are able to help with any of the LCC programs – AND WE DO NEED YOUR HELP - please contact LCC at 315-677-7272 or via email: lcc@townoflafayette.com. We cannot offer these programs without volunteers. Thank you.

Updates on all LCC programs can be found on LCC's Facebook page and new website www.playLCC.com

LCC CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

E-mail: lcc@townoflafayette.com

LCC Mailing Address: P.O. Box 98 Lafayette, NY 13084
24/7 on our new website www.playlcc.com

New Scoreboard installed at Stafford Park. Thank you Highway Department for your help!



LaFayette CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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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.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY

- 7 Community Budget Meeting 5pm
- 14 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 19-23 Winter Recess
No School

MARCH

- 4 GAPS Meeting 6pm
- 8 JSHS Musical 7pm
- 9 JSHS Musical 7pm
- 13 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 15 Superintendent Conf Day
No School
- 27 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 29 Good Friday
No School

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Facebook.

