

## Photography Contest Winners



The votes have been tallied, and the winners of the *Fall 2023 Photography Contest* have been chosen! Congratulations go out to the following students: **Cambria Stanton, Kayla Tillinghast, Taylor Thorpe and Hailey Schraeder.** There were so many great entries to choose from, and we'd like to thank all of the participants, as well as those that voted! Keep an eye out for another contest in the Spring.



## Students Attend AISES National Conference



On October 17th, ten students from LaFayette Jr/ Sr High School, along with two 8th graders from the Onondaga Nation School, boarded a plane to attend the AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) National Conference in Spokane, Washington.

Maeva Booth, Parker Booth II, Gabrielle Brown, Javin Capella, Kaidence Cronin, Kal<sup>^</sup>:nà Dockstader, Sid Hill Jr., Maddox Lazore, Johnlou Moreno, Bryant Moses, Madison Redeye, and Nadia Stafford were accompanied by Ms. Angello, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Amidon, and Tadadaho Sid Hill.

The trip was filled with opportunities to explore STEM Careers in college and in industry. Students participated in a number of workshops and explored the campus of Gonzaga University. During the STEM Activities day, they worked through many activities sponsored by many groups and organizations, including NASA, Boeing, Amazon, and the Air Force. The experience was invaluable for the group - as one student shared:

"This experience will help me in the future with possible scholarships. Maybe someday I'll run into the people I met at this conference and they could help towards success."

LaFayette students were able to participate in this opportunity due to the Indigenous Coders grant Ms. Angello and Ms. Lewis pursued last year. In addition to funding the trip, students at both schools will also get the chance to learn more about computer science and coding in their classes. The grant was funded by Comcast NBCUniversal, through Project UP.



### 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 on our website.

## ◆ LaFayette District News ◆



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

### **Dear Families and Staff Members:**

The school year is flying by! Our students and staff are off to a great start this year thanks to the support of our families and dedicated staff members. Our District Comprehensive Improvement Plan Committee met in August and again in November to review our three focus priorities for this school year:

- ◆ We will work to strengthen the academic success of all our students. We will implement systems that are accurate, bias-resistant and motivate students to achieve academic success.
- ◆ We will work to foster a positive learning environment that encourages students to reach their maximum potential while fostering intrinsic motivation.
- ◆ We will support and improve the social and emotional well-being of our students through school and community programs, instruction, and interventions.

Our staff members spent November 9th exploring IXL. IXL is our new academic screening tool which provides students with the opportunity to pinpoint academic skills that they need to work on in both reading and mathematics. We are asking students to spend 10 minutes a week in IXL focusing on reading skills and 10 minutes a week on math skills. We are hopeful that this new intervention tool, along with great classroom instruction, will help improve academic outcomes for our students.

For our second priority, we are focusing on improving student attendance and improved parent communication using Parent Square. Our administrators attended a training session focused on student attendance and one astounding fact was shared - "One day of missed student attendance equals three days of lost learning". We are encouraging our students to come to school each day if they are able. Additionally, we are looking to foster positive communication through our new mass communication system, Parent Square. Parents and caregivers can sign up for Parent Square at: [www.ParentSquare.com](http://www.ParentSquare.com). Recently, we distributed a survey to parents/caregivers, students, and staff members. Please take a moment to send us your feedback via the online survey. The link to the survey for Parents/Caregivers is: <https://forms.gle/sYSGXjxu2BDfKzqw9>

For our third priority, we continue to place a strong emphasis on addressing the needs of the whole child. We have hired four social workers over the course of the last several budget cycles. LaFayette has also partnered with Onondaga County to offer a Promise Zone Specialist at Grimshaw Elementary and a School Based Mental Health Clinic at the Onondaga Nation School and LaFayette Jr/Sr High School. We are working with Upstate Medical University and the New York State Department of Health to expand the School Based Mental Health Clinic to Grimshaw Elementary.

I am grateful for the continued collaboration between students, staff, and family members to focus on these three priority areas, improving outcomes and the overall experience for our students. You are always welcome to join our District Comprehensive Improvement Committee. Feel free to reach out to me if you want to join the team. Thank you for your continued support!

### **JR/SR HS NEWS from MsQ:**

**EARTH SCIENCE** - First, students measured, a lot! Volume, mass, density and after measuring length, width and height of the room, they determined the amount of water needed to fill the room and how much that would weigh.

Then, students did lots of mapping activities including finding the height of a tree with indirect methods and trigonometry; drawing contour lines on a volcanic island using water, finding the easiest path to hike with a friend in a wheelchair; mapping the seafloor using "sonar" readings modeled with depth-readings graphed, cut out and made into 3D models of the seafloor.

Lastly, students learned how to identify properties of minerals and rocks.

**LIFE SCIENCE - MOTHER EARTH MONDAYS** has allowed us to walk the grounds and into the woods to identify trees; indirectly determine the age of the maples in front of the school; cut, pin and sew material for bags with straps. Students also started making skeletons out of old milk, cider and water jugs. Students have learned to throw compostable items into the 5-gallon bucket that is regularly dumped onto a compost pile.

**ACADEMICS** started with Cell Parts and ended with Classification of Kingdoms with the first three completed: Monerans, Protists and Fungi. The skeletons will be graded on the students' ability to recite all the parts of their skeleton, which will then be taken home or given away to be hung for Halloween.

**LOCAL FOOD FRIDAYS** has led to students trying blackberries with locally made whole milk and honey, local tomatoes, goldenrod tea, watermelons, grapes, apples, grape juice, carrots and locally made Hummus. Some students loved the watermelon rind. Some loved the goldenrod tea so much, they made tea for their parents at home. To add fun, we went outside and had a watermelon-seed-spitting contest.

# ◆ The BIG PICTURE LEARNING News ◆



## We have been BUSY!

It was time to plant our seed garlic! Upon asking Jesse and Wyatt to make sure the tiller was running well ahead of our planting, they discovered an issue with the motor requiring either a rebuild or a replacement. After some discussion we decided to replace the motor. Lenny knew relatively little about this type of work so the students were the experts. They did not disappoint. In the span of a few hours, they obtained a new motor, removed the old, installed the new, broke in the motor and did the first oil change. The tiller ran beautifully and it was a great example of creating space for student learning and demonstration of expertise.



Sean and Lenny brought 8 students to the garlic field. Roy worked the tiller while others broke up the garlic and began planting. Eventually, we were all planting and had a system that maximized efficiency. Thanks to Lyra, Roy, Jordan, Angela, Daylin, Colton, Dredin and Bryce we accomplished our goal and what I believe is our 13th garlic crop is in the ground.

In the workshop department, many students have hit their stride in ER. In both sections of ER half the students are working with hydroponics and half on robotics. The hydroponics students are seeing the fruits of their labor as seeds sprout and develop. Many of the robotics teams have achieved their goals of performing tasks with their robots. Those who do, graduate from the Lego or Makebot systems to the Vex. The robotics teams are also utilizing the coding skills gained in Rosalie's Coding Internship to program the robots. It's great to see students self-start, problem solve and cooperate in this setting.

Lenny had the pleasure of working with some students on their UNtalent projects. The 101s and 201s are developing projects or learning experiences for this initiative. Céra is designing a tiny home and building a scale model. There has been a ton of learning as we engage in the math, architecture and tools required to create her model. I'm happy to say that Céra has been the driving force on all fronts. More to come on these exciting projects.



Alex has begun making site visits. His first visit was to Greeley's Auto and Tire where Bryce is interning. His mentors spoke very highly of him — complimenting his work ethic and his inquisitive nature. Bryce is working on the larger rigs at the shop and from the looks of it, is not afraid to get his hands dirty! Alex also visited Adam at West Side Physical Therapy and met with him and his mentor Jim. Adam was in the pool area, learning about aquatics therapy. Jim complimented Adam's professionalism and it seems like a great place for Adam to explore one of his interests.

A small group of students visited SUNY Morrisville in October. This trip was designed for the culinary students. The students had the opportunity to tour Morrisville's aquaponics, specialty crops kitchen, and the botany program. I believe they enjoyed touring the aquaponics program the most. The students got to see several types of fish including trout of different life stages and varieties. They learned how the fish are cared for and how they are beneficial for a variety of uses. Above one of the fish tanks, there was an operating aquaponics system growing various lettuces. On the trip, the students also walked through one of their kitchens and saw college students making homemade sauce. They learned about greenhouse growing, landscaping blueprints, and propagating plants.

Walt took Brooke, Anne and Kingston to Clearpath For Veterans to work in the kitchen. They are preparing for their annual apple pie sale, so most of our time was spent peeling, slicing and seasoning the apples. We also had a chance to peel and dice butternut squash and roast peel and cut poblano peppers for a luncheon they were doing later that day. It's nice having students learn how to cook with the seasons.

Walt also took Stone to Syracuse University this week to meet with a staff member of the LGBTQ Resource Center. Stone is interested in hosting an art show in order to donate money to the Trevor Project as part of his Senior Thesis Project, and Stone was hoping that they could help us with this. They gave us some great ideas for how to run and promote this show at SU, and they are willing to work with Stone to do collaborative art projects in order to help Stone get submissions for his show. Overall it was a great meeting, and Stone has a great opportunity.

◆ *Junior/Senior High School News* ◆

**High Honor Roll**

**Grade 7**

Hannah Bauer  
 Evelyn Borchert  
 Kya Bucktooth  
 Jacob Christoffel  
 Ian Coakley  
 Austin Johnson  
 Rose Kendall  
 Greyson Mangold  
 Hunter Meyer  
 Jacob Meyer  
 Brielle Nels  
 Cowan Newman  
 Adrianna Paige  
 Makenna Reed  
 Natalie Stanton  
 Samuel Szczesny  
 Royce Thomas  
 Paisley Jayne Wiers

**Grade 8**

Atticus Allen  
 Schuyler Bice  
 Sarah Ganoë  
 Kennedy Harmatuk  
 Leah Heath  
 Presley Homer  
 David Kostiv  
 Graham Olin  
 Jerod Olrich  
 Gianna Papworth  
 Lillian Peios  
 Ayson Ryan  
 Hailey Schrader  
 Taheton Sullivan  
 Mary Wellman

**Grade 9**

Jeremy Aldrich  
 Logan Booher  
 Ashtin Carrier  
 Olivia Coppola  
 Tristan Costello  
 Grant Gates  
 Amanda Johnson  
 Caden McClary  
 Cross Newman  
 Camille Reynolds  
 Cambria Stanton

**Grade 10**

Darren Benjamin  
 Hudson Borchert  
 Ian Colburn  
 Amelia Evans  
 Katherine Fischer  
 Gisele Greco  
 Leah Haas  
 Kylee Haskins  
 Logan Hazeltine  
 Serenity Jackson  
 Landon Kendall  
 Sophie Olrich  
 Maximus Race  
 Caitlin Somerlot  
 Thomas Somerlot  
 Sye Stanton

**Grade 11**

Jason Borte  
 Gracie Burns  
 Asha Christiana  
 Carlee Clemens  
 Caroline Davidson  
 Kal^:na Dockstader  
 Shayla Elm  
 Alexis Jennings  
 Isabella Kremers  
 Lily McElhannon  
 Ryan Ortlieb  
 Rayna Poplawski  
 Rylee Poplawski  
 Kiera Reed  
 Owen Simmons  
 Gavin Slishevsky  
 Kayla Tillinghast  
 Paul Wells  
 Claire Zehner

**Grade 12**

Abubakar Ali  
 Madison Baker  
 Brooke Branch  
 Digby Collingbourne  
 Emmett Dix  
 Austin Fellows  
 Tysen Johnson  
 Aiden Keefe  
 Payton Kremers

Mackenzie Loughlin  
 Ellie McElhannon  
 Aiden Moltion  
 Aidan Mott  
 Aiden Newkirk  
 Kayleigh Olrich  
 Daniel Porter  
 Benjamin Ryan  
 Amalie Shute  
 Madison Simmons  
 Eva Stivers  
 Sophia Townsend  
 Jake Vossler  
 Marquise Williams

**Honor Roll**

**Grade 7**

Noah Bedell  
 Alexander Briggs  
 Chloe Capella  
 Merrit Gates  
 Ona Gedamoske  
 Alexander Masten  
 Otcigaegu:wah McLester  
 Andrew Morel  
 Dycen Nanticoke  
 Louca Tumolo

**Grade 8**

Braylon Amidon  
 Rylee Anderson  
 Marissa Bridgette  
 Landon Clemens  
 James Herron, Jr.  
 Leonard Hickey  
 Coen Kinsella  
 Jackson Loughlin  
 Levi Seemann  
 Madison Shute  
 Alanna Stanton  
 Taylor Thorpe  
 Caleb Young

**Grade 9**

Dominick Albro  
 Kaci Armstrong  
 Silas Brown  
 Chloe Chapman

Josephine Davidson  
 Claire Fischer  
 Jeremiah Griffin  
 Samuel Heath  
 Delilah Johnson  
 Garrett Keefe  
 lleigh Ossevoort  
 Harold Ousby, V  
 Caleb Seemann

Gahowa:neñs Shenandoah  
 Alanna Snyder  
 Teagan Vossler

**Grade 10**

Devin Brennan  
 Ella Harris  
 Brycin Jones  
 Lynn Jones  
 Owen Moltion  
 Laila Shenandoah  
 Cayden Summerville  
 Cameron White

**Grade 11**

Chylure Bucktooth  
 Spencer Dix  
 Kaitlyn Fabend  
 Isabella Friedman  
 Cash Homer  
 Aubrie Jones  
 Maddox Lazore  
 Cole Martorella  
 Rachel Power  
 Aubrey Reynolds  
 Ava Shute  
 Lucas Wallis  
 Gregory Wheeler

**Grade 12**

Carter Chapman  
 Joe Coletti  
 Samuel Denuë  
 Harley Deordio-Malone  
 Kensington Keane  
 Mason Kozubal  
 Luke Peios

**Congratulations  
 to all Students!!**

## ◆ Junior/Senior High School News ◆

### 7th Graders Celebrate First Marking Period Success

On the final Friday of the marking period, seventh grade students celebrated the 1st six weeks of school with a day full of activities. Students started with an award ceremony in the morning that focused on numerous achievements including perfect attendance and academic progress, along with other special recognitions. The day continued with numerous group bonding activities, a library themed breakout room in the auditorium, and ended with a massive dodge ball game in the gym.



This pattern of taking a moment each marking period to remind students of their accomplishments and work on group skills will occur throughout the school year. We look forward to sharing those moments with you!

## ◆ Onondaga Nation School News ◆

*From the Desk of the*  
**INTERIM PRINCIPAL**  
 John Gizzi

### Nyawenha!

Going back to October! ONS held a Family Night on October 18. Community attendance was great. Firekeeper's Dinner was certainly appreciated, and members of the Onondaga Nation Men's Singing Society led a fun social in the gym. ONS will host three more Family Nights this

school year. The next one will be on December 13. Trina Northardt from UpState

Medical will present some practical health interventions for us, and there will be three members of the Onondaga Nation community coming to share their skills with different crafts. Families and their children will make three crafts together. All are welcome.

Also in October, two 8th graders from ONS, Javin Capella, and Sid Hill Jr. attended the AISES Conference in Spokane, Washington. Both students had a great experience. Sid and Javin had the opportunity to meet and share the experience with Native students from all over the country. The boys were exposed to the immediate practical application of STEM with hands-on activity, while, at the same time, they were given information on college preparation and programs and potential career choices. Nyawenha to Mr. Amidon for the energy and initiative it takes to bring such an experience to fruition. And, nyawenha to Sid and Javin's families for supporting the experience as well.

We are working very hard and we are making great progress on our SCEP goals. Teachers are collaborating on the integration of Onondaga language and culture. Ms. Gerbsch and Mike Abrams worked on the concepts of rhyme, rhythm, meter, and tempo by having fourth grade students listen to and analyze some social dance songs sung by Nate Sullivan and Ryan Oakes. Students had a rubric for analysis using the comparable components that appear in the poems that they have been reading in the EL curriculum. The connection to language and culture reinforced the literary elements of poetry in a real way for students. Mike Abrams has been going into Ms. Kelly's kindergarten class and teaching the students the vocabulary and ideas connected to weather to support the EL module on weather. Mr. Seitz had his students do research on wampum belts. The students learned a great deal and they presented their research in class. These are just a few examples of the many collaborative and individual lessons that support student learning framed by Onondaga language and culture.

ONS held our annual Harvest Dinner on November 16. The food was awesome. Nyawenha to the cafeteria staff for all their hard work and kindness. Nyawenha to the custodial staff for a smooth set up, room preparation and clean up. Nyawenha to all staff for helping each other provide our community with a dinner, raffle baskets, and a great time of gathering together to talk, be with each other and have fun. Nyawenha to our students who were great hosts and helpers.

We had our now "annual" Extending Our Roots Day, on Friday, November 17. Teachers brought out all their creative energies and provided students in mixed grade level groups with wonderful experiences. Third graders examined "creatures" under microscopes. Second graders helped prepare omelets and waffles and walked away with a full belly and a cookbook. Mixed grades did math escape puzzles, learned how to juggle, create magic tricks and add to their joke repertoire. Students engaged in social dancing and learned how to make friendship bracelets. These activities are just a few of all the others provided for the kids. Extending Our Roots has staff and students truly collaborating and learning together. Nyawenha to Winonah McCoy and Elizabeth Murray for taking the lead, along with other members of the Restorative Practice Team, for creating this day for ONS.

**Upcoming Dates of Note: November 27, Tom Porter Visits and December 13, ONS Family Night 5 - 7pm**

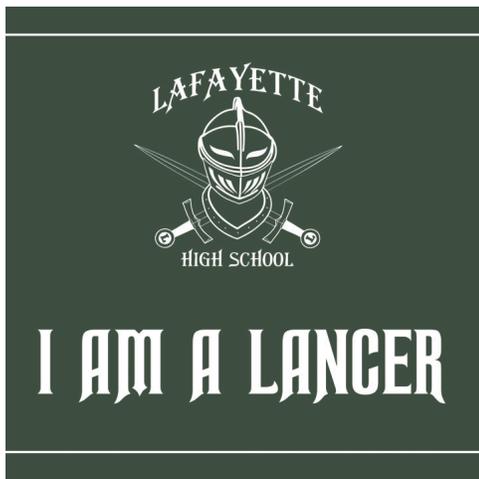
## ◆ LaFayette Athletic News ◆

### Varsity Girls Soccer Honors Morgan Rodgers

On October 10th, the Lafayette/Onondaga girls varsity soccer team honored Morgan Rodgers, a Division 1 college lacrosse player who died by suicide four years ago. The purpose of this game was to spread mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Passionate about this topic, Gracie Burns was eager to bring the event to the Lafayette/Onondaga communities. Gracie spoke to the crowd before the game, in hopes to explain who Morgan was, and to recognize the need for mental health awareness/assistance. As Gracie spoke, one specific quote resonated with many, "This message is clear. As an athlete, there is no shame in seeking physical healthcare - the same should be true for mental healthcare. In order to close the gap, we must eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health altogether. You are not alone!! Because....the number on your back is not as important as the name that represents it."



### Announcement From The Lafayette Athletic Booster Club



In the past 12 years we have thoroughly enjoyed being the officers of the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. We have strengthened our friendships, met many wonderful supportive people within the community, and have provided additional programs for students of LaFayette as well as the community at large.

At this time we feel as though we have served the needs of the athletes and the community to our fullest. With that being said we are looking for 4 strong, quick thinking, team players who would be interested and capable of the future success of the LaFayette Athletic Booster Club. If interested please contact us at 315-415-7932 or email LaFayetteABC1@gmail.com. We are looking forward to passing the torch for the future success of this organization. Thank you and Go Lancers!

*President - Lisa Shenandoah-Kurtz*

*Vice President - Heather Storrier Castleman*

*Treasurer- Peggy Durant; Secretary- Mackenzie McElhannon*

## ◆ LaFayette District News ◆



# save the date: LaFayette Rock Fest • 5/10/24

### Legend of Learning, Kristen Reardon



Congratulations to Mrs. Kristen Reardon, who was selected as the October 2023 Legend of Learning! Kristen is a Special Education Teacher at Grimshaw Elementary School.

Individuals who nominated Kristen shared the following: "In the time that I have been working at Grimshaw, I have personally witnessed Mrs. Reardon go above and beyond for students on many occasions. When I first started we had a student who had a difficult time communicating. Kristen came to my rescue! The relationship Kristen had with that student amazed me. She was able to figure out exactly what was wrong! Kristen then made me a laminated chart to assist the child with communicating.

On another occasion, Kristen assisted a student who was new to the district and the student was struggling to adjust to a new school. Mrs. Reardon never gave up on this student and developed an amazing relationship to the point that this student now enjoys school. I have watched this student's attitude towards school change tremendously and I feel this is mostly because of her relationship with Mrs. Reardon."

The amount of care Mrs. Reardon has for her students will amaze anyone. She is always in a great mood and always willing to help. Mrs. Reardon is a special lady who goes out of her way for her students, Grimshaw is very lucky to have her.

Kristen - Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!



### Legend of Learning, Kristin Angello

Congratulations to Mrs. Kristin Angello, who was selected as the November 2023 Legend of Learning! Kristin is a Physics Teacher and Robotics Teacher at LaFayette Jr/Sr High School.

The individual who nominated Kristin shared the following: "Kristin continuously goes above and beyond for her students in and out of the classroom. She possesses a teaching style that engages the students in the classroom and gets them excited about physics. We know that it is often difficult to get our students excited about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects. Gaining a base knowledge in the sciences sets our Lafayette students up for future success whether they choose to go to college or not. Kristin encourages students to think critically while embracing their individual personalities. Kristin tailors lesson plans to meet student needs and provides extra help for students. Having Kristin as a part of the teaching staff here in Lafayette is contributing to our success as a fun place to learn."

Kristin - Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

### Please Welcome the New Associate Director of STEP

Hi! My name is Jamie Foote, the new Associate Director of STEM at SUNY Morrisville. I excitedly come to this position with a long history of working with youth through the Liberty Partnerships Program, as well as serving college students as a Success Coach at Hartwick College. Our brand-new team is currently assembled in the C/STEP office on SUNY Morrisville's main campus. We are in the beginning phases of restructuring to ensure we are giving our students the opportunity to grow their STEM related skills, and confidently enter the next phase of their life!



Whether it be the workforce, the military, or college, students will learn invaluable skills by participating in the wide array of activities we offer. Moving forward, you will see a mix of myself and our incredible Program Assistant (Khadija Moorer) at the Lafayette Central School District. To learn more about enrollment opportunities, to ask questions, or simply say hello – please feel free to send me an email at footejk@morrisville.edu

# 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

### DECEMBER

- 1 Grimshaw Musical 7pm
- 4 GAPS Meeting 6pm
- 6 GS Winter Concert 7pm
- 8 JSHS End of MP 2  
GS End of MP 1
- 13 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 14 JSHS Winter Concert 7pm
- 19 ONS Winter Concert 6:30pm
- 22-29 **Holiday Recess - No School**

### JANUARY

- 1 **Holiday Recess - No School**
- 15 **No School**
- 17 BOE Meeting 5:30pm
- 26 **Half Day**

Don't forget  
to like us on  
Facebook.

