



# Leopard's Tale

Volume IX, Number IV

April 2024

## LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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### All-County at Cooperstown

Laurens Central School students *Victoria Stevens*, *Piper Amerson*, *Fern Opalich*, *Chloe Rogers*, and *Mia Whiteway* participated in the 2024 All-County festival, which took place on February 29 and March 2 at Cooperstown Junior/Senior High School. *Victoria* played trumpet in the senior band, *Piper* played the trumpet in the elementary band, and *Fern*, *Chloe*, and *Mia* sang in the elementary chorus. *Victoria* was chosen to participate by a committee within the county according to their submissions to the recorded NYSSMA solo festival, while *Piper*, *Fern*, *Chloe*, and *Mia* were chosen by a committee of music teachers in Otsego County. Way to go, *Victoria*, *Piper*, *Fern*, *Chloe* and *Mia*!

### UPCOMING BUDGET DATES

#### COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:00 p.m.  
Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)

#### BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 7:00 p.m.  
Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)

#### ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
12:00 — 8:00 p.m.  
Room 115



## From the Superintendent

I hope this message finds you all well and that we are able to give back some emergency days to students and staff during nice weather!


We are getting closer to having our budget for the 2024-2025 school year ready to present to the public. At the time this article is being written we still have not received a “one house” budget from the State Legislature and no agreement has been reached with the Governor. The Board of Education will make a final decision on a tax levy increase when we are given more solid numbers by New York State, but is always cognizant of the desire to keep taxes as low as possible for our residents while still sustaining our staff and programs for students.

As I shared in last month’s article, Governor Hochul’s Executive Budget proposal, if adopted as is, would lead to many small rural schools seeing cuts in their Foundation Aid. Her office’s justification for these cuts is that “enrollments are declining, property values are rising and poverty is decreasing.” We know that to not be remotely true in our communities. Property values are increasing in many districts due to second-home ownership and poverty numbers may look better because of the incomes of those second home owners, but for those that are actual residents of these districts little has changed economically.

While our enrollment has remained relatively stable over the past ten years and our projected Foundation Aid cuts aren’t as steep as those projected for many districts in Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie and other local counties, if the Governor’s budget were to be adopted as is Laurens would see over a \$171,000 cut in Foundation Aid. This is significant for districts like ours who are so heavily reliant on state aid. If we were to totally rely on a tax increase to recoup this loss in aid it would equate to a 5.8% tax levy increase for our residents. The Board of Education and I do NOT feel that this is a realistic or appropriate figure to propose for our community and are committed to working together to analyze the expense side of the budget to help offset whatever losses in aid are in the final state budget package. Again, we will present a tax levy increase that we feel is reasonable for our residents while providing the best education possible for our students.

I would like to wish our spring sports teams good luck as they begin practices and to our winter guard program as they conclude their show season! I look forward to seeing you at the choral cabaret at the end of the month..

Sincerely,



William F. Dorritie, Superintendent

## Who’s New at Laurens



Hi there, my name is Kylie Hatalla and I am the new Pre-K Aide! I have received the opportunity to work with these awesome kids and it has been great. I graduated from Laurens in 2018 and have studied Early Childhood and Elementary Education since.

I am quite involved in the school atmosphere here at LCS, as I have previously been an instructor for the Winterguard program. I also have a sister, Bristol, who is a student here. This is a fantastic opportunity for me and I am very excited to be taking on such a special role in the Pre-K classroom.



## Hartwick College VITA Program at LCS

On Friday, February 16, we offered Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to community members. Income-eligible families, senior citizens and veterans had the opportunity to have their income taxes prepared for free by IRS-certified and approved college students. Students from our Key Club went through training and assisted with greeting and directing participants where they needed to go.

We want to send out a great, big THANK YOU to Dr. Li Luo, a Hartwick College Accounting Professor, and her Accounting students for allowing us to provide this program at Laurens.

# LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE, BOARD ELECTION, BUS/VEHICLE PURCHASE

NOTICE is hereby given that a public budget hearing of the qualified voters of the Laurens Central School District, Otsego County, Laurens, NY, will be held in the MPR at the Laurens Central School Building located at 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796, in said District on May 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Laurens Central School District, towns of Laurens, et al, Otsego County, NY, will be held in room 115 at the Laurens Central School located at 55 Main Street, Laurens, NY 13796, in the said District on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Voting will take place between the hours of 12:00 and 8:00 p.m. at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot (either machine or paper) on the following Propositions:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2024-2025, and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.
2. To elect One (1) member of the Board for a five year term commencing July, 1 2024, and expiring on June 30, 2029, Incumbent, Gerard Murello.
3. To authorize the Laurens Central School District to undertake the acquisition of one (1) sixty-five (65) passenger bus for the purpose of transporting students to both regular and special programs.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for 2024-2025, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours during the 14 days preceding the date of the annual meeting and election, and on the date of the election at each schoolhouse in the Laurens Central School District (except Saturday, Sunday, or holidays).

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education shall be filed with the Clerk of said School District at her office in the Laurens Central School, not later than Monday, April 22, 2024, between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Each petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, and shall be signed by at least 25 voters of the District, and must state the name and residence of the candidate. The petition must also identify the specific seat for which the candidate is running, including the name of the incumbent, and the length of the term of office to be filled. Candidates may be nominated for only one vacancy.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter at the District Office. Absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for public inspection in the office of the District clerk between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during each of the five days prior to the election, except Sundays, and said list will be posted at the polling place at the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and reason therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the applications for early mail ballots will be obtainable between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk, no earlier than 30 days before the election. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least (7) days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be picked up personally by the voter at the District Office. Early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

A list of persons to whom early mail ballots are issued will be available for public inspection in the office of the District clerk between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during each of the five days prior to the election, except Sundays, and said list will be posted at the polling place at the election. Any qualified voter present in the polling place may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and reason therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND FURTHER NOTICE that military voters who are qualified voters of the School District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at (607) 432-2050, or [pweir@laurencs.org](mailto:pweir@laurencs.org). For a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the District Clerk must have received a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 25, 2024. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

AND FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given, that any proposition that is required to be included for vote shall be submitted in writing by means of a petition signed by at least 7 qualified voters, which proposition shall be filed with the Clerk not later than April 22, 2024, unless a greater number of days is required by statute. Any proposition shall be rejected by the Board of Education if the purpose of the proposition is not within the powers of the voters or where the expenditure of monies is required for the proposition, and such proposition fails to include the necessary specific appropriation. The District reserves the right to alter the language of a proposition in order to ensure compliance and conformity with the law.

*Pamela J. Weir*, District Clerk  
Laurens Central School  
March 21, 2024

## News From Share and Shine

The character trait we are focusing on for the month of April is Perseverance. The following “I can” statements can remind us how to persevere. I can give my best effort in my work. I can continue to try when something gets difficult. I can stay focused on the task. Students who have demonstrated perseverance, throughout the month of April, will receive individual awards. Bus awards will be presented. Classes can also win awards in their special area classes, in the cafeteria, and even for having the neatest classroom! On April 30th at 2:00 p.m. in the MPR, we will be holding a Share and Shine assembly. Parents/Guardians will receive a notice if their child will be getting an award. We hope you can join us!

\*\*If you plan to sign your child/children out after the assembly, PLEASE send in a note or call the main office by that morning. This greatly helps us with dismissal time.

### SHARE & SHINE AWARD WINNERS FOR COMPASSION



### Laurens' Town Library

#### HOURS:

Mon.—Wed.—Fri.: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Tuesday: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

We are seeking new volunteers.

Call Eileen Coryat at 607-433-1424.



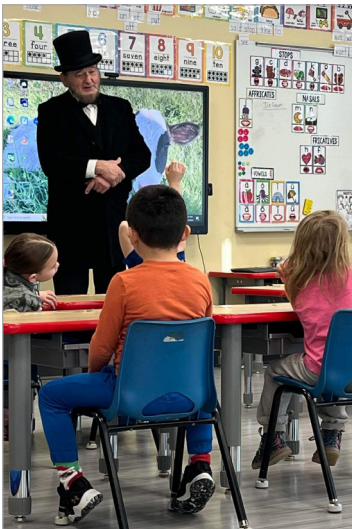
# 100th Day of School Celebrations

Elementary students at LCS celebrated the 100th day of school with many activities using 100 items.



# President Abraham Lincoln Visits LCS

We would like to send out a great big **THANK YOU** to Peter Hatalla for coming to school on Friday, February 16th dressed as Abraham Lincoln. He was able to go around to visit and speak to some of our Elementary classes. What a great experience for our students!

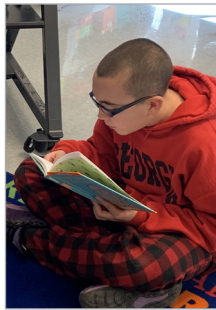
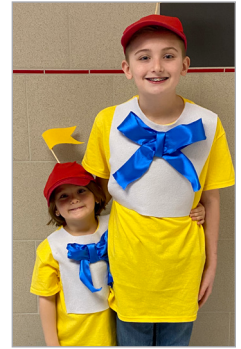




# Seuss Week at LCS

March was Read Across America Month! From March 4th through the 8th, Elementary students at LCS celebrated Dr. Seuss, and his birthday on March 2, with different Dr. Seuss themed dress-up days.

- Mixed up Monday**—wear mixed up clothing
- Twinning Tuesday**—dress the same as a friend
- Character Day Wednesday**—dress like your favorite book character
- Read Me Thursday**—wear your favorite shirt (with appropriate words on it)
- Cozy Up and Read Friday**—wear your coziest reading pajamas. We are going to D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) throughout the day.



## GUEST READERS

As part of Read Across America Week, some members of our senior class read to the kindergarten classes.



## Mardi Gras Dance



## April 2024 School Counseling News

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### April

- 15 3rd quarter report cards will be distributed
- 19 Registration deadline for May 4 SAT exam

#### May

- 3 Registration deadline for the June 8 ACT exam
- 4 SAT exam
- 16 Registration deadline for the June 1 SAT exam

#### June

- 1 SAT exam
- 8 ACT exam

### CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS

Clark Scholarship award letters will be sent in late March/early April. If you son or daughter is a recipient of a scholarship, a thank you letter should be written to Mr. Gary Kuch, Director of the Clark Foundation Scholarship Office. Seniors will receive more information from Mrs. Sider about required interviews sometime in April

### SUMMER CAMPS & PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND TEENS IN NEW YORK STATE

Another great site is [www.newyorksummercamps.com](http://www.newyorksummercamps.com).

New York State has more summer programs than any other State in the nation!

There are also many other local summer day and sleep away camp opportunities for school age children in our area! The following is only a partial listing. We are fortunate to have such a variety of experiences for school age children.

4-H Camp Shankitunk, YMCA day camp experiences, SUNY Oneonta and Hartwick College day camps, CANO art day camps, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Summer Youth Programs, Bright Hill Literacy Center for the Arts summer workshops, NYS DEC summer camps.

## Made of Matter

The second grade classes are Matter Masters! Students learned about matter, its properties, and how matter is used. Inspired by the book *Ada's Violin* by Susan Hood, students discovered Ada and her friends who have made instruments out of pieces of trash. This story is based upon real-life Ada and her landfill-based community near Asuncion, Paraguay. Each lesson built their understanding of solids, liquids, and how the materials we use every day have properties that allow them to be used for a variety of purposes. We completed our unit with an engineering activity in which the students used various recyclable materials to create their own instruments.

—Ms. Boyce and Ms. Loforte



## Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration



### PRE-KINDERGARTEN

If you have a child that will be turning four years old on or before December 1, 2024, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050 ext. 2100 so that we may place your child on the Pre-Kindergarten list for the 2024-2025 school year.

### KINDERGARTEN

If you have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 1, 2024, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050 ext. 2100 so that we may place your child on the Pre-Kindergarten list for the 2024-2025 school year.



2024 LCS  
Drama Club  
and  
Music  
Department

Proudly Presents

The  
Addams Family  
A New Musical Comedy

Friday, April 19th at 7:00PM

Saturday, April 20th at 7:00 PM

ALL Tickets \$5.00

One Intermission and Refreshments





# APRIL 2024

Laurens Central School

Breakfast Elementary \$2.00  
 Breakfast H.S. \$2.15  
 Lunch Elementary \$2.25  
 Lunch H.S. \$2.50

## Monday

**1**  
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese & Home Fries  
 Chicken Broccoli Alfredo Bake  
 Garlic Bread  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**8**  
 Waffles w/Bacon  
 Chicken Cordon Bleu Wrap  
 Brussel Sprouts  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**15**  
 Scrambled Eggs w/Ham & Cheese  
 Sloppy Joe  
 French Fries  
 Carrots  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**22**  
 Scrambled Eggs w/Home Fries  
 Chicken Bacon Ranch Bake  
 Garlic Bread  
 Broccoli  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

## Tuesday

**2**  
 Pancakes w/Bacon  
 Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos  
 Refried Beans  
 Corn  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**9**  
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese & Hash Browns  
 Grilled Cheese  
 Tomato Soup  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**16**  
 French Toast Bake w/Strawberries  
 Goulash  
 Garlic Bread  
 Corn  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**23**  
 Pancakes w/Sausage  
 Chicken Tenders  
 French Fries  
 Green Beans  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

## Wednesday

**3**  
 Breakfast Pizza  
 Chicken Patty  
 French Fries  
 Green Beans  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**10**  
 French Toast Sticks  
 Fish Nuggets  
 Sweet Potato Fries  
 WRAP DAY  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**17**  
 Breakfast Sandwich  
 Chicken Patty  
 Tater Tots  
 Cauliflower  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**24**  
 Breakfast Burrito  
 Ultimate Chicken Bowl  
 WW Roll  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

## Thursday

**4**  
 Breakfast on a Stick  
 Chili  
 Corn Muffin  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**11**  
 Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich  
 Swedish Meatballs w/Pasta  
 Garlic Bread  
 Green Beans  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**18**  
 Breakfast Sandwich  
 Chocolate Chip Pancakes  
 Assorted Pizza  
 Spinach and Romaine Salad  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**25**  
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuit  
 Assorted Stromboli's  
 Spinach and Romaine Salad  
 Soup/Salad w/ Chick Peas or Sandwich

## Friday

**5**  
 Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar & Raisins  
 Assorted Pizza  
 Spinach and Romaine Salad  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**12**  
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuit  
 Assorted Stromboli's  
 Spinach and Romaine Salad  
 Soup/Salad w/ Chick Peas or Sandwich

**19**  
 Chocolate Chip Pancakes  
 Assorted Pizza  
 Spinach and Romaine Salad  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

**26**  
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

# SPRING BREAK



Breakfast and Lunch must include 3 items and one MUST be a fruit and/or vegetable. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

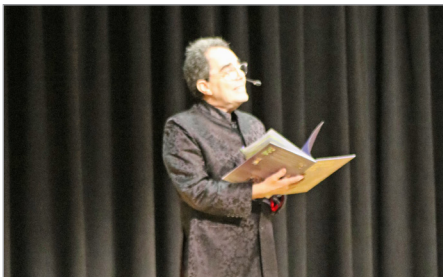
MY SCHOOL BUCKS  
 PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE  
 MySchoolBucks.com

## Assemblies



### 7-12 ASSEMBLY

Laurens Central School students in grades 7-12 attended an assembly on February 27 featuring Robert Hackenson entitled "Seeing Through the Vapor." Robert "edutained" students on the negative health effects of vaping, the marketing messages that teens receive, and the importance of making positive choices. Robert is an engaging speaker who has spoken at hundreds of schools throughout the nation.



### PK-5 ASSEMBLY

Laurens Central School students in grades Pre-K through 5 attended an assembly on February 28 entitled "Green Golly and Her Golden Flute." The assembly was performed by Keith Torgan and Barbara Siesel who introduced LCS students to classical music through a story based on the Rapunzel children's story.

## Head Lice Reminder and Tips

Please periodically check your child (especially in grades PK-6) for head lice. The truth is, head lice are always present, any time of year, just like colds and tummy viruses. The difference is, they're BUGS, so they're easier to SEE! You can try a once a week schedule, either while shampooing your child or during a movie, to take a little time to look for critters.



If you're not sure what you're looking for, this is a great resource [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrScqdNuTpc&feature=more\\_related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrScqdNuTpc&feature=more_related). This video will help you identify lice and their nits, and instruct you on how to get rid of them and prevent further infestations.

By the time we know children have head lice, they've already been infested for at least a few weeks, and often longer. This makes it next to impossible to try to "track down" where your child "got lice". Because lice don't jump or fly, they are most commonly transferred by the direct sharing of hair care products and prolonged head to head contact. Another common culprit is sleepovers. If your child goes to a sleepover, have them bring their own pillow and sleeping bag.

What we know about head lice has changed a lot since we were in school. This resource: <https://identify.us.com/> can answer ANY questions you might have about lice (as well as other household pests). Founder Richard J. Pollack, Ph.D. has earned many degrees in Entomology and holds a degree from Cornell University in Medical Parasitology (M.Sc.) He has served as a public health entomologist at the Harvard School of Public Health for 22 years. His informational websites at the Harvard School of Public Health were amongst the most viewed sites hosted there.



### Laurens Central School Hygiene Backpack

LCS is happy to announce that our LCS Hygiene Backpack Program will continue. This will be the fourth year that we are able to assist with hygiene products for your family. If you are interested in participating, please complete the form below and have your child return it to his/her teacher. This program is 100% confidential and you may sign up at any time. If you have more than one child in the school, please only list one child's name on the student name line below. We will ensure that there are enough supplies for the entire family.

#### THE HYGIENE BACKPACK WILL CONTAIN:

Shampoo, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, and at times other toiletries. The backpack will be sent home with your child once a month, usually the first Monday of the month. We ask that your child return the backpack to one of the backpack boxes located in the main office or the entrance by Ms. Shean's desk.

#### HYGIENE BACKPACK

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people in family: \_\_\_\_\_

**LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**Laurens, New York 13796**

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 ECRWSS**

**April 2024 • Calendar of Events**

**1-5 NO SCHOOL—Spring Break**

- 1 Colorguard Advocates, Trophy Hallway, 6:00 p.m.
- 2 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  
Village Meeting, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Zumba, Café, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Colorguard Championships  
Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Community Basketball, Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Possible returned Emergency Day
- 9 Track Meet @ Milford  
JVSB @ Norwich  
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
- 10 NYS ELA Testing grades 3, 4, 6, 7  
POMP Meeting via Teams, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 NYS ELA Testing grades 3, 4, 6, 7  
VBB @ Roxbury  
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 12 Track Meet @ Cherry Valley-Springfield
- 13 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  
JV Softball Tournament @ Laurens
- 14 Community Basketball, Gym 6:00 p.m.
- 15 VSB/VBB @ Worcester  
Booster Club Meeting, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 NYS ELA grades 5 & 8 Testing  
JVSB vs. Norwich @ Milford  
Zumba, Café, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 NYS ELA grades 5 & 8 Testing  
VBB vs. Charlotte Valley @ Milford  
Track Meet @ Milford  
BOE Meeting, Rm 115, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Zumba, Café, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 VSB/VBB vs. CVS/SS @ Milford  
The Addams Family Musical, MPR 7:00 p.m.

- 20 Zumba, Café 9:00 a.m.  
Track Meet – Sidney Invitational 10:00 am  
*The Addams Family Musical*, MPR, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Community Basketball, Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 22 VSB/VBB vs. Schenevus @ Milford
- 23 MBB/MSB @ Worcester  
Zumba, Café, 6:00 p.m.  
**Community Budget Meeting, MPR, 7:00 p.m.**
- 24 Envirothon @ Gilbert Lake  
Track Meet @ Milford  
JVSB @ Deposit/Hancock
- 25 MBB/MSB vs. Richfield Springs @ Milford  
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 26 VBB vs. Edmeston/Morris  
VSB vs. Edmeston/Morris @ Laurens
- 27 Softball Tournament @ Laurens  
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  
Track Tri-Valley Modified Invitational @ TBD,  
10:00 a.m.
- 28 Community Basketball, Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 29 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  
VSB/VBB @ Richfield Springs
- 30 NYS Math grades 5 & 8 testing  
Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m.  
MSB/MBB @ Cherry Valley-Springfield

\*All subject to change

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**TRI-VALLEY BASKETBALL ALL STARS!**

Brooke Mann—2nd Team  
 Delaney Maison—2nd Team  
 Kyrah Andrades—Honorable Mention

