



Leopard's Tale

Volume IX, Number X

February 2024

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Laurens Central School 14th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



MICHAEL DUTCHER, DAVID MILLER AND RYAN KEATOR INDUCTED

On Wednesday, December 27, 2023 the 14th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held at LCS with three individuals being inducted. It was a very special night for our inductees as this school holds many fond memories for each. The inductees have either participated as an athlete representing Laurens Central School, have coached athletic teams at LCS, have contributed to our athletic programs over many years or have contributed much to promote athleticism through their work and life choices. This year we were proud to induct one individual athlete, one contributor, and one coach to the LCS Athletic Hall of Fame.

Continued on page 3

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for students in grades Pre-K-12 will be held in the afternoon on Wednesday, February 7, 2024

All students will be dismissed at 12:35 p.m.

Please call the Main Office to Schedule Your Conference

607-432-2050, ext. 1220

Pre-Kindergarten Registration

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 Registration

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.



From the Superintendent

PLEASE NOTE

- Parents of elementary students should look for information to come home about celebrating the 100th day of school.
- Check out the activity schedule and come to a Basketball game. All of our teams will appreciate your support.
- There will be a half day of school for all students on February 7. Parent/Teacher conferences for all grade levels will be held that afternoon. Be sure to schedule an appointment.
- Looking ahead to March, our annual Contrast of Colors is scheduled to be held on Saturday, March 9.

Of course, February is also the time when schools begin to learn about the Governor's plans for our state and our educational system. As of this writing, schools are waiting for Governor Hochul to present her Executive Budget, which will outline state aid for schools. We hope that the Governor's budget will address fiscal disparities between urban and rural school districts and that rural schools receive the increase in aid that we feel we need to maintain the programming that we provide for students. When our state aid runs are released we will be able to move forward with our budget planning process for 2024-2025.

One area that is of great concern to me as we look at the long-term fiscal health of the District is the mandate to move to zero-emission buses. According to the law, all new bus purchases are supposed to be zero-emission beginning in 2027 and all school bus fleets are required to be zero-emission by 2035.

This presents multiple problems for school districts across the state:

- Bus manufacturers cannot keep up with demand;
- A zero-emission bus costs at least three times our current price for a new school bus;
- Bus facilities would need to be renovated or rebuilt to accommodate zero-emission buses and install charging stations;
- We have not been given firm information as to whether or not our current power grid can support the electric needs required to charge zero-emission buses.

There are serious questions about things like long-distance field trips, the effect of zero-emission bus heating on battery life, and the disposal of the lithium-ion batteries when they reach end-of-life status.

These are just a few of the problems that we are facing with this law. We have consulted with our architects and fiscal advisors and replacing all of our buses plus renovating our bus garage would cost the District in the neighborhood of \$7.5 MILLION DOLLARS. This would not include upgrading any electrical service. The grant funding being offered by the EPA and the State of New York is woefully inadequate and will not even come close to meeting the needs of over 700 school districts across the state, which would total approximately \$50 billion dollars for buses alone.

While no one will argue with a desire to preserve and protect our environment, I feel that the passage of this law was unconscionable and places all of our Districts at risk of great financial peril. I urge you to contact your local and state legislators to express your concerns about the effects it will have on our ability to provide quality educational programs for our students.

As always I thank you for your support and your continued involvement with our school and our community.

Sincerely,
Bill Darritie
William F. Darritie, Superintendent

Guidance News

INFO FOR JUNIORS AND PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

Here is a "to do" list to keep you organized for the next few months:

- Make a file to manage your college search, testing and application data.
- Visit college websites and request materials.
- Explore colleges via online searches like www.niche.com, www.chegg.com, <https://www.suny.edu/attend/find-a-suny-program/undergraduate/> or www.princetonreview.com.
- Find out about college-prep summer programs or enrichment programs. Check www.summeroncampus.com.
- Develop a list of 10 to 15 colleges that attract you and that you may wish to visit—then VISIT (in person or virtually)!
- Sign up to attend "Junior Visit Days" offered by many colleges in the spring and summer. Many are during vacations. Hopefully, colleges will still be offering these in person.
- Create a resume of extracurricular activities, athletics and other honors and experiences you have received or participated in while in high school. This info is crucial to a quality college application.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

The guidance office has a variety of information on financial aid and scholarships. Parents and students are encouraged to visit and utilize these helpful resources. Check out these websites for scholarship and financial aid information:

- www.hesc.ny.gov
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.finaid.org
- www.collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard
- www.suny.edu/smartrack/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships
- www.studentscholarships.org
- www.goodcall.com/scholarships

Thank You!

A great big Thank You goes out to Connie Dabreau for her donation of handmade mittens for all of our kindergarten through 2nd graders. We are fortunate to have such thoughtful and generous community members to help provide needed items for our students.

Laurens Central School 14th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

1ST INDUCTEE: RYAN KEATOR—ATHLETE

Ryan graduated from LCS in 2003 and participated in soccer, basketball, and track and field. At the time of his graduation Ryan had earned the most points of any LCS track and field athlete over his six-year varsity career. He also held school records in the 100 meter dash, 400 meter run, 1600 meter relay, distance medley relay, and the high jump relay.

In addition to his school records, Ryan was a Tri-Valley or Section IV Class D champion in the following events:

- 400 meter relay
- High Jump
- 200 meter dash
- 400 meter run
- 100 meter run

2ND INDUCTEE: MICHAEL DUTCHER—CONTRIBUTOR

Mike is a member of the LCS Class of 1987 and participated in soccer, basketball, and baseball.

Beginning in 1991 Mike coached multiple sports at Franklin Central School, including girls' modified soccer, boys' JV and varsity basketball, and girls' varsity basketball, where he would have the biggest impact on the Franklin athletic program. His teams won six Tri-Valley championships, three Section IV Class D championships, and a trip to the State Final Four in 2022.

Mike was twice named the Daily Star Coach of The Year for Girls' Basketball and is a 2022 inductee into the Tri-Valley Hall of Fame. If there was one word I would use to describe Mike as a coach it would be "class." He has always conducted himself respectfully towards his own players, his opponents, and officials and his character embodies the ideals that our Athletic Hall of Fame looks for in its members.

3RD INDUCTEE: DAVID MILLER—COACH

Dave was a PE teacher at Laurens and coached boys' varsity soccer, girls' varsity basketball, and assisted with track and field.

Under Dave's leadership the boys' varsity soccer team established itself as one of the powerhouse programs in our region. He amassed a career record of 354 wins vs. 181 losses and 43 ties. His teams won six Tri-Valley championships (2000, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2008, 2019), four Section IV Class D Championships (2000, 2001, 2004, 2006), two regional championships, and two trips to the State Final Four.

Dave was one of the most respected coaches in our area and was rewarded for his efforts with the Daily Star Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year Award in both 2000 and 2004. He is also a member of the Tri-Valley Hall of Fame. His players, some of whom he stays in touch with to this day, would tell you that he pushed them to be their best athletically while still showing that he cared about them as human beings first and foremost and was invested in their future success.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THREE INDUCTEES!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those individuals who were instrumental in organizing this event.

- I would like to extend a word of thanks to the "Athletic Hall of Fame" committee members.
- I would like to thank the Athletic Booster Club for their support of this program.
- A most appreciative "Thank you" is extended to Mrs. Beth West and Mrs. Jackie Tate for the wonderful dinner that was catered for the Hall of Fame Inductees and their families and guests.
- A most appreciative "Thank you" is extended to our custodial and cleaning staff for all of their support and hard work involved in setting up this event.
- The LCS Board of Education for their continued support of this program.

FINAL REMINDER

Do you have an individual or team whom you believe is worthy of induction? If so, check out our website for a copy of the nomination packet, or contact the main office at school.

Thanks to all for making this event possible!

—Bill Dorritie

News from the Laurens Town Library

If you have not visited the town library recently or maybe you never have stopped in, you are missing an opportunity! The collection has been purged. Out with the old and in with the new! In the past year and a half, the library has added many books to the entire collection. The children's section and Young Adult section have been improved greatly, offering popular new book titles. We are in the process of digitizing the collection and will bring the catalog online by Spring of 2024.

The library hours are M, W, F from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Wed. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Volunteers maintain the library, and we are looking for more volunteers to extend the hours. Book donations are accepted upon approval, and should be newer than 2014. Call Eileen Coryat before dropping off donations and if interested in volunteering. (607)433-1424.

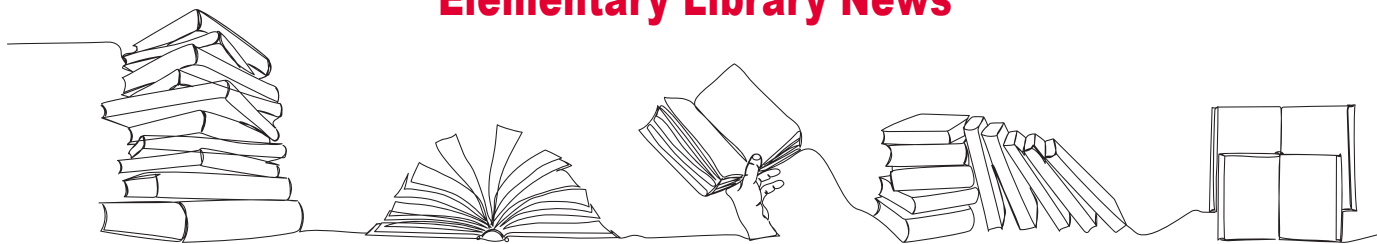
NEW MYSTERY AUTHORS INCLUDE

Louise Penny, William Kent Kruger, C.J. Box, Patricia Cornwell, James Patterson, Harlan Coben and more.

NEW FICTION AUTHORS

Robyn Carr (Virgin River), Beverly Lewis, Tanya French, Susan Wiggs, Jojo Moyes, Brad Thor and more.

Elementary Library News



HAPPY NEW YEAR & WELCOME BACK!

Please check the library website: <https://laopals.oncboces.org/bin/home> often to browse for available books and e-books, access our various educational databases, find book recommendations, explore links to FREE reading websites, and more!

A PEEK INTO THE LIBRARY CLASSROOM

GRADES PRE-K THROUGH 2ND GRADE

- Author Study: Jan Brett & STEAM in our Library Centers
- We know the physical parts of a book.
- We can “tell” what information is on the “title” page.
- We know how to use a bookmark. And we can “show & tell” proper book care.

GRADE 3

- Author Spotlight: Beverly Cleary
- Students will be introduced to STEAM in our Library Centers

GRADE 4

- Author Spotlight: Gertrude Chandler Warner
- Students will be introduced to STEAM in our Library Centers

GRADE 5

- Class Novel: “The Sign of the Beaver,” by Elizabeth George Speare. To increase excitement and comprehension around the reading, I am incorporating four Engineering Challenges. Students will design and construct a Log Cabin, Bow and arrow, Canoe, and Beaver Dam.

GRADE 6

- Class Novel: “When Stars are Scattered” by Victoria Jamieson. To increase excitement and comprehension around the reading, I am incorporating a research and STEAM project. Students will research stars and constellations, and then design and create a 3d constellation craft.

SKILLS

- Proper book care
- Purpose of a bookmark
- Having a safe place at home for our books
- Using a book bag to keep our book safe and dry
- How the elementary library is organized (mapping skills)
- The elements of a FICTION and NON-FICTION book (Research /ELA skills)
- How to search the online library catalog (technology skills)
- Research and gather information about a topic.

Laurens Central School Hygiene Backpack

LCS is happy to announce that our LCS Hygiene Backpack Program will continue. This will be the third 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 send 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: _____

JED Suicide Prevention News



The JED Foundation is a non-profit organization that works with schools and colleges across the nation to prevent suicide and improve and protect the mental health of our nation's youth. Laurens Central School is fortunate enough to have begun working with the JED Foundation last spring. The first step in our 3-year journey with JED was to conduct a survey that the faculty, staff, and students in grades 7-12 took part in anonymously in June, 2023.

On November 8 of this year, Mr. Mushtare, Mrs. Lyons and Mrs. Cox hosted guests, Jennifer Reed and Samantha Mitchell, who visited us from the JED Foundation. After a tour of the building, the group spent the day poring over and analyzing the data that was collected from the survey. It was discovered that Laurens Central School is doing many things already to support our students' mental health and to prevent suicide. Two of those things are the Flex Period that was implemented this year in grades 7-12, and the Laurens Central School Suicide Prevention Manual that was created in recent years. There was also a discussion of what other actions could be taken by LCS to promote mental and emotional well-being in our student body.

Look for more information in the future of what LCS is doing, with the guidance of the JED Foundation, to encourage and ensure positive mental health in our youth!

News From Share and Shine


The focus of this month's character trait will be on Compassion. Compassion is treating others as you want to be treated, being sensitive to other people's feelings, and encouraging others to be their best. On February 29 at 2:00 p.m. in the MPR, we will be holding a Share and Shine assembly. At this assembly awards will be handed out to students and classes who display this character trait on a regular basis within the school building. You will receive a notice if your child will be receiving an award. However, all are welcome to attend!

**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 FAIRNESS



Order Your



YEARBOOK

Order your
Yearbook
before
March 1
to ensure
you get one!

Name: _____ Class: _____

_____ Hard Cover Full Edition \$35 _____ Elementary Only \$15

_____ Name on Cover + \$5

All sales include the spring edition of the yearbook. Checks made out to the Laurens Yearbook.

Holiday Traditions at LCS

We have many traditions at LCS during the holiday season, many of which have been going on for a long time and others that have been added in the last few years. Classes decked the halls, the Seniors made Ugly Christmas Sweaters with Mrs. Gifford, kindergarten through 2nd grades visited Santa at the gazebo, the Gnome was on the roam, Pre-K students did several projects, kindergarteners made gingerbread houses, 5th grade made nutcrackers out of Pringles cans, 6th graders did a holiday project, faculty and staff enjoyed a holiday gathering and a coffee and ice cream day, and Student Council sponsored a holiday themed Spirit Dress-Up Week!

Our holiday spirit dress-up themes included Candy Cane Day, Crazy Sweater & other Holiday Apparel Day, Holiday Character Day, Winter Wonderland Day, and Holiday PJ Day.

HOLIDAY DRESS-UP WEEK

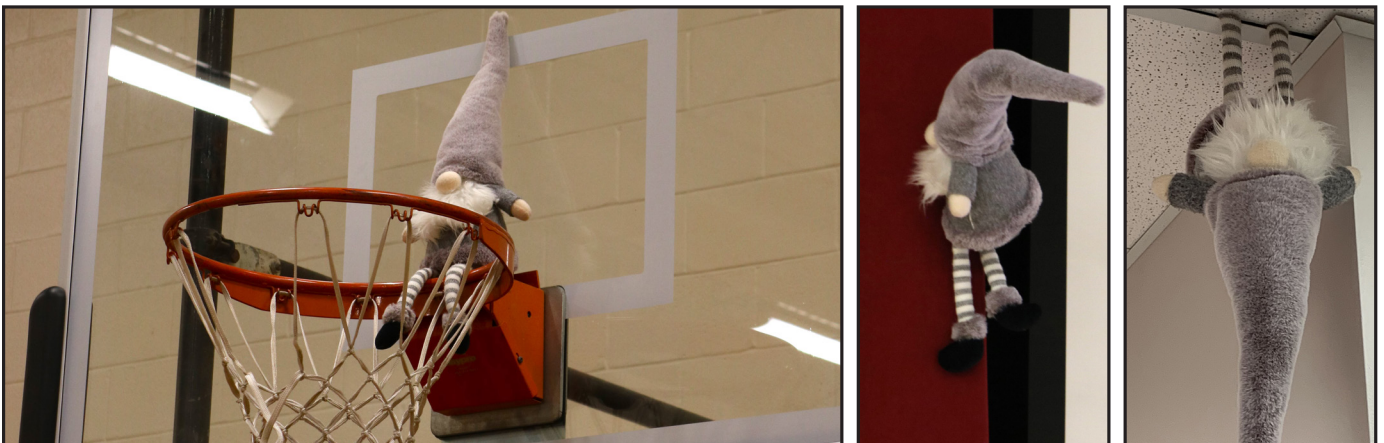


SANTA AT THE GAZEBO

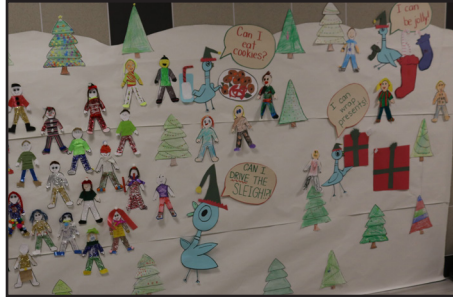
Thank you to the Village of Laurens and Mayor Kelly Pinter for providing treat bags, to Connie Dabreau for making hand-made mittens for the children, and of course a great BIG Thank You to Santa for coming to visit.



"GNOME ON THE ROAM"



DECK THE HALLS



PRE-K PROJECTS



KINDERGARTEN GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Thank you to all the adults and older students that were able to come in to help them build.



UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS



FACULTY & STAFF HOLIDAY GATHERING AND COFFEE & ICE CREAM DAY



5TH GRADE NUTCRACKERS

This project has been running for 20 years thanks to Mrs. Mish.



6TH GRADE HOLIDAY PROJECT



FEBRUARY 2024

Laurens Central School

Monday

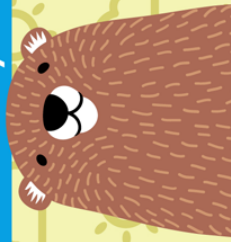
5
Breakfast on a Stick
Chicken Patty
Tater Tots
Cauliflower
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

12
Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar & Raisins
BBQ Chicken Breast on a Bun
French Fries
Green Beans
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

NO SCHOOL
19
PRESIDENTS DAY

26
Breakfast Sandwich
Chicken & Cheese Quesadillas
Corn
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Tuesday



6
Sausage Gravy & Biscuit
Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos
Refried Beans
Corn
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

13
Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich
Swedish Meatballs w/ Pasta
Garlic Bread
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

20

27
French Toast Sticks
Sloppy Joe
French Fries
Green Beans
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Wednesday

7
Pancakes w/Bacon
Chicken Stuffing Casserole
Butternut Squash
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

14
French Toast Bake w/ Strawberries
Grilled Cheese
Tomato Soup
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

21

28
Scrambled Eggs w/ Cheese & Home Fries
Macaroni & Cheese
Carrots
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Thursday

1
Scrambled Eggs w/ Cheese & Home Fries
Chicken Stir Fry
Egg Roll
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

8
Breakfast Burrito
Chicken Tenders
Brussel Sprouts
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

15
Scrambled Eggs w/ Hash Browns
Hamburger/Cheeseburger
Tater Tots
Cauliflower
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

22

29
Egg Hash Brown Bake
Ultimate Chicken Bowl
WW Roll
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Friday

2
Breakfast Pizza
Assorted Pizza
Spinach and Romaine Salad
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

9
Scrambled Eggs w/Ham & Cheese
Assorted Stromboli's
Spinach and Romaine Salad
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

16
Chocolate Chip Pancakes
Assorted Pizza
Spinach and Romaine Salad
Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

23

WINTER BREAK



[Enter Additional Info]

MY SCHOOL BUCKS
PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE
MySchoolBucks.com



FREE TAX PREP



Provided by



What HARTWICK COLLEGE VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Will Do For You:

- › 1-on-1 sessions (in-person and online)
- › IRS-certified volunteers prepare both federal and state returns
- › A proven record of success (since 2019, 2,860 federal in-state tax returns, 2.59 million in tax refunds, tax credits, and stimulus checks)



What You'll Need:

- › Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for each family member
- › All tax forms: W-2s, 1099s, 1098s
- › Childcare provider name, address, and tax ID, if applicable
- › Bank routing and account numbers for checking or savings account
- › 2022 federal and state tax returns (if available)



When and Where:

Laurens Central School

55 Main St, Laurens

Dates:
Friday, Feb 16

Times:
4:30 – 5:30 p.m., 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

For information, **call:** 607-431-4338 or **email:** vita@hartwick.edu for appointment
Hartwick College IRS VITA Tax Preparation Program,
Director: Li Luo, CPA, MSA, MBA

For more information, contact
Call: 607-432-2050 ext. 1120 or 607-431-4338
Email: vita@hartwick.edu for appointment

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Laurens, New York 13796

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Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 1 All-County Rehearsal @ Edmeston, 3:00 p.m.
GJVBB @ Afton, 5:30 p.m.
BJVBB vs. Richfield Springs, 6:00 p.m.
- 2 GMBB/GJVBB vs. Cherry Valley, 5:30 p.m.
Trap Club Mtg., Rm 208, 5:30 p.m.
- 3 All-County Music Festival @ Edmeston
Colorguard @ Vestal
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BMBB @ Milford, 10:00 a.m.
- 4 Community Basketball, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 Colorguard Advocates, Trophy Hallway, 6:00 p.m.
- 6 BJVBB vs. Milford, 5:30 p.m.
BMBB/GMBB @ Worcester, 5:30 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
Village Mtg., rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 **Half Day of School P/T Conferences PreK-12**
POMP Mtg. via Teams, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 GMBB vs. Stamford, 5:00 p.m.
- 10 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
GMBB/BMBB @ Cherry Valley, 10:00 a.m.
Colorguard @ Mohonasen
- 11 Community Basketball, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 17 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
Tri-Valley Basketball Championships
- 18 Community Basketball, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 **PRESIDENT'S DAY—NO SCHOOL**
Booster Club Mtg., Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 20-23 **WINTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL**
- 20 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 21 BOE Meeting, rm 115, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Community Basketball, 6:00 p.m.
- 26 Classes Resume
- 29 Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m.
All-County 2 @ Cooperstown
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.



Blood Drive

On Friday, March 1 the Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at Laurens Central School's cafeteria from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m. hosted by the Key club.

Appointments may be made online at redcrossblood.org. Walk-ins welcome!

Trap Team Meeting

There will be an informational meeting and registration for the Laurens Trap Team on 2/2/2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the MPR. All students that are interested in participating in the spring league should attend with a parent. We will be discussing fundraising, the season schedule, and answering questions that new shooters have about the club.

Valentines Day BRUNCH

Saturday, February 10

8:00 a.m.-1:00 pm.

Price by Donation

Laurens Central School Cafeteria

Hosted by Class of 2024

Come enjoy a delicious breakfast with eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice and much more!
There will also be basket raffles and a lotto board raffle!