



Leopard's Tale

Volume IX, Number IX

January 2024

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Hoops For Hope 2024

*Laurens Central School's
Coaches vs. Cancer*

JANUARY 20, 2024

- 10:00 a.m. Girls' Modified—Laurens/Milford vs. Morris
- 11:15 a.m. Boys' Modified—Laurens vs. Morris
- 12:30 p.m. Girls' JV—Laurens vs. Edmeston/Morris
- 2:00 p.m. Boys' JV—Laurens vs. Morris
- 3:45 pm Girls' Varsity—Laurens/Milford vs. Worcester
- 5:30 p.m. Boys' Varsity—Milford vs. Worcester

Admission to games is by donation, all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

There will be basket raffles and food all day.

If you are interested in donating a basket for this great cause, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050, ext. 2100. All donations will be gratefully accepted up until January 12, 2024.

Thank you for your support!

Our Wonderful LCS Alumni

A huge thank you to LCS alumna Cassidy Moxley! Cassidy, a student at SUNY Oneonta, organized a winter clothing drive to benefit our LCS students. Cassidy was able to collect winter coats, snow pants, hats, and mittens through the generosity of the Oneonta community.

We cannot thank Cassidy enough for this wonderful donation. Way to go Cassidy!

Thank You Cassidy!



Thank you to
Patrick Sherry,
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this issue of the
Leopard's Tale.

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.

From the Superintendent

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday break! As this article is being written we have not had to endure a major snow event as of yet. It seems to be the new norm that we are getting our larger, more impactful storms in February, March and April. For those of you who enjoy a white Christmas I hope that we have at least a little dusting for you!

Please continue to be on the lookout for information regarding the upcoming VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program being offered by Hartwick College here at LCS in March. Income-eligible families, senior citizens and veterans will have the opportunity to have their income taxes prepared for free by IRS-trained and approved college students. A flyer about the program and information about booking an appointment will be forthcoming.

Thank you to Mr. West and everyone who made both the boys' and girls' Pat Grasso Holiday Tournaments a success. The tournaments looked a little different due to merged teams participating, but they were still run very well, the fans enjoyed some good basketball and the student-athletes did a great job. Congratulations to our three new members of the Athletic Hall of Fame; Ryan Keator (Athlete, Class of 2003), Mike Dutcher (Contributor, Class of 1987), and Dave Miller (Coach). You are all very deserving of the honor and we hope that you had a wonderful evening with family, friends and alumni.

Finally, we are in the early stages of preparing the 2024-2025 school budget. Over the next few months Ms. Schlee, the Board of Education and I will be working on the development of a budget that will provide the best possible education for our children that our community can and will support. Please watch for Community Budget and the Public Hearing Meeting dates to be announced in future newsletters as we value your input.

Sincerely,
Bill Dorritie
William F. Dorritie
Superintendent

Who's New at Laurens

KASSIDY QUA



Hi! My name is Kassidy Qua and I am currently working as an aide in the Pre-K classroom. I graduated from Laurens in 2021, and had been working out of town for the last year at the Braeburn Equestrian Center. When I was a student, I was in drama, I played soccer, competed in track, and was very active in colorguard and marching band. I'm enjoying working in the school, and am glad that I can work as an instructor for the Junior Colorguard again.

From the Principal

WINTERTIME RECESS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Elementary students will still have outdoor recess during the winter months. It is important that children have warm hats, coats, boots, and snow pants, as well as gloves or mittens. Students will only be allowed to play in the snow on the playground if they have snow pants and boots. During bad weather, students will have recess indoors. Recess will be outdoors unless it is raining, there is heavy snowfall, the playground is icy, or the wind chill is too low. While the New York State Department of Education permits us to send children outside for recess when wind chills are as low as zero, we hesitate to do this with a wind chill below 20° F.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS IMPORTANT

A student's attendance at school will directly affect their achievement. Students who are not in school miss important instruction and may fall behind, especially in the elementary grades. The more days a student is absent, the more difficult it will be for that child to be at grade level. Due to COVID, students are missing more school than usual, so they must be in school when they are not sick or quarantined. When students are late to school, they also miss valuable instructional time as ELA and math instruction primarily occurs in the morning hours for elementary students. Excessively absent students may also be at risk of being retained.

John Mushtare
Building Principal

Dress for Winter Recess!

BE SMART—DRESS RIGHT FROM THE START!

- Wear long sleeves, OR
- Bring a sweater or sweatshirt
- Keep your legs covered; socks, long pants or tights

BE READY TO PLAY EVERYDAY!

- Warm coat
- Hat
- Mittens or gloves
- Snow pants
- Boots for outside
- Shoes or sneakers for inside

BETTER YET, IN CASE YOU GET WET....

- Extra pants
- Extra socks
- Extra underwear



News From the Nurse

At this time of year, it is a good idea to talk with children about **cold weather safety**. Extra care is needed, especially in younger children, to be sure that frostbite does not occur.

- It is important to check your children's, even teens', outerwear every day during extreme weather conditions. Warm jackets, hats, scarves, boots, and an extra pair of dry gloves in their pockets will protect them during extremely cold temperatures.
- Develop an emergency plan and teach your children your emergency plan in case you are not home before the bus comes to pick them up. If a bus is delayed, they need to know where, when, and how to get help if they think they are waiting outside for a bus longer than they should or if they sense danger. Tell your child that if you are not home while they are waiting outside for the bus, how long they may wait outside, where to go in the event the bus is delayed, and what the dangers and risks of extreme weather are.
- Explain danger signs and risks of when to seek help:
 - the child gets cold or wet, especially boots or gloves
 - the child feels pain or numbness anywhere especially hands, feet, ears, or nose
 - the child senses they have waited longer than five minutes when you have alerted them temperatures have dipped into the teens, especially on a windy day
 - the child thinks they may have frostbite which behaves like a burn and requires medical attention.
- Teach your child about your cold weather plan even if you are not there to help them. Be sure they know
 - when to ask for help,
 - where to find safe shelter in an emergency, and
 - how to protect themselves with proper winter clothing and an understanding of danger signs

Stay warm and safe. Happy winter!

Laurens Central School Hygiene Backpack

We are 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 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: _____	

January 2024 School Counseling News

IMPORTANT DATES

- 1/26/23 Final due date to submit Clark Scholarship applications online!
- 1/23-1/26/23 Regents exams are given.
- 2/23/24 SAT registration deadline for the March 9th exam.

JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS

Regents exams are scheduled for 1/23 through 1/26/24. If you are planning to retake a Regents exam, please see Mr. Mushtare or Mrs. Sider ASAP, if you have not done so previously.

HERKIMER COLLEGE NOW SPRING COURSE REGISTRATION

Students will be given spring course registration and payment information sometime in January for second semester courses. All students must turn in their registration and payment to receive college credit.

CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors were given the Clark Scholarship information and instructions in December. The final application must be completed and submitted online by January 26, 2024. This award is primarily based on academic achievement, but other factors are considered. Students will receive response letters from the Clark Foundation sometime in March.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

The guidance office has a variety of information on financial aid and scholarships. Have you checked the scholarship folder lately? Parents and students are encouraged to visit and utilize the following helpful resources:

- www.hesc.ny.gov
- www.startheregetthere.ny.gov
- www.studentaid.ed.gov
- www.finaid.org
- www.studentscholarships.org
- www.scholarships.com
- www.chegg.com
- www.goodcall.com/scholarships

Area All-State



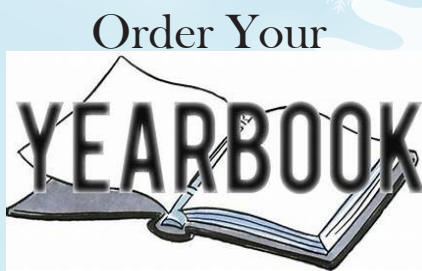
Laurens Central School students **Victoria Stevens**, **Bailey Rondeau**, and **Ryleigh Williams** participated in the 2023 zone 8 Area All-State festival, which took place on November 17 and 18 at Walton Central School. Victoria played trumpet in the concert band, Bailey sang soprano in the mixed chorus, and Ryleigh sang alto in the mixed chorus.

Zone 8 of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) features students across Otsego, Schoharie, Madison, Chenango, and Delaware counties. Victoria, Bailey, and Ryleigh were chosen to participate by a committee within the zone according to their submissions to the recorded NYSSMA solo festival that took place in May of last school year.

Way to go, Bailey, Ryleigh, and Victoria!

Trap Team Meeting

There will be an informational meeting and registration for the Laurens Trap Team on February 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.



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.

Laurens Central School Honor Roll First Quarter

12TH GRADE

High Honor: *Tara Bookhout, Jaidon Brodie, Eowyn Chickerell, Angelina Conley, Alexandria Geissinger, Ryeley Gravelding, Logan Green, Hunter Huffman, Kadance LeBeau, Jade Moxley, Bailey Rondeau, Logan Rondeau, Victoria Stevens*

Honor: *Trinity Beasley, Alysa Hunt, Harley Loudon, Ethan Martindale, Nevaeh Norton*

11TH GRADE

High Honor: *Cadence Koren, Carlton Long, Brooke Mann, Jaidyn Simon*

Honor: *Libby Cox, Dylan Pettit, Spencer Platt, David Rotolo, Ethan Smith*

10TH GRADE

High Honor: *Allison Johnson, Mackenzie Loudon, Savannah Maynard, Nicole Stanley, Alicia Stevens, Hannah Weiss, Ryleigh Williams*

Honor: *Kyras Andrades, Colin Capraro, Wyatt Christian, Mallory Kovacs, Ashlynn Maier, Alyssa Stevens, Logan Wright*

9TH GRADE

High Honor: *Mark DeMeo, Kayla Lewis, Courtney McCarthy, Moses Tafel*

Honor: *Rafe Antila, Ethan Barnes, Kendall Capraro, Nathaniel Kovacs, Ariana LeBeau, Ryan Lindsay, Tyler Loudon, Jonathan Smith, Ashton Solovitch, Carmella Tripple, Bailey Wilcox*

8TH GRADE

High Honor: *Lucie Benada, Arianna Bormann, Kelsey Cox, Anella Croston, Andrew Hausmann, Kendra Lindsay, Carter Rossman, Kalee Stilson, Cole Williams*

Honor: *Stella Amerson, Dalton Duncan, Jacob Hendrich, Kaitlyn Hughes, Olivia Rogers, Degan Smallin*

7TH GRADE

High Honor: *Jason Czarnecki, Logan Loudon, Wesley Olive*

Honor: *Liam James Brown, Ariella Cohen, Taylor Decker, Alexander Fleury, Alyssa Gilmore, Elizabeth Hendrich, Emanuel John, Oskar Lyons, Lucas McCarthy, Seth Phillips, Maxine Schidzick, Jaecob Stoltenborg, Owen Wright*



Share and Shine

The focus of this month's character trait will be on Responsibility. Students can be responsible by doing what is expected, not making excuses, and holding themselves accountable for their own actions. Throughout the month of January and the rest of the school year teachers in K-6 will be teaching students the importance of acting responsibly.

On January 31 at 2:00 p.m. in the MPR, we will be holding a Share and Shine assembly. You will receive a notice if your child will be receiving an award.

SHARE AND SHINE NOVEMBER AWARD WINNERS FOR RESPECT



Thanksgiving Dinner at LCS

On November 15 the LCS Cafeteria prepared and served the annual Thanksgiving Dinner to students and staff. This meal is always a favorite for most people in the building. We would like to be able to have a naptime in the afternoon though.

Thank you to Mr. Mushtare and Mr. West for their turkey carving skills and to Mrs. Gifford for serving the pie and adding whipped cream. A HUGE thank you goes out to our Cafeteria staff for always preparing such a tasty meal for us!



Reading Buddies

Reading buddies **Luke Fairchild** and **Wyatt Christian** just finished “The Car” by Gary Paulsen. In the story, a 14 year old boy builds a car kit and drives on a cross-country adventure. Luke and Wyatt each chose a model car to build that they would like to drive cross-country. Luke chose a 1959 Cadillac Ambulance and Wyatt chose a 1964 Plymouth Belvedere. When asked why they chose these models, Wyatt said, “Because if you’re going to travel, you might as well do it in style”. Places they would visit:

1. Busco Beach and ATV Park Goldsboro, North Carolina
2. Visit Luke’s great aunt and the Bass Pro Shop in Walhalla, South Carolina
3. Watch the Stockyards Championship Rodeo in Fort Worth, Texas
4. The Blizzard Bash Demolition Derby, Topeka Kansas
5. Drive through Bear Country USA, a Wildlife park, Rapid City, South Dakota

Sounds like a sick adventure!



CROP News

In November, the 5-8th grade group made beautiful poppy flower pens for the Veterans breakfast that the Veterans could take with them.



CROP would like to send out a big THANK YOU to the Laurens Mirabito staff and local community members for the donation of many different varieties of Pop Tarts that were donated to our CROP program. All the CROP students enjoyed them. Also, a big thank you to parent, Jazmin Miller for coming in to do a fun card making activity with all the CROP students

Girls on the Run sign up will start in February 2024. Girls on the Run is for girls in grades 3-8. If your daughter is enrolled in CROP the cost is covered by the CROP program. If they are not enrolled in CROP there is a cost that will be announced at a later date. For more information please call 607-432-2050, ext. 1110 or email jdeboer@laurensocs.org.





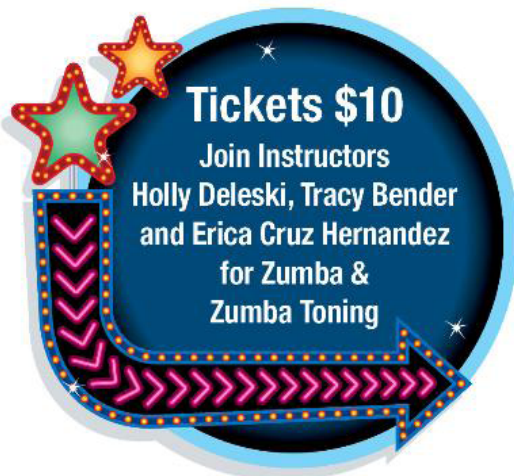
ZUMBAthon[®]

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024 ★ **10:30AM-1:30PM**

Laurens Central School MPR Room

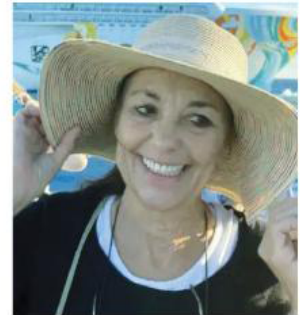
ZUMBA Registration 10:30-11AM • ZUMBA Fitness + Toning 11AM-1:30PM

GIVEAWAYS! FUN & FITNESS!



ELVIS FEVER!

To honor Linda's memory and her love of Elvis, dress like the "King" or put on your blue suede shoes and come dance with us as we **FIGHT CANCER!**



ALL proceeds go to the American Cancer Society in Linda's name in conjunction with Coaches vs. Cancer. Monetary donations also accepted. For info: 607-432-7521 or 607-287-0891

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Laurens, New York 13796

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Calendar of Events January 2024

- 1 **HAPPY NEW YEAR—NO SCHOOL**
- 2 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
Village Mtg, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 3 GMBB @ Franklin, 5:00 p.m.
BJVBB/GJVBB @ Stamford, 5:30 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 5 BJVBB vs. Morris, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BMBB/GMBB vs. Schenevus, 10:00 a.m.
- 8 BJVBB @ Richfield Springs, 5:30 p.m.
Colorguard Advocates, Trophy Hallway, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
GVBB vs. Richfield Springs, @ Milford, 7:00 p.m.
POMP Meeting via Teams, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 GBB vs. Franklin, 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BMBB/GMBB vs. Edmeston, 10:00 a.m.
- 15 **ML KING Jr. DAY—NO SCHOOL**
- 16 GBB vs. Edmeston/Morris @ Morris, 5:30 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
Booster Club Mtg. Rm 115, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 BJVBB @ Worcester, 5:30 p.m.
BOE Mtg, rm 115, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 BMBB/GMBB @ Sharon Springs, 5:00 p.m.
GVBB vs. Roxbury, 6:00 p.m.
- 20 Zumbathon, MPR, 10:30 am-1:30 p.m.
Coaches vs. Cancer-Hoops for Hope
GMBB vs. Morris, 10:00 a.m.
BMBB vs. Morris, 11:15 a.m.
GJVBB vs. Edmeston/Morris, 12:30 p.m.
BJVBB vs. Edmeston, 2:00 p.m.
GVBB vs. Worcester, 3:45 p.m.
BVBB Milford vs. Worcester, 5:30 p.m.
- 23 GBB @ Charlotte Valley, 5:00 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 23-26 REGENTS
- 24 GMBB @ Stamford, 5:30 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 25 BMBB/BJVBB vs. Sharon Springs, 5:30 p.m.
- 26 GBB @ Sharon Springs, 5:30 p.m.
- 27 Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BMBB/GMBB vs. Morris, 10:00 a.m.
Colorguard @ New Hartford
- 30 Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 31 Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m.
GBB @ Schenevus, 5:30 p.m.

WE WISH YOU A

happy new year

2024