

### LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

#### WHAT'S INSIDE...

Superintendent's Letter2
Principal's Letter2
School Counseling News 3
Literary Leopards3
Trap Team Meeting3
News From the Nurse4
Empire Service Corps4
LCS 1st Quarter Honor Roll 5
Fifth Grade Fiesta5
Operation Warm6
January Menu7
Share & Shine8
CROP News9
School Hygiene Backpack9
Order Your Yearbook9
Zumbathon
January Calendar of Events11
Hoops for Hope 12
Prek and K 12



Thank you to
Laurens Alumni
Association for
sponsoring
this issue of the
Leopard's Tale.





## **Thanksgiving Dinner at LCS**

On November 20 the LCS Cafeteria prepared and served the annual Thanksgiving Dinner to students and staff. This meal is a favorite for a lot of people in the building and we look forward to it every year.

Thank you to Mr. Dorritie 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!















### From the Superintendent

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday break! 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 February. 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 it was 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; Barbara Jo Rose (Athlete, Class of 1987), Thomas Benner (Athlete, Class of 2008), and Allan Fraser (Posthumous Contributor). You are all very deserving of the honor and we hope that you had a wonderful evening with family, friends and alumni.

We are in the early stages of preparing the 2025-2026 school budget and are awaiting the Governor's budget proposal. 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.

We are hoping that a capital improvements project will be on the ballot for the May, 2025 vote. Based on our recent Building Condition Survey, some of the items we would plan to address with a project would be:

- a. Replacement of the main parking lot
- b. Replacement of the elementary playground
- c. Fire alarm system replacement
- d. Replacement of HVAC units and controls as needed
- e. Communications system upgrades
- f. Streambed reinforcement at the Factory Grounds soccer field
- g. Replacement of plumbing and heating at the bus garage
- h. Well and fuel tank replacement at the bus garage
- i. ADA-compliant entrance at the Town Library
- j. Replacement of septic system at the Town Library
- k. Replacement of fuel tank and furnace at the Town Library

This is not an all-inclusive list, but as the Board, Mr. West and I move forward in the planning process for a potential project we will certainly keep you informed and give the public the opportunity to provide input.

Thank you as always for your support!

Sincerely,

William F. Dorritie, Superintendent



### 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. 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•

# January 2025 School Counseling Office News

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

1/10/25	New Visions Open House	
1/31/25	Final due date to submit Clark	
	Scholarship applications online!	
1/21-1/24/25	Regents exams are given	
1/16/25 or		
1/17/25	10th grade trip to OAOC (Milford	
	BOCES) CTE programs.	

#### **JANUARY REGENTS EXAMS**

Regents exams are scheduled for 1/21 through 1/24/25. If you are planning to retake a Regents exam, please see Mr. Lisi ASAP. Reminder letters will be given to students beforehand.

#### **CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS**

Seniors were be given the Clark Scholarship information and instructions in December. The final application must be completed and submitted online by January 31, 2025. 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.

#### STUDENT ELECTIVE SURVEYS

The Guidance office has been handing out surveys to gather information on what kind of electives the students would like to take. We encourage all students to take these surveys seriously, as you will be playing a direct role in the schedule making process, but to also have fun with it. We want to know what YOU want to learn, and how you want to learn it.

#### **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.studentaid.ed.gov www.finaid.org www.studentscholarships.org www.scholarships.com www.chegg.com www.goodcall.com/scholarships

### **Literary Leopards**

Last year's Literary Leopards Grand Prize winner, *Lorelei Tentler*, is seen enjoying a fun-filled day at LEGO-LAND New York with her family!

Lorelei earned this exciting reward by participating in the Literary Leopards program, where she read at home daily and accumulated raffle tickets for her chance at the grand prize.

Mrs. Wooley shared that *Lorelei* went above and beyond by completing every book on her reading list, making her truly deserving of this special trip. Congratulations, *Lorelei*—way to shine!







### **Trap Team Meeting**

There will be an informational meeting for the Laurens Trap Team on 2/3/2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the MPR. Parents and new shooters should attend.

### **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!

### **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
- \* Mittens or gloves
- **Snow pants Snow pants Snow pants**
- \* Boots for outside
- \* Shoes or sneakers for inside

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

- ★ Extra pants
- ★ Extra socks
- \* Extra underwear



### **SUNY Oneonta Empire Service Corps Students**

Laurens Central School is a new host site for five SUNY Oneonta students who work in our building, providing a number of services to our PK-12 students.

The Empire Service Corps members are employed by New York State via many SUNY college campuses throughout the State.

"Through this initiative, we are providing paid service opportunities to SUNY students while doing the critical work of reconnecting our communities and grounding ourselves in our shared humanity. This is how we show up for one another and move our state forward."

—Lieutenant Gov. Antonio Delgado

Within our building, Service Corps students work with PK-12 students individually, in classrooms, present group lessons, assist CROP, and provide support in a variety of student focused activities.



We look forward to a continued successful relationship with SUNY Oneonta and this State initiative!

# **Laurens Central School Honor Roll First Quarter**

#### **12TH GRADE**

**High Honor**—*Libby Cox, Cadence Koren, Carlton Long, Brooke Mann, Dylan Pettit, David Rotolo, Jaidyn Simon* 

**Honor**—Tyler Brienza, Andrew Eichhorn, Orion James, Ashlynne Maier, Ethan Smith, Nicole Stanley

#### 11TH GRADE

**High Honor** —Allison Johnson, Mackenzie Louden, Lexie Sherwood, Alicia Stevens, Hannah Weiss, Ryleigh Williams

**Honor**—Kyrah Andrades, Colin Capraro, Wyatt Christian, Emma Hughes, Mallory Kovacs, Alyssa Stevens

#### **10TH GRADE**

**High Honor**—Ethan Barnes, Nathaniel Kovacs, Kayla Lewis, Courtney McCarthy, Moses Tafel

**Honor**—Rafe Antila. Rylee Balbuena-Solovitch, Kendall Capraro, Trent DeBoer, Mark DeMeo, Lucas Dorritie, Ryan Lindsay, Tyler Louden, Isaac Milette, Ashton Solovitch, Carmella Tripple, Bailey Wilcox

#### 9TH GRADE

High Honor—Stella Amerson, Lucie Benada, Isabella Brienza, Anella Croston, Isabella Failla, Kendra Lindsay, Marjorie Ostroff, Kalee Stilson, Cole Williams Honor—Arianna Bormann, Lakota Chickerell, Kelsey Cox, Andrew Hausmann, Jacob Hendrich, Kaitlyn Hughes, Olivia Rogers

#### **8TH GRADE**

**High Honor**—Jason Czarnecki, Logan Louden, Lucas McCarthy, Owen Wright

**Honor** —Liam James Brown, Elizabeth Hendrich, Emanuel John, Oskar Lyons, Wesley Olive, Maxine Schidzick, Jaecob Stoltenborg

#### **7TH GRADE**

**High Honor** — Piper Amerson, Aleksander Benada, Owen Carbonara, Abby Croston, Haley Hill, Gavin Koren, Hunter Marabuto-Prince, Kaylee McAdams, Fern Opalich, Riley Tafel, Emma Smith

**Honor**—Jaya Cohen, Delilah Collins, Serenity Curless, Kinlee Dunham, Victor Eichhorn, Bristol Hatalla, Dallas Kilts, Macy Moore, Parker Watson

### **Fifth Grade Fiesta**

On December 6, Mrs. Smith's fifth-grade class held a Mexican fiesta for lunch. The meal included traditional Mexican foods like beef empanadas, chicken fajitas, salsas, a spicy fruit salad, jamaica punch, and bunuelos (fried dough). All of the food was made from scratch for us by Mrs. Lyons' high school Cultural Foods class, who did an excellent job. The fiesta was inspired by our reading of Esperanza Rising, an historical novel about a family who must leave Mexico under tragic circumstances to come to the United States for work in the crop fields of California during the Great Depression. Along with the wonderful story, the class has supplemental lessons about the Great Depression, migrant workers and early union efforts, and right before the fiesta meal they learned about table settings and a little bit of table etiquette. The occasion ended with breaking a beautiful piñata, handmade by Mrs. DeBoer, our crafty classroom aide.







### "Operation Warm"

A special "Thank you" goes out to the Oneonta Rotary for selecting LCS as one of the schools to be a recipient in the "Operation Warm" winter coat project again this year.

In November, the Oneonta Rotary provided warm winter coats to almost 40 children in our school district.

There are many organizations that claim "Service to Ones' Community" as part of their goals and foundational principles. The Oneonta Rotary not only states this but lives it in the actions and programs provided to communities, schools and most importantly, to the children living in our area.

And a second and very special "Thank you" to Mrs. Cindy Struckle, our Board President. Mrs. Struckle is a member of the Oneonta Rotary, a former President, and works to make sure our school is included in these programs.

















#### PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE MySchoolBucks.com 24 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Sausage Gravy & Biscuits 31 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Breakfast Elementary \$2.05 Breakfast H.S. \$2.20 Assorted Pizza Spinach and Romaine Salad Spinach and Romaine Salad Lunch Elementary\$2.30 Lunch H.S.\$2.55 Spinach and Romaine Salad Spinach and Romaine Salad French Toast Bake w/Strawberries Assorted Stromboli's Assorted Stromboli's Scrambled Eggs with Ham & Cheese NO SCHOOL Waffles w/Sausage Assorted Pizza Friday 900 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar 16 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich 23 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich 6 7 Breakfast and Lunch must include 3 items and one MUST be a fruit and/or vegetable. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer Chicken Bacon Ranch Bake Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Chicken Patty on a Bun NO SCHOOL French Toast Sticks Brussel Sprouts Breakfast Pizza Garlic Bread Corn Muffins Tater Tots Meatloaf **JANUARY 2025** Laurens Central School Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Chocolate Chip Pancakes 15 Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich 22 Grilled Ham & Cheese on a Pretzel Roll Tomato Soup œ Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Chicken Broccoli Alfredo Bake Garlic Bread **LUNAR NEW YEAR** Happy New Year Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese & Home Fries ASSORTED WRAPS Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas Wednesday NO SCHOOL NO SCHOOL Sweet Potato Fries Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich 21 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese & Home Fries Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Pasta w/ Marinara or Alfredo Sausage Gravy & Biscuits Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos Refried Beans Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos Refried Beans Pancakes w/ Sausage Pancakes w/Bacon Chicken Tenders French Fries Tuesday Garlic Bread Cauliflower Carrots Com 20 27 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY 9 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich BBQ Chicken Breast Potato Wedges Hamburger/Cheeseburger Breakfast Sandwich Breakfast on a Stick NO SCHOOL Breakfast Burrito Monday Goulash Garlic Bread Green Beans French Fries Green Beans Carrots

### **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



















### **CROP News**

We have been busy in CROP this fall. We celebrated "Lights On After School" by having a Glow Party, Hanford Mills has come in to do team building and animal habitat, which the students are really enjoying, and the groups made lovely poppy flowers and a wall sign, and helped decorate the cafeteria for the Veterans Day Breakfast.

I am excited to announce that we will be having Girls on the Run this year. We are looking for a Head Coach and Assistant Coaches. The lessons for each practice are all planned out for you to follow. If you are interested in learning more please reach out to me at *jdeboer@laurenscs.org* or

607-432-2050 ext 2190. Keep an eye out for details for sign up. The Girls on the Run program is for girls in grades 3-5. It inspires individuals of all abilities to recognize their unique strengths, while building a sense of connection in a team setting. The coaches facilitate lessons that blend physical activity with life skill development to enable team members to adapt to whatever comes their way. At the end they will, as a team, compete in a 5K which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment and sets a confident mindset into motion.

### **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:		
· , * , * ,	Order Your	
* ***	YEARBOOK before	
	March 1	
Name:	to ensure you get one!  Class:	
	ion \$35   □ Elementary Only \$15	
□ Nan	me on Cover +\$5	
All sales include the spring edition of the	yearbook. Checks made out to the Laurens Yearbook.	



# Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 • 10:30AM-1:30PM

**Laurens Central School MPR Room** 

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



Monetary donations also accepted. For info: 607-432-7521 or 607-287-0891

### **January 2025 Calendar of Events**

- 1 ...... HAPPY NEW YEAR—NO SCHOOL
- 2 ...... NO SCHOOL—HOLIDAY BREAK
  Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament (JV Only,) 5:30
  p.m.
  Zumba, MPR, 6:00 pm
- Indoor Track Section Meet @ Ithaca College Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament (Varsity Only,) 5:30 p.m.
   Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Gym, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 ......Zumba, MPR 9:00 am
  Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament, 1:00 p.m.
- 6 ...... BMBB/GMBB @ Schenevus
- 7 ....... GBB @ Richfield Springs Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. Village Mtg, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 ....... BMBB/GMBB @ Stamford BJVBB vs. Richfield Springs BVBB vs. CVS @ Milford POMP Meeting via Teams, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 ....... GBB vs. Edmeston/Morris @ Milford Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 10 ...... BJVBB/BMBB/GMBB @ Edmeston BVBB @ Morris Indoor Track Meet @ SUNY Cortland
- 11 ...... Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
- 13 ...... BMBB/GMBB vs. Sharon Springs GJVBB vs. Franklin @ Milford Booster Club Mtg., Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 ...... BJVBB @ Sharon Springs Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 15 ...... BMBB @ Charlotte Valley
  GVBB vs. Sharon Springs @ Milford
  BOE Meeting, Rm 115, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 ...... BJVBB vs. Schenevus BVBB @ Edmeston Zumba, MPR, 6:00 pm
- 17 ...... Indoor Track Section Meet @ Ithaca College GVBB @ GMU

- 18 ...... 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 vs. Worcester, 5:30 p.m.
- 20 ....... ML KING Jr. DAY—NO SCHOOL BVBB vs. Windham-Ashland-Jewett @ Milford
- 21 ....... GMBB/GVBB @ Worcester Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 21-24 ... REGENTS
- 22 .......GMBB/BMBB @ Morris BJVBB vs. Worcester BVBB @ Schenevus
- 23 ....... GJVBB vs. Worcester @ Milford Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 24 .......2nd Quarter Ends
  BMBB vs. Margaretville
  BJVBB @ Morris
  GVBB vs. Margaretville
  BVBB @ Worcester
- 25 ......Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. BMBB vs. Milford
- 27 ....... GVBB @ Sharon Springs BVBB @ Windham-Ashland-Jewett
- 28 ....... BMBB vs. Charlotte Valley, 5:30 p.m. BJVBB @ South Kortright GJVBB vs. Afton, 7:00 p.m. Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
- 29 ...... Lunar New Year—NO SCHOOL
- 30 ....... All-County @ Worcester
  GMBB @ CVS
  Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
  BVBB vs. Richfield Springs @ Milford
- 31 ...... Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m. GBB @ Franklin BJVBB @ Milford

<sup>\*</sup>Dates and times are subject to change. Please check the calendar on the school's website for up to date information.











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

#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Cynthia Struckle, President Thomas Francisco, Vice President Gerard Murello Margaret Wikoff Peggy Bush-Allen

#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

William F. Dorritie

#### **BUILDING PRINCIPAL**

John Mushtare

#### **EDITOR**

Pam Weir

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 18 Norwich, NY 13815

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POSTAL PATRON ECRWSS

### **HOOPS** for **HOPE** 2025

Laurens Central School's Coaches vs. Cancer

#### **JANUARY 18, 2025**

10:00 a.m. Girls Modified- Laurens vs. Morris
11:15 a.m. Boys Modified- Laurens vs. Morris
12:30 p.m. Girls JV- Laurens/Milford vs. Edmeston
2:00 p.m. Boys JV – Laurens vs. Edmeston
3:45 pm Girls Varsity- Laurens/Milford vs. Worcester
5:30 p.m. Boys Varsity- Laurens/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 10, 2025.

Thank you for your support!





If you have a child that will be turning four years old on or before December 1, 2025, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050 ext. 2100 so that we may place your child on the Pre-Kindergarten list for the 2025-2026 school year.

### Kindergarten

If you have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 1, 2025, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050 ext. 2100



