



Leopard's Tale

Volume VIII, Number IX

December 2023

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Breakfast with Santa

Mount Vision Fire Department

**Sunday, December 17
from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Breakfast is by donation.

All proceeds to benefit the Adam Burgess
Scholarship Fund.



The LCS Music Department is pleased to present its..

Winter Concerts

In the

Laurens Central School Multi-Purpose Room

Secondary Concert

Wednesday, December 13 - 7:00 p.m.
featuring Concert Band, Concert Choir,
Jazz Ensemble, & Chamber Singers

Elementary Concert

Tuesday, December 19 - 6:00 p.m.
featuring Music Classes PreK-6 & Elementary Choir

* Any changes to the concerts will be communicated through our
website and notification will be made to parents*



LCS Soccer All Stars!

Boys' Varsity—Laurens/Milford

Second Team

TJ O'Connor

Aidan Mertz

Honorable Mention—**Chase Long**

Girls' Varsity

First Team

Jaidon Brodie

Second Team

Kyrah Andrades

Eowyn Chickerell

Honorable Mention—**Ryleigh Williams**



Congratulations!

Thank you to
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sponsoring
this issue of the
Leopard's Tale.

From the Superintendent

We feel that this has been an excellent first few months of school! We have seen some outstanding things going on in our classrooms. As Mr. Mushtare has shared, we have begun the PAX Good Behavior program in grades PK-6. We are still focusing on improving reading instruction and the efforts of our teachers have definitely led to positive progress. We are investigating a new math series and are implementing new inquiry-based science investigations into our K-8 classrooms.

Your students will see a little bit of a change in our counseling department. Mr. Gardner is moving to a role as the full-time elementary counselor. As we search for a new secondary counselor, I am happy to report that Mrs. Heidi Sider will be returning to LCS in an interim capacity. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs. Cleveland, who has been working with our juniors and seniors to navigate the college and career application process. Our seniors are starting to receive acceptance letters and we congratulate them all as they solidify their post-graduate plans.

Our basketball seasons are in full swing and I hope to see many of you at the Pat Grasso Holiday Tournaments. We will be inducting three new members into our Athletic Hall of Fame at the boys' tournament on December 27. Our students are working hard to prepare for the winter concerts and I know that we all look forward to hearing them. Our theater arts department is also getting ready to start tryouts and practices for their production of "The Addams Family" musical.

I would like you all to know that we have had an initial meeting with Upstate Security Consultants and it is our intention to move forward with the process of hiring a School Resource Officer starting with the 2024-2025 school year. The person would be a retired member of law enforcement vetted by both Upstate Security Consultants and the District. While LCS has been more fortunate than other districts when it comes to school safety, we feel that this is a proactive step and will bring in someone who has experience with threat assessment, conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques and can provide us with valuable insight on how to continue to improve on our efforts to keep our students and staff as safe as possible.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely,

Bill Dorritie

William F. Dorritie
Superintendent

School Counseling Office News

IMPORTANT DATES

December—Clark Scholarship application handed out during this month

12/2—SAT at Norwich High School

12/9—ACT exam at Oneonta High School

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Seniors should complete all college applications by December vacation! Students who are planning to go to college should apply to at least 3-5 colleges to give them some choice when selecting a college to attend.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A folder of various scholarships is in the guidance office for review. Also, visit the following websites to complete free scholarship searches: www.finaid.org, www.goodcall.com/scholarships, www.chegg.com. You should also visit the US Department of Education's website at: www.collegescorecard.ed.gov to view college data on affordability, graduation rates, etc. Planning to attend a SUNY college? www.suny.edu/smart-track/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ is the place to connect with all campus scholarship webpages.

CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS

Clark Scholarship information and instructions will be given to seniors this month in class. This scholarship is based primarily on academics (above an 86/87 GPA). Students may also qualify through their CTE program at BOCES. Even if you think your GPA is too low, all students should apply for Clark. The worst they will say is no! Final completed applications will be due mid-January.

TO THE CLASS OF 2024

Keep up the magnificent work towards your post-graduation plans! Whether that is creating a resume to go into the workforce, working on applications to colleges, completing hours towards certifications at BOCES, or keeping up with your classes/extracurriculars—you all are doing an outstanding job, and we cannot wait to see where the rest of this school year takes you!

PAX Good Behavior Game

Laurens Central School has adopted the PAX Good Behavior Game for its Pre-K through 6th grade classrooms. The PAX Good Behavior Game (GBG) is a preventative intervention to build self-regulation in students and has been used in classrooms throughout the United States for decades. It has been shown that the use of the PAX GBG has resulted in decreased problematic behavior in the classroom, improved academic performance, reduced risk of substance abuse, and a reduced risk of psychiatric disorders. The PAX GBG is implemented in each classroom by teachers as part of the daily routine and is instrumental in getting students attention, selecting students for tasks, transitioning from one activity to the next, and working as part of a team.

The PAX GBG consists of ten foundational areas, called Kernels that are introduced one at a time. As students master each Kernel, they are introduced to the next Kernel. Many of our students have mastered the first three Kernels and you may be hearing about some of these Kernels at home such as PAX vision, PAX Leader, and PAX Quiet. Some grades are already using the fourth Kernel, Wacky Prizes. After all ten Kernels are mastered, students play the Good Behavior Game.

John Mushtare
Building Principal

CROP News



CROP started on September 18 and we currently have 67 students enrolled. We have been busy doing fun activities. On October 26 we celebrated “Lights On After School” by having a Glow Party. Hanford Mills came in to do team building with the groups, which the students really enjoyed. The 5-8 group made lovely poppy flowers for the veterans. In January, Cornell Cooperative Extension will do Family Cooking.

If you are interested please email me at jdeboer@laurencs.org or call 607-432-2050 ext 1110 to sign up.

I am excited to announce that we will be having Girls on the Run this year. Keep an eye out for details to 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 complete a 5K as a team, which provides a tangible sense of accomplishment and sets a confident mindset into motion.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns about the program by calling me at 607-432-0958 or emailing me at jdeboer@laurencs.org.

Jessica DeBoer
CROP Site Coordinator



Who's New at Laurens



NANCY BAKHUIZEN

My name is Nancy Bakhuizen (Mrs. B) and I am pleased to have joined the staff at Laurens Central School. I will be working as an aide with some seventh-grade students as well as staffing the Testing Center. I have a background in education, having taught science and been an aide in Special Education classes at Gilbertsville-Mt. Upton Central School.

My husband (Gerrit, '78 LCS graduate) and I live in Gilbertsville. We have two adult daughters who graduated from GMU. Our eldest is a professor at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Our youngest is a zookeeper in Melbourne, Florida. We enjoy travel, hiking, bicycling, all things Disney and our two cats, Eli and Rico! I happily came out of retirement to get to know the students, staff and community at LCS.

Thank You!

Key Club would like to thank everyone who supported our November American Red Cross blood drive. Seventeen units were collected. Our next blood drive will be March 1, 2024.



Holiday Dress-up Spirit Week

During the week of December 18 through December 22, Student Council will be encouraging students, faculty, and staff to participate in our 3rd Holiday Dress-up Spirit Week!

December 18 – *Candy Cane*

December 19 – *Crazy sweater and other Holiday Apparel*

December 20 – *Holiday Character*

December 21 – *Winter Wonderland*

December 22 – *Holiday PJs*

Student Council will also be selling Candy Cane Grams all that week for \$1 each. Candy Cane Grams will be delivered on Friday, December 22.

Order forms will be sent home via Parent Square the week before.



Fire Prevention at LCS

On October 20, members of our local fire departments visited LCS to talk to our Elementary students about what to do in case of a fire. Information was provided on what number to call, the importance of smoke detectors and testing them, and more. The children were able to see the firefighters in their full gear and hear what it would sound like if fire fighters came to a fire at their location. Some of our students were even able to try on one of the coats and hold a helmet. This is a yearly program that is provided to our PK through 6th graders.

Thank you to the Laurens, West Laurens, and Mount Vision Fire Departments for providing this valuable program.



Buddy Program

First grade and 6th grade have started up our buddy program. We meet every C day and do a fun activity together. We have done buddy interviews, crafts and a scavenger hunt so far this year. Both classes are enjoying spending time together and getting to know each other.



Reading Buddies

Tenth grader Wyatt Christian is a Youth-to-Youth “reading buddy” to 5th grader Luke Fairchild. The two read “Motor Mayhem: Jet Dragsters” and then built their own chassis out of Legos. Both Wyatt and Luke have a passion for motor vehicles, especially the demolition derby. They look forward to reading Gary Paulsen’s “The Car” next.



Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

- 1:00 South Kortright JV vs. Milford JV
(SK will be the home team)
- 2:45 South Kortright Varsity vs. Afton Varsity
(SK will be the home team)
- 4:30 Laurens JV vs. Roxbury JV
(Laurens will be the home team)
- 6:30 Milford Varsity vs. Roxbury Varsity
(Milford will be the home team)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2023

- 1:00 JV Consolation Game
- 2:45 JV Championship Game
- 4:30 Varsity Consolation Game
- 6:15 Varsity Championship Game

Leadership Project

Help our junior leaders with their annual leadership project.

We will be collecting supplies from December 1-20 to donate to our local animal shelter! It would be greatly appreciated if you could donate any of the supplies listed below:

- Cat litter of any kind
- Kitten chow
- Dry dog food
- Dog chew toys
- Laundry detergent
- Disposable Gloves
- Canned pate cat food
- Puppy chow
- Canned dog food
- Paper towels
- Unscented bleach

There will be a box in every elementary classroom and one in the main office. We thank everyone for your support!

Halloween was Spooktacular at LCS!

LCS students and staff dressed up in their costumes on Halloween day and the Elementary classrooms did fun Halloween activities and had special treats. In the afternoon, before our Share and Shine assembly, the kindergarten through 2nd grades paraded around the building in their costumes, led by Mrs. Gifford.



Share and Shine

The focus of this month's character trait will be on Fairness. Fairness is treating all people equally, listening to the ideas others share, and playing by the rules. Throughout the month of December and the rest of the school year teachers in K-6 will be teaching students the importance of good character. On Friday, December 22 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.

OCTOBER'S SHARE AND SHINE AWARD WINNERS FOR SELF-CONTROL



Great Job!

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

Rotary 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.

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

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.



LCS Honors Community Veterans

On Thursday, November 9th, Laurens Central School held a Veterans Day breakfast to honor the men and women who have served our country. Breakfast included eggs, pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee. We had a great turnout! Many thanks to the cafeteria staff for breakfast, the members of the Key Club who served the veterans and acted as guides/greeters, to our students and staff for the warm welcome they gave the veterans.

We also wish to thank Polly Dellacross who made a beautiful handmade, quilted lap blanket and drew the name of one of our Veterans to take it home.

We at Laurens Central School would like to say thank you to all of the veterans of our community for their service.

We owe you a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid!



*Thank you
Veterans!*

DECEMBER 2023

Laurens Central School

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

Monday

4
 Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar & Raisins
 Chicken Patty
 Tater Tots
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Tuesday

5
 Scrambled Eggs w/ Home Fries
 Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos
 Refried Beans
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Wednesday

6
 Breakfast Pizza
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Broccoli
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Thursday

7
 Chocolate Chip Pancakes
 Hamburger/Cheeseburger
 French Fries
 Cauliflower
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Friday

1
 Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich
 Assorted Pizza
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

8
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuits
 Assorted Stromboli's
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

11
 Pancakes w/Bacon
 Spaghetti & Meatballs
 Garlic Bread
 Carrots
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

12
 Breakfast Burrito
 BBQ Chicken Breast on a Bun
 French Fries
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

13
 Waffles
 Fish Nuggets
 Sweet Potato Bites
 WRAP DAY
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas

14
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese
 Chicken Quesadillas
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

15
 Breakfast on a Stick
 Assorted Pizza
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

18
 Egg Hash Brown Bake
 Chicken Parm Wrap
 Broccoli
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

19
 Pancakes w/Sausage
 Pulled Pork
 Tater Tots
 Baked Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

20
 French Toast Sticks
HOLIDAY DINNER
 Baked Ham
 Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
 Sweet Potatoes
 Green Bean Casserole
 Dinner Roll

21
 Breakfast Sandwich
 Chicken Tenders
 Brussel Sprouts
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

22
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese & Home Fries
 Assorted Stromboli's
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

25

26

27

28

29

HOLIDAY VACATION

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 SCHOOLBUCKS
 PAY FOR MEALS ONLINE
 MySchoolBucks.com

HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ON THE INTERNET



**tutor
doctor**
How learning hits home.



Be aware of what your kids are looking at online. Even child friendly sites can be hacked.



Follow your child on any social media platform so you can see what they are exposed to.



Get to know the social media platforms and what they are mainly used for.



Teach your children not to share any personal information or photos online at any time.



Know what sites your kids are on and sit with them when they are online to get a feel for the content.



Make them aware of cyber bullying and let them know to always come to you if someone is not nice to them on social media.



Regulate the amount of time kids are online outside of school requirements.



Have all online activity take place in a common area of the home where others are present.



Remember it is still important to be aware of your child's online activity when they become a teenager.

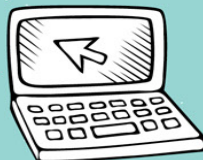


Apply parental controls where possible, but don't trust that they will catch all inappropriate content.

Check your child's browser history to see what sites they visit.



Ensure they never reply to a message or email from a stranger or upload any photos of people/your home.



LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Laurens, New York 13796

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December 2023 Calendar of Events

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Pat Grasso Tournament (Girls—Varsity Only)
BJVBB @ Deposit-Hancock Tournament, 5:30 p.m. | 16 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BMBB vs. GMU, 10:00 a.m.
GMBB vs. GMU, 11:30 a.m. |
| 2 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
BJVBB @ Deposit-Hancock Tournament
Pat Grasso Tournament (Girls JV/Varsity) | 18 | Booster Club Mtg., Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. |
| 4 | Colorguard Advocates, Trophy Hallway, 6:00 p.m. | 19 | Elementary Winter Concert, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 5 | BJVBB vs. Margaretville, 5:30 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
GVBB vs. Margaretville, 7:00 p.m.
Village Meeting, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. | 20 | BJVBB @ Milford, 5:30 p.m.
BOE Mtg., Rm 115, 7:30 p.m. |
| 6 | Zumba, Gym 6:00, p.m. | 21 | GJVBB vs. Milford, 6:00 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 7 | GJVBB @ Edmeston, 5:30 p.m.
GVBB vs. GMU @ Milford, 7:00 p.m. | 22 | Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m.
GJVBB @ Stamford, 5:30 p.m.
BJVBB @ Stamford, 7:00 p.m. |
| 8 | GJVBB vs. Charlotte Valley, 5:30 p.m.
BJVBB vs. Charlotte Valley, 7:00 p.m. | 23 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
23-Jan. 2—NO SCHOOL- HOLIDAY BREAK |
| 9 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. | 26 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 12 | GJVBB @ Cherry Valley-Springfield, 5:30 p.m.
BJVBB vs. Cherry Valley-Springfield, 6:00 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
GVBB @ CVS, 7:00 p.m. | 27 | Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction, Gym, 6:15 p.m.
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 13 | Secondary Winter Concert, MPR, 7:00 p.m. | 28 | Pat Grasso Boys' Tournament
Stamford Girls' Tournament |
| 14 | BJVBB vs. Richfield Springs, 5:30 p.m. | 29 | Stamford Girls' Tournament |
| 15 | GJVBB vs. Worcester, 5:30 p.m.
GVBB vs. Worcester @ Milford, 7:00 p.m. | 30 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. |

HAPPY
holidays