



Leopard's Tale

Volume VIII, Number VII

October 2023

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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TRUNK OR TREAT

The Village of Laurens will host a Trunk or Treat event on **Saturday, October 28 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** in the Laurens Central School parking lot.

If you would like to participate in decorating your vehicle and handing out treats, or volunteer for this event please email: laurensnymayor@gmail.com.

Reminder

School Picture Day

Wednesday, October 11




Attention Parents!

Please remember to **EXIT** the parking lot through the **BACK LOT** when dropping off your child/ren in the morning or picking them up at the end of the day. You **MAY NOT** exit out the front! This is a safety issue for our students and staff.



Thank you to Schoolhouse Construction Services, LLC for sponsoring this issue of the *Leopard's Tale*.



The Class of 2025 will be having a *Holiday Greenery Sale*

of Door Wreaths & Swags October 16 through 27
Delivery will be the week of November 20

Please contact a member of the 11th grade class, Mrs. Cox or Mrs. Mann for ordering information and pricing

From the Superintendent

We have once again had a great start to the school year! I want to thank all of our students, faculty and staff for helping our opening run very smoothly. Fall sports are in full swing, the CROP after school program has begun, homecoming is in the books and our Open Houses were a success as usual.

If you are a parent of a 7th-12th grader and have not already set up your SchoolTool parent portal account please contact Mr. Mushtare. As with the PowerSchool Parent Portal, we feel that this is an excellent tool to stay current on your child's progress and attendance and can help us work together proactively to address issues that could become much larger if we waited longer. Teachers should be updating their gradebooks and assignments regularly; because this is a new system there will no doubt be a few "growing pains," but you should expect to be able to access updated grades on a regular basis.

Mrs. Forbes has once again been working very hard to organize the "Literary Leopards" program for our K-6 students. This program was a resounding success last year, we had an 80% participation rate and would like to see that number even higher this year! The program encourages our students to read outside of school and Mrs. Forbes is already scouting out some really cool prizes for our participants!

Thank you to the individuals and organizations that have generously donated school supplies. We have received multiple donations of backpacks and other school supplies so that any child in need receives the supplies necessary to get the school year started off on the right foot. In these difficult economic times for families every little bit helps and we appreciate those who have shown kindness and thoughtfulness by giving to those who are less fortunate than others.

Enjoy what we hope will be some beautiful fall weather and we look forward to seeing you at games and other school events in the near future!

Sincerely,
Bill Dorritie
William F. Dorritie
Superintendent

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The first Parent/Teacher Conference days of the year will be held on Thursday, November 16 and Friday, November 17 for grades PreK-12. Two afternoons plus one evening (11/16) will be set aside to enable all parents to meet with their child's classroom teacher. Elementary report cards will be handed out at the conference. Secondary students will receive their report cards as in the past. Look for more details in the November newsletter.

Please remember that parents do not have to wait until these dates to meet with your child's teachers. If you have any questions, please contact the school to set up an appointment.

SchoolTool Information

Dear Parents,

Laurens Central School has switched student management systems from PowerSchool to SchoolTool. As a result, the PowerSchool Parent Portal is no longer available for your use. However, the Parent Portal for SchoolTool is up and running for students in grades 7-12. If you would like to create an account for the Parent Portal in SchoolTool, please contact me via email at jmushtare@laurenschools.org or through Parent Square and include your name and the name of your student(s). Once we process your request for account activation, you will receive an email at the email address that we have on file that will assist you in creating your account. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

John Mushtare
Building Principal



School Board Recognition Week

The week of October 16-20 is "School Board Recognition Week". This special week has been designated to commend school board members for their dedicated service to the children of New York State, and we are inviting you to join us in demonstrating your appreciation of these outstanding individuals. School Board members are dedicated to serving children and providing strong educational programs. They devote many hours of service to public education and continually strive for improvement, excellence and progress in education.

Please join us in honoring and giving thanks to our school board members. A kind note or phone call would be greatly appreciated. Write a personal letter of thanks for the endless hours these individuals donate to our school. Attend the October board meeting to say a special "thank you" in person.

Whatever way you choose, please support our Board of Education. They work hard for our community and deserve our thanks and words of encouragement.

LCS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

Who's New at Laurens Central School

VICTORIA MUNRO



Hi everyone, my name is Victoria (Tori) Munro, I am the new Secretary to the School Counselors at LCS! I am so excited to be part of the LCS family and community. The past two years I lived in Saint Petersburg, FL working in ABA therapy. Over the summer I moved back to my hometown of Milford, NY and am currently pursuing a bachelor's in psychology through SUNY Empire! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working and getting to know you all as the year goes on!

KAYLA WELSH



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself! My name is Kayla Welsh (formally Johnson) and I am so excited to be teaching 6th grade this year. This is my 2nd year teaching 6th grade, but it will be my first-year teaching here at Laurens. Last year I taught 6th grade science at Norwich Middle School. I am a 2017 LCS graduate and I graduated from SUNY ESF with a bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology in 2020. I am currently pursuing my master's degree at SUNY Plattsburgh in Childhood Education. Before teaching, I had a fisheries research job and traveled to the west coast to educate and interview fishermen. I just got married this September to my husband Jacob. We are currently in the process of building a house and have an adorable 10-month-old beagle puppy named Tracker. I am very excited to be teaching at my homeschool and cannot wait for the fun we will have this year.

SHAWN DIETZ



My name is Shawn Dietz and I am a new Teacher's Aide at LCS. I grew up on a farm in Cedarville, NY and graduated from Mt. Markham. I played college football for Dean College in Massachusetts. I have worked with children for six years and am excited to be in a school environment again.

JENNIFER SHUTTERS



It's my pleasure to be a full time employee of Laurens Central School. Your children will see me in the Cafeteria helping to serve their meals. I have lived in Laurens for nine years and have two children that attend LCS. My outside interests are animals and spending time with my family.

KATARINA MOORE



Hi, my name is Katarina Moore and I am a new Teacher's Aide at LCS. I am an alumna of Laurens – Class of 2016. After graduating I moved to Oneonta and have worked at Cornucopia Thrift Shop for the past five years. I do not have any children of my own, but I do have four fur babies, Brantley, Buddy, Stella, and Ozzy. I live with my boyfriend and in our free time, we like to hike and explore new places. When I'm alone, I like to cook and try new recipes; I get that from my Nana. Working with students has been a dream of mine since I was a student here at Laurens.

ABBY TROMBLEY



Hi, I'm Mrs. Trombley, but you may remember me as Miss Gray! I taught 5th grade here at LCS from 2018-2020 and 1st grade from 2020-2022. This past year my husband and I moved to Glens Falls for a great job opportunity, and I spent the year teaching kindergarten at Queensbury Elementary School. Unfortunately, the plant my husband got a job at closed down (after 130 years in service!). He since regained a position at his old company here, which means I got to come back to Laurens! I'm very happy to be back and excited to be teaching 4th grade this year. We are back for good now as we recently had a son, Weston, and want to raise him here as it is such a wonderful place to grow up. I am so lucky to be teaching some of my former 1st graders and have absolutely loved reconnecting with old students who I didn't have the chance to see last year. It's great to be back!

*Welcome to Laurens CSD!
Have a Great Year!*



Share and Shine

The focus of this month's character trait will be on *Self-Control*. Self-control is when the student is able to express feelings in positive ways and use appropriate behavior. Throughout the month of October and the rest of the school year teachers in K-6 will be teaching students the importance of good character. On October 27 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. However, all are welcome to attend! Parking in the bus loop is **not** advised as buses arrive after 2:30 and you will be unable to leave while the buses are in the loop.

The LCS Music Department is pleased to present its

Fall Concert

on

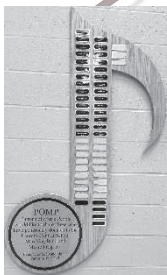
Thursday, October 19 at 6:30pm

in Laurens Central School
Multi-Purpose Room

Featured ensembles will be:

Concert Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers,
Elementary Choir, & Junior Band

Patrons Of Music People



POMP would like to thank those who have generously donated to the Laurens Central School Music Program. Donors who have contributed \$100 or more have been recognized with a name plate on the "Music Note" found in the LCS Multi-Purpose Room. If you would like to make a donation, please complete and mail the form below.

Donor Levels

Benefactor—\$250 and up; Patron—\$100-\$249

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Detach and send with check payable to: POMP,
c/o Markus Ling, 55 Main St., Laurens, NY 13796

Athletic Hall of Fame

The purpose of the Laurens Central School Athletic Hall of Fame is to recognize those individuals who through their accomplishments have brought pride and distinction to our school and community as an athlete, coach, administrator, or as a contributor to the development and success of the Laurens Central School Athletic Program. If you wish to nominate an individual for consideration of membership to the Hall of Fame, please contact Mr. Steve West, Athletic Director, to pick up an application form or go to our website www.laurenschools.org, go to athletics on the left hand side and then choose Athletic Hall of Fame By-Laws.

To be eligible for selection to the LCS Hall of Fame candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Election to the LCS Hall of Fame shall be open to persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the school as a superior competitor in athletics, and who last competed at LCS ten or more years prior to the date of induction.
- Male or female participants in any recognized form of sports competition are eligible for nomination.
- Athletes must be Laurens Central School graduates.
- Nominees must have demonstrated good citizenship and character in their lives both during their years in high school and after.
- It is also important that the Committee consider the athlete's overall contribution to his/her sport both during high school and beyond, and to weigh carefully both high school achievements and overall achievements as a measure of overall success in one's sport(s).
- A coach or administrator shall be considered only after leaving the LCS Athletic department program.
- An outstanding team can be voted into the Hall of Fame as a team inductee, but must also wait ten (10) years after the team competed last.
- Nominations will be accepted for any athlete, coach, administrator or contributor who through his/her commitment, sacrifices, and dedication to the LCS Athletic Program has brought pride and distinction to our school and community.

Guidelines

- Athletes must have been graduated for a period of at least ten (10) years.
- The eligibility timeline does not apply to coaches, athletic directors, administrators or contributor, however, they must have completed their tenure with the district.

Method of Election:

- Nominations shall be received from any friend of LCS Athletics or any family member of any individual meeting the qualifications listed above.
- Nominations must be made on the appropriate application form to be considered. Please contact Mr. Steve West, Athletic Director at (607) 432-2050 for application forms or go to our website.
- All forms must be completed and received by October 30 to be considered for induction this year.

A complete copy of the LCS Athletic Hall of Fame By-Laws can be obtained on our website or by contacting the main office.

October 2023 School Counseling Office News

COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

LCS will be participating in a College Application Week from October 23 through the 26. During this week, Mrs. Cleveland (our new college and career point person!) will give seniors extra attention to help them with their college application and financial aid information. Seniors should have at least a few different colleges they would like to work on applying to. Mrs. Cleveland will be in the Counseling Office a few days a week to help seniors through the whole college application process. On days she is not here, please see Mr. Gardner if you have questions, and he will help!

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS AND VISITS TO COLLEGES

Mr. Gardner and Mrs. Cleveland will be planning field trips to colleges and days for college representatives to come in to talk to seniors and juniors. As more gets planned, the students will be notified!

INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

Seniors should begin working on college applications as soon as possible and complete them no later than December vacation. If applying for Early Action or Early Decision, these deadlines are usually November 1 or 15.

Seniors should now ask Mr. Gardner, teachers, coaches, employers, and advisors for college letters of recommendation. Please give them as much notice as possible—a rushed letter is not the best letter!

There will be a financial aid information night for seniors and their parents this fall. Once a date is set, a message will be sent out on Parent Square

Don't forget that you may submit your 2023-24 FAFSA as of October 1st this year! It is much easier to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to accomplish this task. Visit www.studentaid.ed.gov and www.fafsa.gov for more information. You will need to register for a FAFSA ID before you can complete the FAFSA. See www.fsaaid.ed.gov to obtain your ID. One parent must register for an ID as well.

PSAT/SAT/ACT EXAMS

Like last year, this year Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT Exam here at Laurens on October 31. Please see Mr. Gardner ASAP to sign up if you have not already. Seniors (and Juniors) can also take the SAT and ACT exams at Oneonta High School, with registration deadlines and exam dates listed below. Students can register for the exams on the CollegeBoard website.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 4.....SUNY Potsdam Rep visit to Laurens
October 6.....SAT registration deadline for 11/4
October 23-27College Application Week
October 25 11:30—Elmira College Rep Visit
October 31 PSAT Exam at Laurens
November 4SAT exam at Oneonta High School
November 3Registration deadline for 12/9 ACT
SUNY schools no longer require SAT scores for admission
Please check to see if the college/s you are applying to require the SAT or ACT for admission
Test fees: SAT: \$60
ACT without writing: \$68; ACT with writing: \$93
PSAT: \$18.00 (Fee waivers available for SAT, ACT, PSAT exams)

Mandated Health Screening News from the Nurse

IT IS THAT TIME! SCREENING WILL BE STARTING!

The State of New York mandates that health related screening be completed in our schools each year. The requirements are as follows:

FOR NEW ENTRANTS:

- Vision: Distance Acuity, Near Vision, Color Perception
- Hearing
- Health Appraisal (Physical)
- Vision Screening: Distance Acuity in Kindergarten and Grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.
- Hearing Screening: Completed in Kindergarten and Grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.
- Scoliosis: Completed in Grades 5 and 7 for girls and 9 for boys. PLEASE NOTE: This may require students' to remove upper body clothing to examine the spine. Students will keep their front covered and all exams are done in private. This screening is only done if the student's physician has not done it in the past year.
- Health Appraisals: Physicals are also required in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11. Student athletes must have an annual physical.

If there are any abnormal findings, or cause for concern, the school nurse will contact you. In the event that additional evaluation is needed, a referral form will be sent home for you to take to your private healthcare provider.

Children need to “learn to be healthy” and need to be “healthy to learn”!

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school's Health Office at (607) 432-2050 ext. 1307.

Thank you,
Crystal Wust, RN, School Nurse

OCTOBER 2023

Laurens Central School

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

Monday

2
 French Toast Sticks
 Chicken Broccoli Alfredo Bake
 Garlic Bread
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

9
NO SCHOOL
COLUMBUS DAY

16
 Waffles
 Chicken & Biscuits
 Peas
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

23
 Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich
 Oven Baked Chicken
 Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

30
 Scrambled Eggs w/Home Fries
 Chicken Bacon Ranch Bake
 Green Beans
 Garlic Bread
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Tuesday

3
 Scrambled Eggs w/Home Fries
 Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos
 Refried Beans
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

10
 Chocolate Chip Pancakes
 Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes
 Peas
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

17
 Breakfast Burrito
 Spaghetti & Meatballs
 Garlic Bread
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

24
 Scrambled Eggs w/Ham
 Sloppy Joe
 Tater Tots
 Cauliflower
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

31
 Waffles w/Sausage
 Chili
 Corn Muffin
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Wednesday

4
 Breakfast Sandwich
 Chicken Parm Wrap
 Brussel Sprouts
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

11
 French Toast Bake w/Strawberries
 Chicken Tenders
 Tater Tots
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

18
 Breakfast Pizza
 Chicken Patty
 French Fries
 Carrots
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

25
 Breakfast on a Stick
 Fish Nuggets
 Sweet Potato Fries
 WRAP DAY
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas

Thursday

5
 Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar & Raisins
 Hamburger/Cheeseburger
 French Fries
 Carrots
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

12
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese
 Chicken Quesadillas
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

19
 Pancakes w/Bacon
 Grilled Cheese
 Tomato Soup
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

26
 Assorted Muffins and Yogurt
 Ultimate Chicken Bowl
 Roll
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Friday

6
NO SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE DAY

13
 Pancakes w/Sausage
 Assorted Stromboli's
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

20
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuit
 Assorted Pizza
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

27
 French Toast Sticks
 Assorted Stromboli's
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

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

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM HELPING HOUSEHOLDS CONNECT

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider if the household contributes more than \$10 but less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?



A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Participates in the Free and reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
 - SNAP
 - Medicaid
 - Federal Public Housing Assistance
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - WIC
 - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
 - or Lifeline;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs and lives on Qualifying Tribal lands:
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Tribal TANF
 - Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 - Tribal Head Start (income based)



Check out [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP) for a Consumer FAQ and other program resources.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

- Step 1:** Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.
Step 2: Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete. Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.



Call 877-384-2575 or find more information about the Affordable Connectivity Program at:

FCC.GOV/ACP



LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Laurens, New York 13796

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October 2023 Calendar of Events

October

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Community Basketball, Gym, 10:00 a.m. | 15 | Community Basketball, Gym 10:00 a.m. |
| 2 | BMS vs. Edmeston @ Milford
GMS @ Schenevus
Colorguard Advocates, Trophy Hallway, 7:00 p.m. | 16 | BMS @ Morris
GMS @ Richfield Springs
Booster Club, Mtg. Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. |
| 3 | GVS @ Milford
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. | 17 | Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. |
| 4 | BMS @ Cherry Valley-Springfield | 18 | BMS vs. Worcester @ Milford
GMS vs. Morris
BOE Mtg, Rm 115, 7:30 p.m. |
| 5 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. | 19 | Fall Concert—5-12th grades, 6:30 p.m. |
| 6 | Superintendent's Conference Day—No School
BVS @ Schenevus
GVS @ Worcester
BMS vs. GMU @ Laurens
GMS vs. GMU @ Laurens—Upper Field | 21 | Zumba MPR, 9:00 am |
| 7 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 am
BVS vs. Franklin (SUNY Oneonta field), 9:00 a.m. | 22 | Community Basketball, Gym, 10:00 a.m. |
| 8 | Community Basketball, Gym, 10:00 a.m. | 23 | College Application Week
GMS vs. Milford |
| 9 | Columbus Day—No School
GVS Playoffs #1 | 24 | Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. |
| 10 | BVS Playoffs #1
Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. | 25 | BMS @ Franklin
GMS @ GMU |
| 11 | Individual Picture Day PK-11
GMS vs. Edmeston
POMP Mtg via Zoom, 7:00 p.m. | 26 | Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. |
| 12 | Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. | 27 | Share & Shine MPR 2:00 p.m. |
| 14 | Tri-Valley Championships @ Wright Campus
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. | 28 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.
All-County Auditions @ Schenevus
Trunk or Treat, Parking Lot, 1-3 p.m. |
| | | 29 | Community Basketball, Gym, 10:00 a.m. |
| | | 31 | Happy Halloween
Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 p.m. |