



Leopard's Tale

Volume IX, Number VII

October 2024

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 26, 2024 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.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Hosted by Laurens Central School Key Club

**Friday, November 1, 2024
3 to 7p.m.**

In the LCS Cafeteria

Appointments may be made at www.redcrossblood.org

Walk-ins will be welcome.

The Class of 2025 will be having a Holiday Greenery Sale

**With Door Wreaths & Swags
from October 7 -19
Delivery will be the week
of November 25**

Please contact a member of the 12th grade class, Mrs. Cox or Mrs. Mann for ordering information and pricing



Thank you to
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Leopard's Tale.

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 we are set for our October Open Houses.

If you are a parent of a 7th-12th grader and have not already set up your School Tool parent portal account please contact Mr. Mushtare. 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; if you are having any issues with viewing grades, tests or assignments please contact Mr. Mushtare at your convenience. It is also our goal to grant student access to School Tool this year so that students can monitor their own grades and assignments.

I would like to thank the Laurens Together group for coming in and recognizing our maintenance and custodial staff on our second superintendent's conference day. There is a tremendous amount of summer work that goes into getting the school ready for students to return in September. We are consistently receiving positive comments about the condition of our facilities and that is due to the diligence of Mr. West and his staff and the pride that they take in how our school and grounds look for our students, staff, and the public.

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.

We should soon be receiving more details from the New York State Education Department about their updated "Profile of a Graduate." This should include updated pathways to graduation, alternatives to Regents exams for course credit, etc. As we receive that information we will be sure to share it with you.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Dorritie". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William F. Dorritie, Superintendent

Parent Portal

Dear Parents,

The Parent Portal for SchoolTool is up and running for students in grades 7-12. The Parent Portal will allow you to see grades, attendance, and discipline reports for your child. 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

Parent/Teacher Conferences

The first Parent/Teacher conference days of the year will be held on Thursday, November 21st and Friday, November 22nd for grades PreK-12. Two afternoons plus one evening 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.

Who's New at LCS



TARYN OSTROFF

Hello! My name is Taryn Ostroff (Miss O). I am the new 7-9 ELA teacher at Laurens Central School. I am 49 years old and have a daughter who attends Morris CSD. I have been substituting on and off since 2000 and I taught 7th grade at Morris CSD last year under the wing of the amazing Miss Turner. I received my teaching certification from Utica University last month and am thrilled to have accepted the opportunity to join the Laurens community. I am excited to work with my fellow teachers and my new students!



NICHOLAUS SMITH

Hello, my name is Nicholaus Smith. I was born in 1995, and was raised in Hudson NY. After graduating high school, I went to SUNY Morrisville where I met my wife! I transferred from SUNY Morrisville to The College of St. Rose for Music education. I graduated from St. Rose in 2019 which was when I got hired as a Brass and Percussion Teaching Artist. A year later I continued with that job and was also hired by the Schenectady City School District. Since then, I have gotten married to my wife Rachael Smith and I have also received my Masters in Conducting. I'm now very happy to be here at Laurens Central School as its Instrumental Music Teacher.



TOM LISI

Hi! I'm Tom, but you can call me Mr. Lisi. I'm 28, grew up on Long Island, and graduated from Hofstra University with my Master's in School Counseling in 2022. Since then, I've bounced around doing substitute teacher work where needed. I'm very excited to be here at Laurens Central School as your new Secondary Counselor. Come down to talk whenever you need to talk, I'll be in the Counseling Office waiting.

Likes: Fantasy, Card Games, Good Food

Dislikes: Germs, Cold Weather, Running out of Coffee

welcome

Supporting Success for ALL Students



THANK YOU SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS!

School Board Recognition Week

October 14 - 18, 2024



School Board Recognition Week

The week of October 14-18 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-Allen

October 2024 School Counseling News

COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

During this week, Mr. Lisi (Our new secondary school counselor) 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. SUNY free application weeks begin Monday, October 21 and end Sunday, November 3. Students will hear more about college awareness and application activities soon!

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS AND VISITS TO COLLEGES

Mr. Lisi will be planning field trips to colleges and days for college representatives to come in to talk to seniors and juniors. As more get 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. Lisi, 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!

PSAT/SAT/ACT EXAMS

Like last year, this year Juniors will have the opportunity to take the PSAT Exam here at Laurens on October 28. Please see Mr. Lisi ASAP to sign up if you have not already. Seniors (and Juniors) can also take the SAT and ACT exams, with registration deadlines and exam dates listed below. Students can register for the SAT exam on CollegeBoard.org, and the ACT exam on ACT.org.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 18: SAT registration deadline for 11/2

October 21-November 3: College Application Weeks

October 28: PSAT Exam at Laurens

November 2: SAT exam offered at the following High Schools: Norwich, Herkimer, Greene, New Hartford, and Binghamton



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.

The LCS Music Department is pleased to present its

Fall Concert

Tuesday, October 22nd , 2024. 6:30 p.m.
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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Donor Levels

Benefactor\$250 and up

Patron\$100-249

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

Mandated Health Screening

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

**Reminder
School Picture Day
Wednesday,
October 23, 2024**

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 the Athletics tab 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) year 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 2024 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1BVS vs. Schenevus @ Laurens
GVS @ CVS/SS
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.
Laurens Village Meeting, Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. | 14 Columbus Day—No School
BVS Playoffs #2 |
| 2Elementary Open House, 7:00 p.m. | 15GVS Playoffs #2
BMS vs. Morris
GMS @ Morris
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 3GVS vs. Edmeston/Morris
BJVS @ Unadilla Valley
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. | 16BOE Mtg, Rm 115, 7:30 p.m.
POMP Mtg via Teams, 7:00 p.m. |
| 4BMS vs. Edmeston @ Milford
GMS @ Edmeston | 17BMS @ Sharon Springs
GMS @ Milford
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| 5 BVS vs. WAJ @ Milford
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. | 19Tri-Valley Championships
Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m. |
| 7BVS @ Windham Ashland-Jewitt
BMS @ Richfield Springs
GMS vs. Richfield Springs
Colorguard Advocates Meeting,
Trophy Hallway 6:00 p.m. | 21College Application Week
GMS @ Afton
Booster Club, Mtg. Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. |
| 8BJVS vs. Unatego @ Laurens
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. | 22Fall Concert, MPR, 6:30 p.m. |
| 9GMS vs. Unatego
High School Open House, 7:00 p.m. | 23Individual Picture Day PK-11
GMS vs. GMU |
| 10BVS Playoffs #1
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 pm | 24Zumba, Cafe, 6:00 pm |
| 11Superintendent's Conference Day—No School
GVS Playoffs #1
BJVS @ Unatego | 25Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m. |
| 12Zumba, MPR, 9:00 am | 26All-County Auditions @ Schenevus
Zumba, MPR 9:00 a.m.
Village Trunk or Treat, Parking Lot 1-3 p.m. |
| | 29Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |
| | 31Happy Halloween
Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m. |

*Dates and times subject to change.

Please check the calendar on the school's website
for up to date information.

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 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: _____

OCTOBER 2024

Laurens Central School

Breakfast Elementary \$2.05
 Breakfast H.S. \$2.20
 Lunch Elementary \$2.30
 Lunch H.S. \$2.55

Monday

7
 Breakfast Burrito
 Chicken Broccoli Alfredo Bake
 Garlic Bread
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

14
NO SCHOOL
COLUMBUS DAY

21
 Pancakes w/Bacon
 Ultimate Chicken Bowl
 WW Roll
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

28
 Pancakes w/Sausage
 Chicken & Biscuits
 Peas
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Tuesday

1
 Pancakes w/Bacon
 Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos
 Refried Beans
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

8
 Breakfast on a Stick
 Sloppy Joe
 French Fries
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

15
 French Toast Bake
 w/Strawberries
 Chicken Quesadillas
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

22
 Breakfast Burrito
 Swedish Meatballs w/Pasta
 Garlic Bread
 Green Beans
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

29
 Breakfast Pizza
 Soft or Hard Shelled Tacos
 Refried Beans
 Corn
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Wednesday

2
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese
 & Home Fries
 Chicken Tenders
 Brussel Sprouts
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

9
 Breakfast Pizza
 Chicken Stir Fry
 Egg Roll
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

16
 Scrambled Eggs w/ Ham
 Fish Nuggets
 Sweet Potato Fries
ASSORTED WRAP DAY
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas

23
 Egg Hash Brown Bake
 Chicken Patty on a Bun
 French Fries
 Cauliflower
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

30
 Scrambled Eggs w/Cheese
 & Home Fries
 Chicken Parm Wrap
 Broccoli
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Thursday

3
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuit
 Hamburger/Cheeseburger
 Tater Tots
 Carrots
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

10
 Breakfast Sandwich
 Meatloaf
 Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy
 Peas
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

17
 Waffles w/Sausage
 Goulash
 Garlic Bread
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

24
 French Toast Sticks
 Chili
 Corn Muffins
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

31
 Sausage Gravy & Biscuit
 Macaroni & Cheese
 Carrots
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

Friday

4
 Oatmeal w/Brown Sugar
 & Raisins
 Assorted Pizza
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

11
NO SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT
CONFERENCE DAY

18
 Chocolate Chip Pancakes
 Assorted Stromboli's
 Spinach and Romaine Salad
 Soup/Salad w/Chick Peas or Sandwich

25
 Breakfast Biscuit Sandwich
 Assorted Pizza
 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

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LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL
Laurens, New York 13796

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Key Club Raffle

L.C.S. Key Club members will be selling tickets for a Halloween Treat basket October 21 to the 30, 2024 to benefit U.N.I.C.E.F. Drawing will be held at the end of the school day on October 30.

Tickets will be \$.50 each or 3 for \$1 and may be purchased from Key Club members during lunch periods.



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 25 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 Cat's Meow Boutique

For several years LCS held a "give and take" free clothing event for all students. This has become, during the past few years, a free clothing closet, "The Cat's Meow Boutique", for students of all ages to "shop." Currently, we are looking for a few clothing donations. Gently used clothing, clean and in good repair, or new items would be appreciated.

We are in need of:

- Girls' sizes:** (Sizes 5-18) Leggings, sweatpants, gym shorts
Long and short sleeved tops
Socks and underwear **must be new*
- Boys' sizes:** (Sizes 5-18) Sweatpants, gym shorts
Sweatshirts, long or short sleeved t-shirts
Socks and underwear **must be new*
- Women's sizes:** Leggings, yoga pants, sweatpants, gym shorts
Sweatshirts
Socks and underwear **must be new*
- Men's sizes:** Sweatpants, gym shorts
Sweatshirts
Socks and underwear **must be new*

Sneakers in both children's and adult sizes.

If you are willing to donate any of the above, please contact Lindsey Gifford at 607-432-2050 to arrange a drop-off time. Thank you for your continued support.