



# Leopard's Tale

Volume VII, Number II

October 2022

LAURENS CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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**Reminder**  
**School Picture Day**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2022**



## 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 for your cooperation!**



**Class of 2023 Fundraiser**  
 The senior class will be selling  
**Gertrude Hawk chocolates**  
**from October 3-14.**

If you are interested in ordering, please contact a member of the class, Mrs. Lewis, or Ms. Sander for information or you may order online at <https://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/>  
 Delivery is scheduled for before Christmas.

Thank you to  
**King & King**  
**Architects** for  
 sponsoring  
 this issue of the  
*Leopard's Tale.*

**The Class of 2025 will be having a**  
**Holiday Greenery Sale**  
**of Door Wreaths & Swags from**  
**October 25 through November 5**



Delivery will be the week of November 22

Please contact a member of the 10th grade class, Mrs. Cox  
 or Mrs. Mann for ordering information and pricing.

## From the Superintendent

We have had a wonderful 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, our Open Houses are in the books and our Drama Club has started practicing for their November performance. It's great to have our building fully open and our calendars packed with activities that have been limited or cancelled for over two years.

I feel that our "Away for the Day" cell phone policy has been a great success so far. We have honestly had very few incidents where phones needed to be taken away. Students and staff have reacted positively to the changes (even students who we thought would have a very tough time with the transition) and it's excellent to see our students actually having more face to face conversations again! We have also noticed a marked decrease in the number of cyberbullying complaints.

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 Donnitte*  
William F. Dorritie  
Superintendent

## School Board Recognition Week

The week of October 17-21 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

*Thank you for  
your service!*

## Curriculum Corner

Below are websites that provide practice with reading and math skills for grades PreK-6.

**Abcya.com**—This website includes free reading and math games that address skills at each grade level PreK-6. These are interactive and allow your child to work independently while reviewing skills that are critical to his/her education.

**Storylineonline.net**—This website offers a wide variety of stories that can be read aloud to your child. Listening to stories assists in fostering your child's imagination. It also promotes learning new vocabulary and the understanding of language.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences



The first Parent/Teacher conference day of the year will be held on Friday, November 18 for grades Pre-K-12. There will be no students in school on this day to enable 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.

## From the Principal

The PowerSchool Parent Portal is a great way to maintain communication between home and school. Parents of students in grades 7-12 can log into the portal to check grades, attendance, assignments that might be missing, etc. In addition, we now have the PowerSchool app active so that you can conveniently monitor grades and attendance from your tablet or smartphone.

Our goal is to have as many parents as possible sign up for the portal this year. If you already have a parent portal account you do NOT need to set up a new one for this year. Your user name and password from last year are still active.

### TO CREATE A NEW POWERSCHOOL PARENT PORTAL ACCOUNT

1. Email Mr. Mushtare at [jmushtare@laurencs.org](mailto:jmushtare@laurencs.org) to receive an "Access ID" and "Access Password."
2. Once you have these, go to the "Parents Page" of the school web site ([www.laurencs.org](http://www.laurencs.org)).
3. Click on "PowerSchool Parent Portal" on the right hand side.
4. Click on "Create New Account" when the login screen appears.
5. Enter the following information: your First Name, Last Name, email address, new User Name and new Password. Note: User Name and Password cannot be the same. Password is required to be at least six characters in length.
6. Enter your Student's Name, Access ID and Access Password and select your relationship to this student in the Relationship field.
7. Add any additional students until all students are listed with the Access ID, Access Password and your relationship to them.
8. Once you have entered information for all students you want to view information for, Click on the "Enter" button at the bottom of the screen. If there are no errors, the system will take you to a login screen. You can then use your new username and password to access your new PowerSchool Parent Portal account.

*\*\*If there are errors, you must correct them, re-enter password information and click enter again.*

### TO PUT THE POWERSCHOOL APP ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

1. Log into your Powerschool Parent Portal account through the Internet on your smartphone or tablet
2. Once you are logged in look at the lower left hand side of the screen. You should see buttons to download the app for your Apple or Android phone and a box with a "school code."
3. Write down the school code, download the app and enter the school code when asked. You should then be all set to go!

Please call Mr. Mushtare at 432-2050, ext. 1220 if you have any questions.

## October 2022 School Counseling Office News

### COLLEGE APPLICATION WEEK

LCS will be participating in HESC's College Application Week for the 5th year, from October 17th through the 21st. Seniors will have one-on-one support and assistance in completing their college applications in the high school library. Parents are also encouraged to participate. More information about this event is coming soon and will be sent home to all families of seniors. It was a huge success in previous years and we expect the same results this year!

### 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 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!
- Don't forget that you may submit your 2022-23 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](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) and [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) for more information. You will need to register for a FAFSA ID before you can complete the FAFSA. See [www.fsaidth.gov](http://www.fsaidth.gov) to obtain your ID. One parent must register for an ID as well.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### October

- 1 SAT exam at Oneonta High School
- 7 Registration deadline for 11/5 SAT
- 12 PSAT Exam at Laurens CS
- 17-21 College Application Week

#### November

- 3 Registration deadline for 12/3 SAT
- 5 SAT exam at Oneonta High School

*\*SUNY is test optional this year\**

*\*Please check to see if the college/s you are applying to require the SAT or ACT for admission\**

#### Test fees

- SAT without writing: \$60
- ACT without writing: \$ 63
- ACT with writing: \$88
- PSAT: \$18.00

(Fee waivers available for SAT, ACT, PSAT exams)

## Who's New at LCS

### OMAR NELSON



Hi! My name is Omar Nelson, and I am one of the new fifth grade teachers at LCS. I am from Oneonta, NY. I graduated from Hartwick College this past Spring, receiving my Bachelor's in History with a Specialization in Elementary Education. I spent 10 weeks observing and student teaching at LCS during my last semester, and I couldn't be more excited to be back. I love the community feel at LCS and I look forward to beginning my career here.

### FRAN KNARICH



My name is Fran Knarich and I am a new Teacher Aide for 2nd grade. I am originally from Dutchess County but have lived in Laurens since 2008. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone and I thank those who have already made me feel welcome.

### KARLI HULBERT



My name is Karli Hulbert and I am a new Teacher Aide for Kindergarten. My husband and I live in Otego. A fun fact about me is I own a horse farm and all summer long I travel to pro rodeos to compete in barrel racing and breakaway roping. I also have three labs and a large beef farm. When I am not at school, I am at my farms with my dogs and husband. I am very excited for my first year at Laurens!

### MOLLY BELLO



My name is Molly Bello, and I am thrilled to be teaching High School English here at Laurens. I am a first-year teacher and recently graduated from Ithaca College with my master's degree in English Education. My hobbies include reading, singing, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. I am originally from Richfield Springs, so I am quite familiar with the area. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone this year.

### LINDSEY LAING



Hello, my name is Lindsey Laing. I am thrilled to be a part of the Laurens faculty! I am an LCS alumni, and I then went on to attend SUNY Oneonta where I obtained my bachelor's degree in Childhood Education. Previously, I taught fifth grade at Morris Central School, but I am excited for the opportunity to be back at my alma mater. The fourth graders are full of energy and enthusiasm that I adore! In my free time, I enjoy hiking, basketball, and

spending time with my family. I have a German shepherd at home that keeps me busy! I look forward to getting to know my colleagues, students, and the Laurens community. Best wishes for a wonderful year ahead!

### KEN OLSEN



My name is Ken Olsen and I am a Teacher Aide in Ms. Laing's 4th grade class. I live in Otego and am a retired Police Sergeant serving 21 years on the New York City and City of Oneonta Police Departments. I was also a Teacher Aide for DCMO BOCES for over seven years.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and a Minor in Educational Psychology, and was also certified as an LTA. I look forward to working at LCS.

### PATRICIA DUNHAM



Hello, my name is Mrs. Dunham. My husband and I have lived in Laurens for four years. We have four daughters, two of which have graduated from Laurens. I'm a Licensed Practical Nurse and currently took a new role here at LCS working as a Teacher Aide in Mrs. Winchester's 3rd grade. You will always see my family at all Laurens sporting events cheering on LCS.

### JENNIFER PRINCE



Hello, my name is Jennifer Prince. I am thrilled to be part of the Laurens Leopards staff as a Teacher Aide in Ms. Loforte's 3rd grade. As a former Head-start and Pre-K Aide, I am excited to be able to continue teaching and learning from our youth. I'm a mom of an amazing 10 year old who also attends Laurens. We spend our free time reading, camping, fishing, and hiking.

### ROSS GARDNER



Hi! My name is Ross Gardner. The 2022-23 will be my first year as the LCS High School Counselor. I grew up in Fulton, New York and graduated High School in 2014. After four years at SUNY Oswego, swimming on the college team for two of those years, I earned my Bachelor's in Psychology, graduating in 2018. I moved to Alfred that summer, attending Alfred University's School Counseling Graduate program part time and graduating with my Master's degree in 2021. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife and newborn, watching Marvel movies/shows, playing my Nintendo Switch, and getting outside for fresh air!

## Who's New at LCS

### ERIK PARRY



My name is Erik Parry and I teach Instrumental Music here at Laurens. I originally grew up in Sauquoit, New York, which is near Utica. I went to College at The Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York. For hobbies, I enjoy building and riding electric bikes, hanging out with my family, and woodworking. I am very excited to be teaching here at Laurens and look forward to working with the students and staff.

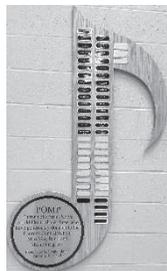
### REBECCA PEAKES



My name is Miss Peakes, and this is my first year teaching first grade here at Laurens. Outside the classroom, I enjoy hiking, trail running, and mountain biking... spending any time I can exploring the great outdoors! I am so excited and grateful to be a part of the wonderful and welcoming community here in Laurens, and I'm looking forward to a fantastic school year!

# Welcome to LCS!

## 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



The LCS Music Department is pleased to present its

## Fall Concert

on

**Thursday, October 20, 2022**

at

**6:30 p.m.**

in

Laurens Central School  
Multi-Purpose Room

*Featured ensembles will be:*

Concert Band, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers,  
and Elementary Choir

## News From The Nurse

### 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



## Library News. . .

*Welcome back readers!*

I hope you had a wonderful summer vacation. This year we are excited to meet and greet our PRE-K-K readers!

Please check the library website: <https://laopals.oncboces.org/bin/home> regularly to browse the library catalog for available books and e-books, access our various educational databases, suggestions on some of the best FREE reading websites, and more!

I look forward to meeting you at the Elementary Open House: Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 p.m.

—Mrs. Linda Babbage, Media Specialist.

Grade Level	Number of books permitted to borrow
Pre-K	1
Kindergarten	1
Grade 1	2
Grade 2	2
Grade 3	3
Grade 4	3
Grade 5	3
Grade 6	3

## 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 28 at 2:00 pm 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.

*See you on the 28th!*

## 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.laurenschs.org](http://www.laurenschs.org), go to sports 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.

# FALL BOOK

# READING CHALLENGE

## *Fall in love with a good book!*

- ◆ Read a book with a brown or orange cover.
- ◆ Read a book with "fall" in the title.
- ◆ Read a book set in a cabin or the woods.
- ◆ Read a book by a Latinx author to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.
- ◆ Read a book by an author you are thankful for.
- ◆ Read a book written by an Indigenous author.
- ◆ Read a book that takes place in the fall.
- ◆ Read a book published in September, October, or November 2021.
- ◆ Read a book in which characters travel to visit family.
- ◆ Read a book in which characters use magic.
- ◆ Read a book that features baking or includes a recipe.
- ◆ Read a book in which a character is adopted or is adopting.
- ◆ Read a book recommended by a librarian.



Let us know how you do! Share with your librarian, Mrs. Babbage, [lbabbage@laurencs.org](mailto:lbabbage@laurencs.org)

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

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## October 2022 Calendar of Events

**OCTOBER**

- |    |   |    |  |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1  | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.<br>HOMECOMING<br>BMS vs Edmeston, 11:00 a.m.<br>GMS vs Edmeston, 12:30 p.m.<br>GVS vs Stamford, 2:00 p.m.<br>BVS vs Sharon Springs, 4:00 p.m. | 12 | Individual Picture Day K-11<br>POMP Mtg via Zoom, 7:00 p.m.                                |
| 2  | Community Basketball, Gym, 7:00 p.m.  | 13 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  |
| 3  | GMS @ Milford<br>Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.<br>Colorguard Advocates, Rm. 129A, 6:00 p.m.   | 14 | GMS vs. Schenevus  |
| 4  | BVS @ Cherry Valley-Springfield<br>GVS @ Franklin<br>Village Meeting, Rm 129A, 6:30 p.m.<br>Chamber Choir, Rm. 123, 7:00 p.m.                                       | 15 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  |
| 5  | BMS vs. Franklin @ Milford<br>GMS vs. GMU   | 16 | Community Basketball, Gym, 7:00 p.m.   |
| 6  | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.   | 17 | College Application Week<br>Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.<br>Booster Club Mtg., Rm 129A, 7:00 p.m. |
| 7  | <b>Conference Day—No School</b><br>BMS @ Cherry Valley-Springfield<br>GMS vs. Cherry Valley-Springfield   | 18 | BMS vs. Worcester @ Milford<br>GMS @ Worcester<br>Chamber Choir, Rm. 123, 7:00 p.m.        |
| 8  | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.<br>BVS @ Franklin (SUNY Oneonta field), 11:00 a.m.  | 19 | BOE Mtg., MPR, 7:30 p.m.   |
| 9  | Community Basketball, Gym, 7:00 p.m.  | 20 | BMS @ Sharon Springs<br>GMS vs. Sharon Springs<br>Fall Concert—5-12th grades, 6:30 p.m.    |
| 10 | <b>Columbus Day—No School</b><br>Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  | 21 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  |
| 11 | BMS vs. Unatego @ Laurens<br>GMS @ Unatego (Otego Elementary)<br>Chamber Choir, Rm. 123, 7:00 p.m.  | 22 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  |
|    |   | 23 | Community Basketball, Gym, 7:00 p.m.   |
|    |   | 24 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  |
|    |   | 25 | Chamber Choir, Rm. 123, 7:00 p.m.  |
|    |   | 27 | Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.  |
|    |   | 28 | Share & Shine, MPR, 2:00 p.m.  |
|    |   | 29 | Zumba, MPR, 9:00 a.m.  |
|    |   | 30 | Community Basketball, Gym, 7:00 p.m.   |
|    |   | 31 | Halloween<br>Zumba, MPR, 6:00 p.m.   |

# AUTUMN

