

LCS News



Volume 49

Issue 2

Spring 2021

Message from Superintendent Campbell

What an incredible journey we have all been on. As you hear me say frequently, "Together...We Are Letchworth." This becomes increasingly evident as we travel this road together. Though the pandemic makes things uncertain at times, we are always comforted by the reality that the Letchworth Community takes care of each other and consistently demonstrates patience and compassion. People often ask me how things are going. I am quick to respond, "Letchworth continues to be a great place to be. We stick together, we find joy in the little things, and we problem solve solutions when difficulties arise. We are happy to all be in school and continue to do it safely."



We have made it to April under some very difficult circumstances. We should never forget what it has required to get to this point. The students have been amazing. Staff continue to show perseverance with resilience and our families remain supportive. I never take this for granted and know it is unique and at times difficult to maintain.

We have been thankful to strategically offer more opportunities to our students. Some of them are resuming sports, HS band and Chorus, Jazz Band, and ongoing plans to offer our Seniors some local trips and activities to build memories. If you entered the school, most things look quite familiar. You would see everyone wearing masks and social distanced in the classrooms, but the rest of our day is pretty normal. Everyone has adjusted quite well and the students say repeatedly, "We are glad to be here!"

Within this newsletter you will see some highlights of the great things going on for students each day. It is truly amazing when you see how the staff has been able to offer a safe, rich and supportive environment under these conditions. **A big thank you to our maintenance staff, food service and transportation staff who have been pushed to the limit each week to adapt and follow so many regulations.**

Although we are always cautious on news out of Albany, we are encouraged by the financial possibilities for school districts. The outlook seems to be more positive and much different from what we heard months ago about 20% cuts. We will see what the final budget means for LCS and be sure to update you in the coming weeks with our yearly budget newsletter. We will be wise and strategic as we plan and examine the financial impact of the pandemic for the next 3-5 years on our local and state economy.

**Together...We Are Letchworth.
Joyfully,**

Todd Campbell



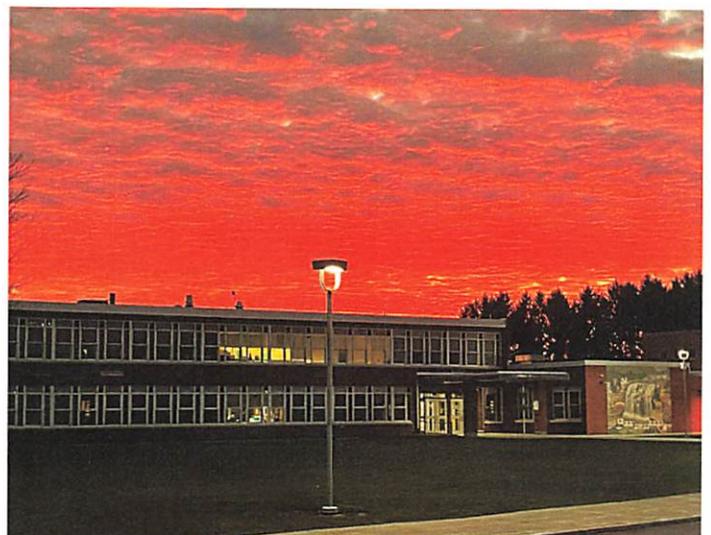
Senior Mural 2021

Mr. Rogers, HS Principal

As part of the Leadership in Action class, Jenna Brace, Kolby Van Slyke, and Trevor Jones designed and brought to life a senior mural to represent the class of 2021. The senior mural project started 3 years ago and is now becoming a tradition at Letchworth. This group of students created a design incorporating each senior's photo labeled with their name on it. The portrait of the falls at Letchworth State Park was painted by Olivia Karasiewicz.

Once they had a design all set they contacted Christine Mead at Southpaw Signz. Christine brought their vision to life by scanning the painting into the middle of the mural and surrounding it with the photos of each senior. When the sign was completed, Christine came to the school where she placed the mural onto the board. The mural turned out better than we could have imagined!

In the end we believe this project was a huge success as everyone loves the outcome. We feel like we captured the essence and represented the Class of 2021.



COVID fun facts at LCS...

Mr. Murray, Assistant Principal

➡ LCS has approximately 55 lunch tables. Those tables have been disinfected approximately 24,750 times since the start of school and this is just during the elementary lunches! This does not include when those tables are used then disinfected for our early morning arrivals, various classes, and during/after the 'Y' program. (Special Note: If you were to include the countless times that Mr. Bean was busy talking and wiped a table that Officer Ivan or Mr. Murray just wiped, this number could actually be doubled!!!)

➡ Christy from our maintenance staff disinfects LCS door handles on a daily basis. She alone has disinfected approximately 120,000 door handles since the start of school. WOW!!!

➡ Finally, to make all of this and other disinfecting efforts possible, LCS has used approximately 300 gallons of disinfectant this school year.

With vaccines on the rise, mask wearing, socially distancing, and the regular disinfecting practices that LCS has been committed to, we will win this battle against COVID!!!"



Changes & Updates to NYS Assessments for Spring 2021

Mrs. Pernesky, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

In a year full of unprecedented change for education, the NYS Department of Education has provided school districts with some guidance for the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math, Science 4 and 8, and Regents exams for June of 2021. Testing remains on the calendar at this time, but NYSED is still waiting on final word from the USDOE about waivers allowing the cancellation of all assessments. We hope to get this information sooner than later, but these are the plans in the meantime.

If the waivers DO NOT get approved, in-person students in grades 3-8 will participate in a single day of ELA and a single day of Math assessments. These tests will be multiple choice in nature, and involve no extensive writing. The same will be scheduled for Science in grades 4 and 8 - a written, multiple choice test with no performance component. All testing accommodations will be provided, as appropriate, and remote students will not be required to come into school for these assessments.

Regents exams at the high school level have also been affected. At this time, NYSED intends to offer only four Regents exams in Algebra I, ELA, Earth Science, and Living Environment, while cancelling all others. Format and accommodations for these exams remain unchanged from previous years, and remote students will not be required to come into school for these assessments. Students will earn an exemption from the cancelled exams as long as they have passed the corresponding course for credit. Should the waiver to the USDOE be granted, ALL Regents exams will be cancelled and courses will culminate in a local final or project.

As always, the district hopes to keep our students and families safe and informed. We will make every effort to continue communicating any additional information or changes that are given over the course of the next few weeks. We are so grateful for the support of our community and to have had our students in-person for almost the entire year! This will certainly be a huge benefit to our students as they prepare for these assessments.

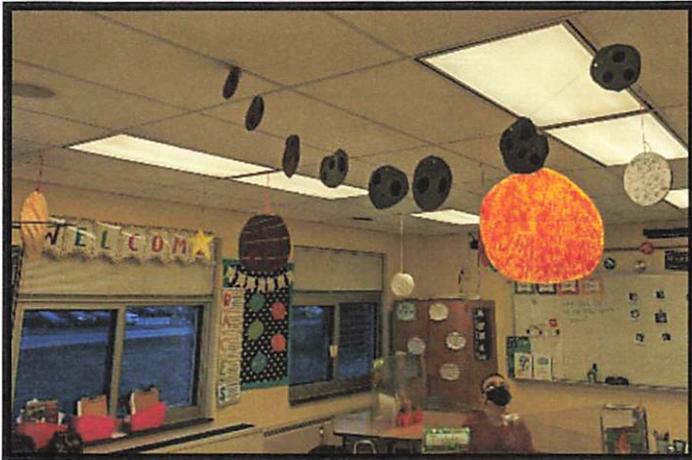
Dates to know:

- April 20 - NYS 3-8 Grade ELA
- May 4 - NYS 3-8 Grade Math
- June 7 - NYS 4 & 8 Grade Science
- June 17 - ELA Regents
- June 22 - Living Environment Regents
- June 23 - Algebra I Regents
- June 24 - Earth Science Regents

Classroom Presentations

Mrs. Leone, MS Principal

One of our 6th grade classes asked me to come in to check out their planets. They had decorated the room with planets they made while learning about the solar system and presenting to their classmates. Here are a couple of pictures of the great work that was done by Mrs. Maerten's class.



IMPORTANT MEDICAID REMINDER

Parents, if your child receives Medicaid, you must reapply every year for your child to continue to be Medicaid eligible. To avoid a lapse in eligibility, please make sure you reapply annually.

2021 MEETING DATES

Board Of Education 7 PM

April 12 & 26

May 10 & 24

June 7 & 21

Public Hearing on Budget

May 10

Budget Vote 12 Noon - 9 PM

May 18

FREE MEALS - PICK-UP ONLY

Free and nutritious meals are available for pick-up.

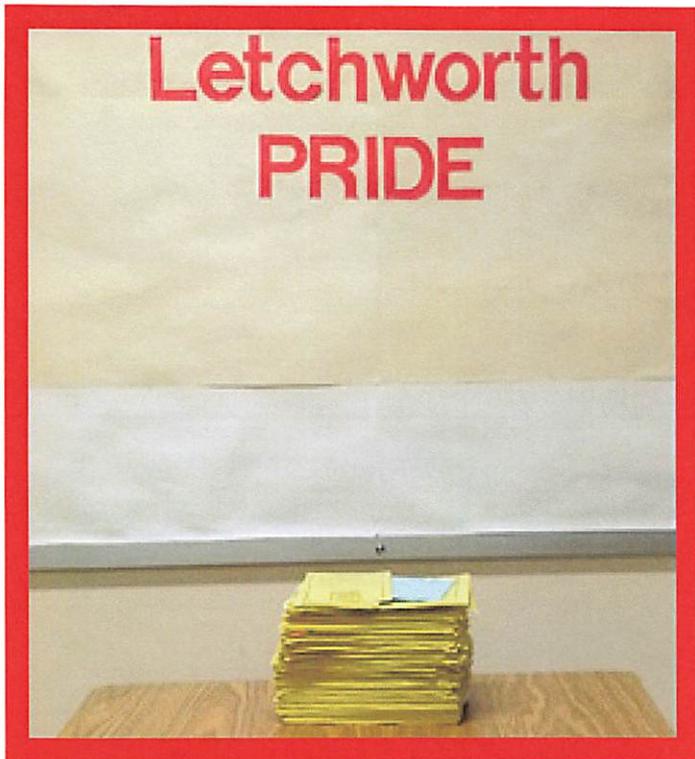
- The program is open to all children age 18 and under.
- Meals must be pre-ordered. To Order - Call (585) 493-3530.
- Meal orders must be made prior to 8:30 AM on any school day.
- Meals are available for pick up between 12:00 - 12:30 PM Monday through Friday on all days school is open.
- If school is closed for a holiday or conference day, no meal pick up will be available.
- Children will receive 1 lunch and 1 breakfast for the next day.
- Any meals not eaten immediately should be refrigerated.
- Please let us know if there are any dietary restrictions.
- Parents/Guardians may pick up meals, the child does not need to be in the vehicle.

Meal pick-up @ Elementary Office **Entrance.**
There is no delivery.

This service helps to provide free and nutritious meals for our remote learners, homeschool students and other children in our community.

• USDA Nondiscrimination Statement: In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. u Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. u To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
 - (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 - (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Bursting with PRIDE

Mr. Murray, Assistant Principal

No doubt COVID has impacted what we would consider a “normal” school year. However, it has not changed our ability to recognize positive student behavior in Mrs. Leone’s Middle School. As the photo shows, PRIDE stamp cards have been utilized as much this year as in previous years.

Students have turned PRIDE cards in for school supplies, mystery bags and supervised lunch with friends outside of the classroom to name just a few of the possible prizes.

A really big hit this year has been the afterschool movie with friends. To date, Mrs. Leone has shown 21 weekly afterschool movies!”

COVID and Missing Out

Mrs. Leone, MS Principal

This last year has been unprecedented, in our most recent history. Our students have had to give up a lot of what they are used to and have missed out on opportunities they would normally be given. In a normal school year our 7th grade students would be traveling to Boston in June to participate in the Whale Watch. We would stop at Howe Caverns along the way, hit Fenway Park while in Boston, and visit the Boston Aquarium. Unfortunately that was not to be last year or this year. There are still too many restrictions for us to travel to Boston.

In lieu of the Boston trip this year, we will be celebrating with our 8th graders at a camp out. Our current 8th grade class should have gone to Boston last June. They raised a lot of money to help pay for the trip. We are going to use that money to host a camp out for the entire 8th grade class on a Saturday in June (To Be Determined). We will be sleeping in tents in the field behind the football and soccer fields. We will have tons of great food. We are going to rent inflatable yard games (under COVID restrictions) for us to play and have a good time. Our Ag Class is building us fire pits so that we can have small bonfires to roast marshmallows. Students will be receiving sweatshirts and bags with an LCS logo. This will not cost parents or students any money to participate. This would not be possible without the tremendous effort of the students who did fundraising.

In a year where kids missed out on a lot, we need to think outside the box and come up with alternative ways to celebrate them and their accomplishments. This is something that we all are looking forward to and truly believe it will be a grand success.

Absences

If your child is sick or absent, please call 493-5999, press 1, and dial 5149. Leave a message with the student name, grade and reason for absence.

If you call us - we won't have to call you!



Lockwood Elementary Raises Record amount for Charity

Coach Eustace & Coach Tallman

This past February the Donald F. Lockwood Elementary students participated in the 25th annual “Kids Heart Challenge” for the American Heart Association (AHA). This is a fundraiser which provides the AHA the ability to complete valuable research in an effort to cure heart disease. Heart disease and heart attacks are a leading cause of death in the United States. Students in grades 2, 3, and 4 completed the heart challenge during several PE classes under the guidance of Coach Eustace and Coach Tallman.

“This was an outstanding effort by our elementary students, they outdid themselves” says Coach Tallman.

In 25 years of participating in the AHA fundraiser; this was the most Letchworth has ever raised. Over \$5,700 was collected and donated by the Letchworth students, families, and community. One Student in particular, Gracie Asberry, a second grader, raised \$1,250 to be donated. “I was very pleased with the results we had this year. Gracie and the rest of the students were amazing. It really shows the generosity of the people in our school district and at the same time teaches the students about Service To Others”, says Coach Eustace.



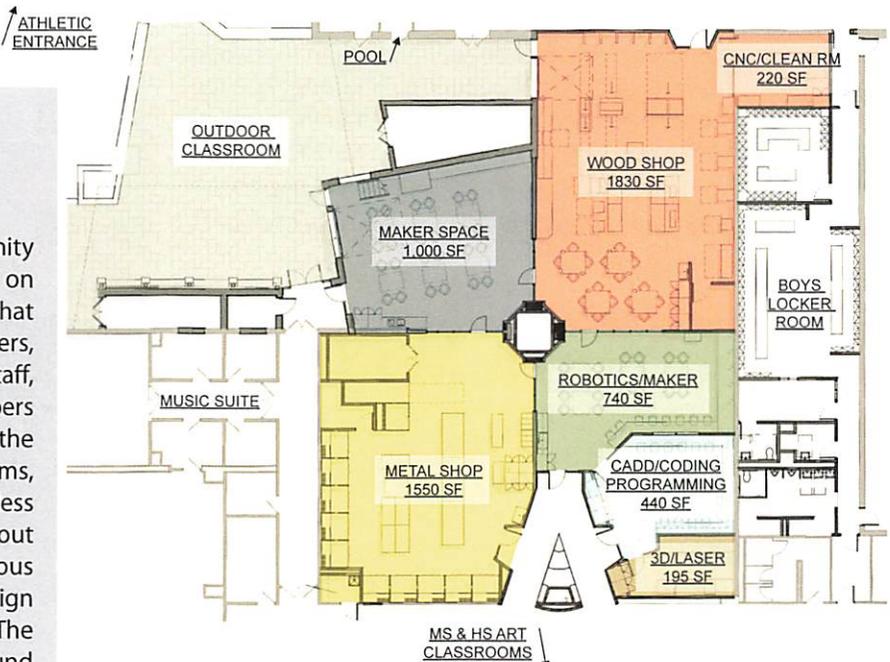
STEAM Innovation Center is taking shape!

(Science/Technology/Engineering/Ag/Math)



UPDATE ON THE NEW CAPITAL PROJECT

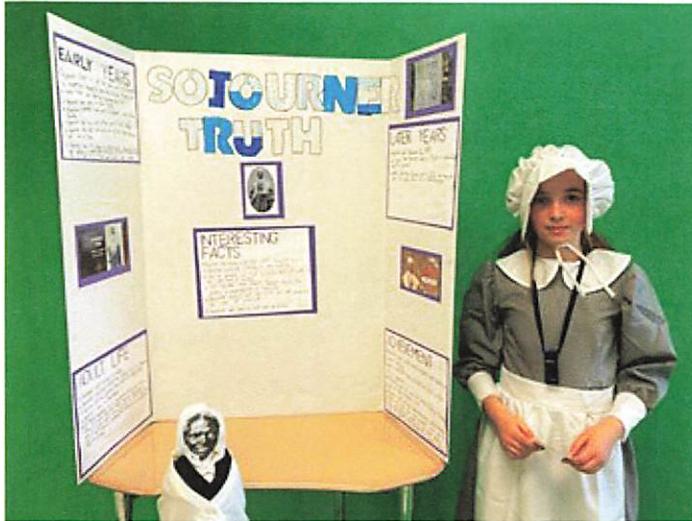
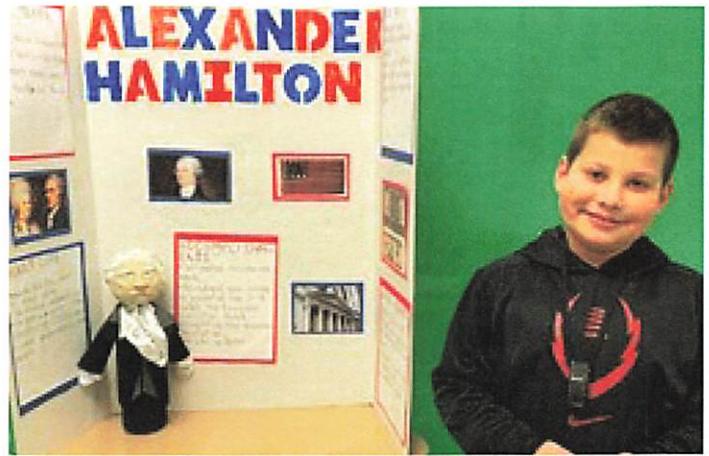
The Capital project that our Letchworth community approved in December 2020 is moving forward on schedule. At the current time Design Teams that consist of our architects, construction managers, LCS administration, teachers, maintenance staff, transportation staff, support staff and BOE members are discussing and advising on every aspect of the project. The innovative STEAM areas, Ag classrooms, bus garage and playground, require countless hours of discussion over design drawings, layout and equipment options. It is an exciting, meticulous and challenging process. A major goal in the design is flexible and adaptable instructional areas. The construction schedule has us breaking ground during the Spring of 2022. This is the most recent rendition of the STEAM Innovation Center.



4th Grade New York State Project

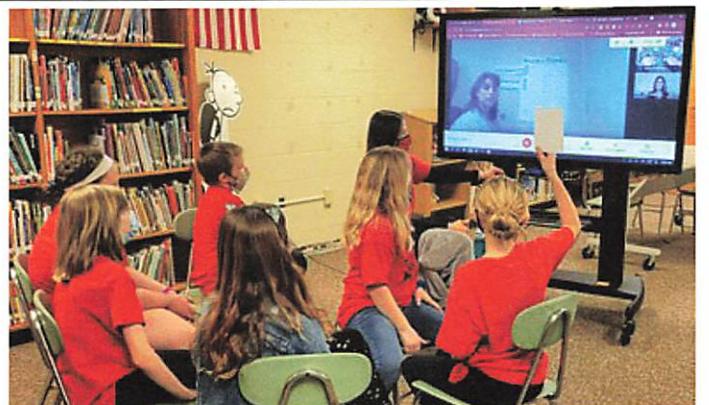
Mr. William Bean, Elementary Principal

COVID may have cancelled Colonial Days this year, but these students continued to learn, create and present. This year each 4th grader researched a person who made positive contributions to New York State. Next, each child wrote a biography and created a "Pop Bottle" representation of their person. Presentations were done in front of their homerooms. The final products were amazing!



Page Turners Virtual

Page Turners has always been such a big part of Lockwood Elementary. We have missed the competition greatly along with the many amazing books our children get to read. Although it looked different, our children were able to compete in a virtual Page Turners Competition. It was a great day, but we still can't wait to step on the stage with the bright lights shining on all our Page Turner Stars.



Career March Madness

Over the past 5 years Mrs. MacKay has introduced our kids to some very exciting careers at the Elementary Career Day. She felt it was very important to continue this program, but knew it wouldn't look the same this year.

She persuaded Mr. Bean into doing some crazy Career March Madness videos. Each day 2 careers faced off and teachers and students would vote on who would win. Kids could also watch more extensive real life videos and dive deeper into each career if they were interested.

The result is a new "Whatcha Wanna Be" video starring Mr. King and Mr. Bean. Way to go Mrs. MacKay.



L.E.A.P Assemblies

L.E.A.P (Lockwood Elementary Acting Proud) is such a powerful part of our school and who we are. The assemblies we have put on over the years are second to none. It has been a challenge but our teachers have been incredibly creative putting on some pretty cool virtual LEAP assemblies.



The assemblies always start with an introduction from Super D and Mr. Bean, who highlights the keywords for the month.



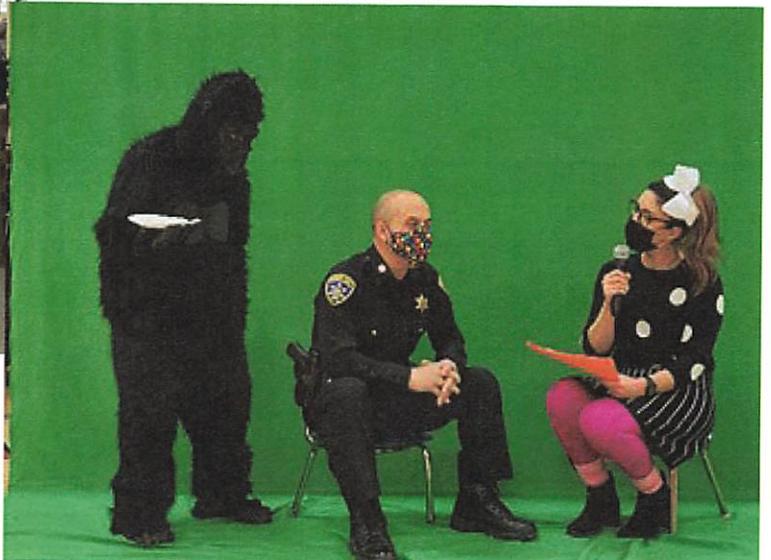
There is a special guest masked singer the children have to guess



And of course, we always highlight our Energy Bus Students of the Month.



Also, a funny game show. One of the game shows we have created is Going Bananas where a guest has to make the right choice or they might just get a pie in the face.



LCS Sports are BACK!

The Governor's Office announced on January 22nd that high risk sports could return beginning February 1st . The plan is to have three abbreviated seasons between February 1st and the end of the school year (Winter, Fall 2 and Spring). Winter Sports (Basketball and Wrestling) would run from 2/1 through 3/5. Fall 2 Sports (Football, Volleyball and Competitive Cheer) could begin 3/1 and they will run through 4/24. Finally Spring Sports will return on 4/19 and run through 6/4.

All of our Athletic Teams this year have been recognized as NYS Scholar-Athlete Teams. This is a great accomplishment as we continue to stress excellence in both the classroom and during athletic competition.

The Winter season got under way in November with low risk sports. Only Boys' Swimming was allowed at that time. The team is merged with Perry and did well, finishing in a third place tie in Division II with Wayland-Cohocton. Letchworth swimmers, R.J. Donlon-Bergeron and Jack Carney were named LCAA All-Stars.

Basketball and Wrestling began in February and saw the teams competing up to three times a week in order to get the most out of their 5 week seasons. Wrestling finished the year with a 3-2 record in LCAA Division II. They also took 5th place overall in the Section V Wrestling Tournament held on 3/13 at South Seneca HS. Derek Smith (8th) was the team's lone sectional champion, Derek defeated Noah Leitten (Perry) 4-2 in the Championship Match. Ryleigh Duryea (11) finished in 2nd place, falling to Andrew Maslyn (South Seneca) in the Championship Match. The team had three 3rd Place finishers in Chris Shearing (145), Trevor Jones (160) and Logan Winnie (189). Letchworth Senior, Tiante Murray participated in the Canandaigua Duals on March 10th . It was the first all female match in Section V history. Tiante defeated Hailey DeGroff (Warsaw) 6-1. Congratulations to Tiante on a great career!!

The Boys Basketball Team finished the year with a 5-5 record. Unfortunately they played in a tough sectional class and they did not make one of the top 8 seeds to get into this year's tournament. The future is bright however in that only senior Bryce Helmer does not return. Johnny Mertsoc, Nik Eustace and Lucas Hanson are all juniors and will be back to lead the Indians next year.

The Girls Basketball team had a very young and inexperienced roster this year. The team fought hard, but could not break into the win column. Seniors Allison Diver and Kyla Enario will be missed. Thank you girls for all of your hard work and dedication to the program.

