

1. CALENDAR

Monday, February 21 to Friday, February 25th: No school: February Break

Friday, March 18th: No school for students-District Conference day for staff

2. CYCLE INFORMATION/UPDATES

Black History Month: I encourage you to explore these resources as a family. Credit to Ana Goldsmith, one of our LACS Equity Mentors.

- [WHAT IS THE BLACK HISTORY IN TWO MINUTES \(OR SO\) PODCAST?](#) (created by Robert F. Smith)
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture Collection](#) (design your own field trip)
- [Five Ways to Avoid Whitewashing the Civil Rights Movement](#)
- [PBS: Featured Documentaries](#)
- [Black History Month: Teaching the Complete History](#)

Little Shop of Horrors: I hope that many of you had a chance to see the amazing show this weekend! What a gift to experience live theater again! The performances were magical. During the talk back on Friday night cast members grappled with the issues of relationship abuse and gentrification. Just in case you missed it, here is the [Letter to the LACS Family](#) from Dr. Nia Nunn regarding the work that we are exploring as a community.

LACS Extra-Curricular Programming update.

Homework club & Activities will run this week.

When: **Tuesdays & Thursdays**

Time: 3:30-4:30pm

Transportation: Late buses or caregiver pick up

LACS Number of Positive COVID cases: From 2/4 to 2/11

- No students
- No staff members

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Learning Web: LACS is building a partnership with the Learning Web, and this partnership starts in March! Middle school students are invited to attend a free after school program on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30-5, March 21st-April 22nd. The theme of the

program is “Explore Science-Protect the Earth-Support Your Community”, and will be focused on climate change, leadership, and social connection.

You can sign up using the link below:

[LACS/Learning Web Afterschool Program](#)

Trips, Trips, Let there be Trips! We got word last week that we can begin planning trip experiences for the 4th cycle. Feeling hopeful, we placed trips week on our LACS calendar for the week of **May 23rd to the 27th**. Over the next few weeks staff and students will be brainstorming our hopes and dreams. I will provide updates as they unfold.

Senior Class update: Members of the senior class meet with Alan, Deb, Mary, Matt and Wayne to check in about the next steps for completing GBE requirements and the end of year events. We are planning for in-person individual senior meetings as well as an in-person graduation ceremony (**Wednesday, June 23rd**) at the LACS outdoor amphitheater. Spread the word.

Performance Based Assessment Tasks (PBAT) experiences are taking place for 11th and some 12th grade students who did not receive a waiver last academic year. A few math students engaged in their oral defense during Regents week with great success. English Language Arts (ELA/Humanities) PBAT defenses will take place for students who are ready on Friday, March 18th. This is the District professional development day where typically students would have the day off. You will receive an email if your child is expected to attend school that day for their defense. Our Science department is guiding students through the process on an individual basis and will be in touch with you when your child is ready to defend.

Amazing Math Opportunity for our young women: The IC Women in Math Day is a day designed for female high school students and their families to engage with interesting mathematical ideas and to learn more about careers that incorporate mathematics. It is open to all interested students in grades 7 - 12 and their parents/guardians.

This year, the event will be held remotely and will center around a career panel of women who use mathematics in their work and small group discussions with current Ithaca College math majors. We have lined up an exciting panel of women at all stages of their career, all of which were math majors. There is no cost to participate!

For more information about the event, including the panel members and registration links, you can visit our webpage:

<https://www.ithaca.edu/academics/school-humanities-and-sciences/mathematics/outreach/2022-ic-women-math-day>

Citrus Fundraiser: It's cold out there! It's the perfect time to bring some sweet sunshine into your homes! The Spanish trip and Katrina relief are teaming up to bring fresh citrus to you. Support our efforts and enjoy great fruit! You have until February 18th to place your order. Delivery will be in

early March. If you are interested and don't know a student member of these trip groups, please reach out to Gina, Kaile or Nora via email and they will point you in the right direction.

Call for Donations:

- **IFCS (Intersectional Feminists Changing Society Committee)** is asking for donations to start a necessities shelf for students who don't have access to toiletries at home, some examples are: menstrual products, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrush, individually pre-package snacks, soap, wipes, winter gloves and hats, socks, hair ties, and hand cream. Students can drop off donations in the box in the main entrance. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

LACS Spanish Trip Fundraisers

- The LACS Spanish Trip is collecting cans and bottles for fundraising. Any bottles and cans donated will greatly help our fundraising efforts. If you have any bottles and cans please donate them to Nora and Kaile's Family Group, or drop them off at the Can & Bottle Retrieval center at 900 W State St, or at the Finger lakes Beverage Center at 605 W State St. Thank you!

4. SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

High Schoolers, join the **Take Back the Night Collective**, a group that helps organize an annual rally against sexual violence. The Collective meets VIRTUALLY weekly on Monday evenings. The first Collective meeting will be **Monday, February 14th from 5:30-6:30 pm**. To join The 2022 Collective, click [HERE](#)

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!! **Southside Community Center's RIBs program** is looking for volunteers every other Monday night to help our team with such tasks like bike repairs and space organization.

- NO MECHANICAL SKILLS NEEDED
- If you are interested in helping our program please email ribs@sspride.org with subject 'Volunteer'

Community Science Institute has an Open Lab on Thursdays from 6 - 9 pm. Come learn about water sampling and help the community. Please contact Adrianna at adrianna@communityscience.org ahead of time. (Middle schoolers need an email from a parent/caregiver giving permission.) The lab is up by airport; Adrianna can give specific directions. If you have an issue with transportation, reach out and I'll try to find a way to help out. If anyone takes this on, please let me know so you can earn service hours! - Jon

Social Justice Immersion Program at the Youth Farm - aimed at BIPOC students 14 - 20 who are interested in farming and social justice. \$350 stipend. To find out more info, email apply@youthfarmproject.org. Apply soon!

Art/social media and short essay contest regarding cyberbullying -- “Make Kindness Go Viral!” Download Registration Form @ www.thesophiefund.org/bullying . Due date is June 17. If you participate, keep track of hours and contact Jon to reflect at jraimon@icsd.k12.ny.us

Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference

The League of Women Voters of Tompkins County believes that educating and empowering the youth of our country is vital to maintaining a strong democracy. The League’s primary youth program is the Students Inside Albany (SIA) Conference. This Conference, held in the spring, is designed to immerse students in the process by which public policy is proposed, enacted and changed in New York State and educate them as to how they can influence and affect this process. Albany insiders discuss the operations of the New York State government including how policy is shaped and enacted.

Open to Juniors and Seniors in High School, all expenses are covered, including travel and three nights at a hotel in downtown Albany. The participants will receive a student membership in the League of Women Voters of Tompkins County which includes an email newsletter and invitations to meetings on government related topics.

For more information please visit <https://lwvtompkins.org/youth-programs/> or contact Megan Nettleton at Nettleton.Megan@gmail.com.

Applications are due on January 31, 2021.

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Come learn about water sampling and help the community. Please contact Adrianna at adrianna@communityscience.org ahead of time. (Middle schoolers need an email from a parent/caregiver giving permission.) The lab is up by airport; Adrianna can give specific directions. If you have an issue with transportation, reach out and I'll try to find a way to help out. If anyone takes this on, please let me know so you can earn service hours! - Jon

There are a number of service opportunities and, as always, you can reach out to Jon Raimon to look into an individual internship - jraimon@icsd.k12.ny.us. Below are current options for service:

- Help elders shovel their walks. If you are interested, call Dawn at 607 274 5499
- Prisoner Express - get letters and books to people in prison across the country. If you are interested, reach out to Jon at jraimon@icsd.k12.ny.us.
- Help get furniture to people in need through Neighbor 2 Neighbor. Just reach out to Jon for details.
- Create artwork and/or letters to send to people in nursing homes. See Jon for details.

Stay tuned for more information next week.