

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2018

DECEMBER 7

We are **STILL PRESENT, POSITIVE** and **PASSIONATE!**



We are **PRESENT**. We are **POSITIVE**. We are **PASSIONATE**.

We were in the business of service, discovery and creating this week. Honestly, my hope is this is the case every week. Students were putting the final touches on their exhibition products. Students were creating for others and providing service to the Syracuse area. In addition, we hosted PSLA at Fowler students in the school exchange we are participating in. It was a busy and productive week.



TGIF from Walt

Exhibitions are next week, so things were pretty crazy at BP. I spent most of my time in the workshop helping students finish up projects. There are a bunch of different things going on, and it has been a bit chaotic in the shop, but overall things are going very well. I have really enjoyed all the different projects this trimester, and can't wait to see what students will present.

Darryl and Adam helped me with a project for the Grimshaw musical this week. They needed plywood cut to create 16 large wooden boxes for the students to use on stage. It was a fairly large project, but it was also a great opportunity to teach some table saw skills. Adam and Darryl did a great job on this project, and learned a great deal about measuring and making consistent and accurate cuts.

For entrepreneurship workshop, we began making Holiday Candy Wreaths. I asked my students to come up with a product idea, and this is what they decided on. We are creating prototypes now, and are hoping to start taking orders next week.

Austin and I made a donation box this week in the workshop. As part of his LTI project, he is hoping to raise money for local homeless shelters. He also wanted to learn basic woodworking skills, so we created a wooden donation box.

On Wednesday, I went to the Rescue Mission Warehouse with the 201s for a service learning day. We spent our time sorting shoes and matching pairs together. All of the students did a great job, and it was a very fun experience.

I went to the SPCA this week to drop off cat toys that Elias had made for them. They loved this donation, and were surprised by how many he created. I also was able to talk to them about plans for an aquarium stand that Adam and I will be building for the cat room. We are hoping to start this project after break.



TGIF from David

During Brandon's exhibition on Friday, I was reminded of a quote from the musical Hamilton. I may have mentioned this quote before, but it suited the feedback session following Brandon's exhibition.

"What is a legacy? It's planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." Brandon speaks of his Senior Thesis Project as leaving a legacy behind at Big Picture, but he does not realize that day to day he contributes to that legacy. All of our students contribute to their legacy everyday. They do not see their contribution and it is possible they may never see it once they graduate and move on with their lives. So, in some ways it is very difficult for students to see how what they do now will have a long term effect on the school and the Big Picture community. The same could be said for the staff, including me. As Brandon works on his legacy of maple syrup being produced at the school, it is possible he may never see the work he put into trying to make this a reality. Other students may not see his hard work, nor might the adults. I do not know if the responsibility to shed light on this fact rests solely on Brandon, or all of us, but I do know that we have to figure out who will hold the light.

I took Keegan to visit Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts so he could learn more about the Art Photography program. Keegan knows photography is his future, but is uncertain of the path. A current senior guided us through the Transmedia school held in the Shaffer Building. We were shown art rooms, editing rooms, equipment rooms, and the photo processing lab. The student said to Keegan, "If you can learn how to process film you will have a skill that can always get you a job." To which Keegan replied, "I know how to do that." And, he does know how to do that because of the time he has spent at Lightwork on Syracuse

University's campus learning from the professionals. As we continued to tour the school, I realized that Keegan has many strengths and experiences that should hopefully get him accepted to the college.

We will return to SU this Monday so he can have his portfolio reviewed by someone in admissions. Keegan is also working on his legacy by developing his Senior Thesis Project with Lightwork and the SU Art Gallery. Keegan, along with those two institutions, will host an open art gallery for students in Central New York. The exhibition will be held at the Link Gallery at SU's Warehouse in May. The two groups are very generous to aid Keegan in leaving his legacy, but also providing another opportunity for young artists to have their work noticed.

December brings with it a lot of cheer and a lot of stress for our seniors trying to figure out the next stage of their lives. Students are finishing up their Common Application for colleges, filing their FAFSA, and writing an essay that will make them stand out amongst their peers. This means they are getting real, reflecting on their lives, and wondering what happened in their past. This is difficult for many reasons. Depending on the essay topic, this means facing ghosts of the past and figuring out how to write about it. I quote Marty McFly when I say, "This is heavy, Doc".

The snow will keep falling and soon we will have a break. We will have a moment to rest knowing that the new year will present many new challenges, new reflections, and new legacies. We will all have to take a moment and watch those seeds sprout.

We will also have to come to terms with the fact that we may never be the ones to watch the garden fully blossom.

TGIF from Alex

The seniors finished off their week with an exhibition. Brandon Leet presented his work/projects/STP that he has completed up to this point of the school year. His project is about creating a maple syrup business. The goal of his STP is to get the maple syrup business up and running so that he can pass it off to future generations. Brandon did a good job and had quite a few products to show when it came to his STP. One of the examples of the products that Brandon had was a tree trunk that Brandon has been working on hollowing out.

The idea behind this tree trunk is to create a money collection box of sorts, so that the maple syrup can be sold at festivals or other outdoor markets/events.

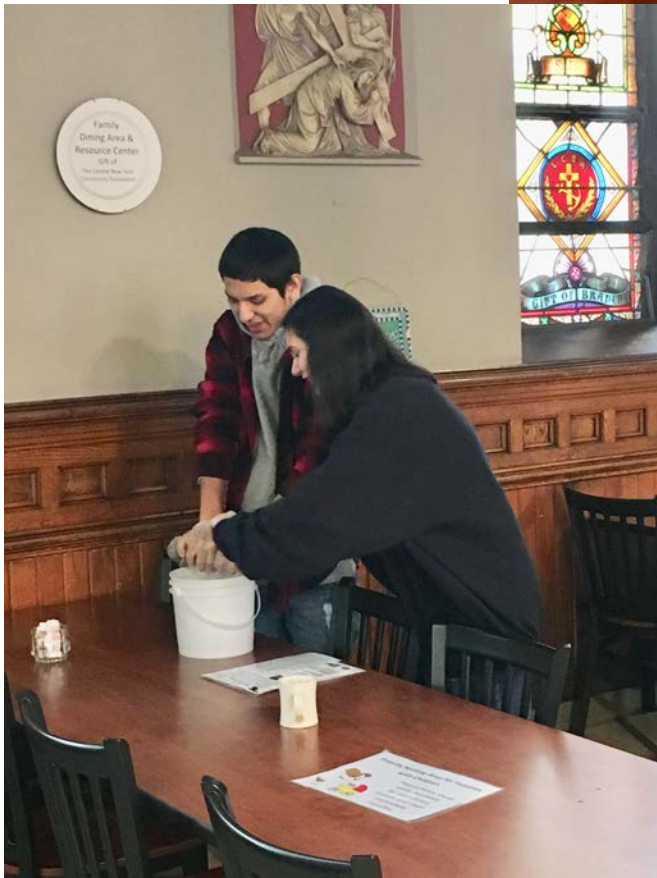
Hollowing out the tree trunk has presented its own unique challenges. Brandon has used a hand chisel, electric drill, drill press and burning (both with open flame & coals) to try and hollow out the center part of this tree log. While the project is not complete yet there is a ton of potential and we can't wait to see the finished



product.

One of the other highlights of the week was the service learning that happened on Wednesday. Because the seniors had college classes and a school exchange with PSLA, only three seniors were able to participate. Sean went to Destiny Mall to ring the bell for the Salvation Army while Diana and Skully went to the Samaritan Center and helped clean their facility before they served lunch.

The seniors this week were pretty much all business with exhibitions starting this coming up week. It was all about the time crunch. You know how it goes... especially those of us that wait till the last minute to complete projects/schoolwork. The seniors are also in the middle of their college finals on top of their exhibitions. Really, I'm just excited for next week, I'm excited to see the seniors exhibitions and for the seniors I'm sure that they are just excited to get through next week and be done with their exhibitions!



TGIF from Lenny

Monday morning kicked off with our advisory reading chapter 6 in our book. It is a long chapter that explores how important it is to love ourselves. We discussed the many ways we are conditioned throughout life to be overly critical and unfairly negative about our value as humans. We also tied this into the personal quality of self-worth and what it looks like to practice celebrating our own value. As part of the journal response to that chapter, 301s were asked to write affirmations for themselves. My intentions were to start the week before exhibitions on a positive note.

The positive vibe waxed and waned through the week with the various challenges and reactions. Wednesday was a Community Wide Dialogue day with our friends from PSLA. As we hosted our guests, the balance of our students went to various locations for service learning experiences. We worked through many obstacles that day including everything from timing, transportation, space use, and student behaviors. But through it all many great things happened. I hear that our students did a nice job at their



respective volunteer sites. I was at school with David helping to keep the wheels oiled for our dialogue day.

We tackled some pretty sensitive topics dealing with race and privilege. We also took a close look at housing in the US and the factors that have led to housing discrimination and the results in our communities. Many of our students did a great job articulating their feelings and listening to other points of view. RJ, Alyssa, Brandon and Thomas really stood out as leaders in the discussion circles.

I was happy to see many 301s using IWT to complete project work ahead of exhibitions. Jamus, Thomas, Ezra and Audrey were very focused during IWT and modeled great habits for others. It never fails in the week before exhibitions. Some students rise up and put their best foot forward and others succumb to the pressure and engage in self-destructive behavior. I refer to it as the fight or flight mode. It is my ultimate goal that eventually the week before exhibitions is filled with positive energy and excitement from all students. We will get there, one student at a time. I hope you all have a wonderful week filled with positive experience.



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401s



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WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US!

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201s



301s



101s



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