

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

JANUARY 18

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



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

Given the drastic ups and downs of the start to the week, I feel we experienced a strong finish on Thursday and Friday. We were able to get our students out both Tuesday and Thursday to internships. That always helps. Our students that have obtained internships are actively engaged in meaningful project work, they are using their time more effectively and have an purpose and focus. There is a marked difference in the experience of those with internships and those without. We are putting a lot of energy in finding placements for all our students. We are careful to not just “place” students but we also need to balance waiting to find the perfect internship and finding a good internship placement. I was invited to participate in two parent, student, and advisor meetings this week. We had REAL conversations about motivation, progress, experiences, responsibility and next steps. I am proud of how our school can have those real conversations with everyone on the same team working collaboratively to find the next solution and the next step. It was great. On the flip side, we had some difficult conversations in which we did not see the results we had hoped for. We will hold on to our expectations for behavior and the responsibility we need to see in our students. We have made expectations clear. I believe they can do it. I hope the students believe it too.

The Big Picture team sends our love to Ezra and his family. You are in our thoughts and hearts.

TGIF from Walt

This was our last week of classes before Regents exam, and like usual, things were very, very busy. Most of my time was spent teaching ELA workshops, or helping students with direct writing instruction. After regents are over next week, I am hoping to get back into to workshop to start working on our second trimester projects.

This week's highlights:

During exploratory workshop, I have been working with Sean and Evan on Vex robotics. This week we assembled the chassis and experimented with gear ratios for the drive system. Next week we are hoping to complete the drive system, and have a completely controllable robot frame.

In entrepreneurship workshop, we began planning out some products for Valentine's Day. This week we experimented with making chocolate truffles. Our first prototype came out tasting very good, however needs some aesthetic upgrades. We will

be continuing to improve these next week. We are also going to experiment with making custom prints for Valentines Day cards next week.

I continued working with the 201s this week on grammar instruction. We spent most of the time focusing on diagramming sentences and reviewing parts of speech, specifically adverbs and prepositions. Things have been going very well, and I have really enjoyed working with them. The diagramming is a bit tricky, but they are all getting the hang of it.

I started working with the 301s this week on writing instruction during advisory time. We are focusing on advanced research paper writing skills in order to help students prepare for college courses. Lenny and I are using the Public Policy paper, a Participation in Government assignment, as a way to accomplish this. This week we focused on thesis statement writing, and next week we will be working on creating annotated bibliographies.

TGIF from Jessica

This week the 201s have been productive on their missing work. I finished meeting with each 201 to go over their T1 work and provide feedback on the things they did well, how they can improve, and what missing work they owe. All of the 201s have also completed STAR Math and STAR Reading benchmark assessments. They have continued working with Walt on sentence diagramming and I have watched them learn the behind the scenes dynamics that go into making a sentence a sentence. They have all become more aware of the semantics of writing. I am already seeing some changes in their work and I look forward to seeing more.

Brandon went on his first internship day at the VMC Vet with his mentor Lis Conarton. Brandon is working with Lis using videography to record a time lapse video. The video will track a dog's progress with physical rehabilitation in a pool. Brandon was enthused with his experience and has enjoyed telling others about it. He has never worked with video software before. Yet, he

quickly found a program to use and started learning about editing videos.

Dawsun is well on her way to build her coffee shop in Big Picture. Dawsun has recruited Kyle T to assist with building a portable coffee cart. Together they both have a new mentor, Paul Wealder from Giarrosso Sheetmetal, who has graciously offered to assist the two with building the coffee cart. Dawsun orchestrated a business proposal and planning meeting on Tuesday with Sue, Paul, Kyle, and I. She received great feedback and direction at the meeting. Kyle and Dawsun have worked this week to take measurements and look at our space.

The algebra students have been gearing up to take the regents this coming week. They have been working hard in and out of class to prepare. We will have a few more study sessions before the regents Wednesday afternoon. Please encourage your student to get a good amount of sleep before their exam.

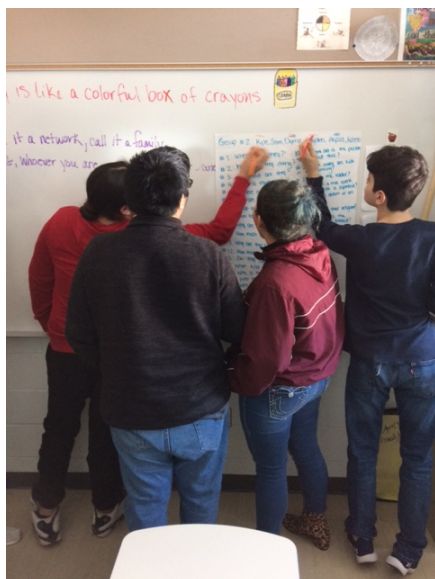
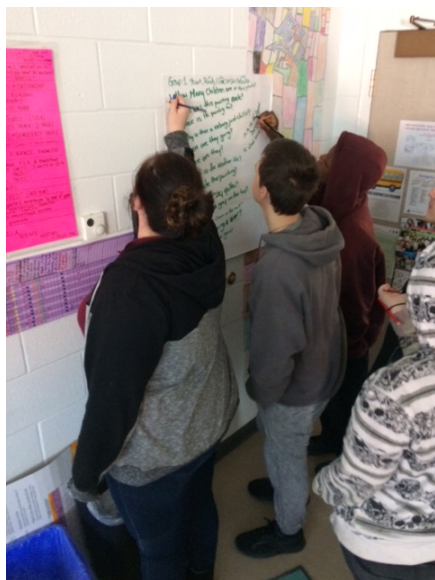
TGIF from April

401s were busy with government projects, STAR reading and math and STP work this week. Next week Morrisville college classes will begin and we will be missing some 401s in advisory (again). Although it is an awesome opportunity to go to Morrisville I must admit: It was nice having them all together during the last few weeks.

Wyatt began a new internship this week at the Manlius Fire Department. It is really very exciting for him and an excellent learning opportunity to see if this is truly a career choice he wants to make. Hunter began back at Loretto this week; working with a new mentor and on a different floor- with the Alzheimer residents, I'm glad he is at Loretto he is a perfect fit there! I ran into his old mentor, Mary-Kate, at Target and was pleased to hear she loves her new job and still stays in contact with Hunter! Keegan is ever impressive with his work at his internship site, Light Work. And Diana seems to enjoy working with the children at Joseph's House. Dan has been out at his internship most of the week working on a project he is passionate about. Cailin is deep in research at Ichor and Carlee continues at cosmetology as she is preparing for her Boards. Sean, Brandon and Layton will be at Morrisville for classes. That leaves me with Skariwate without an internship; ANYONE with any ideas for an internship for him please let me know!

I had scheduled with Mrs. Amidon to come speak to my 401s on Wednesday, pertaining to any questions or concerns they might have regarding their PSA project. Lenny and his 301s heard she was coming and asked to join in. Mrs. Amidon was very gracious in accommodating the 401 & 301s on the spot.

Thank you Heather! It was a great help to the 301s and 401s.

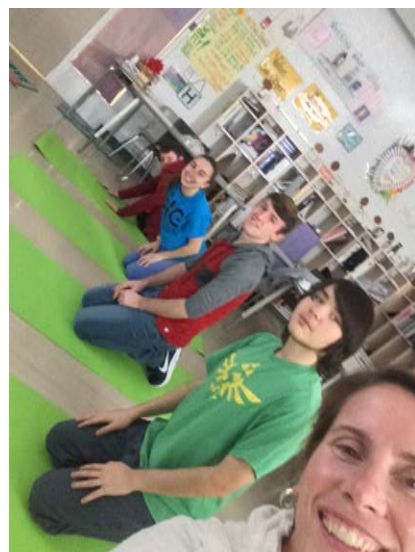


This week USH students worked together learning the protocol for QFT (Question Formulation Technique). It took them some time to get 'into' the process but once they did I think they enjoyed it. I always enjoy watching them work through the process. I was happy when later in the day Josh K. came into the room and said "Hey! I remember!" that as he pointed to the QFT work the USH students had posted about the room. Vocabulary, expansion and compromise were topics for the week.

I must give a shout out to Julien for all the hard work and effort he has put into preparing for the regent exam this week!

Reminder: the exams are next week and we have some 401s taking ELA on Tuesday, with no school Monday please remember to have them here ready to test first thing Tuesday morning. (USH exam is Wednesday morning.) Thank you!

I am running "Yoga Friday's" during exploratory workshop. Last week it was Dawsun and I, she was not here today (Friday) but this week yoga gained some more participants! I hope the group continues to grow!



TGIF from Lenny

With a full five-day week, we were able to build academic momentum and have a consistent focus on some of our upcoming exams and requirements in advisory. In workshops, we were also able to make good progress on a biology lab, monitor a class project and review for the upcoming LE Regents exam.

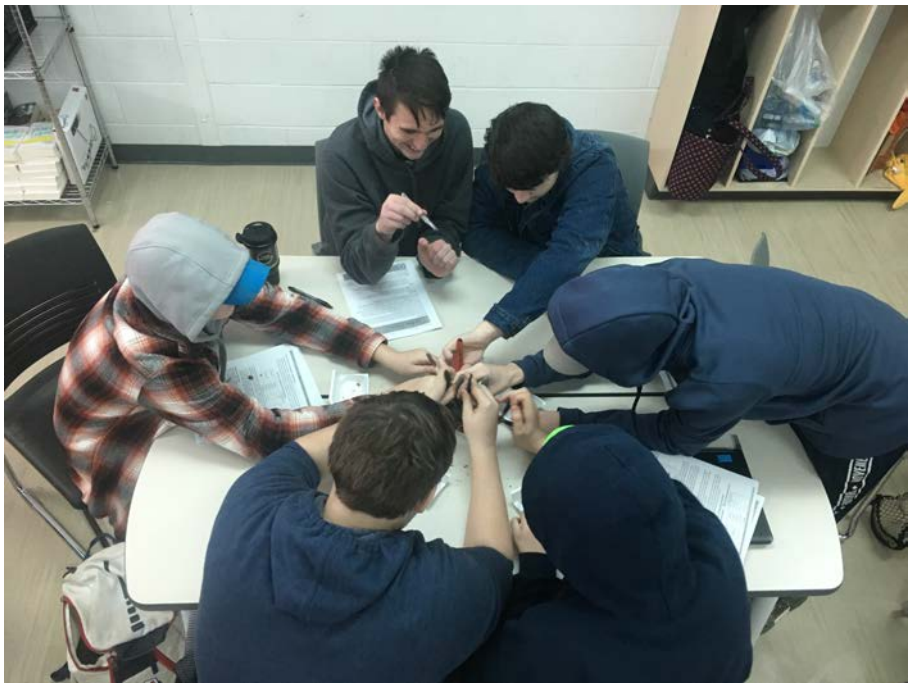
In advisory, we clarified our Health and Participation In Government (PIG) requirements and took concrete steps. We chose project topics for Health and Walt helped 301s begin to plan their PIG public policy papers. I also reintroduced 301s to the online resources offered on the library homepage. And Walt worked with 301s to prepare for the upcoming ELA exam. Meanwhile, I was able to have some very productive project planning meetings.

In ER, we continued to monitor and adjust pH levels for our hydroponics setup. We are now at the point where students can test and record pH and ppm without my oversight. They are not only good at it, but they enjoy the process as well. We are observing significant growth in our plants and are looking to increase the number of setups.

In LE we began the Beaks of Finches lab with the 101s. They used pliers and tweezers to simulate finch beaks and we conducted a number of feeding trials using various seeds. The group did a nice job and showed genuine interest in learning about other unique organisms from the Galapagos Islands.

I did not get out to many site visits this week but next week will provide me the opportunity to regroup with students regarding internship goals. We also have Emma and Thomas beginning classes at SUNY Morrisville. I am proud of both Emma and Thomas for choosing to challenge themselves and take advantage of a great opportunity.

Have a great week!



LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE STAFF

401s



Need to Contact Us?

Susan Osborn:
sosborn@lafayetteschools.org

Kym Weil:
kweil@lafayetteschools.org

Lenny Oppedisano:
loppedisano@lafayetteschools.org

Walt Nowey:
wnowey@lafayetteschools.org

April Palmer:
apalmer@lafayetteschools.org

David Stablein:
dstablein@lafayetteschools.org

Jessica Giordano:
jgiordano@lafayetteschools.org

Greg Scott:
gscott@lafayetteschools.org

Hollis Rotella:
hrotella@lafayetteschools.org

Christine Kane:
ckane@lafayetteschools.org

Erin Virnoche:
evirnoche@lafayetteschools.org

Joy Gregg:
jgregg@lafayetteschools.org

Rosalie Whipple:
rwhipple@lafayetteschools.org

Nikki Cawley
ncawley@lafayetteschools.org

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

Susan Osborn



301s



201s



101s

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LaFayette Big Picture Learning

3122 Route 11 North

LaFayette, New York 13084