

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

MARCH 1

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



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

I have seen a real shift in the excitement from our very first snow day of the school year to the dread of our 7th snow day of the year. Snow days and delays have significantly impacted this learning cycle. We felt the pressure this week with Exhibition Week starting on Monday, March 4th. Although we are feeling the pressure, we experienced great energy this week. We saw the sun and celebrated the blue sky during Morning Meeting. I do anticipate students having to finish goals after they present at their exhibitions due to missing 7 school days during this period for us. However, goals unmet do not disappear. Zeros do not exist in our world! The goal will remain and a new timeline will be created to meet those goals. It does compound the work and the pressure because new learning plans will be created in two weeks. Carry-over goals do not excuse new goals from being set. We will refocus on time management and project planning to get everything finished for the May learning cycle. I look forward to having our parents and mentors visit our school for exhibition week. You too are invited! If you would like to watch a student present their learning, please email me at sosborn@lafayetteschools.org or call Kym at 315-504-1000 and we can find a time and an exhibition that works for you. Most exhibitions are planned for Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, but we do have a few scattered at other times. We always appreciate visitors viewing our students work and explorations. Have a great week. I have my fingers crossed for no snow and blue skies!

TGIF from David

That groundhog is a liar. The people of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania must be very embarrassed that their biggest celebrity and prognosticators of prognosticators was completely wrong about his bold prediction that we would experience an early Spring. Yes, the official start of Spring is still weeks away, so his prediction could still come true. This week may experience a dramatic shift with the melting of all the snow and the sunshine our Vitamin D deprived bodies need, but it will be too little too late. If we can't trust a future predicting groundhog, then who can we trust anymore?

Well, we can trust one another I suppose. Bill Murray proved in the movie *Groundhog Day*, that with a certain level of restrained responsibility, repetition can wield positive results. That is the mode of this time of year. It feels very repetitive, but we can use that repetition for student success. It also means tackling the same issues. It means holding the same conversation and dialogue. It means often living out the same kind of day over

and over again. Thus, our days are not just learning opportunities for students, but for us staff and adults in the building. So, what did I learn this week?

I learned that sometimes people are just stuck. I understood this before, but it felt real this week. How to help them get unstuck? Repetition and time. Time and understanding. Understanding and empathy. Empathy and action.

I still think that groundhog is a liar if you just look outside. He gets to burrow back into his hole, tree trunk, or wherever they pull him out of. So, no understanding for him. He will be back next year to let us know our seasonal adjustments.

Anyway, this is not all about that groundhog and his celebrity. **And, you can help us unstick some of our students. We are still looking for job shadows and internships in the following areas: Music, Animal Care, Carpentry, Sports management, Athletic Training, Art, and others. If you have any connections, let us know. Help us get unstuck.** And, ignore that groundhog and don't contribute anymore to his lies every year.

TGIF from Greg

This week the 101s prepared for their exhibitions coming up next week. We really plugged away making up a lot of work from the snow days we had. The kids are resilient. On the internship side of things Austin, Devon, Garrett, Evan and Victor continued to learn food prep and culinary skills with Hollis. The photography students working with Carol went out and took some amazing pictures that will be presented in their exhibitions this week. Adam continued his great work with the veterinarian in LaFayette while Aiden took a ride with a State

Trooper for a day. Claire worked with MJ and continued working on her rocket. Morgan continued work in the bakery as well as readied herself for a big hockey tournament this weekend. Nikki took JJ and Claire to buy some more fish for the shark tank and hopefully fish will be friends not food. Our daily goals and attendance have been steady. The kids finished up our Holocaust unit as well as the book *Four Perfect Pebbles*. JJ has contacted the author and is in the process of finding out where she is speaking next time she comes to Syracuse. So long for now.

101 SHARK TANK WHO HA HA.



TGIF from Walt

This week was very busy at Big Picture, mainly because exhibitions are next week. Most of my time was spent working in the shop to help students finish up projects. With all the snow days this trimester, it has been difficult to get things finished.

This week's highlights:

I worked with Evan on a small welding project this week. He wants to build a reverse flow smoker, and we made a small prototype this week out of a can and scrap metal to create the design. I taught Evan some basic welding this week, and he learned about the basic welds. Next trimester, we are hoping to start working on the actual smoker.

Stuart has been building a fursuit costume since the beginning of the year, and this week we made digi-stilts for it. These stilts add height, but also give the impression of a more animalistic gait. It was a fun project.



I worked with Alyssa to soundproof the recording studio this week. She had brought in foam pads, and we adhered them to the wall and created a partition that insulated the room from noise. It came out very well, and the quality of the sound recording has improved greatly.



Brandon has been working on tapping trees for maple sap for the past couple of weeks, and this week he recruited students to help him run lines from the trees to the gathering vessels. I worked with him this week to plan out the evaporator tub so that we can start making syrup.

Wyatt and I worked in the shop to create miniature hockey sticks. For his STP, he will be running a hockey workshop for children. As a reward, he is giving each participant a mini stick. We need to make 35, and this week we completed 10. We are hoping to finish the rest next week.

TGIF from Jessica

It seems like we have been in a blur since the start of 2019. Its unreal that it is March and we are at our second round of exhibitions this week! We have had several snow days and missed many internship days. It is familiar to see my 201s fighting to get everything together and begging for more time before exhibitions. It always surprises me how much they can complete in one day when they are motivated and focused. This trimester, some of the 201s have rose to the occasion and have found a way to complete their work. Another handful of the 201s have had a very hard time completing work. Some that normally have everything done were unable to complete their work due to missing school. Some will not have their work done due to lack of grit.

As a school we work to teach our students grit and incorporate it into their learning plan. Grit is a necessary personal quality. There are always set backs, inconveniences, and unpleasant required tasks. It is imperative that we use grit to work through these things that oppose us, to build our will stronger than discouragement, to push through and accomplish our aspirations, goals, and dreams.

This is a trimester where 201s are going to need to use grit to get them to gateway. They will need to keep pushing through while taking on trimester 3 project work and wrapping up trimester 2 and some trimester 1 work. I have been planning with Christine, Walt, and Lenny to design trimester 3 such that the 201s are most supported and prepared to complete their requirements. I know they can rise to the occasion. I look forward to guiding them on their way. I am ready to celebrate their gateway into senior institute.

TGIF from April

US history is again working through the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) in preparation for our new unit. I really enjoy when we do this because of the conversations that ensue. A student told me today that they “very much enjoy learning through the talks we have, and that they will definitely remember the topics discussed”. 😊

The 401's are busily preparing for their exhibitions in order to present their progress in their STP's.

Josh Jewett is working on his public policy regarding performance-enhancing drugs for athletes. Through his former mentor, Kyle he has made a great connection for the interview portion of the paper. Todd Klinhans the Athletic Director for SUNY Morrisville has agreed to meet with Josh for an interview. Josh also began interning at Loretto, which will help him with his STP work.

Dan has been working with the social media department at HANM to address the current issues surrounding the original plan HANM created earlier in the year pertaining to its social media department. He is learning a great deal and having to apply that learning daily. Dan recently received a tremendous opportunity he earned through his outstanding academic effort in high school. When OCC

received his application they reached out to him and asked him to come in for an interview. Dan was awarded the *OCC Lillian Slutzker Honor Society College on Campus* Scholarship. This means Dan will have his tuition completely covered and receive a stipend to pay for his books. Dan will walk away from OCC with his Associates Degree with ZERO debt to accompany that degree. What an amazing accomplishment! Congratulations Dan!

Brandon tapped 20 trees this week in hopes of getting sap and boiling it down to syrup here on campus in the evaporator he built. This is an exciting next step towards his

STP. He hopes to begin boiling this sap, weather dependent, in a week or two. If you would like to witness his process and have Brandon teach you about making syrup, and its various uses, stop by or give us a call! Brandon loves to share his syrup knowledge.

Sean has been actively running his after school gaming program. It appears to be a huge success by the looks of the happy faces I see here afterschool. He has 4-10 students participating regularly. Paladins is a new game he is trying to bring to the program and he had to trouble shoot computer problems this week, while communicating with our IT department. Again, real world work being done. Sean is also busy with his college courses.

Hunter, as part of his STP, was busy creating a large visual map of Onondaga County to demonstrate where the power from OCRA goes when waste is made and they convert it to energy. He completed his public policy paper regarding the rights of LGBT. A topic of policy he addressed was the right to parent as a member of the LGBT community. Hunter continues to get rave reviews for his internship work at Loretto, and Advocates.



Carlee is excited that she was asked to do the hair and makeup for the high school play next weekend. She learned about dying hair this week at BOCES, and is diligently preparing for the exhibitions that start this coming Monday. Last week Hollis allowed Carlee to cut her hair right here in school! Hollis was very pleased with the outcome and was thinking of letting Carlee add a pink stripe to her hair at some point.

Cailin has been busy at Ichor writing a paper on the ELISA (Enzyme-Linked Amino Sorbent Assay) diagnostic test. Researching and writing this paper helped her learn about the difficulties scientists are having while trying to perform the ELISA. The scientific findings she learned about centers around the reason Ichor and Cailin are continuing to work at building an ELISA test kit. Real world EXCITING work! Cailin also began building and canvassing a 4' x 5' frame which she will eventually paint the Ichor logo on for hanging in the Ichor building.

Wyatt was busy in the workshop this week creating mini hockey sticks for the youngsters that will attend his STP hockey clinic. I think the participants are going to love them! He also continues to do an outstanding job at the Manlius Fire department. Wyatt has been studying rigorously at school the last few weeks preparing for the civil service test he will eventually take to be able to be considered for a post high school position as a fireman.



Please contact me through email or the school number 315 504 1000 if you need to reach out to me for any reason, or regarding exhibitions next week. My cell phone is not working at this time. I hope to get it repaired soon, if you have been trying to reach me via my cell, I have not been ignoring you- it has been inoperable for a bit now. Thank you.

TGIF from Lenny

The week kicked off with an unexpected snow day on Monday and Tuesday's two-hour delay put a damper on our internships. But we packed quite a bit into the remainder of the week.

In Living Environment we finished up presenting our pathogen reports and used the microscopes to examine prepared slides of bacteria. We also made wet mount slides of organisms found in our fish tank. Later on we made nutrient agar to get petri dishes ready for some microbiology experiments and got the incubator up and running.

In ER we focused much of our time on the aquaponics project. Rick returned to show us how to prune back the flowering plants in order to direct more energy to the fruit. We also adjusted the light cycle and manually pollinated the pepper and tomato flowers. We have some small tomatoes forming and we are getting excited for the future bounty.

Our advisory read another chapter in our books and reflected on the ideas of gratitude and faith. We also spent a good amount of time preparing for the upcoming exhibitions by finalizing products.

Thursday ended up being our only internship day and I was able to bring Jamus to an appointment with my financial advisor. Jamus expressed interest in learning about investing and long term financial security. We went to the DeWitt office of Edward Jones and spent about an hour learning about IRAs, portfolios, compounding interest and the various markets. Jamus will eventually teach what he learned to our advisory to increase our financial literacy. We made it back in time for Jamus to attend his internship at our school SECNY branch where he is branch manager. Kaia also put in a shift at SECNY on Thursday and boasted that she processed way more deposits than Jamus did during his shift.

This week we also had Emma and Thomas at their college classes, Kyle at Goodman Automotive, RJ at STUDCO, Tresah at Blue Collar Doggy Day Care, and Melissa with Carol's photography group. Back at school, Alyssa worked with Walt to create a sound panel and put soundproofing up in the future recording area.



There were about one hundred other things happening but that's a recap of the week. We celebrated Bri and Rosalie's birthday on Friday with a song because their actual birthday is on Saturday. Happy Birthday and have a great week!

LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE STAFF

401s



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

Susan Osborn

201s



301s



101s



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