

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

MARCH 29

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



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



These handsome young men represented LaFayette Big Picture and LaFayette STEP at the annual STEP conference in Albany this weekend. From left to right: Kyle Rice, Keegan Hemlock, Layton Sherman, Brandon Leet, Lenny Oppedisano, Kyle Thomas and Randy Neu. Thank you for representing us well!

A quick reminder: Big Picture Yearbook picture day is this upcoming Wednesday, April 3rd.

TGIF from Lenny

Although it was a packed week, I'll make my overview brief so I can provide details on the conference I attended over the weekend. Last week 301s worked on economics requirements, new project ideas for their learning plans, and worked on internships and projects already in progress. We are moving forward with great purpose as this last trimester is sure to fly by.

On Friday afternoon I traveled to Albany with Layton, Keegan, Brandon, Kyle R., Kyle T., and Randy. We were joined by Susan from SUNY Morrisville to attend the Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference. We arrived by 5:00 and spent the next 40 hours learning, making connections and stepping out of our bubble. The conference hosted over 400 students from roughly 40 New York State schools.

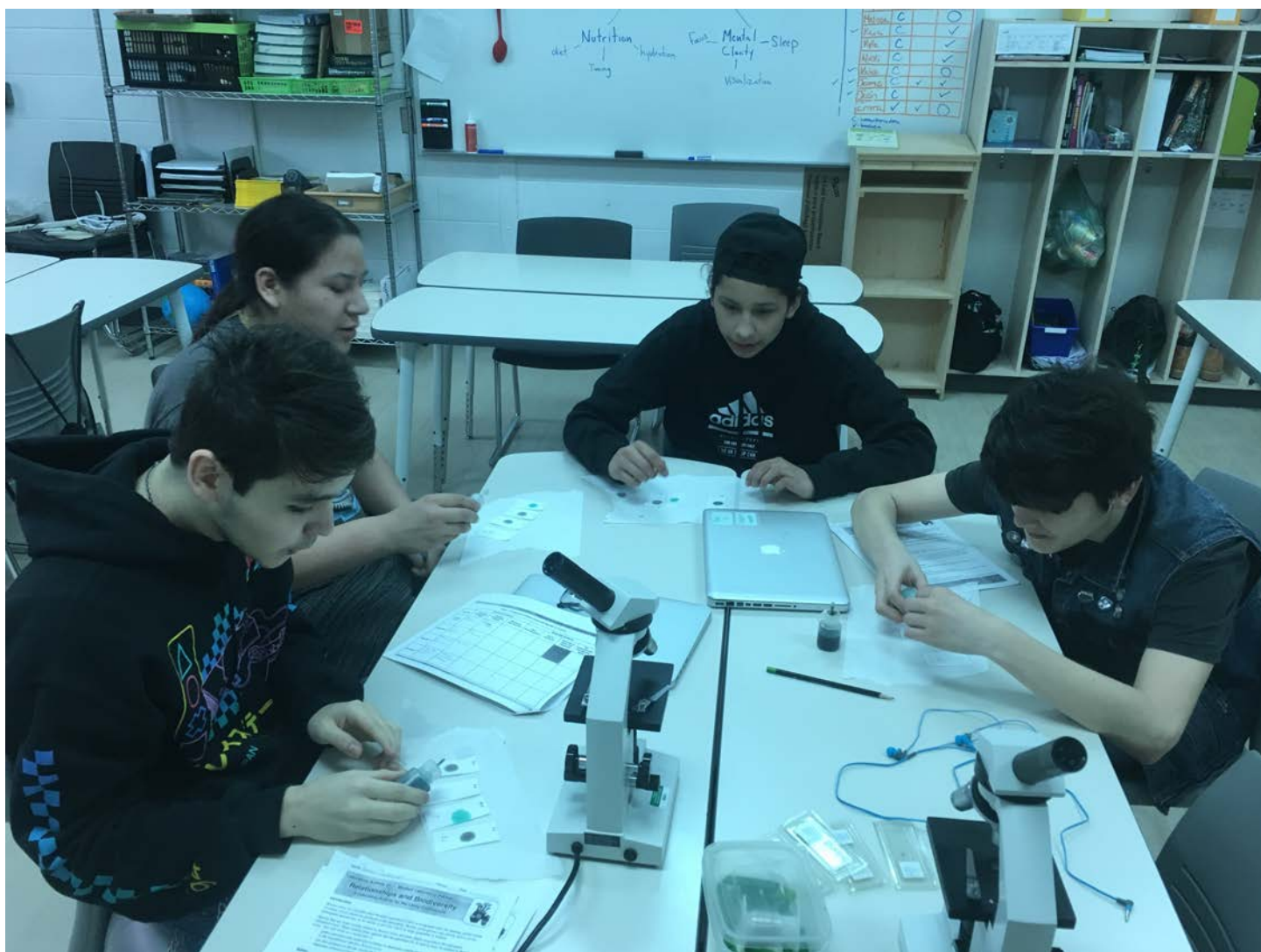
Our students engaged in workshops, heard guest speakers, and in the evenings partook in a variety of social events including a talent show and dance party. Examples of workshops our students

attended include: Effective Communication Skills for Multidisciplinary Settings, Intro to Cyberbullying, Secrets to College Success, Intro to Establishing an Online Presence, Bullying Prevention, and Tackling Large Projects.

While most of the students were attending workshops, Layton was representing our school as a student ambassador this year. His duties included facilitating students getting to the right place on time, answering questions and ushering guests to their seats at the formal dinner.

Overall the conference was a success. Our students were very professional, and although reserved, did what they needed to do in order to benefit from the experience. It's safe to say that we all had a lot of fun too. Thank you to Susan from SUNY Morrisville for all of your facilitation and to the conference organizers. It is clear that an enormous amount of work went into this student-centered event.

Have a great week and Happy April!



TGIF from April

This week Layton began his program at ONS. It was great to see his enthusiasm and amusing to hear his tales of how difficult it is to teach the students to build a car. He had help this week from Walt, Mackenzie McElhannon and Jamus. Sean has also offered to help him when he can. This process is good for Layton, I'm excited to see it continue.

Speaking of Sean, his afterschool gaming team is a huge success! The students are loving it and Sean is so dedicated and clearly is the leader. He is doing a fantastic job running the program.

Wyatt has some exciting news! He went this week to an overnight testing and training for the United States Marine Corps. Afterwards he signed and will be heading to basic training shortly after graduation. Congratulations Wyatt and thank you for choosing to serve our country!

Along that note, we had a visitor on Friday. Big Picture Alumni Jeremy Reynolds stopped by. It was so excellent to hear what he has been doing the last year, and to see his growth. Jeremy is in the Navy. He is part of the Navy Ceremonial Guard stationed

in Washington DC. His job as part of the Ceremonial Guard is honoring our fallen servicemen/women; my personal opinion is it is a calling, and a special duty that takes diligence and extra dedication. We had a nice discussion and Jeremy was able to show me some video clips of his work. It was moving to hear Jeremy, and his joy was obvious when I thanked him for his service and dedication during such a difficult time for the families. It was an awesome conversation. As I was talking to him Wyatt came into the room and I asked Wyatt to share with Jeremy his future plans. They had a good natured jest about which branch was better; but as I stood there observing all I could think was: look at these two boys who have decided to serve their country, and millions of people they will never meet will sleep safely at night because of their willingness to put it all on the line. Whatever individual thoughts people may have about the government or the military, I sincerely hope that everyone these two, and others-(like Josh Tillinghast from the HS who has signed with the Army, and Charlotte Ryan who was accepted to, and will be attending the US Naval Academy!) will get nothing but the respect and appreciation they deserve for making

the decision to serve our Nation.

Jeremy said he is very happy. Wyatt is demonstrating a new sense of pride, Josh has wanted nothing more than to be in the Army since I have known him and Charlotte worked very hard, and was so excited to be accepted into the US Naval Academy! They each deserve our praise and admiration as well as a heartfelt THANK YOU for your service to our country.



08:09
WASHINGTON
Feb 09, 2019

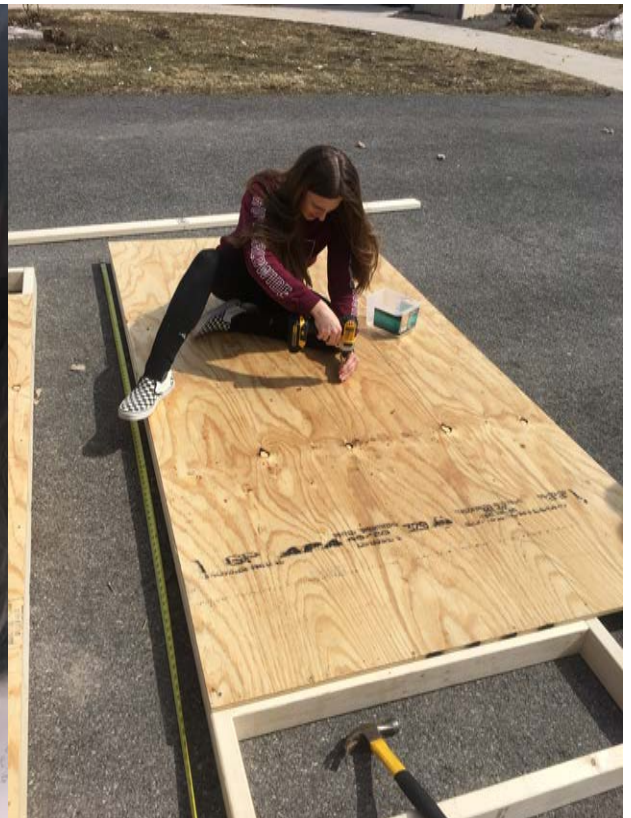
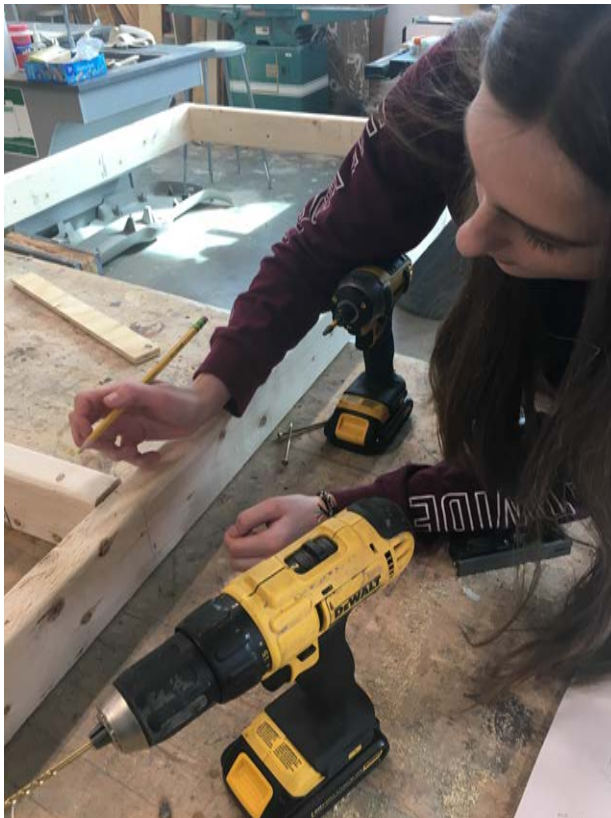
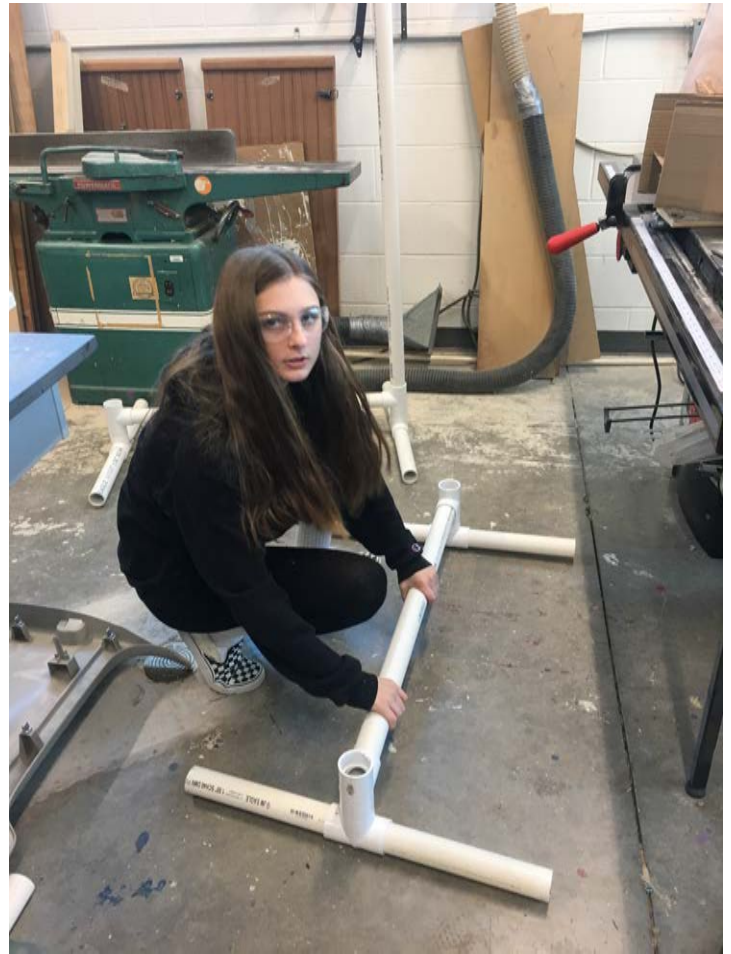
TGIF from Walt

This week was very busy, and mostly a blur. Much of my time was spent jumping between helping students with writing assignments, teaching ELA/ writing workshops and building things with students in the workshop. There are many projects going on, since we just started a new trimester, so I also spent a good amount of time this week, working with students to create plans, gather materials and set worktimes.

Bree is interested in making a dog agility course, and this week we made adjustable jumps out of PVC pipe and began building a wooden A-Frame obstacle. She is hoping to base her STP project next year around creating a dog park, and this trimester, she is interested in learning about dog agility courses and dog training.

I worked with Layton on an RC car project this week. For Layton's STP, he is running an after school workshop with students at ONS to teach them about RC cars. They will be constructing cars from kits, so this week Layton was getting all the pieces together, and pre assembling some of the more difficult parts.

I worked with Jamus on an electromagnet project this week. He is interested in making a magnetic device that can hold a person from a metal beam. We used parts from an old microwave and a couple of RC batteries and were able to get some impressive results. We wired all the components together this week and managed to create a functioning prototype.

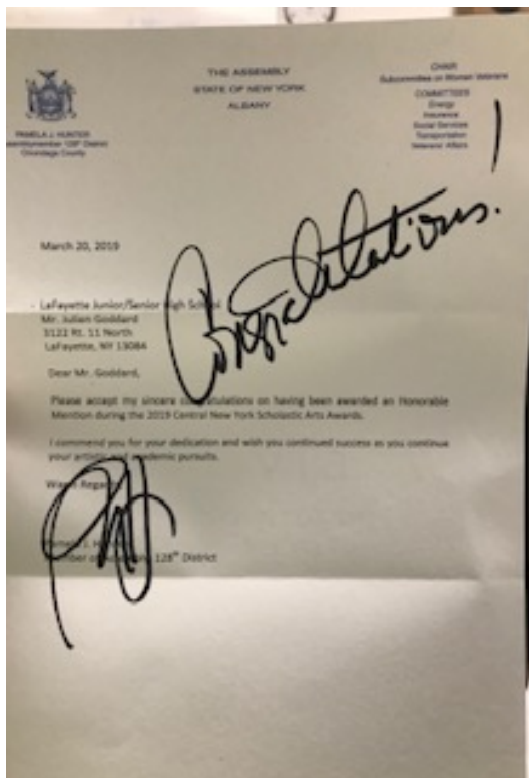


TGIF from Greg

This week the 101s continued internships in photography, technology, the LaFayette Veterinary Clinic, and a culinary skills class. We are also sending two of our freshman, Aiden and Devin to Grimshaw Elementary to mentor students there. Aiden and Devin play games with the students and help with homework. Adam, who has been working at the LaFayette Veterinary clinic has worked closely with the veterinary technician in learning the terms used during a pet's exam, how to treat the animals, and the procedures that are followed when an animal is ill. We are working with our newest 101, Mason, to get him a shadow day and an internship opportunity that he will learn and benefit from. He is finishing up his first exhibition, the *Who Am I* Project and getting ready to present for the first time to the class and his family members. We are finishing our tied blankets this upcoming week and are ready to donate them to people in need. This project has been a great way to emphasize empathy and has helped our students learn new skills and more teamwork. We just finished our Holocaust Unit, and are presenting our projects surrounding World War II this upcoming week. The students have been very



creative in choosing the way to show what they have learned including detailed dioramas, slideshows and research papers. Our class has started their next learning plans and are enthusiastic to learn more skills and wrap up their first year at Big Picture. Julien Goddard was a recipient of the 2019 Central New York Scholastic Arts Award this past week and received a letter of recognition from Assemblymember Pamela Hunter. We are proud to call him a 101 with our class and find him to be a huge asset to Big Picture!



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

201s



301s



101s



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LaFayette Big Picture Learning

3122 Route 11 North

LaFayette, New York 13084

