

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

JUNE 7

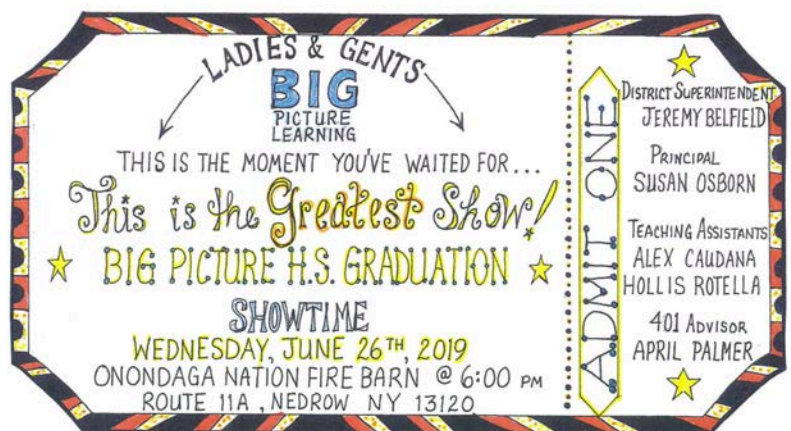
We are **STILL PRESENT, POSITIVE** and **PASSIONATE!**



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

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of another school year. It is equally hard to believe that this finishes up year 11 for the LaFayette Big Picture school. I am so proud of the work we are doing here. We often speak of the growth of our students, but we don't always take time to appreciate the growth in ourselves. The individual and collective growth of the Big Picture staff is absolutely amazing. We have committed to using the tools available to us to ensure individual student academic progress. We are committed to communicating with parents with both successes and areas of improvement. We are committed to using exhibitions as a time for success. Our staff has continued to collaborate and share best practices. We are learning. We are growing. Thank you to all of our supporters, mentors, parents and students for joining us on the journey.

Congratulations to our graduating class of 2019!



TGIF from Lenny:

Since our last communication we have shifted our schedule and our focus as an advisory and a school. We wrapped up our last learning plans and exhibitions and 301s showed were evaluated on Health and P.I.G. requirements.

As we shifted to what we call our end of the year review schedule, 301s are spending advisory time finishing our advisory book, completing economics activities, journaling and taking STAR assessments. Some 301s are finishing project work from the last LP cycle and some are even helping me with my Living Environment Review Sessions.

Of course there are 301s also preparing for Regents Exams. We are hopeful that they can get them out of the way this year to ensure that we can take advantage of other opportunities next year. We already have a number of 301s taking classes at SUNY Morrisville in the fall. It is also our goal to put some specific plans in motion now for Senior Thesis Projects next year. Each 301 will articulate a plan for internships and their STP before finishing out the year.

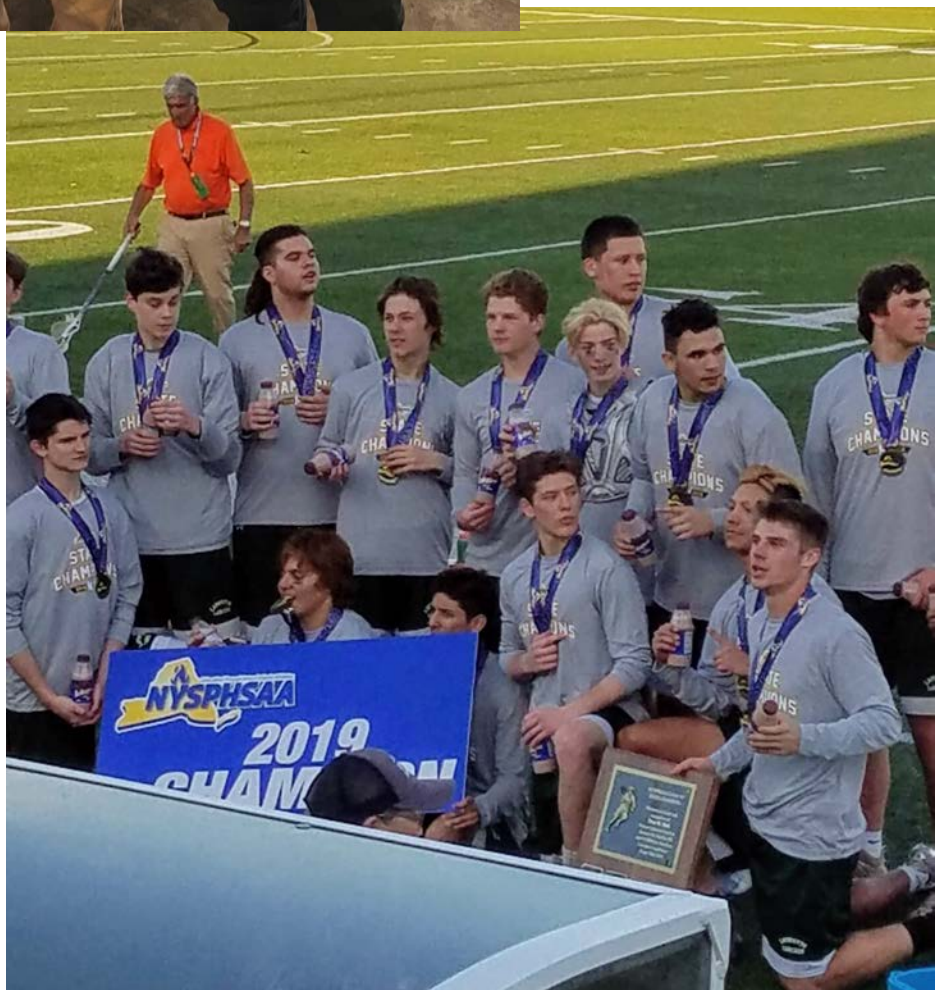
It has been quite a journey with 301s this year. I've seen incredible growth and maturity in some students as they turned from children to adults right before my eyes. Others have not taken those difficult steps towards owning their educational path. Although this is disappointing, this process is a



journey and we will see the course through 401 year.

Since this will be our last TGIF for the 2018-19 school year, I want to take the opportunity to thank LaFayette's transportation department and drivers for transporting our students, the mentors and business owners who worked closely with our students, and the parents for your trust and partnership on this journey. Thank you.

Finally, I want to congratulate the LaFayette Boy's Varsity Lacrosse Team on their State Championship Title. Nothing was given to these athletes. They worked incredibly hard through so many obstacles. They won because of pure grit.



TGIF from Greg

Over the last week the 101s have completed some of their projects: Adam worked on his fish tank stand for the SPCA, and Evan burned out his smoker that he welded himself and is almost ready to cook for the class. Some of the students got a head start on their health projects for next year, while others ended their internships. Kyler finished up at Tama Lacrosse, and is hoping to return next year, Julien and Caitlyn finished hanging the photos in the hallway with Carol as their last project with photography, the cooking class with Hollis ended with delicious pizza rolls, and Adam wrapped up his time with the Lafayette Veterinary Clinic. Morgan had her first shadow day at Ichor, setting up her internship for next year, while Devin had a shadow day at Bryant and Stratton in the computer programming department and is hoping to take some classes and intern there in the upcoming school year.

We wrapped up our last unit for ELA and Social Studies by finishing our book, *Code Talker*. We will be watching the movie, *Windtalkers* to reinforce the important role the Navajo people played in World War II for the United States. The students have been hard at work preparing for their upcoming New York State Regents exams, with two of our

students, Victor and Jerran successfully taking the 8th grade New York State science test earlier in the week. While also studying vigorously for their exams, the students have been making up any missed work they need to catch up on for the end of the year and taking advantage of the recent nice weather to use one of their study sessions to walk the track and earn Physical Education credits. Aiden is a now member of the Sectional Championship for Boys Varsity Lacrosse, and will be participating in the game against Briarcliff on Saturday. Good luck Boys!!

We're looking forward to relaxing over summer break and coming back recharged as next year's 201s!



Big Picture Kitchen Corner:

This year seven 101's had in-school internships with Hollis in the BP Kitchen. Austin, Evan, Victor, Mason, Garrett, Jerran and Devin each spent lots of time in the kitchen learning how to make delicious foods. They learned to follow recipes and use kitchen equipment correctly. The boys learned about the food pyramid and made foods to share with their classmates and staff. Favorite creations were fruit salad, breakfast cup-cakes, chicken enchiladas, lo mein (with guest chef Walt Nowey) fruit parfaits with homemade granola, meatball wellington, pretzels (as good as Auntie Anne's in the mall) and chicken bacon ranch pizza! The best part was watching the students taste the foods that they made themselves. I look forward to working with more students next year!



TGIF from April:

This article was cut off our last TGIF

Carlee didn't have high school students sign up for free hairdos and makeup for the prom, so she changed gears and donated her talents at the Adult Prom Hunter hosted at Loretto. Keegan's exhibition continued to show his passion of photography and made a huge impact on young people by curating his art show (which I detailed in the last TGIF). His exhibition summarized the Urban/Rural event, but also showed his continued learning and progress with film. His presentation was AMAZING and the mini film he created was so outstanding the panel spontaneously applauded him when the film clip was done in the middle of his exhibition. Keegan's gift with creativity and film is just spectacular! I became emotional at the end of Keegan's exhibition thinking of the journey this young man has been on over the last 4 years and the growth he has shown! Congratulations Keegs!

Hunter had his best EVER exhibition. He is usually nervous and struggles to get a good flow. However, this exhibition he nailed it! The feedback from each and every one of his peers was full of accolades. I'm going to share a secret: his brother attended the exhibition and he became emotionally choked up when he gave Hunter his feedback. *THAT's* how powerful Hunter's exhibition was! Hunter detailed the AMAZING job he had of organizing the Prom for the residents at Loretto. (Loretto is a senior citizen housing and rehabilitation community.) The staff at Loretto could not rave enough about Hunter's work there for the event, as well as during his last 3 years of interning there. Loretto is going to miss him terribly. The media was at Loretto the day of the event so if you missed it you can watch the news clip and Hunters interview on CW6/3/5 or look on Syracuse Media.com for the beautiful photographs that the professional photographer took and were in the paper.

<https://cnycentral.com/news/local/student-gives-senior-prom-a-whole-new-meaning-for-loretto-residents>

Hunter had a group of Big Picture students assist him at Loretto on the day of the prom transporting senior residents to the Prom room, dancing and mingling with the prom attendees. EVERYONE had a wonderful time and as Mary from CW news stated "the energy in the room was electric". It was so much fun seeing the

residents laugh, dance in their wheelchairs while enjoying the live band and seeing the pure joy on the faces of the King and Queen of the Loretto Prom. It was beautiful!

I have been writing in previous TGIF's about Hunters STP of cleaning up the environment. Hunter had guest speakers come to speak to the school and he organized 2 different events for Big Picture students to make a positive impact on our world by physically cleaning up locations one in the City of Syracuse and one at Selkirk Beach State Park in Pulaski. These were no small feats and the park rangers told the students what a huge impact the work we did on those days actually had on our planet. And throughout that time Hunter ALSO planned and facilitated the Adult Prom at Loretto. Yes, he really did a *tremendous job* following his passions while at the same time impacting multiple communities around us. He did such an outstanding job this year, doing what we want every 401 to do, make a difference and follow your passion! Congratulations Hunter I am so proud of you!!

Congratulations to the boys lacrosse team for their victory and winning the state title! A special shout out to my 401's Wyatt and Skariwate as this is their SECOND State Championship this year!! Being there to watch them win both in hockey AND lacrosse is something I will never forget!



TGIF from David

Life has its way of challenging you at unsuspecting moments. I am reminded of this as the smell of Neocate, a special hypoallergenic baby formula, remains on my shirt. My son has to be on this special formula and he managed to spit up a little on my shirt. It has a typical baby formula smell, it's not atrocious, but not exactly something I want to smell all day. Yet, here I am sitting in my shirt still while writing my last TGIF for the year. And why is my son on special formula, well my wife and I found out through a two week hospital stay that he has a severe milk protein allergy. Luckily, that is it, and I am grateful that is it, but it is not what I expected to experience so early in my son's life. That is life, I suppose, a series of challenges when we least suspect. We meet these challenges and survive these challenges by remaining strong, flexible, knowing when we need help, and having a support system.

My wife and I have family that is supportive, and we are both lucky enough to have jobs that provide the necessary professional life support. We are lucky to have the support of my co-workers and her co-workers. Spending two weeks in the children's hospital you see that not everyone has that support, even as a child. My experience reaffirmed what we do at Big Picture and what role we serve in our students' lives. Yes, as I have proved time and time again, even through the Wizard of Oz, anything can be tied back to Big Picture. It is called The Big Picture for a reason. It encompasses everything.

Our graduation is very special in a way that it reaffirms our commitment to relationship building and being the support network for students.

Every graduate gets to speak, and every graduate is introduced by a staff member. Staff members pick students that they have a special connection with. This was another tough year of limiting myself to two students, because as we sat there picking, I easily could have scooped up six students for myself, but other than me, who wants to hear myself talk that much? Ok, almost everyone. As I sat there, I ran through so many experiences with students. I would love to talk about all of them because I see our introductions as a truly special and honorable moment. I want

everyone else to see, or witness what I have experienced with that student for four years. It almost feels unfair that I have so many memories and moments that other hard working staff members never had the chance to experience. Graduation is my last moment to share and close out the relationship building done over those years.

Being so close to graduation, students are experiencing those last school challenges. You know and I know that the challenges they face after graduation will be unlike any they have faced before. High school is not even a dress rehearsal for the real world. In high school, we give them a script, but in the real world there is no script written. Our graduates will diverge in many different directions whether that is studying photography at Syracuse University, going undecided at Onondaga Community College, or finding a stable job. Life will challenge them all in unique ways. Hopefully, they have a support system built, if not, I hope they will see all of us at Big Picture as a support system that doesn't end upon graduation.

There were many challenges at Big Picture this year, some that remain ongoing, but I have the confidence that we approached those challenges with honesty and care. There are challenges that will follow us into the next school year. Soon, we will be discussing who gets to introduce the new graduates, and I will be reminiscing over the time I spent with them. Such is my experience at Big Picture, cyclical, but different enough that makes every day feel unique. Have a wonderful summer everyone and take the time to recognize your support network.

TGIF from Jessica

What a year this has been! Some how it has had a way of feeling like the fastest and longest year all at the same time. What I have enjoyed the most is getting to know my students even more and developing relationships unique to each 201 student. We have molded well together as an advisory and we have stayed true to our motto; we are as strong as our weakest link, and we are the lynx. The 201s have a way of stealthily rising to the occasion and capturing their goals. Our advisory has a way of looking out for each other, accepting one another for who we are, and meeting challenges head-on. We are a unique, creative bunch who have learned to be like a family. On Tuesday, this coming week, we will celebrate their gateway into 301 year. They will officially be a part of senior institute! I'm am so excited to lead them on this journey. To guide them to be independent, responsible young adults. Next year we will focus on developing this

independence by growing our self-motivation, problem solving skills, and grit. The students will also focus on developing their aspirations for after graduation so by the end of the year they have a confident ideas of what path they want to choose. Along the way we will not lose sight of the importance of helping and holding each link up. We will aim to expand this mentality to the other advisories by developing the students to become role models and assist other students.

With the year coming to a close, that also means its regents time! The algebra students have been working and participating well in review sessions. I want to give a special thanks to Emma who has been leading and assisting in the algebra review classes. The students have also been working on a practice regents outside of class. I have seen progress in the students success on these practice regents. They will receive one more this week for more practice.

TGIF from Walt

It is hard to believe the year is over; things just flew by. I really enjoyed this year at Big Picture, especially working in the shop and teaching writing to the 201s and 301s. I had the chance to work on various projects with a variety of students, and we created many interesting things together. I have learned much this year from being in the workshop. I have enjoyed teaching shop skills to the students because these are skills that they will use in their everyday life. These are also skills that can be passed on to others. My happiest shop moments are the times when students I worked with in the past teach others the same skills I taught them. I also have really enjoyed teaching writing, and I have definitely seen improvement in the students I have been working with. After grading the last round of argumentative essays, I could see a significant difference in the quality of writing. Things were very busy this year, but overall, I think that things went very well.

This week's highlights:

We have finally finished the aquarium stand for the CNYSPCA, and I am planning to drop it off on Monday. I have also incorporated an aquaponic cat

grass growing system, so that the fish waste will directly nourish the plants. This was a project that I have been working on in steps since the beginning of the year with Adam and JJ. It was very challenging and took over 30 hours worth of time, much of which took place after school. However, the finished product is worth it and it will make the cats very happy.

The espresso cart is complete and operational. Dawsun and I finished the siding last week, and it came out very nice. Next year I would like to add some new features like custom shelving and a portable sink powered by a water pump. We are also hoping to upgrade the espresso machine to a commercial model in order to increase speed. We are also planning to expand and hire on other students to help run things.

Evan's smoker is almost complete. He finished all the welding and metal fabrication, and all that remains is to fit the baffle plate and throw on a grill top. I am very impressed at his welding skills, and he did most of the welding at home on his own time. This is the last workshop project for the year, and we are hoping to finish this project next week and plan to test it out by making a few racks of ribs.

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



301s



201s



101s

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LaFayette Big Picture Learning

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