

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2018

NOVEMBER 9

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



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

We learn inside and outside of the classroom walls. This week was a perfect example of these practices. On Monday, our school traveled to spend the day on the SUNY Morrisville College Campus. It is important for our students to see themselves there. They are learning from experience about the systems in play on a college campus. They are getting comfortable there. We are not only learning while at Morrisville, the time allows are students to participate in physical activity and provides "make-up time" for PE classes that are missed due to internships. Tuesday was another learning outside our walls as students attended internships. We are starting our big push to get more students placed in internships to have the real world experiences that spur so many of our students to being owning thier own learning. On Wednesday, we learned inside our walls by bring people in from outside. We hosted our first date in the school exchange dialogue. We are paired with students from PSLA @ Fowler. It was a fantastic day of sharing our school and our culture with the PSLA students. Thank you to Sherri Hopper, Asa Shenandoah, Carlee, Maddie, and Kylee for helping us make the day even more special. Even the students who did not participate in the exchange enjoyed having our visitors attend classes and eat lunch with us! The energy continued to rise inside the building on Thursday and Friday with additional internships and making items for the craft fair. Students learned how to use the lathe and made the cutiest Christmas trees I have ever seen! They also constructed bird houses that we got to paint and decorate. It was a great week to learn in different spaces!

## TGIF from Walt

This was a very busy week at Big Picture. We were able to get a table at the Grimshaw arts and craft show this past weekend, so most of my time was spent working in the workshop creating things with students that we could sell.

This week's highlights:

Chad, our master woodworker, came in to do a workshop with students on lathe skills. Since the holiday season is approaching, we learned how to create mini christmas trees. Adam and JJ were very interested in lathe skills, and after Chad left, I worked with them to create 12 additional trees. These trees were then painted and decorated by students, and brought to the craft fair.

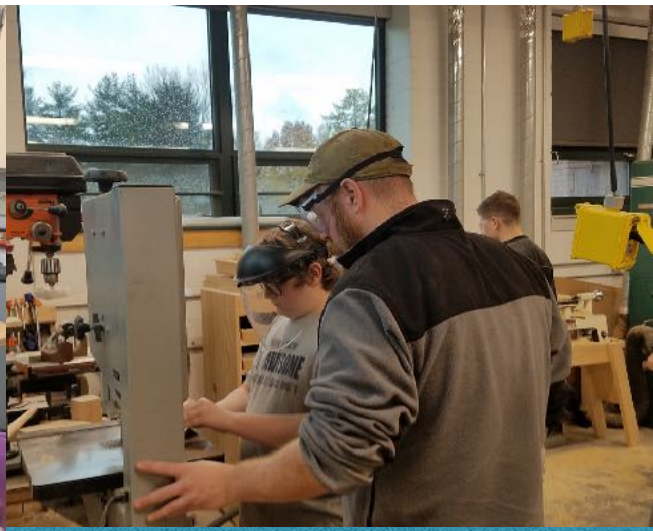
Trenton and Darryl worked with me to create mini birdhouse christmas ornaments. They built about 30 all together, and during exploratory time, students painted and decorated them. These were very popular at the craft fair, and many of them went.

Kaitlyn's mother, Erin, came in this week to help make resin casted ornaments with students. I have been working with Kaitlyn on resin casting and making charms, so we decided

to shift our focus to make ornaments for the craft fair.



Christine, Thomas and I went to the Arts and Crafts fair at Grimshaw this Saturday, and spent the day working our stand. People were impressed by the crafts that our students created, and we raised enough funds to purchase a chisel sharpening jig for the workshop, which was my main goal. This will make it much easier to do projects on the wood lathe, and will allow for better products to be made. Overall, it went very well. Many students and staff helped to make this possible, and I was very happy to see it all work out in the end.



## Craft Fair Production

### TGIF from David

I was reminded this week that students struggle in so many areas outside of their school work. This is true for all people, not just young people. We are all trying to figure out the balance of existing in the world and existing with ourselves. This is so hard to do for young people. It is also difficult for all of us to recognize the struggle in young people. We do not purposefully ignore these struggles, but there are so many other areas we are trying to help young people improve that often these struggles slip out of our sight. I typically see breakthroughs into the personal struggles of students happen outside of the school. In this case, it happened on our Morrisville Monday.

That set my perspective for the week. I have to say I came into the week after a weekend celebrating my wedding anniversary with a couples massage. So, maybe I was already a bit loose and a bit more open to students' needs? Or, maybe it was just a break in our typical school pattern that opened up a window into my student's struggle? Or, maybe it was just time for the student to share? I will

probably never figure out the real reason as there are so many variables.

Monday ended with a visit from a member of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. Brandon's Senior Thesis Project has caught their attention and we showed them around our school. We will move forward together writing a grant and also providing help with Brandon's project. This connection also led to a shadow day at Dutch Hill Maple for Brandon. On Thursday, Brandon had the opportunity to see Dutch Hill Maple's production.

On Tuesday, seven students visited CSTEP at SUNY ESF. They sat in on various college classes, made paper, and toured the entire campus.

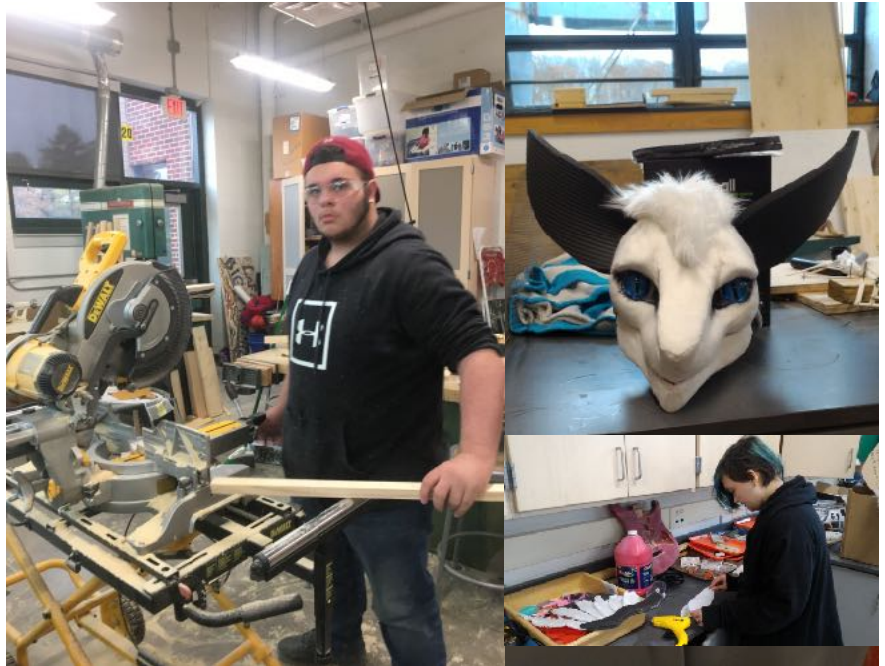
There were more little success that occurred throughout the week relating to Senior Thesis Projects and graduation requirements, but I do not want to talk about them prematurely. Students are moving in the right direction.

## TGIF from Jessica

We had quite the high energy week. Morrisville Monday was well attended and we enjoyed playing competitively. Tuesday we were all tired and sore but we had a good day. Trent and Brandon went on a college visit to SUNY ESF. The two came back impressed with the college and how nice it was. Not only did they get a tour of the campus, but they made homemade paper and got to sit in a college class. We had our first school exchange day with PSLA on Wednesday. It was exciting to invite the students into our school; to show them our culture, our workshops, and to see our students become hosts and leaders. Our energy continued to grow Thursday and Friday when we worked together as a school to make items for the Holiday Extravaganza at Grimshaw on Saturday. We worked together to make and decorate ornaments. There's something about people coming together and working towards a project that always brings me joy. The snow on Friday was a bow on an already pretty present.

There are 16 more school days until our first Exhibitions! All students have several things

they can be working on at home. Please ask your student to show you their learning plan on Google Sheets. They should be able to explain the new format of the learning plan and be able to tell you what they have completed or not. Feel free to contact me, all students have a lot of work to do before the week of December 10th.



## TGIF from Greg

This week the Shark Tank 101's had a very good week. We had visitors from the school exchange on Wednesday from PSLA that shared learning with us. They are a tremendous group of students who added insight and creativity to our group. Walt worked with some of our kids in the workshop, teaching our students the basics of woodworking and really brought imagination and enjoyment into learning. We had quite a few students helping with the creation of wooden crafts for the upcoming fair

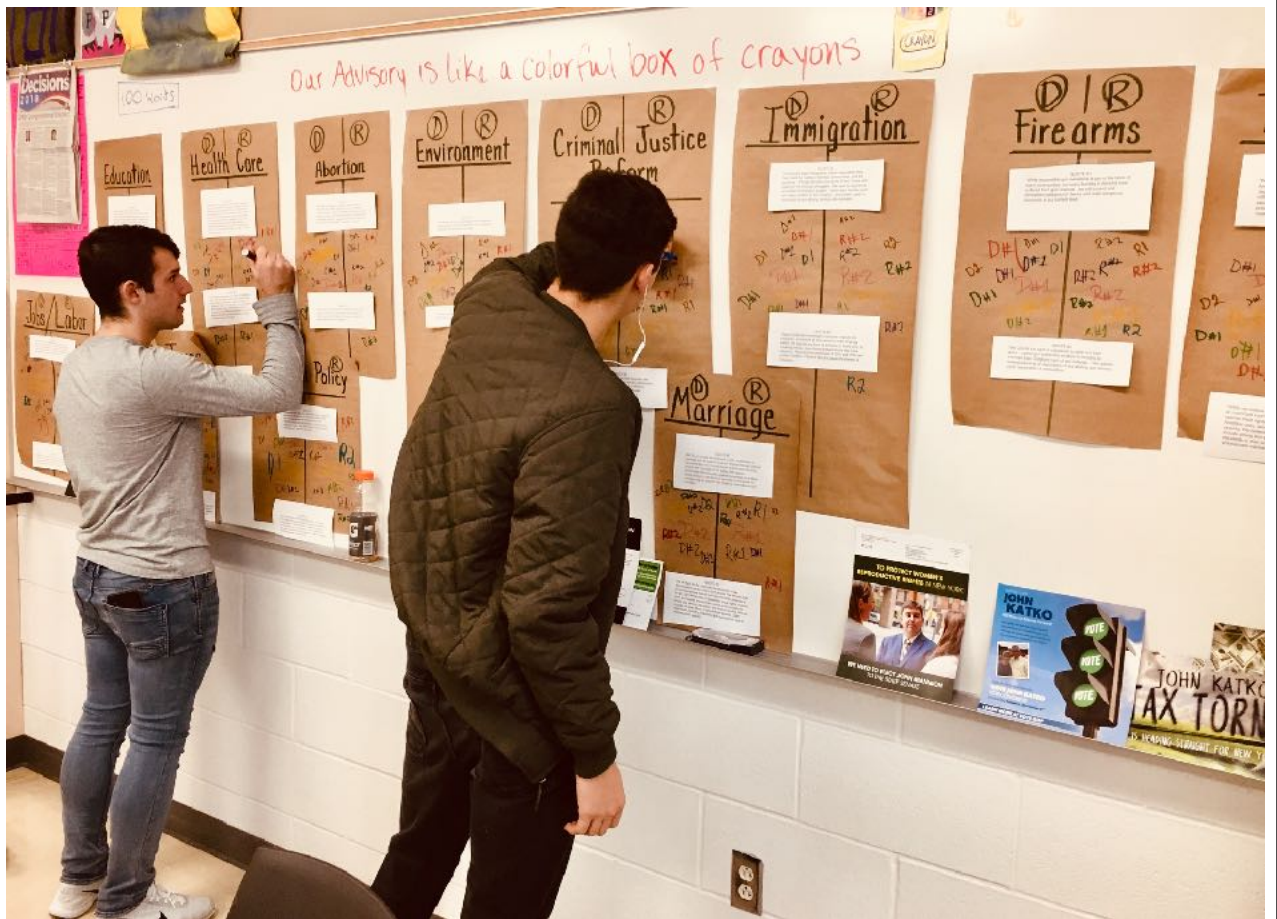
at Grimshaw Elementary. The Big Picture of our classroom this week was the introduction of our new fish tank.



Nikki along with Claire, Victor and John were able to assemble the tank and introduce it with the new fish to the class. We are finishing up our Learning Plans and getting ready to present them in a few weeks.

## TGIF from Alex

For the 401s, the word of the week was government. Yes; the election is over! No more political ads. However, if you missed those, you can stop by the 401 room as some of the political ads have graced us with their presence in the form of quotes on the wall. Students participated in an activity this week where they had to identify certain political party stances on various political issues.



Speaking of participating in government, Hunter Lutheran voted for the first time in his young life! Congrats to Hunter for exercising his civic duty. At Big Picture, we pride ourselves on being career ready. I think that part of being career ready is making our students civic ready as well.

To help that, the 401s took a quiz called "I side with political quiz." The quiz asks various questions of your political beliefs and matches them up with various political parties and political figures that are most in line with your responses to the questions. The 401s then had to take that information and analyze the results of the quiz, reflecting on the information. Really, the assignment asked them to challenge the quiz-generated results. Did they agree with the political parties that were most aligned with their beliefs? Did they disagree with some of the political figures that were aligned with their beliefs? The seniors really did a great job with their reflections and there was some really adult conversations/reflection that occurred!

Speaking of more government... (see... I told you the word of the week was government!) The seniors got acquainted with their public policy paper. It is a five page formal research paper which is required for graduation. The paper asks students to take a currently political policy and analyze historical cases/laws, present issue evidence, social/political/economic issues that surround the policy and then generate alternatives to the policy if they disagree with it.

Lastly, with almost 4 weeks until exhibitions, Hollis and I did "check ins" with all of our seniors on their Senior Thesis Projects. While some students are progressing a little more than others, these check ins are important to make sure that the projects are progressing. Sometimes it helps to have someone else take a look at the project through a different lens to make sure that all the details are being taken care of. With the exhibitions just 4 weeks away at this point, these were just a little reminder to make sure that everything is progressing! Overall, it was another great week in the 401 room.

## TGIF from Lenny

The energy in our school was surprisingly high for a cold and cloudy Monday morning. But it was a Morrisville Monday so our students were, in their words, hyped up. We had a very successful day of athletic participation in soccer, tail tag, ultimate Frisbee, and other individual activities like walking or running the track. 301s held an advisory in the CSTEP building after lunch where we read Poe's "The Raven" and learned about rhyme scheme. We eventually wrote our own poems using various schemes and the products were quite entertaining.

On Tuesday we had some 301s out but since there was no photography, we had quite a few in the building. We spent much of the day trying to advance our project work and address long-term goals. In the afternoon, David and I met with our five, school exchange student facilitators to prepare for the scheduled exchange on Wednesday.

On Wednesday we hosted around 20 PSLA students for our community wide dialogue program. We were very fortunate to have a few students from the high school give the opening address to start the day and a closing at day's end. We included our PSLA guests in our morning meeting routine and began the programming. Students participated in large and small group discussions and BP students had PSLA students shadow them to their first workshop. We also had lunch together and BP students seemed really proud to be hosting our guests. It was a successful day filled with new connections and new ideas. Next Friday our student facilitators will have another training to improve their skills in assisting meaningful dialogue.

On Thursday I conducted a site visit to Blue Collar Doggie Daycare on Erie Blvd. Tresah has been attending an



internship there for weeks and it was time for a follow-up project development meeting. We discussed building a dog swing to enhance the dog's play area. We brainstormed designs and building materials while considering durability and mobility. We also discussed making doggy treats and learning training techniques. I was treated to a tour of the facility and in a short time learned a ton about dog behavior. Tresah got right to work on Friday during IWT looking for the right building materials and weighing various design options. Thank you to the staff at Blue Collar Doggy Daycare for your time and consideration.

Friday was filled with meaningful learning experiences. We hunkered down in advisory to

read together and to work on various math concepts. I broke the advisory into 3 groups with varied math exercises based on the most recent STAR screener results. I saw collaboration, problem solving through trial and error and many student were self-driven to derive the right answers. Although it takes more time to plan a lesson around student's varied skill levels, it's clearly a method that achieves better results.

In ER we looked at the impact of plastic waste on the oceans as part of an over arching theme this year. And in LE we began our Making Connections Lab by collecting and graphing heart rate data. I also

continued the Wellness Center exploratory and it was great to see students excited about the noticeable gains they are achieving due to their consistent attendance and sustained effort. Whether it's math, reading or weight lifting, I think students are realizing that results only come when they apply real grit to the situation. As we learned in our advisory reading, it's one thing to *want* to change your situation, it's another thing to *decide* to change your situation. Have a great week!



# LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE STAFF

401s



## Need to Contact Us?

Susan Osborn:  
[sosborn@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:sosborn@lafayetteschools.org)

Kym Weil:  
[kweil@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:kweil@lafayetteschools.org)

Lenny Oppedisano:  
[loppedisano@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:loppedisano@lafayetteschools.org)

Walt Nowey:  
[wnowey@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:wnowey@lafayetteschools.org)

April Palmer:  
[apalmer@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:apalmer@lafayetteschools.org)

David Stablein:  
[dstablein@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:dstablein@lafayetteschools.org)

Jessica Giordano:  
[jgiordano@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:jgiordano@lafayetteschools.org)

Greg Scott:  
[gscott@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:gscott@lafayetteschools.org)

Hollis Rotella:  
[hrotella@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:hrotella@lafayetteschools.org)

Christine Kane:  
[ckane@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:ckane@lafayetteschools.org)

Erin Virnoche:  
[evirnoche@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:evirnoche@lafayetteschools.org)

Joy Gregg:  
[jgregg@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:jgregg@lafayetteschools.org)

Rosalie Whipple:  
[rwhipple@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:rwhipple@lafayetteschools.org)

Nikki Cawley:  
[ncawley@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:ncawley@lafayetteschools.org)



301s



201s



101s

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

*Susan Osborn*

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LaFayette Big Picture Learning

3122 Route 11 North

LaFayette, New York 13084

