

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2018

NOVEMBER 30

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



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

I believe I scheduled the perfect storm. Unintentionally, of course. Our exhibitions are next week. Students are finishing up projects and goals that they have set. The students taking college courses have finals and final projects due. The holidays are here. All of these things contribute to increased stress. We are trying to use all of the strategies available to us to combat the stress but it can still be felt. We find that the students who have internships are most successful in managing it all. Victor, Austin and Jerran started on their internship journey this week. They will be exploring personal health, wellness and independent living skills. Their first order of business was to make a delicious fruit salad. I love when they share!

We are also remembering to breathe. One of our favorite morning meeting practices is 4 by 4 breathing as a way to recenter and focus. We will move through this storm!





## TGIF from Walt

This week, I spent the majority of my time working with students in the workshop. There are many projects going on, and exhibitions are quickly approaching, so things have been very, very busy.

This week's highlights:

I worked with Jerran on a dog house this week. This is part of his LTI project, and his first major building project. I taught Jerran how to use the basic tools in the workshop this week, and we completed the framing for the doghouse. Next week, we will apply the sheathing and add the roof. Jerran is a very fast learner, and has been doing a great job with construction.

Audrey and I worked on her shoe self this week. She has over 20 pairs of shoes, and needed a large shelf to store them all, so we have been working on this project for the past couple weeks. This week we assembled the entire shelf, added

the trim and sanded the entire unit. Next week we are hoping to stain it.

Carlee and I worked on restoring her vintage desk this week. She wanted to restore and modernize her desk to use for cosmetology supplies storage, so we sanded it down and are repainting it. This week we managed to disassemble, sand and prime the desk for painting. Next week we are hoping to finish it.

Jamus and I worked on fixing the doors for the greenhouse this week. This is something that we have been having problems with for quite a while, and recently the door had been torn off during a storm. This was not an easy process, because we had to do a good amount of metal work and fabrication in order to make this happen. The entire structure is aluminum, so it was a bit of a challenge. We ended up getting the door mounted, and next week we are hoping to set up the automatic climate control that Jamus has been working on.

## TGIF from Greg

This week the Shark Tank had a full week of Exhibition Preparation with practice run throughs for most of the students. The rest of the student will practice their run through on Monday and Tuesday. The students are preparing to make some dog toys that will be given to the SPCA for a service learning project. We will be going to Destiny Mall and ring the bell for collections with

the Salvation Army. This time of year really brings out the most in people and our class is no different. They are eager to serve which is awesome. We have projects that range from making a dog house, a skate board and even a collection box for the homeless shelter. Our photography students have really developed their skills. Their photos that are being used for exhibitions are pretty impressive. So long for now.....

hoo haa haa



## TGIF from Jessica

I had the pleasure of going on site visits over the past few weeks. I always enjoy these visits because they remind me what Big Picture is all about. Each site visit I go on, I walk in to find my student with a smile from ear to ear. They are thoroughly enjoying what they are doing at their internships and the mentors they are working with. Every student has increased attention and reverence for their mentor and the work they are doing. I saw this in Kyle at Dominick's Restaurant, Tete at Eternity Extensions, Mitchell at OIP, Dawsun at Syracuse City Ballet, and Darryl at Photography. Kyle enjoys working upstairs with Bernie and can't wait for the restaurant to open. Tete is beaming with excitement as she tells us the new hairstyles, cuts, and colors LeeAnn is teaching her. This year Mitchell is interacting with customers by working at the cash register, taking orders, and answering phones. Dawsun has learned from Katie and built up several business managements skills as she makes schedules, sets up interviews, and promotes Syracuse City Ballet. Darryl has just started learning from Carol how to use a camera at his photography internship and he is enjoying taking photographs. This week I will visit Dawsun at Coffee Mania where she has been learning the cash register and how to make coffee.

The Trimester is coming to a close at the end of this week and we start exhibitions Monday, December

10th. Over the past week we finished both our Advisory Reading and our Advisory Project. The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros depicted an empowering picture of social norms' impact on society. The students specifically explored social norms' impact on poverty, women's rights, and the Hispanic culture. They reflected on social norms they see in their life and the choices to follow or reshape social norms in a written assignment. We also had a class discussion on how words have different meanings for different people based on their experiences and view points.

Our advisory project was to research and learn about communist government through the lens of China. Students generated questions regarding the topic, we organized the questions into sub categories, and assigned these categories to students. Each student then researched and found answers to the questions. On Friday, the students presented on their research to the advisory and we invited Alex to share his knowledge of communism. After hearing each presentation, we reflected on the knowledge learned about China to discuss how communism shapes the Chinese way of life and defines the social norms in China. From this research, students were asked to express their viewpoint on communist government in a written reflection.



SRC shared the work  
and careers available in  
the company.

Left: Claire  
Right: Morgan





## TGIF from Alex

Wow how is it already December! The school year is just flying by. With December coming into full view the 401s have been talking a little more about graduation and moving onto bigger and better things from high school. And if I am being honest we have a small outbreak of "senioritis". Fortunately, this outbreak is contained to a few localized cases and there is no reason to call in the CDC. It is almost like they can see the calendar roll over to that 19 and they just can't wait for June! (That is just one of the many joys of teaching seniors really!).

But before they are able to do that they need to get through December first and that can really mean one thing for the 401s that are taking college courses. Finals are coming soon. I just think that this is a great opportunity for the 401s to experience what those are like on a smaller scale (1 or 2 classes) so that they are prepared and know what to expect for a full load of college finals when they take them as full time freshmen. The 401s really also get a double whammy too in the month of December because exhibitions are right around the corner (those start the week of the 10th).

Obviously, some seniors are in a better position than others in terms of their preparation, but there is still plenty of time to make one final push! But it is times like these that build character and where grit is developed. At a school like this, which prides itself on making students work ready, moments like these are critical in developing students for the real world. I guess it is just an early life lesson right, everything always seems to come all at once (especially the stressful times). So I fully expect this week to be crazy as students make those last ditch efforts to complete their assignments and projects before exhibitions.

This week the seniors started off their week with their Senior PE trip. A few of the seniors were able to go (Diana, Dan, Cailin, Brandon, Layton).

The seniors spent the day swimming, bowling and ice skating. Shout out goes to Diana who took home first place out of the 401s in the bowling portion of the day! Diana bowled a 109 (great job Diana)! From the photographs that Hollis sent it looked like the seniors really had a great time. The reason why we didn't have more seniors going on the PE trip was because of college classes! (Another real world lessons right? Real life always seems to get in the way of having fun).



## TGIF from Lenny

Last week was one that seemed impossibly full of highs and lows. It was a week that if divided in half, still would have felt like a long one. Maybe the early snow brought us in holiday mode or maybe it's the countdown to exhibitions. Whatever the reason, students were high energy. Sometimes it was positive energy, sometimes it was not.

In LE, students designed experiments for the Making Connections Lab and began conducting them on Friday. It's always fun to watch LE students recruit other students to be participants in their trials. The middle room on Friday was home to a lot of push-ups, jumping jacks and clothespin squeezing.

In exploratory, we spent one day in the gym and half the group held a full court game of basketball. It was pretty intense for a pick up game. The other day we were in the Wellness Center and once again I am pleased to see students celebrate the gains they have achieved through consistent work.

Our advisory completed another set of math exercises and again found the benefit of working together when tackling complex problems. We also read a few more chapters in our book. The chapters focused on pushing through obstacles, the part of the human psyche called the ego and the power of self-perception.



On the project front, Thomas made great progress with his photography editing, Audrey is nearing completion on her wood working, and Jamus is navigating many obstacles in his mission to get the greenhouse operational. Emma, Josh and Kaia are approaching the end of their fall semester with their SUNY Morrisville classes and the pressure is on. Soon there will be final exams and final projects due.

To add to the excitement of the week,

David and I took 16 of our students to PSLA at Fowler on Wednesday. This was the latest Community Wide Dialogue session and it was a great success. We were warmly welcomed and got straight to work with ice-breakers, small group discussions and large group activities. Afterwards, our BP students were invited to shadow the PSLA students for afternoon classes and lunch. The day culminated with a final large group gathering and then our departure with warm farewells. Our students are excited to be hosting our dialogue partners on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup>. We are all looking forward to the work we are doing and the friendships we are making.

I hope you all have a wonderful week.





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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*



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201s



101s

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