

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

FEBRUARY 7

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



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

I am really struggling with how to put this week into words. I cannot believe so many events could happen in a little school in one week! Energy was high in the building. We celebrated 11 students who had perfect attendance for January. All of our students traveled to SUNY Morrisville on Monday for advisory and Physical Activity. The SECNY Lancer Branch opened with three Big Picture students working at the credit union. Students attended new internship sites. Sean held an eSports meeting as part of his Senior Thesis Project. The staff participated in a professional development session learning more about Tourettes. We held multiple parent meetings. We held a baby shower for David and Alyssa! Brandon boiled sap. We celebrated Jessica being named as the February Legend of Learning for the district. We supported students in need. We cheered on success. We removed as many obstacles to learning as we could. We worked hard!



TGIF from Jessica

The 201s had an exciting week for internships.

SECNY Federal Credit Union opened our very first student run Lancer Branch in the main office of the Jr/Sr High School! Randy, Kaia, and Jamus all have internships at the branch along with Ben and Collin; two student from the Sr High School. Jamus is the branch manager, Ben is the assistant manager, Kaia is the marketing representative, and Randy and Collin are tellers. The five of them work along side a representative from SECNY to open and manage accounts. I had the pleasure of seeing Randy, Jamus, and Kaia excited about their position and promote the bank to their peers and teachers. The three of them have taken ownership of their internship.

Elias went on two shadow days this week at Blue Prints Dog Studio. Elias enjoyed working with the dogs and he knew all of their names within the first hour of being there! Elias had a great time and he looks forward to going back.

Dawsun went to Giarosso this week with Walt and the two of them both learned from Paul. Paul taught them how to work with metal; cutting, drilling, sauter, etc. They learned how to use the tools and became acquainted with the shop. Dawsun made a fancy metal tin!

Walt has continued to work with the 201s on their writing skills. On Wednesday the 201s picked Walt's choice of creative writing. Walt gave each of the students five character and topic cards. The cards were random, funny, and out of the box. The students had to find a way to include each card they drew into their story which made writing fun!



Congratulations to
Jessica Giordano!

LaFayette Legend
of Learning for
February!

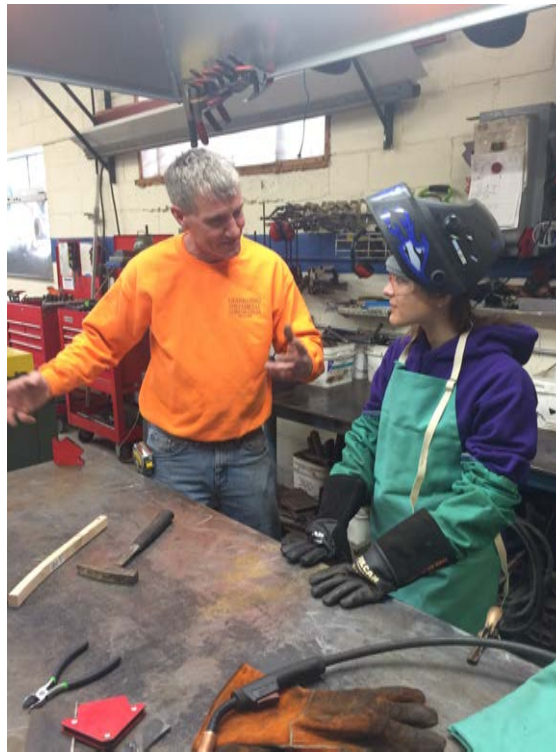
TGIF from Walt

This was a very busy week at Big Picture for me. I spent most of my time jumping between providing writing instruction to the 201s and 301s and helping students with various independent projects. Thankfully, we just received a new shipment of building materials, so I had to clean out the shed and reorganize things to make room. Thankfully, Evan helped me with this process and I am excited to start building with students next week.

This week's highlights:

Monday was Morrisville Monday, so I spent the time there running games of tail tag and ultimate frisbee. I also was able to spend some time with the 201s and 301s during advisory time, and we bonded over a game of Scattergories. It was a fun day.

I spent a large amount of time this week helping Brandon on his Senior Thesis Project. He is hoping to start a small maple syrup farm at school, and this week we gathered supplies and started tapping the trees. Dutch Hill Maple farm donated used lines and taps to Brandon so he could start gathering sap. Brandon tapped a few trees, and



we were able to gather a few gallons of sap already. Next week, we are hoping to tap more trees and possibly make our first test batch of syrup.

In Entrepreneurship Workshop we began experimenting with making cereal bars to sell at school. Now that Regents are over, I have a new group of students and we began pursuing a new product idea. This week, we created several varieties of cereal bars, and we are hoping to test them out Monday.

On Tuesday, I went to Giarrusso sheet metal with Dawsun to learn about welding. Dawsun is starting a coffee shop at our school and is creating a mobile coffee cart. Giarrusso sheet metal is willing to help with this project, and Dawsun will be working with Paul Welder, her mentor, to make the cart. I have also been helping with this project, and was able to go along to help plan out the cart. This week, Dawsun and I learned about the basics of welding and metal fabrication. She was able to get some hands time.

TGIF from Greg

The 101s had a busy week, starting with Morrisville Monday, where they had the chance to participate in group sports or walking/jogging. All were very active and all were very tired on the bus ride home! We are extremely proud of two of our 101s, Claire and Julien, who passed their Regents exams in American History with flying colors! They, along with the rest of the Shark Tank are adjusting to their new class schedules. All of the 101s are now involved in Shadow Days with possible new mentors, or are

participating in an internship. 6 of our students are actually learning valuable life skills, along with cooking and healthy nutrition right here at Big Picture with Hollis Rotella in our kitchen! This week during their independent work time most of them were working away on their Learning Plans and preparing for their upcoming exhibitions. They've got some great projects planned, and we can't wait to see their improvements and how they've grown during this trimester. They will start practicing for their presentations this week!

TGIF from April

This week began with Morrisville Monday, which the students always enjoy. Then many of the 401's rolled right into some good work!

Carlee has finished her main coat on her vanity/ beauty cosmetology table she is creating out of an old desk. She is really excited about her progress and has decided to cut a portion of the top out and put a glass piece across the top so that you can see the innards of the drawer; as she was showing me we came up with the idea of putting velvet inside the drawer- HOW COOL will that look!

Dan is busy working on college scholarships when not at his internship. It's good to see the effort he is putting into earning various scholarships. There are SO many varied scholarships available to seniors, literally I tell my 401's they should all be looking for and applying for as many as they can. I hope others start to seek out unique scholarships that fit their interests and personalities.

Brandon got his sap lines this week; they were a donation from Dutch Hill in Tully. Thank you Dutch Hill! So Brandon, with the help of Walt, spent a great deal of time heating, unwinding and pulling taps off the lines in order to properly clean them so no bacteria would get unintentionally transferred to the trees they are going to tap. Brandon was very excited about running his exploratory to tap the trees. He said the "101's were really into it" and he liked teaching them how to do it. It's good to see him getting back out there



tapping; that is when he is at his happy place.

Josh J. is going to be now shadowing the PT department at Loretto. This is very exciting! Although he cannot do PT with the residents he will observe and watch, thereby learning about PT, OT and speech therapy techniques.

I have been super impressed with many of my USH students. Tete has been spot on with her recall this week. Brandon Steglish is rocking, I'm so proud of him! Tresah is putting in tremendous effort and Stuart shows up early everyday! Most of those in the USH workshops are all doing a great job! (But we will keep that to ourselves, because I find when I tell them they are doing great they ummm...self sabotage. And I don't want that to happen. 😊)



TGIF from Lenny

Highlights from the week include Brandon leading a portion of of ER to demonstrate how to tap a tree for sap. It's approaching that time of the year to tap trees so Brandon is preparing as part of his STP. Brandon led an exploratory on tapping and will continue to inform our ER workshop as he collect sap to produce maple syrup.

In ER, we also monitored and cared for our aquaponics plants. They are growing well and even flowering. Soon we will be adjusting the light cycle to promote fruiting. Most of the students in ER can monitor and record the pH and ppms without any assistance from me.

The LaFayette School Branch of SECNY opened this week with Jamus, Kaia, and Randy



representing our school as bank employees. I visited the branch on its first day of operation to open an account. Jamus helped get me in the system and Randy processed my first deposit. It was a great experience and we are proud of our bank employees.

In advisory we continued to make steady progress on our policy papers, read from our book and set and met goals in a variety of categories. On Friday, a friend of mine who is professionally referred to as an Accountability Coach visited the 301s. I asked her to come in and work with 301s in a number of areas pertaining to mindset. During this session, we focused on how to shift our thinking about things we should do, but avoid for one reason or another. We explored how a simple shift in our perception can steer us

towards doing the right thing. We took some positive steps that day, but there is much more work to do.

The countdown to the next round of exhibitions has already begun with only a couple weeks of school remaining. There has been some solid work on requirements and projects by most 301s. Now comes the period of time where students rise up and meet the challenge or succumb to the pressure. I believe that soon, all 301s will have a mindset for success. 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



301s



201s



101s

**BIG
PICTURE
LEARNING**

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