

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

MARCH 8

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



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

Congratulations to the Syracuse Hockey team for winning the New York State Championship Game on Sunday. There are 7 LaFayette students on the team and 3 of them are Big Picture students: Wyatt, Skariwate and Kaleb. Congratulations Gentleman!

Other Congratulations are in order too! It was exhibition week and there were some outstanding exhibitions given. Thank you to the parents that have attended exhibitions.

You are a very important part of our work!

We have a few more exhibitions to finish up next week due to a weather delay but it was great to celebrate the learning and accomplishment of our students this trimester. In addition to the exhibitions, we will be focusing on our schoolwide argumentative essay, internship evaluations and conversations, reflective writing pieces and setting our final academic goals for the school year.



## TGIF from David

Exhibition week is a great reminder of all the different facets of education we aim to address. It is also a week that is difficult to categorize student learning because there is so much different learning happening. I am trying to come up with the right word to describe the learning instead of just calling it different. The learning is diverse. The learning is personal. The learning is broad. The learning is focused. The learning is academic. The learning is generational. And, I am sure all of us have a different way of categorizing the learning being done. Exhibitions might be the only way to show all of this. Then, I thought about all the learning that is not easy to show at an Exhibition, or the learning that I haven't seen captured at an Exhibition. Just because it could not be captured at an Exhibition doesn't mean learning did not happen.

Some of this learning is helping students become better people, helping them become their better selves. This often happens in moments or conversations that cannot be tied to some assessment. These moments cannot be turned into data, or the moment does not fit into the classroom lessons of the day. That is why a relationship between the student and an adult is sometimes the only way to measure this kind of learning. I had that experience this week with a student when we held multiple conversations throughout the week that broke down his feelings on family, friends, his past, present, and his eventual future. Those are thoughts we sometimes never confront, or we confront much later in life and often too late. I have seen his growth this semester in his relationships with peers and how he approaches his desire to learn. He was able to show some of this in his Exhibition, but as I sat there listening to him present there were so many other areas that he could show his growth if only we had tied that to all of his other learning. That means I need to be better at recognizing this while that learning plan is being developed and worked on instead of in the middle of an exhibition. But, then, would I be able to recognize that at the beginning? I do not know. Exhibition week is not just a reflection for students, but for us staff.

So, this week was not just for reflection, but also some celebration. On Tuesday, CSTEP students and staff joined our STEP students for a dinner. Our CSTEP students can be great mentors for our students to talk to them about school, college, and careers. I made all of the

food with some help from students. I made ziti, macaroni and cheese, calzones, enchiladas, quesadillas, and two cakes. I went home Tuesday night and fell asleep on the couch nursing my tired legs.

Julien attended a playwright session at Syracuse Stage on Tuesday night. Attendees at this three hour event were given tips and ideas on how to successfully write a play. Julien said it was a good experience and reinforced some ideas. Three of our students, Josh K., Aiden, and Devin met with Bill O'Leary about a new Grimshaw mentoring opportunity. The three of them will mentor students at Grimshaw on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We will develop new learning plans this coming week. I hope I will do my best to serve students and hopefully in May when I reflect upon it my reflection will sound much different than today.

**We are still seeking shadow opportunities in: Music, Animal Care, Carpentry, Athletic Training, Art, and more. Give us a call at the school 315-504-1000 if you know of any**



## TGIF from Greg

This week the Shark Tank had some remarkable exhibitions. Each student had something unique to offer. They filled in their learning plans with plenty of data and evidence including readings, journals, argumentative essay, handouts, spreadsheets, videos, and slide shows which thoroughly explained their trimester. Evan had quite the exhibit showing welding examples he learned and performed. He is working on a charcoal smoker and will present it at his last exhibition. Devon taught us all about computer coding and the mathematical algorithms associated with it. Julien knocked it "outta the park" with his exhibition showing how to write a screenplay. His photography added life to this process. Special thanks to Pace University Senior Kylee Scott, a Digital Cinema and Filmmaking major, who helped Julien with this process. Julien's photos were awesome as well. John's photography project that studied animals in the wild and those in captivity were amazing. With all the great photos he produced, it was hard to pick a favorite one. I liked the one he took of a deer in his backyard. According to John, the deer snorted and talked to him. Either way it was a fine presentation. Morgan had quite a bit of content in her presentation as well. One thing

that stood out was her photographs from her great grandfather. He was a key photographer on the battleship USS Missouri on the historic day Japan unconditionally surrendered ending World War II. This was amazing. Caitlyn truly taught us the history of Irish Dance. The River Dance history was brought to life and had our complete attention as she showed the types of dance as well as the actual shoes worn at the time. Aiden showed us his blueprint and slide show of the skateboard ramp he made. He showed us from square one to the end of this wonderful project. He then showed us the history of skateboarding with a video on the early days when a skateboarder would board in unused, empty inground pools. Kyler gave us a historical overview of the Haudenosaunee Nation through art. He sketched the 5 nation wampum and each headdress of each of the five Nations. He explained the Longhouse as well as the Clans of the Onondaga Nation. Victor added to this by bringing in the Haudenosaunee flag and a drum stick he made with Walt. Austin continued his work on his donation boxes he made in the shop with Walt. He will be donating these to a homeless shelter in the Syracuse area. Josh, Claire, Adam, and Garrett will be showing their projects this week and the report will continue next week. It's hard to believe how

much work they completed with hurdles such as 6 snow days. They are a resilient bunch of sharks in this Shark Tank, Hoo Ha Ha. They all owe Nikki a special thanks for working with them at all hours of the day.



## TGIF from Jessica

T2 exhibitions are wrapping up on Monday for the 201s. I am pleased with my students' determination to complete their goals and continue to work to complete tasks even after their exhibition. We spent our half day on Friday all writing our PENs (post exhibition narratives) together as an advisory. By the end of the half day, I had 6 PEN's handed in to me! This is a big improvement for the 201s. Writing has always been a difficult and dreaded task for them. Usually it takes a week to get the majority of the PENs, and then another two weeks to get the lingering PENs all handed in. I attribute their growth to two main factors; writing lessons from Walt and completing the task together while providing support. As we head into the

third trimester, I plan to complete more tasks together as an advisory and less independently. Attendance will become a big factor for success as we close out this year. All 201s must be in school to get and complete assignments when they are given so they will have the support they need while doing them. With good attendance, all 201s will be well prepared to gateway.

This week we will be taking our last workkeys assessment required for gateway. We will be completing our second argumentative essay. We will also be developing, creating, and filling in our new projects into the learning plans. Mentors and parents, please feel free to give your students input for their next projects. I hope to see all 201s all week.

## TGIF from April

This week flew by! I was excited to be able to attend exhibitions from other advisories this week. If you have watched (and become hooked on, as I have 😊) the show the Masked Singer you know how elaborate the costumes the stars wear on the show. Stuart's work is, in my estimation, of such a quality that my feedback was: "Stuart your work would allow you to pursue a career in Hollywood making costumes for shows like the Masked Singer!" It really was impressive! All the detail, commitment and creativity Stuart is putting in are phenomenal!

401 exhibitions that stood out would be Carlee, Sean and Dan. That's not saying others were not up to snuff, but these in particular stood out for very different reasons.

Carlee is working so hard on every level, here at Big Picture and Cosmetology, which she made evident during her exhibition. Everything has not gone smoothly for her, but she has shown true Grit and continued to pursue excellence rather than throw in the towel. She accomplished a great deal; I am very proud of her!



Dan does much of his STP work outside of school at his internship. So it was good to see the real world work displayed during his exhibition and learn about the difference he is making for Hard As Nails Ministry. Both Dan and Cailin, at their internships are experiencing what every organization or corporation encounters when trying to implement new ideas, work strategies or technology. That is: plans don't always go as expected and businesses often change pace or plans as they go in order to be successful. During his exhibition Dan was able to demonstrate the 21<sup>st</sup> century work place skills he is learning and implementing daily while at his internship site.

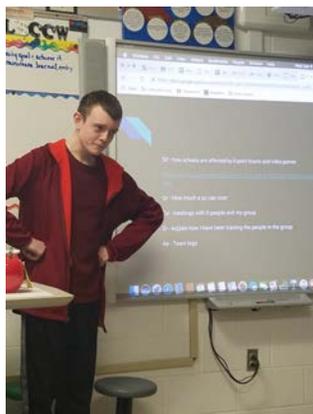


I am totally infatuated with the mini hockey sticks Wyatt is making! They are even more adorable (don't tell him I labeled them adorable 😊) now that he is painting and taping them. I asked him to make one more – for me – so I can have our hockey boys sign it and I will hang it in our advisory as a commemorative for the year they

went to & won States!

(Disclaimer- I am writing this before they actually play their game so I do not know the actual outcome yet. I'm just SAYING they are going to win!

😊) I also was thrilled to see Layton's RC car sets are in. Now he just has to get the RC club rolling so they have time enough to make the cars and play with them before our next round of exhibitions. The exhibition panel all agreed the elementary students are going to love Layton's RC club! Keegan showed off his talent of photography and his new work in creating and editing film. He



Sean is opening up so very much; and you can tell he is extremely invested in his STP. He was humorous while

presenting his exhibition and detailed his Esports team progress. He was teaching Hollis this week how to play video games -hopefully she is better at it than I am. Sean just laughs (at me) when he tries to teach me, I'm so bad!



dressed as a Harry Potter character and demonstrated how he made his mini film complete with special effects – his wand lit up! It gives you a new appreciation for major motion picture special effects. Keegan is going to be famous someday. Yes, you heard it here first! Sewahiss (Keegan) Hemlock. Watch for that name!

To fit in with the theme of ‘magic’ presentations I am so excited to go to the High School production of The Little Mermaid this weekend! From everything I know of LaFayette’s drama department and with all the chatter about this show, I expect another terrific performance! Break a leg cast and crew of this years HS production!



## TGIF from Walt

This week was Exhibition week at Big Picture. I spent most of my time working on finishing up student projects and proofreading work with students. I was also able to sit on a good number of Exhibitions, most of which were very good.

Brandon and I continued to work on his STP project, and this week we went out and ran more sap lines. Next week is supposed to warm up, so we are hoping to start collecting a good amount of sap. We are hoping to make the evaporator this Tuesday, so hopefully we will have our first batch of syrup by the end of the week.

Rioux and I worked on his mini-lacrosse stick project this week. He wants to make a traditional style lacrosse stick, and this week we experimented with bending wood by making a small scaled version. We made a small steamer and bending jig, but weren't very successful with our first experiment because the wood snapped. Next week we are going to try a larger piece of wood and possibly a different type of wood to see if that makes a difference.



On Tuesday, I worked with Hollis' cooking group to show them how to make gyoza, steamed pork dumplings. This is one of my favorite dishes, and I enjoyed being able to share it with them. I am also going to be working with them next week to show them how to make lo mein.



Jarren and I finished his dog house this week. We put on the roof on and painted the exterior. Jarren did a great job on this project and I was surprised how quickly he learned basic construction.

## TGIF from Lenny

My goal going into last week was to keep things real. By that I mean that my intentions were to be level, fair and honest in my evaluations of students at their exhibitions. There is always something to celebrate. But as we are past the half-year point of the 301 year, we need to be realistic about how our actions are or are not moving us towards graduation.

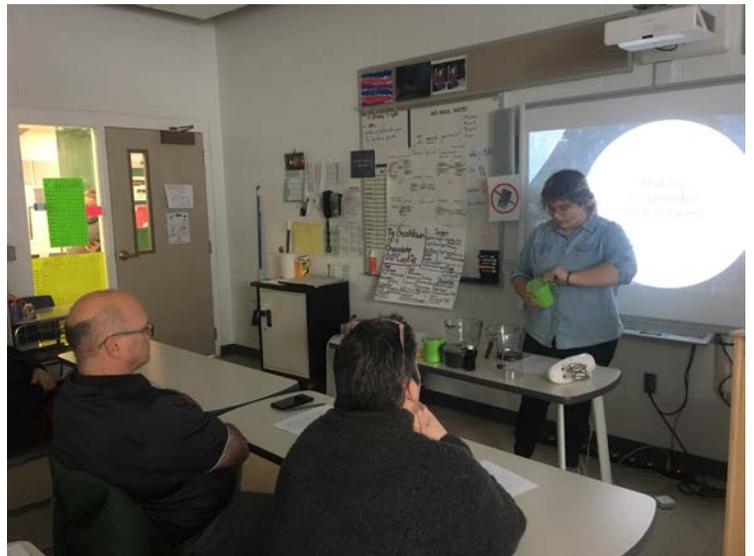
Exhibitions were a success overall. We had to move a couple and do some juggling because of the delay on Wednesday, but that is unavoidable. So far Jamus, RJ, Thomas, Audrey, Kyle, Emma, Josh, and Kaia have presented. Here are some highlights. Jamus used the opportunity to teach us about investing strategies and Thomas taught us math concepts that he is learning in his college class. Emma made the 'perfect' chocolate chip cookie and Audrey made Indian Tacos at their presentations and shared with the panel. RJ was very professional and organized as he shared his many interests. Kyle focused on his auto mechanic experiences at Goodman Automotive while Kaia shared her experiences at SECNY and her investigation of criminal profiling.

I took the opportunity to have very focused conversations with parents, guardians and students about what is going well and what needs attention. These post-exhibition meetings are priceless and I am grateful that I have the ability to communicate so closely with students and parents. This is where real accountability can begin.

To round out the week we welcomed Jen Liddy to our advisory for a second visit. Jen worked with 301s a few weeks ago on recognizing negative thoughts and shifting them towards neutral or positive thoughts. Her session on Friday used a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy technique intended to interrupt harmful thought loops to get us out of toxic thought ruts. We worked through examples of how circumstances are neutral, but our thoughts, feelings, actions and consequent results can reinforce the negative thoughts and keep the cycle going. We will continue work this week intended to recognize and interrupt those negatives thought loops.

We also have a number exhibitions to complete and we will return to our typical

workshop schedule. It's going to be a busy one. 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

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