

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

DECEMBER 6

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



This was a bit of a strange week. We started with a snow day on Monday. Although much enjoyed by everyone, it made our week even more packed than normal. Our exhibitions are next week. Our students had four days to put the final touches on their presentations. I did see quite a few of our students practicing and doing run throughs which always leads to better exhibitions. I saw a lot of projects getting finished as well. I think next week is going to be one of celebration! Our students were out in the community as well. We had students volunteer at the Samaritan Center and ring bells for the Salvation Army. Additionally, we have an increasing number of students with internships. We are thankful for our transportation department for working so hard to fulfill all of our internship transportation requests. Our students also participated in a school exchange with PSLA at Fowler and attended at college visit at Hartwick. There will not be a TGIF next week due to exhibitions. Call us if you would like to check out an exhibition!



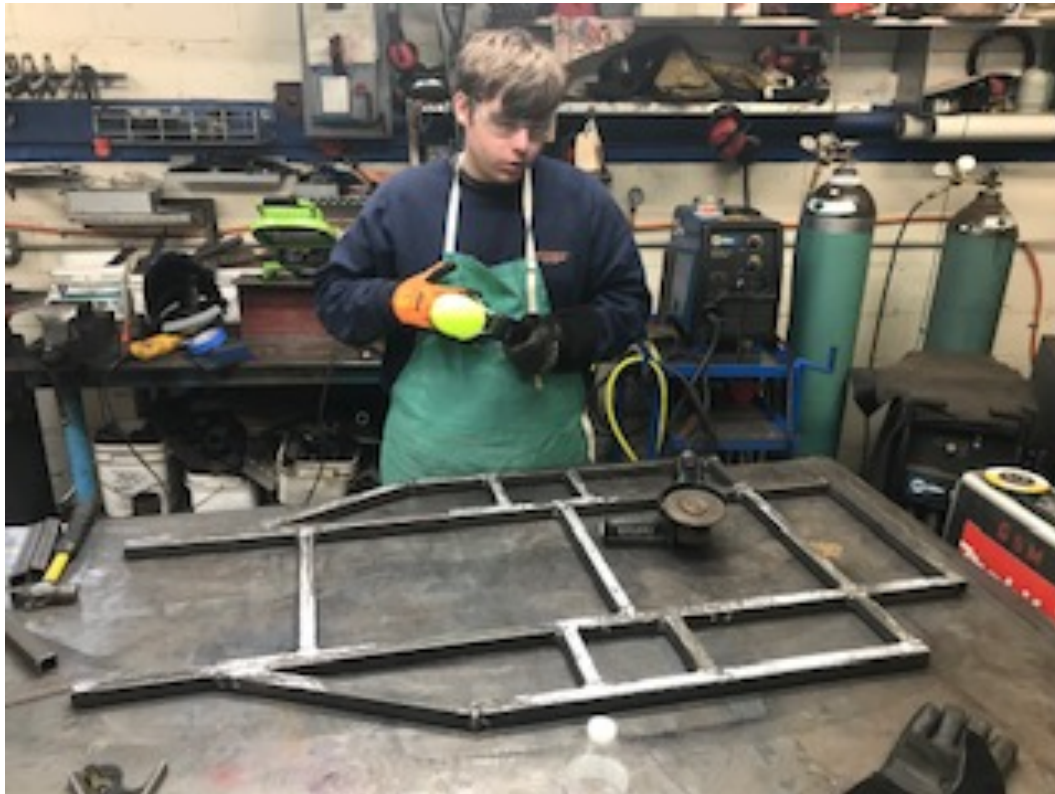
TGIF from Greg

This week the 201s were busy with their internships and finalizing their exhibitions. Devyn, Mason and Austin learned how to make a fantastic homemade baked macaroni and cheese with Hollis in the kitchen on Thursday, after making gingerbread cookies with mini chocolate chips on Tuesday. Evan is perfecting his spot welds, making serious headway on his self-fabricated go-kart. Adam is working on perfecting his Gingerbread Latte for the On The Dot Coffee shop, which he will be sharing with the class at his exhibition next Friday, while JJ has added his survey to the Big Picture classroom, asking his classmates which logo the student-run business should use. Aiden worked extremely hard in his internship at Grimshaw with Mr. LaRose this week helping to set up their cross country unit and running the course with the students. When he



came back to Big Picture exhausted, we were so very pleased and proud to receive a great positive phone call from Mr. LaRose lamenting Aiden's interpersonal skills with the students, his positive energy and ability to follow directions. Morgan had her last day with Ichor on Thursday, and is eager to start her internship with Ms. Lockwood teaching 7th

grade math next week. In addition to their Leaving to Learn, the students have worked vigorously on editing and fine-tuning exhibitions; Carol has been helping our photography students with their photo editing portion of their slideshows, Walt has been working with our coffee shop students, while Joy has been getting our three new students acclimated with the Who Am I projects they will be presenting. We will be busy next week with our presentations, starting with Julien on Monday at 10:30. We can't wait to see what they've learned this trimester and to see how they showcase their new skills!



TGIF from Lenny

I'll admit that I love a snow day just as much as any student. Unfortunately the one we had last Monday has really put us in a crunch. With exhibitions coming up next week, our school exchange Wednesday and a visit to Hartwick College on Friday, we need every minute we can get.

When we returned on Tuesday most 401s were out at internships so I took the opportunity to do a site visit for Kaleb at Tama Lacrosse. During my visit Kaleb was stringing a stick for a client. He intermittently tested out how it shot and then made the necessary adjustments. We discussed Kaleb's short-term goal of learning how to string a traditional head (as opposed to mesh) and his long-term goal of running a pee wee lacrosse tournament for his STP. His mentor at Tama was supportive and accommodating and while I was there I picked up a holiday gift for one of my boys.

On Wednesday 16 students, David and I went to PSLA at Fowler for another school exchange. The student facilitators lead great small group discussions



and our students shadowed their students for lunch and a class. When we got back together students discussed their experiences. It is such a great opportunity for our students and theirs to see how others schools operate. I was very pleased with the level of mature participation from our students.

On Friday about 12 students went on a college visit with David and Walt. In 401 advisory we focused on completing our presentations for exhibitions. The goal was to focus on the STP portion because I will be using some of my students work as examples. This week I will attend a conference and run a workshop on quality project work. It is my intention to use some 401 STP projects as exemplars for this. The 401s were excited to hear that school leaders from all over the country would see their projects. It was yet another layer of relevance.

Have a great week!

TGIF from Walt

Most of my time this week was spent finishing projects in the shop and helping students prepare for exhibitions. I also have been pushing into advisories to provide writing instruction and grammar lessons. This has been going very well, and I am seeing consistent progress in our students' writing samples. Our next round of argumentative essays are approaching soon, so I am looking forward to seeing how our students do.

This week's highlights:

I worked with Adam this week to create a gingerbread latte drink for the coffeeshop. We try to offer seasonal options, so we are experimenting with different flavor combinations. Our first experiment went well, but we are hoping to improve the formula next week and start our first round of taste tests.

I have been working with Darryl on making a computer gaming desk, and this week we made a great deal of progress. After many hours of edging, patching and sanding, we have finished constructing the two main cabinets and also the top portion. All that we have to do now is create a shelf for the monitor and then we can move on to finishing work.

On Friday I went with David and a group of students to Hartwick College in Oneonta. We toured the campus, learned about possible programs and had lunch in the cafeteria. It was a fun trip, and the students all had a good experience.



TGIF from Jessica

Over the past month, the 301s have been expanding their world view. They have been exploring different countries, their governments, and lifestyles as a means to meet their participation in government requirements. In the beginning of the year, we looked at North Korea under Kim Jong-un as an authoritarian government system. Since then, we looked at the United Kingdom under Queen Elizabeth II as a constitutional monarchy, Idriss Deby's rule over Chad as a dictatorship, and Nicolas Maduro's rule over Venezuela as a totalitarian system of government. The students

have all been interested to learn about the government, laws, economy/jobs, education system, and the food, clothing, and housing in each country. They have been surprised to see what life looks like for people outside of America, to learn about their social norms, and to imagine what their life would be like if they lived there. Before the end of the year, we will look at 6 other government systems in 6 different countries around the world.

With in the last week, the whole school has been experiencing the pre-exhibition bustle and comotion. To help ease the stress of the 301s, each student has run through a mock presentation. They

put their slides up and presented sneak peaks of their work. The students and I found this not only beneficial for their nerves, but it also gave them direction for finalizing their work and it provided important feedback to clean out errors and add in missing component. At the beginning of the year, I challenged the 301s to create high quality projects, to go above and beyond their project work from last year and step it up. I'm looking forward to seeing their final products this week!



Pictured:
Elias and Mason making
cheese stuffed, bacon
wrapped meatballs!

TGIF from April

It's exhibition time! What a challenge it has been for most of the 101 boys to utilize their independent work time wisely, the BP system is still new for them, so we continue working through that learning process. 101s also continue to work on our writing process and understanding Power Words. They completed STAR reading and writing assessments this week. It has been busy for sure! Please feel free to join us for any exhibitions, as we love to have visitors! The range of topics the 101s are covering will make for interesting exhibitions.

This week I was able to take Kara on a site visit and we were able to secure an internship at St. Joseph's Hospital, I am super excited for her! (It was a longer process than expected to get her there.) On Thursday Elijah attended a shadow day at United Radio and thoroughly enjoyed it; it was great to see his excitement when he returned to school! Elijah will be returning on Tuesday as an intern at United Radio! Congratulations Kara and Elijah! Hollis was busy this week with her students in the cooking internships, and I know the Mac & Cheese they made was a big hit! We are chipping away at getting all the 101s out at internships.

On Tuesday I again took some students out to the Salvation Army Bell Ringing. They were so energetic and enthusiastic - they were able to get many people to donate! Well past their 'goal' they set when we arrived. Ricky and Victor were the 'spokespeople' and I know they made people smile that day as they wished everyone that passed our



way "Happy Holidays, Have a great day, thank you, God Bless you" whether people donated or not. Elliana's bright smile is enough to draw people in and Phoenix and Mya walked about the area ringing the bells so everyone noticed where the kettle was. They did an outstanding job. Victor and Ricky also went to service learning on Thursday with Nikki to the Samaritan Center, where they again performed wonderfully in the service of others. I am proud of the large group of 101s I have that are always wanting to go do service learning.

I was able to work with Victor in the wood shop this week, teaching and re-teaching measurements, tool safety, using the table saw and drill press as he worked on building a birdhouse. I worked with Faith last week in the wood shop and this week she painted her Drama Faces. Working with Julien, I was excited to see his Chlorophyll experiment results. Kara's work on the human heart and the effects smoking has on it is IMPRESSIVE. I am LOVING the aesthetic expression pieces the 101s have been turning in for their Independent Reading books. I am really quite excited to see how this first round of exhibitions (excluding their WAI) go for the 101s! Do come join us if you have 45 minutes to spare this week, just call the school and we can share the schedule with you.

