

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

JANUARY 10

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



Welcome to 2020 and Welcome Back. We were on break for two weeks. Two weeks away from each other. Our return on Monday was paired with smiles, hugs and many who were ready to return to school. It was a week of reestablishing our intentions, refocusing on our expectations and revving up for the second half of our school year. Although our week was one of renewal, I would like to rewind a bit and share some of our activities from the week before break. Our students volunteered for the Salvation Army distribution day. The students participated in sorting and organizing items that would be given away to families the following day. Organizers of the event, followed our students out of the convention center to praise them for the work they did. They were impressed with how our students carried themselves and worked so hard during our shift. I was so proud of their efforts. We celebrated with our annual Reindeer Games on Friday, December 20. This was a great day to share time with one another, laugh, eat and laugh some more. We played games, danced, waddled and sang. It was fun!





## TGIF from Lenny

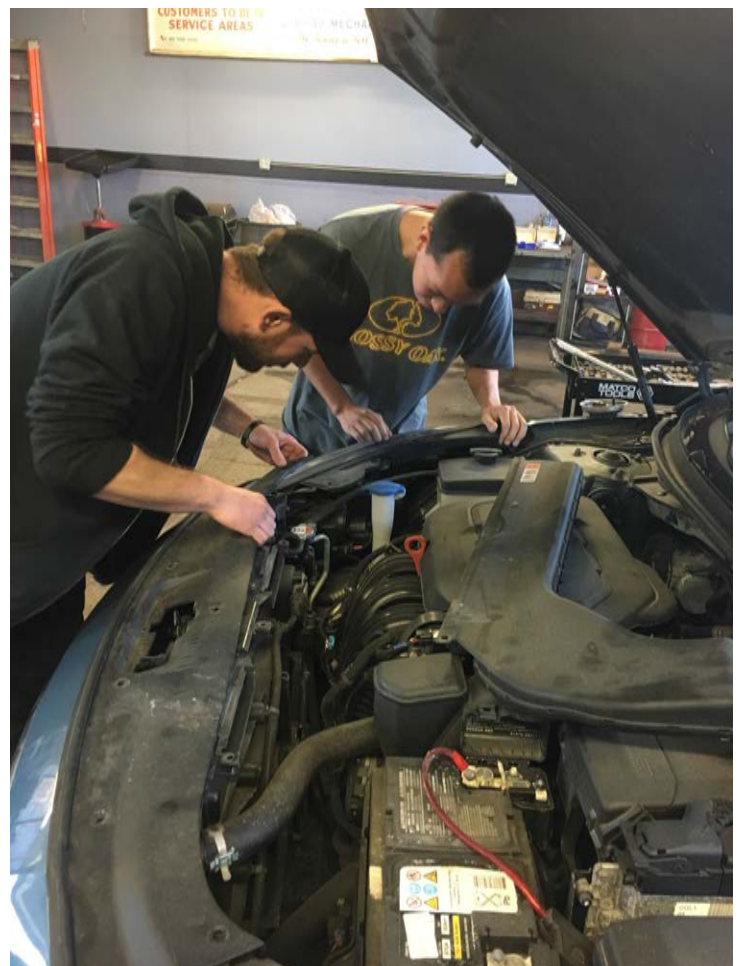
The first day back to school after a long break can be a real slog. Students are often tired because of an adjusted sleep schedule and not psyched about the work ahead. I must say that it didn't feel that way on Monday. Sure, the students did seem a little groggy, but most seemed upbeat and dare I say, happy to be back. We also kicked off the New Year with a positive behavior point challenge that, at the very least, had us all really thinking about our behaviors.

401s began the New Year with new learning plans and a renewed focus on their STPs. We also analyzed our argumentative essay scores, set new goals for STAR math and reading and began our next advisory book, *The Last Lecture*. Our attendance dipped this week due to 'bugs' going around, but I am confident it will rebound next week. Wash your hands!

In ER we are examining agriculture and the food industry in the US. We have viewed portions of the documentary *Sustainable* and discussed how our own eating habits have been shaped by large corporations. We also explored the impact of large-scale agriculture on the health of the environment. In LE we nearly completed the Making Connections Lab. Students designed and conducted their own experiments relating to exercise and fatigue. We definitely lost steam when it came time to write up the lab, but that's to be expected. Our next unit of study will be body systems.

Bri hosted a community meeting on Wednesday at Kirk Park Community Center. Bri created a flyer inviting community members to attend a meeting where she would discuss the proposed dog park for her STP. She circulated the information and prepared a presentation. Unfortunately the weather was awful Wednesday evening and the meeting was not well attended. We did have a number of stakeholders present however, so Bri did present and we had a very productive conversation regarding Bri's project. We are very grateful for Brian and Julie from Syracuse's Department of Parks and Recreation for their time and consideration. Another community meeting is scheduled for early March. Meanwhile, Bri has plenty of action steps to take.

I was able to do a site visit for Kyle at Goodman Automotive to discuss his project and I took Josh and Jamus to a shadow day for house rehabilitation. Overall it was a busy week with positive energy. 2020 is in full swing. Have a great week!



## TGIF from Walt

After a nice long break, I was ready to get back into the swing of things. This week I spent most of my time grading argumentative essays, working on coffee shop projects and preparing students for the upcoming Regents exams.

This week's highlights:

Daryl and I began finishing his custom gaming desk this week. Before break, we built all the major parts of it and now all we have left is to stain, seal and assemble all the parts together. This is a long process, but we are hoping to get it done by next week.

JJ went to Origin's Coffee in Cortland on Wednesday for a shadow day. He learned much

about how a real coffee shop operate and was able to ask questions relating to pricing products, ensuring consistency and managing orders. We are having all of the school coffee shop employees shadow at Origins in order to give them an insight on how other shops operate. JJ really enjoyed the visit, and he is eager to take what he learned and apply it to our shop.

Things have been going well at On The Dot Coffee Shop, and we are in the process of expanding our menu and our workforce. Next week we are hoping to start selling cold brew coffee and hot and cold chai teas. We are also going to be experimenting with dairy free lattes, and we are currently researching milk alternatives.

## TGIF from Jessica

As we head into the new year and a new trimester it is always good to reflect on last year. We ended last year with trimester 1 exhibitions and a fantastic day of Reindeer Games before break.

Creating and developing high quality projects was one of our main goals as we headed into our 301 school year. Well, the 301 class, definitely came through on their goal. Tete created and planned how to make travel med kits that will be sold in efforts to raise money to provide meals to students outside of school. Tierra built a nightstand as her very first project in the workshop. Elizabeth learned about the Dewey Decimal System and created labels that are hung in the Tully Free Library. Darryl learned how to build his first PC. Sam dove into psychology as he explored the philosophy of perception and its impact on the mind. Kyle T gave our class a look into his carpentry program at BOCES where he showed us the model house he was building and explained all about framework and foundations. These are just a few of the highlights from the 301 T1 exhibitions.

As soon as we came back to school, we jumped right into regents review zone. The 301s have been working on vocabulary terms frequently used on tests. We are using the English regents and newsELA to go over the author's purpose,

reading styles, and annotating skills. Monday we spend reviewing US History, Wednesday we reviewed Algebra, and Friday we reviewed graphing in the Living Environments regents. The 301s will continue this structure and review additional skills into next week to prepare for the regents which are the following week.

Algebra students taking the January regents are reviewing key concepts in class, such as solving functions, the quadratic formula, and systems of equations. I am also offering additional review opportunities during exploratory on Wednesdays and Fridays. So far, we have covered graphing functions and inequalities along with graphing concepts in exploratory. The students were all working hard this week, they are taking reviewing for their exams seriously.

After reflecting on the new year, one thing we added to the 301 advisory was mindfulness activities to promote mental health. On Monday, we welcomed our advisory back with our own 301 mini-meeting and we talked about having the freedom to choose. Wednesday we listened to music for 5 minutes as we mentally cleaned out our thoughts, letting out the bad and letting in the good. On Friday we colored postcards with inspirational quotes on them. We perform better when we have good mental health. I have already seen some growth and we will continue these activities throughout the trimester.



## TGIF from April

Happy New Year!

Prior to the holiday break 101s had an excellent round of exhibitions. Enjoyed their first Salvation Army Distribution day and first day of Big Picture Reindeer Games. It has warmed my heart since returning from break to see the 101s each morning prior to the start of the school day, and during lunch hanging out in our advisory room together. They are LOUD, but they are fun and are really developing bonds as an advisory; it is great!

Together the 101s did some leadership activities to aid in the development of these relationships. We are working on trusting each other, truly listening to each other and open dialog and communication.

Upon return from the holiday, school wide we continue to work on the power words: Describe, Explain, Infer, Analyze. We also are prepping for the upcoming January regent exams. I attended a social studies conference on Wednesday morning that allowed history teachers to come together and learn about the changes the state is making to the US History regent exam.

I was very happy with my USH workshop this week. The students were actively engaged in the learning, asking relevant questions and making connections to larger ideas/overarching themes. In exploratory Olivia, Jordyn and Kara continue to work on the mural in the hallway; it's exciting to actually see some progress.

Our new semester has a wide variety of learning taking place. 101s are choosing challenging and exciting topics to learn about! I am looking for some mentors for a few projects, if you have time or expertise in ANY area, we would love to have your assistance. Some examples of topics 101 students have planned their learning around are: working on building a guitar, building and ROV, shoe making, skate boarding, the Titanic, domesticated farm animals, anamorphosis, animal extinction, child care, making video consoles, the study of Egypt, organic agriculture. 101s are also looking for ideas/opportunities to begin fundraising for our class, please reach out to me or Hollis if you have any suggestions.



On an exciting note: we also have many 101s leaving to learn next week on shadow days and internship leads. It is both electrifying and somewhat scary for the 101s as it is a new experience for them. However, I have every confidence in those going out doing a fantastic job! Congratulations to Coleby F. who began his internship with Sauve Brothers Auto Shop this week.