

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

FEBRUARY 7

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



WASH YOUR HANDS!!!! We are in close proximity to each other.....all day! We have entered the season where we are infecting each other! WASH YOUR HANDS!!! Was echoed around our halls and classrooms last week. I am sure we will continue to repeat it next week.

We have amazing students in our school. This week alone, there were multiple times when our students chose to be leaders instead of followers, where our students chose to be change makers, inventors, problem solvers, helpers, activists, studious, and deliberate. As part of our MTSS/PBIS system, we are training ourselves to recognize and focus our energy on celebrating these choices instead of dwelling on the poor choices that were made. Thank you to our students who are doing it right. Thank you to those students who have learned and made a better choice the next time!

Dawsun Weil Named to SUNY Morrisville President's List

SUNY Morrisville recently announced that Dawsun Weil was named to the President's List for the Fall 2019 semester. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a perfect 4.0 average for semester and complete 12 credit hours. Congratulations Dawsun!

TGIF from Lenny

As I reflect on last week I have to admit that the challenges are what sticks out. We have been challenged by illness, student behaviors and nasty weather. Despite the challenges there were many successes. Those success are all the better in the face of adversity.

One of the most notable successes was the final day of our school exchange with PSLA at Fowler. We traveled there Wednesday and received a warm welcome as always. Throughout the day students engaged in dialogue and activities designed to both provide new opportunities for growth and synthesize the learning that has already occurred.

Much of the dialogue was lead by student facilitators. Our facilitators Bri, Alyssa, Lizzy, and Tete did a great job. It is such a valuable skill that they are building. The facilitators were recognized at a panel discussion where they reflected on the process and shared poems with the large group.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Andrea and Reggie from Community Wide Dialogue through InterFaith Works. Your vision and hard work made this great exchange possible. I also want to thank Hugh and JR from PSLA for your hospitality. And of course thank you to the students for your courage and voice.

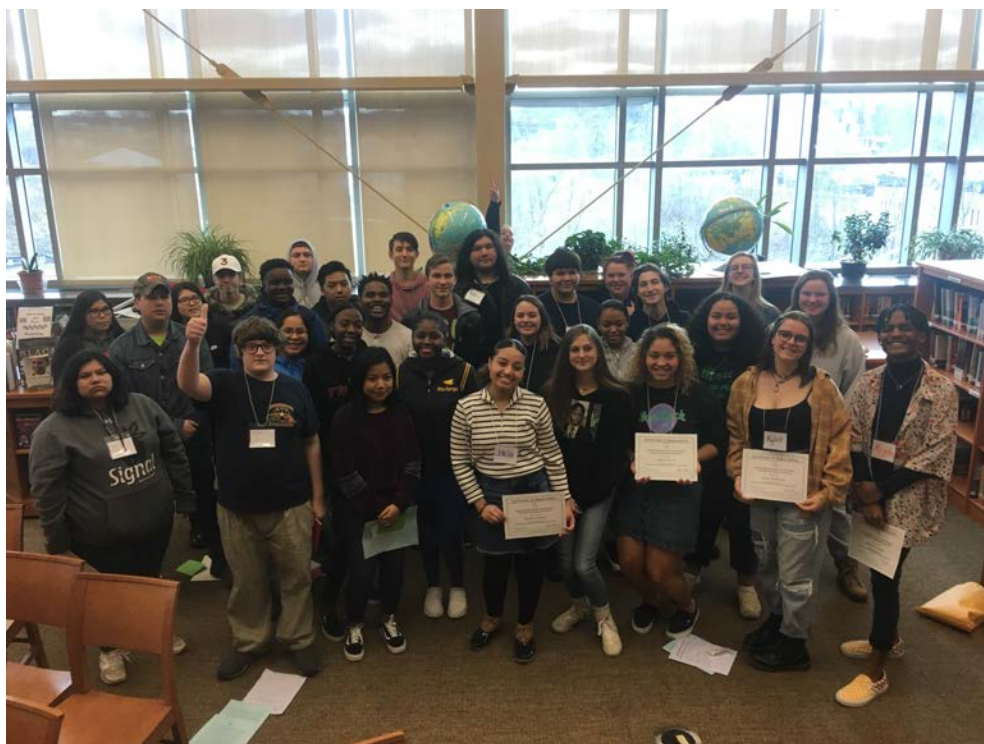
Back at school this week I continued to use workshops to educate students on disease, pathogens and immunity. There is a lot going around and the best way to slow or cease the spread of pathogens is through education. I also think that the snow day on Friday was well timed. An extra day of rest and keeping our germs to ourselves was necessary.

In advisory we continued to read *The Last Lecture* and complete the journals and vocabulary associated



with each chapter. The 401s are enjoying the book and seem to appreciate the delicate mix of humor and sorrow. I am also really pleased that our reading aloud has become 100 percent student lead. I would even say that 401s look forward to our advisory reading.

We have one more very busy week and then a week off for mid-winter break. I hope you are all staying warm and healthy. Have a great week!



TGIF from Walt

This week wasn't the most exciting of weeks, but I got a good amount of prep work done. Most of my time was spent working with students on the coffee shop, or working on electronic projects with Jacob and Elijah. When I wasn't doing that, I was planning out vocabulary instruction strategies and reading group projects/units that can be used by reading group facilitators. Additionally, I have been grading the Power Word assessment we completed as a school last week in order to gain feedback on how our students are able to explain, describe, infer and analyze.

TGIF Walt

The coffee shop offered free drip coffee and half-off lattes to the highschool this week in hopes of gaining more customers in the future. It was very successful, and the shop was very busy and we gave away many drinks. The shop is also

expanding to include after school activities, and we will begin selling at sports events. Next week, we will be at the boys JV and Varsity basketball games and are hoping to showcase our new new drink: The Lucky Leprechaun Latte. JJ and Adam wanted to add a seasonal drink for St. Patty's Day, and they came up with a matcha peppermint latte concoction that is perfect for the occasion.

I worked with Jacob and Elijah on electronics again this week. Our focus was on coding an analog controller that could make various lights turn on when moved in a certain direction. Although it was very challenging, they completed this task successfully on their own. Next week, I will be assigning them different tasks to reflect their interests. Jacob will be working on using an analog controller to control a servo, and add wireless capability to it. Elijah will be making a game show style buzzer device with an LED score screen.

TGIF from Jessica

We are still plugging away at putting the world together one piece at a time in exploratory and lunch bunch. I'm sure we will finish this week! We have three big sections pieced together and Darryl is wondering if we will have trouble putting the parts together, seeing that the pieces will close in on themselves. Only time will tell, be on the lookout for a picture in next week's newsletter.

In light of the Super Bowl last weekend, I am leading students in my math prep course through a statistical analysis of whether or not the super bowl is boring. We are looking at the scores from the first Super Bowl until 2000. They are developing their understanding of data spread, range, creating a stem and leaf plot, reviewing mean, median, mode, and range, and creating a pie chart. Our focus is understanding data and how to interpret it.

Algebra foundation students are wrapping up their study on how to solve a function

graphically and algebraically. They will have a midpoint check this week to assess their knowledge and understanding. I have placed a focus on completing mid point checks this year after each unit in both the Algebra and Algebra Foundations courses. For each mid point check I am using the exact same questions from their pre-assessment given at the beginning of the year. I am pleased to measure their growth and find an increase of comprehension and success along with an increase in students willing to try the question. An average of 45% more students in both classes are getting the midpoint check question correct than they did on the same question in the pre assessment.

TGIF from Greg

The 201s have had a busy 2020 so far! Some have started new internships, some have picked up where they left off and a few are exploring new avenues of interest. Claire started a new internship with Coach Meany at Grimshaw teaching P.E. to the elementary students and after collaborating with her mentor has decided to plan and run a basketball clinic for the younger students. This will be showcased in her upcoming exhibition; we are so excited to see her use her athletic abilities and leadership skills with a group she's not

very experienced with! As we've jumped into the new year the students are starting to branch out and find places that they may not be as familiar with or comfortable with. JJ will be doing a shadow day with a real estate company, deciding to move on from the On The Dot Coffee Shop for now and try something new. Aiden is going to shadow at Legends Of Fall Outfitters; he'd like to learn about different ways to hunt, the gear needed, and about the arrows used in bow hunting. He's been busy researching various tools for hunting this week to base his learning plan around. Gabe will be going out to a shadow day at Planet Fitness. He's really excited to learn about physical training and how he can apply new knowledge to his hockey and lacrosse skills. Kyler has been doing great with Tama Lacrosse, and is researching safety procedures and



gear used in the game. He has been with Tama since last year and is beginning to think about expanding his skill set, looking for possible new places to shadow. In addition to plugging away at their learning plans, exploring new internship options and working on Gateway, the 201s have jumped back into the stock market again. They

have spent time researching new stocks to invest "\$100,000" in. They have been instructed to investigate three stocks and to track them 3 days a week. They are learning

more each day about real-life money and the NYS Stock Exchange. The top three earners in our class will earn a reward! We also have a new student that started with us this January as well: Welcome Seccorah Benedict! She recently was accepted into the Big Picture Learning program and has jumped right into the Shark Tank! She's a great fit and addition to the advisory. Seccorah is interested in the healthcare field and will be going out on a shadow day next week at the Elizabeth Brewster House in Homer. Seccorah is also excited to learn about our program and will be starting off with a Greek Gods presentation. We

can't wait to see what she adds to our advisory and are so happy to have her with us!



TGIF from David

This is one of my favorite weekends of the year, "Oscar Weekend". Now, I do not always agree with the nominees or the winners the Academy chooses, but this weekend reminds me of how much I love movies. Having a ten month old makes it very difficult to watch movies. He is too young to allow the television to entertain him. Besides, he would not sit long for a movie anyway even if doctors did recommend you have your child watch a quality movie once a day. I am behind on catching up with the Big Picture nominees. My wife and I started *Parasite* last night, but only got halfway through because one of us got tired. So far, it's a great movie. Technology allows young parents such as myself to view new movies from the comfort of home. Streaming may be the best technological invention of the past decade.

Technology both old and new are present everyday at Big Picture. We all use computers, phones, Zoom meetings, and more to communicate and be productive. The early call from Mr. Belfield on Friday morning was a great use of technology to notify all of us that school was closed due to the impending weather. I wish the news and the weather people had technology that was much more accurate, but what is the difference between a foot of snow and 15 inches? Three inches, yes, but pertaining to shoveling is there a difference? I had to rely on that old shovel technology to move the snow from my sidewalks and driveway.



Elaina inquired about older technology this past week as she works on her project to design and build a shoe. Elaina met with the owner at Midtown Shoe Repair to learn about constructing a shoe. Elliana met with the owner of Black Mamba Skate park to help with her project. She interviewed him using a combination of paper technology and mobile phone technology with a recorder application. Colby learned about fire technology as he went for a shadow day at Homer Iron Works. Fire technology dates back a million years, so I am certain there have been many advances since Prometheus.

Sam has been using piano technology this week, playing and singing with April's niece Lacy. Our coffee shop students used all kinds of coffee technology to make lattes, drip coffee, hot chocolate, and more. They have a full set up in that cart to serve all of your coffee needs. There was painting technology, photography technology, woodshop technology, and more used this week. Lastly, we used the oldest form of communication technology and had our last dialogue with our friends from PSLA at Fowler.

I have no idea who will win Best Picture at the Oscars. I do not believe it is even possible to award such an honor, the best of anything, but at some point streaming will allow me to catch up. I know when my son is old enough, Disney Plus will catch me up on any Disney movie made in the past 80 years. Technology sure is grand, if correctly used.

TGIF from April

Due to a death in the family I did not write a TGIF last week, please bear with me as I share some highlights from the last few weeks.

Martin Luther King day on Monday, regent exams Tuesday and Wednesday, half day for students on Friday could have equaled chaos however, the students actually handled all the elements of change nicely.

We spent a great deal of time working on our emotional intelligence. Walt came in to our advisory and with his background in psychology helped the 101s recognize how their behaviors manifest and feed off each other. After a great deal of work, which included dialog and individual thought, processes the 101s created norms for our classroom. I was impressed with how serious the task was taken by most of the 101s. By the end of the week, Hollis helped me create my vision of our norms wall. We did so much heavy work with behaviors and emotions that I thought a morning of team work/bonding was a great way to wrap up that week. The 101s played a round of Impulse, all the way to the end! And asked to play musical chairs, and do the limbo. It was a blast to see them laughing and having fun together!

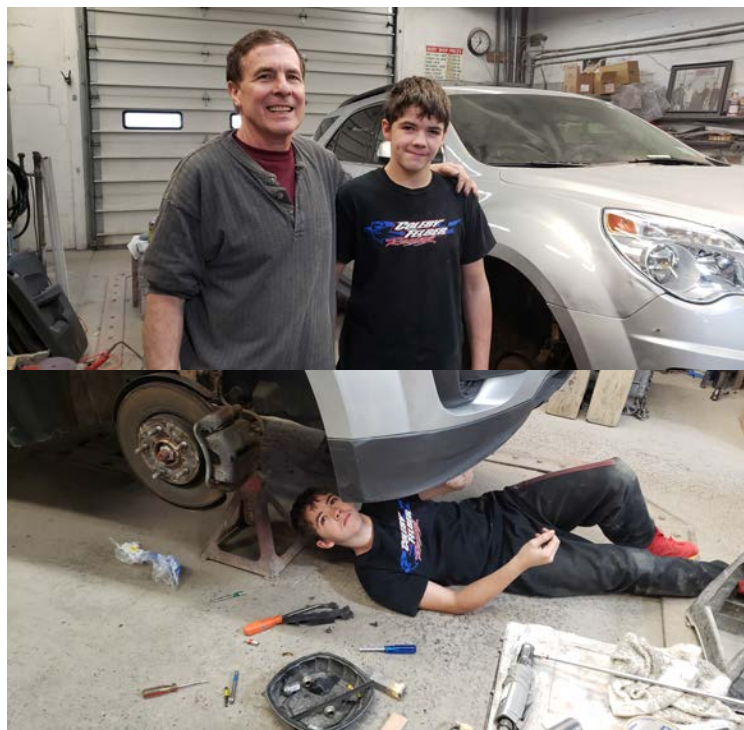
We had many new leaving to learn opportunities the last couple of weeks. I did site visits for Coleby F. at Sauve Brothers, Faith at LASP, Olivia at Grimshaw Art, and Jordyn at Tanglewood. They each received RAVE reviews from their mentors! I took Colby Fisher to Homer Iron Works and they have invited him back to intern. He was very excited! I also went with Elaina to do an informational interview with a shoe cobbler, which was fascinating! David was able to take Elliana to an informational interview at Black Mamba. Ricky began his internships as a coffee



runner for On the Dot Coffee and in the afternoon he is interning in the woodshop. Elijah will be going to United Radio this coming week, but in the mean time Walt is interning with Jacob and Elijah working on electronics for their perspective projects. Leighann went on a shadow day to the MOST. She will attend another shadow day to see if it is a good fit for an internship. Kara received good news this week- she MAY be able to observe a surgery at her internship! Mya will be ending at the dog kennel this coming week, but she has already secured a shadow day with the ONS

art department. Phoenix is enjoying Biscotti's and Lexi is learning at the hair salon. Julien is doing amazing work at Light Work and with Carol D. Victor will begin an internship next week at Grimshaw. Once I can get the twins out for full time fashion internships, and Jacob somewhere in a graphic art field or building a ROV we will have all 101s learning through their interests out with professionals! It's so exciting! It appears fashion and building underwater ROV's are difficult areas to find internships, we keep looking though and I would appreciate any help any reader of the TGIF might have in helping secure internships in these areas. (I have been diligently trying to find Jacob

an internship in the ROV field- I'm taking ANY and ALL help or suggestions!) Thank you! Parents please make sure your 101 is doing their independent reading work at home each night. After we return from winter break we only have 2 weeks until exhibitions. Some 101s are not using their IWT wisely at school, and must do school work at home to meet their goals. I am excited for this upcoming round of exhibitions!



Tintypes Reflection by Julien Lamson, Big Picture Student

On a field trip last summer to The Eastman Museum, Carol DiSalvo, Big Picture's photography teacher, was able to connect with Mark Osterman, The Photographic Process Historian. When Carol discovered that he is an expert in and teaches old style photographic processes, she requested a workshop for her students.

On January 23rd, eight students were lucky enough to spend time with Mark at Light Work to learn the process. By the end, each student was able to have their own finished self-portrait tintype.

Tintypes were most widely used during the 1860s and 1870s. They were produced in places from formal photographic studios to covered wagons in the Wild West. In modern day, they have even been developed in the back of Mark's car. Mark said tintypes have the highest resolution of any photographic process ever. Digital photography just can't compare, and once you see a tintype, you know that this is definitely true.

The process starts in the studio by focusing the camera on the subject. Then the group went into the darkroom to make the "film". Mark said that a tintype is not actually made with tin, and it never was. It used to be made with iron, which was cheap and "tinny". Now tintypes are made with aluminum.

The students started by coating the aluminum plate with collodion, which then becomes light sensitized when dipped in the bath of silver nitrate. Then, the light sensitive plate is put into the plate holder. Now, going back into the studio, Mark attaches the plate holder onto the camera. The exposure time is 20 seconds long, so they had to hold very still (with the help of a 19th century neck clamp). Then they went immediately back into the darkroom to develop it. In the developing bath appears a negative. Next the plate goes into the fixer bath, which is cyanide. Yup, actual cyanide. Just like magic, a face materializes on the plate. It was absolutely astounding!

Finally, the plate is dried with an alcohol lamp and varnished with a mix of sandarac and lavender oil. Melissa Courts, Nikki Monaghan, Darryl Gibson, Stuart Carmona, Garrett Bucktooth, Josh Auniger, Caitlyn Oristian, and Julien Lamson all took part in making their own tintypes.

Mark Osterman is truly an old style photographer, meaning he is a mad scientist! He is self taught, and one of, if not the first, person to bring back these old styles of photography. He learned how to make tintypes from reading and deciphering old 19th century writings.

This was truly a unique and awe-inspiring learning experience. Thank you to everyone at Light Work, and to Victor, Julie, and Julien for photographing the workshop. Thanks also goes to Carol DiSalvo for making this incredible experience possible for these students.

