

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

OCTOBER 4

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



One of our new initiatives this year is our Lunch Bunch groups. Our students have been divided into groups of 4 and assigned an adult at Big Picture. After lunch every Monday, we meet in our small groups. We review attendance patterns for our group members, we discuss how we can help each other, and we are exploring how stress has impacted us and what new ways we can use to handle the stress we experience. We are also playing games in an effort to build community within our small groups. The games also help us with social skills and it is fantastic to be unplugged for 40 minutes with our students. We are also utilizing these groups when we need to break for morning PMU activities. It has been successful so far. I am excited to see the growth and what the impacts of our lunch bunch time will have over the course of the school year.

Thank you to the High School student council for planning the pep rally and including our Big Picture students. We felt welcome and had a great time.



TGIF from Jessica

The 301s have been working on getting shadow days and internships. I have been impressed with their increased confidence in making phone calls and talking with people they are unfamiliar with. As 101s and 201s, this was something they feared.

This year, Dawsun is continuing the On the Dot Coffee Shop she designed, set up, and started last year. She has stepped back from the frontline of working the cart and making coffee to a role of management. She is continuing to utilize the team of leaders she put in place last year to help manage and facilitate the cart. Dawsun brought in Amanda from Coffee Mania to train new baristas, she is collaborating with Walt to run the cart and manage the workers, and she coordinates with Kym on finances and supplies. Dawsun does all this as she herself sets up and goes on shadow days at Grimshaw Elementary School. On Sept 24th and 26th, Dawsun shadowed, Ms. Bartolomeo, the Occupational Therapist. On October 1st and 3rd, Dawsun shadowed the Physical Therapist. Dawsun plans to shadow the speech therapist, special educator, and counselor at Grimshaw. The aim is for Dawsun to understand each of these specialties and which one(s) may be a possible career for her.

Sam is one of our 301s that interns at On the Dot Coffee Shop. He has been to trainings, staff meetings, and has learned how to make coffee and serve customers. Now that training has ended, he will intern at the coffee shop on Tuesdays and look for new opportunities for Thursdays.

Elizabeth has gone on two shadow days at both the LaFayette Library and Main St Farms in Cortland, NY. Elizabeth worked with Amber and Scot at the Library where she learned about programming. Elizabeth worked with Bob at the Farm and learned about greenhouses, how the business developed over the years, and how to process produce for sale.

Rioux joined Elizabeth for a shadow day at Main St Farms to also learn about processing and cleaning produce. Rioux is interning with Walt in the workshop to build plant boxes.

Darryl is continuing his internship with Carol advancing his photography skills. On Thursday the 3rd, they went to ArtRage Gallery. Along with

photography, Darryl is training in the workshop with Walt to build a computer desk.

Stuart joined photography for a shadow day when they went to ArtRage Gallery. Stuart went to look at the artist's work and formulate his career interest. In the meantime, he has gone on a service learning to the Samaritan Center and started training in the workshop with Walt in order to build a ferret cage.

Randy went on two service learning days to the Samaritan Center as he works to find job shadows and internships. This coming Thursday, Randy is going on a shadow day to Books and Melodies. He is looking forward to learning about the business and develop his interest in both sales and music.

Elias also went on a service learning day to the Samaritan Center. He is still working to find an internship or shadow day in his field of interest, animation.

Tierra is another student who is training in the workshop to build an end table. While she does this, she is looking for internships and shadow days at hotels or in a clerical position.

Kyle has joined the Construction Technology course at BOCES this year. He is learning all about reading blueprints, career specific vocabulary, converting fractions and decimals, and calculations. They have frequent tests and quizzes in his class. This week he got a 100 on one of the assessments!

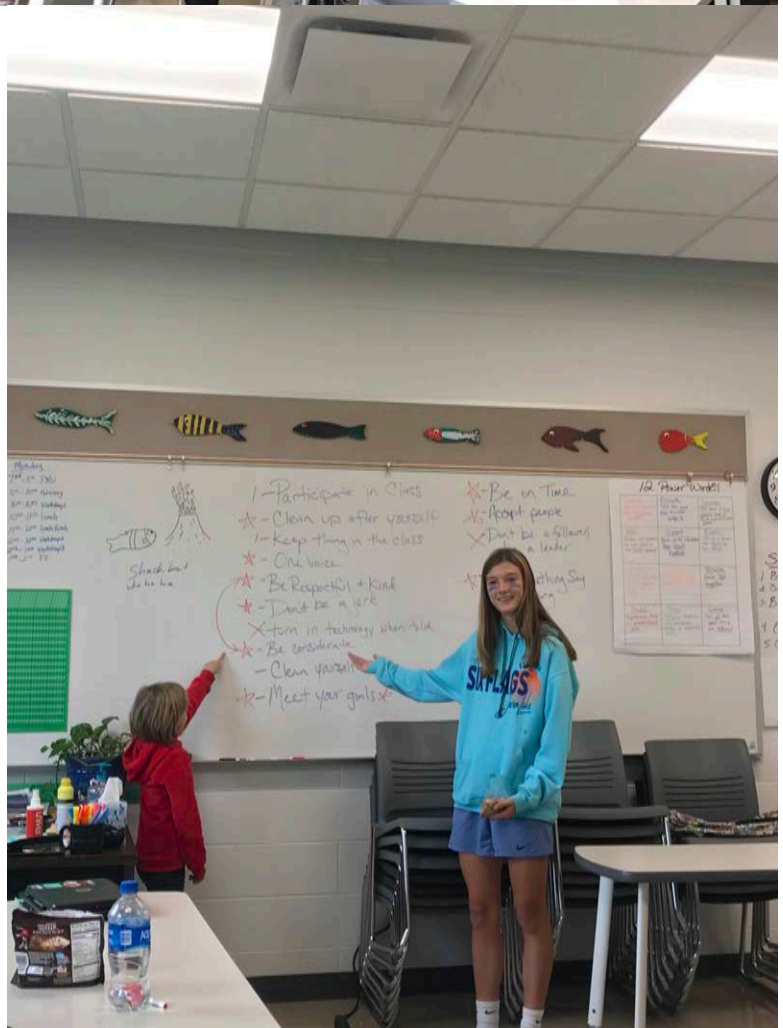
Brandon is continuing his internship at Compassionate Care. He has learned many valuable skills and is working to further develop his understanding of veterinary care.

Coming up this week, Tete is going on a shadow day to the Food Bank of CNY. Tete is interested in creating a project to help fund more meals and food to children and families in need.

Hayden is very excited for his shadow day at 95X this week. Since Hayden was a 101 he has had interest in music and radio. All of his projects have been within this career interest.

TGIF from Greg

This week the 201s began choosing their first trimester projects to correspond with their internships and filling in their Learning Plans. Morgan is basing her project and Learning Plan around her internship at Ichor, while Claire, Julien, Josh and Garrett are looking to incorporate their photography into their exhibitions. Claire has also been tutoring a 4th grader in math after school! Devin, JJ, and Adam have been working at our in-house coffee shop for Dawsun and will be showing us their new skills at their presentations. This week our class also came together to come up with a list of classroom “norms”. We wanted to be sure that everyone felt included and comfortable in our classroom setting. We ended the week with “Fitness Friday” at SUNY Morrisville, where the students enjoyed tag, running and soccer. Afterwards we enjoyed pizza provided by Morrisville and played a fun game of Werewolf and planned our Advisory project.



TGIF from Lenny

We began our week coming off a high from successful STP proposals from the week prior. Everyone in our school was asked to write the first of three argumentative essays on Monday. The topic centered around regulating vaping and it certainly stirred some strong opinions. Writing an essay was clearly not how some wanted to start the week. We did, however, recover and made the best of the next four days.

A highlight from Tuesday was joining Bri to meet with representatives from the Syracuse Parks and Recreation department to discuss possible sites for her proposed dog park. They could not have been more patient, helpful and accommodating. They showed us a couple sites in person, giving Bri the perspective she needs to plan out the space. They also offered to help coordinate a community meeting in order to gain input and buy-in from neighborhood residents. Bri has taken the next steps to set up that meeting.

Advisory on Wednesday was centered on college admissions. Our 401s completed the application for OCC and then began the Common

App. With the help of Mrs. Brown from the guidance office, our students worked through the application process, questioning and learning along the way. It was a great step toward our post-secondary goals.

Thursday was a little crazy with it being an internship day and picture day. We worked through it though and nine 401s were out of the building at college classes or internship sites.

On Friday we traveled to SUNY Morrisville for a fitness, lunch and advisory. I ran the soccer session and it was a blast as usual. It was a great mix of experienced and beginner players. Everyone on the field got a great workout. After lunch we held advisory and read from our books. Everyone was tuckered out from the exercise but we have some good dialogue.

We returned to school in time for those students interested to attend the pep rally. The following evening was the homecoming dance held at the Apple Festival grounds and I attended as a chaperone. It was a very positive event with students dressed up and having a great time dancing. Thanks to Tiana P. and Kelly K. for organizing and running the dance.

Have a great week!



TGIF from Walt

This week was very busy at Big Picture. We did our first school-wide argumentative essay this week, so the majority of my time was devoted to administering the test, collecting writing samples and grading/collecting data to help our students improve writing skills. I am hoping to have these all graded by next week, and I am also hoping to have a writing plan done for each student in our school.

This week's highlights:

I helped facilitate the coffee shop again this week, and we are making good progress on refining our ordering and production systems. We need another week to smooth things out, and then we are hoping to open up to the high school. To add some variety, we decided to incorporate some seasonal drinks. Dawsun, Kaia and I experimented with making pumpkin spice lattes, and we came up with a good recipe. We are hoping to offer samples on Tuesday in order to gain feedback from our customer base.

On Friday, I had the opportunity to attend Manufacturing Day at Pyrotek, a company that manufactures products for forge and foundry industries. Devyn, Colby, Jake, Kyle, RJ and I learned about manufacturing opportunities in the Cortland area and were given a complete tour of the Pyrotek facilities. We were also able to speak with representatives from local companies about job and internship opportunities. The students and I had a great time, and we were all impressed with the size and scope of manufacturing that goes on at Pyrotek.



TGIF from David

Autumn weather is strange. At least, it is strange in Central New York. I suspect it may be getting increasingly stranger around the world due to Climate Change. Tuesday it was over 80 degrees, and then on Friday while we were all at SUNY Morrisville it was blustery and in the 50s. A dramatic thirty degrees drop was certainly felt as I walked with Bri, Brandon, Alyssa, Ny'lah, and Claire to get our pizzas for lunch from Mustang Alley. College campuses always feel to have more gusts of wind that chill your bones. It must be the way it gets trapped between the buildings and finds the right time to strike you with all of its force. The Fall build up to shadow days and internships feels very much the same way. We were hit with a glut of job shadow responses this week. The rest of October is shaping up to be very busy on Tuesday and Thursdays, which is exactly how we want our days.

This week was not short on activity. Julien began his internship at Lightwork, Morgan started her internship at Ichor, and Elizabeth visited Main Street Farms for two days of research relating to her writing project. On Friday, five of our students, Jacob, Devyn, Kyle R., Coleby F., and RJ went to Manufacturing Career Day at Pyrotek in Cortland. Some of our students stepped in at the last minute to represent our school, so I am very thankful to them, but that is a prime example of our school culture. Getting out of the building and having a real world experience is central to student learning, and they were not going to let the opportunity pass them by. Plus, we were able to

make some connections with businesses and educate them on our school.

I am glad I was able to support our student run coffee shop, On the Dot Coffee Shop, this week by helping purchase new products. I believe there will be a nice expansion to the coffee shop in the near future with more offerings for customers. This coffee shop is such an exciting opportunity for us to establish an ongoing student project that ultimately benefits everyone. We may not have the giant entrepreneur center they have at the Big Picture school, the Met, in Providence, but this beginning may lead to a bigger expansion in the future. Please continue to support our student run coffee shop because it supports all students. Plus, the learning is real and exciting. Oh, and the coffee is very good. That is a major benefit for all of us, quality local coffee. We also have to buy an industrial espresso machine, so if you are looking to support a worthwhile project, we have that project.

So, as the leaves turn red, yellow, and brown do not think of it as the end. The Fall is actually a new beginning for all of us. You can start your new beginning by becoming a mentor to our students. Give us a call, 315-504-1000, if you want to give a student an opportunity to learn from you. Those 80 degree days are most likely, but you can keep the sunshine in your life by supporting a student.



TGIF from April

It was an emotional week for 101's. There has been a lot of peer disrespect taking place within our advisory, which has elicited MANY conversations. It is not clear yet if some of the 101's are grasping the enormity of the negative impact it is having on our advisory culture. Those students who are not partaking in the poor choices are clearly frustrated. Permission has been granted –(though not needed, they should feel free to speak up always, yet being young teens they struggle with being called a snitch) to those students who are not name-calling speak up, to NOT be silent bystanders. I am hopeful the students will help regulate and shift some of this negative behavior, as often times it is happening away from adult eyes and ears. I can say I have seen a few of the students try to speak up for the correct thing with their peers this week, for which I am thankful and proud. I had to hold a restorative conference with some 101's this week. It is not always easy to sit silently and let teens hash things out. This being a new group of students my silence, after my initial comments to begin the restorative conference, could have gone horribly sideways. INSTEAD I was enamored with the brutal honesty, and ultimate reconciliation that occurred with very little interaction from me-I simply sat at the table with them. It gave me real hope that If I can get the 101s on board with communicating about the bad behaviors with each other, the behaviors will change and then I can focus on giving them only POSTIVE feedback for good behaviors!

This week the 101s were finally able to finish sewing their pillows. It was a challenge for some especially when I refused to 'thread their needle' or

make a knot for them. I and told them they had to show some grit and keep trying that they would feel

accomplished! It was so thrilling when they would yell: "I did it!" with a big grin and give me a high five! I asked how they felt at that moment and they were SO proud of themselves for not giving up! Sometimes we adults want to step in and 'fix something' or 'help' them by doing it for them. Students often get frustrated with me when I say "I can help you, but I am not going to do it for you, because that is not helping you in the long run." They think I am being so mean, but in the end, when they accomplish 'it' (whatever 'it' is) themselves the pride I see them display well trumps their anger towards me for 'not helping them' 😊.

This week Jordyn and Olivia were able to fully partake in their internship with Carol DiSalvo Photography. Kara was able to observe a scientific lab test while at SUNY Morrisville. Carlos P. Assistant Director of CSTEP was conducting lab testing of taurine (an organic compound believed to play a role in development and maintenance of muscle and the nervous system) on planarians (flat worms). The study is intriguing. Kara wants to become a surgeon so this was a great experience for her. She said she learned that the worms, when cut in half can regrow the other end back again (head or tail) in only 7-8 days. She also learned a lot about Carlos like that he is from Brazil and can speak 4 languages! I love that she was able to learn science and personal connections!

Colby Fisher (We have 2 Colby, Coleby's in our advisory both with last initial F.) and Jacob were able to attend a function with Walt on Friday. They went to Pyrotek in Cortland and had a wonderful learning experience! I



am sure Walt will write about it so I will simply say Jacob said he wants to go back every time they are given the opportunity. And Colby met me at the door yelling “APRIL!! That was great!! With his big smile. He said they toured the factory, watched how they were making forms out of Styrofoam to make concrete in, and watched them weld steel. Colby was very impressed to learn proficient welders could start at \$18 an hour. He was also very impressed with the lunch food provided 😊.

Friday was a Morrisville fitness day and I must say I held a session of Yoga that was the best in the 6 years or so I have been doing it. The participants were great! Hollis said some 101s spearheaded a physical activity game in the field house- -nice!!

We ended the Friday at the High School with a pep-rally. Our purple color wars 9th graders did an outstanding job participating and winning some of the games all in preparation for Homecoming this weekend.

Parents please don't forget the 101s have their Who Am I exhibitions on the 16th and some have quite a bit of work to do. I keep reminding them that they do not have school this upcoming week on Friday the 11th and the

following Monday the 14th. Considering the exhibitions are Wednesday the 16th they MUST be completing work at home. (Parents should have received a letter from each 101 detailing the project components and deadlines this past week.)



