

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

NOVEMBER 22

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

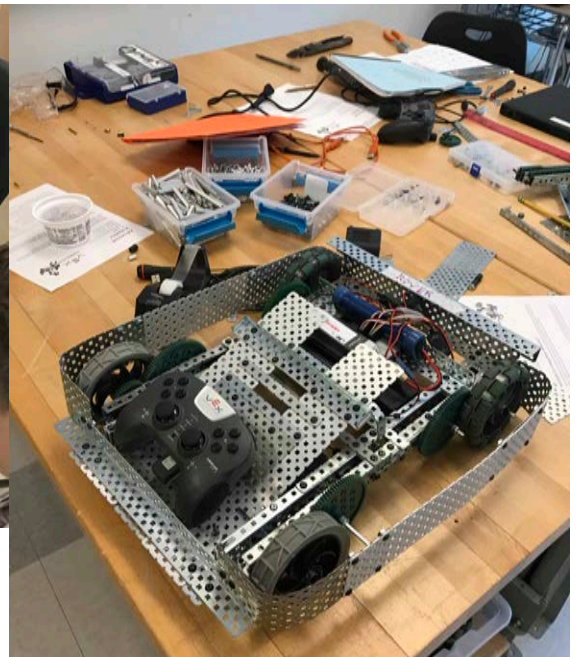


We had a full week of school! It felt great! I have so many items on my to-do list stemming from conversations and opportunities this week. On Monday, I attended a New York Agricultural education and FFA meeting. We have been dabbling in this area for years and now I feel like we are ready to make the next step to be more involved with FAA. More to come on this. I am set to begin an online coaching relationship with BetterLesson. Twenty or so LaFayette staff have chosen to participate in coaching experiences. I am excited to work with my coach and improve on my leadership practices. Also on my to-do list is to continue working on our PLC Action Steps plan. I am so incredibly proud of the work Big Picture PLC group is producing. Our PLC is focusing on Power Words used across curriculums. The words like describe, explain, infer and analyze are used in many essay writing prompts. The staff and students are breaking those words down, practicing how to answer questions and evaluating the answers. We are confident that this work will help with our Regents exams as well as common writing and reading tasks. Lastly, my to-do list has led me on a continued exploration of Tier 1, 2 and 3 attendance interventions. This week our attendance average was 93% and all of our advisories attendance was 90% or greater. We continue to focus our attention on attendance and want to make sure we are doing everything we can to help our students and families with improved attendance.



## TGIF from Greg

This week the 201s began their new power word, **ANALYZE**. We shared the definition of the word, discussed its meaning, and had the students choose an article on Newsela to analyze for themselves. They learned how to break down the article into parts as well as successfully partner share their analysis. JJ created the final logo choices for the On The Dot Coffee Shop, and will be sharing this with the school in a survey to see which one the student body likes best. This week Claire made a "Battle Bot" and beat the "Toaster" in robotics class. She was very excited to share her victory with us. Austin was able to work on his homemade chainmail that he's been working on for his survival tips he is adding to his Learning Plan. He has also been working hard with Hollis to set a good example in the kitchen and learn how to follow directions in a recipe. Morgan has officially turned in her two week notice with Ichor and will be starting her new internship at the Lafayette High School with Mrs. Lockwood teaching math to the 7th graders for two periods on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Garrett is continuing to make progress on his pinhole camera and was able to show us a rough draft of his presentation. The rest of the students all plugged in their computers to the SMART board and briefly went through their presentations in front of the class, giving each other hot and cold feedback while trying to improve and go beyond expectations. Next week we will be focused on completing our projects and getting ready for our presentations in front of our families.



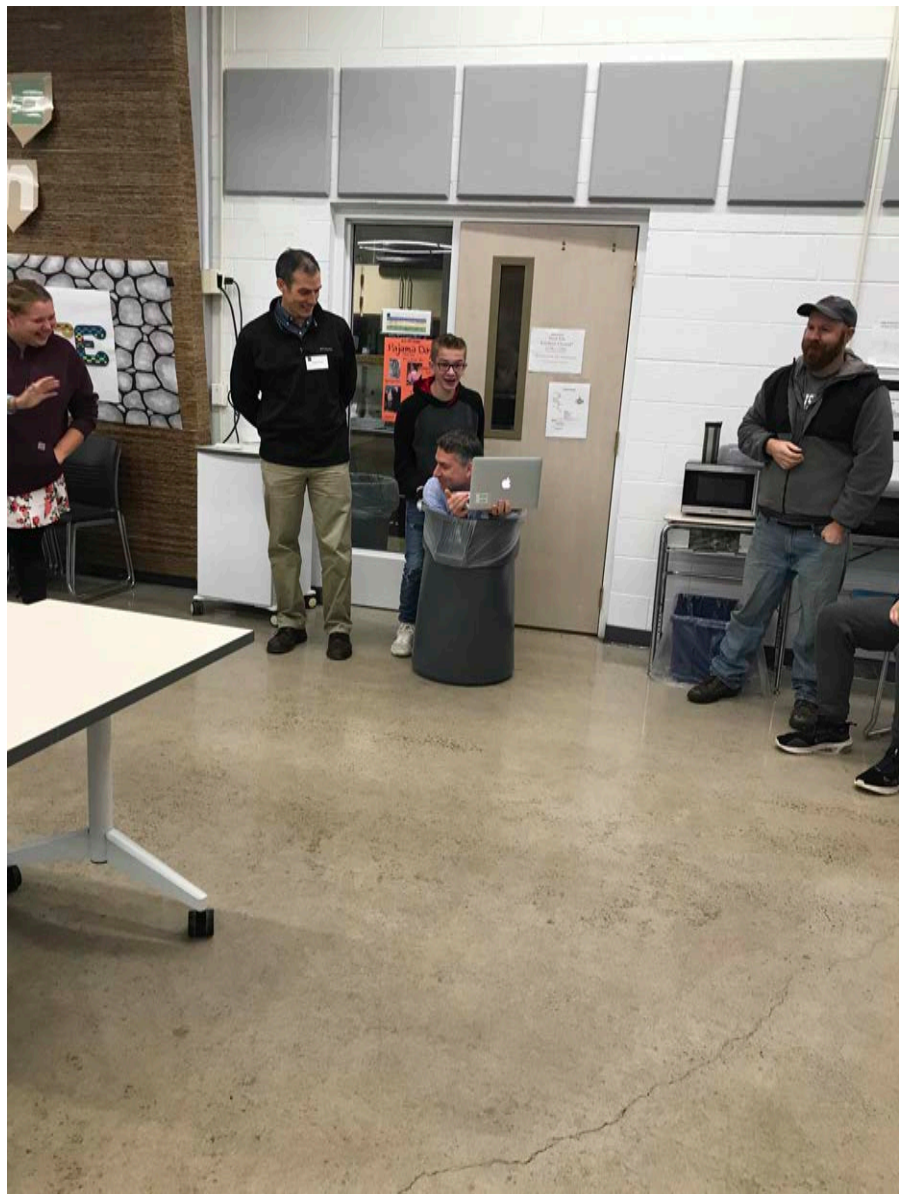


## TGIF from Lenny

My first seven years of teaching were in a traditional school setting. I remember feeling sort of isolated as a teacher because despite having students come and go throughout the day, there was little professional interaction with other teachers. In the Big Picture model and especially in our school, students and staff interact frequently with mentors, visitors and fellow staff members. It's hard to articulate how much this has benefitted me as a teacher. There is so much to gain from these experiences.

On Wednesday I accompanied Ezra, Bri, Lizzy and Tete to the second round of facilitator training at InterFaith Works. Andrea and Reggie explained and modeled the activities that student facilitators will run with their own groups of students at our next school exchange. It is really an incredible opportunity for these students to learn such skills and assume leadership roles in high school. The traits that I watch them display are going to benefit them for the rest of their lives.

On both Thursday and Friday we hosted visitors. On Thursday a teacher from a neighboring district joined us to observe an



internship day. I was proud of the fact that all 401s except one were either out at internships, college classes, service learning or project meetings. Our visitor joined Bri and I for a project meeting at Kirk Park with Brian from the Parks Department and Ms. Denise from the Community Center. He witnessed Bri making proposals, accepting feedback and navigating obstacles. Bri did a great job taking next steps towards the creation of a dog park and she immediately began the follow up tasks when we returned to school.



## TGIF from Walt

Much of my time this week was spent pushing into advisories for ELA support and working in the shop on various projects. Exhibitions are coming up very quickly, so I have been trying to get some projects finished up before then. There is still much to do, and time has been flying by. I am guessing the next couple weeks are going to be a whirlwind of project work and proofreading.

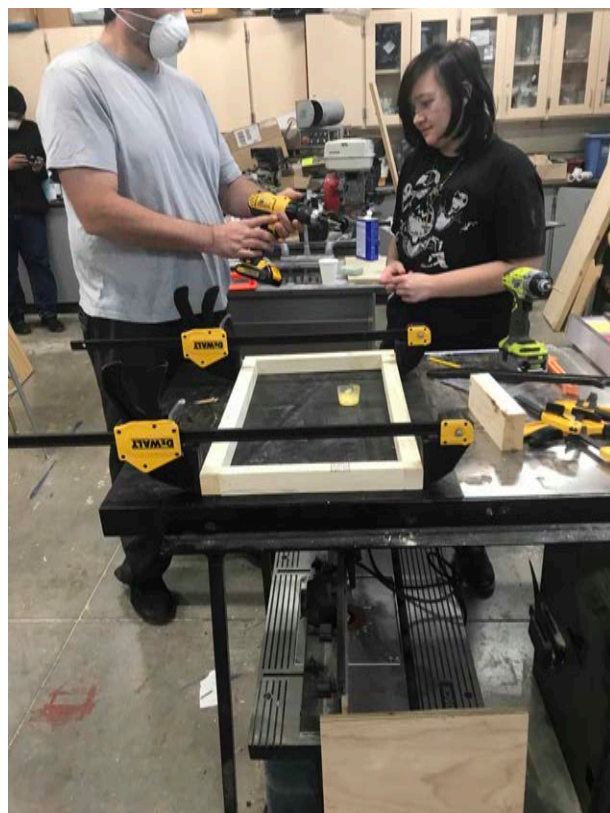
This week's highlights:

I am working with Darryl to build a desk, and this week we created blueprints and began cutting all the pieces. This is something we started at the end of last year, but did not get a chance to do. However, Darryl did learn most of the woodworking basics during that time, and now he is able to put them to good use. It has been a fun shop project so far, although it is definitely the most complicated one so far this year.

I worked with Tierra on building her nightstand. We built the frame a couple weeks ago, and this week we were able to put on the first coat of paint. Next week we are hoping to finish painting, attach the legs and install the shelf.

Stuart and I made a ferret cage this week. Stuart received two ferrets for his birthday, so we made them a home. It was a large project, but we were able to complete it just in time for their arrival. It was a fun, and both Stuart and

his



ferrets and very happy with the final product.

On Friday I covered the 101 advisory for April because she was away at a conference. I enjoyed having a chance to work with them, and we spent our time together learning some grammar basics. I have been trying to push in all advisories in order to provide ELA support, so this gave me a chance to give April some writing support. They all did very well, and we had a good time learning about compound and complex sentences.



## TGIF from David

I fell a bit behind last week on my TGIF duties. It was not that I had a lack of information, or reflections to share. My weekend just got away from me and when it was time to write my TGIF, I had no time to get it done.

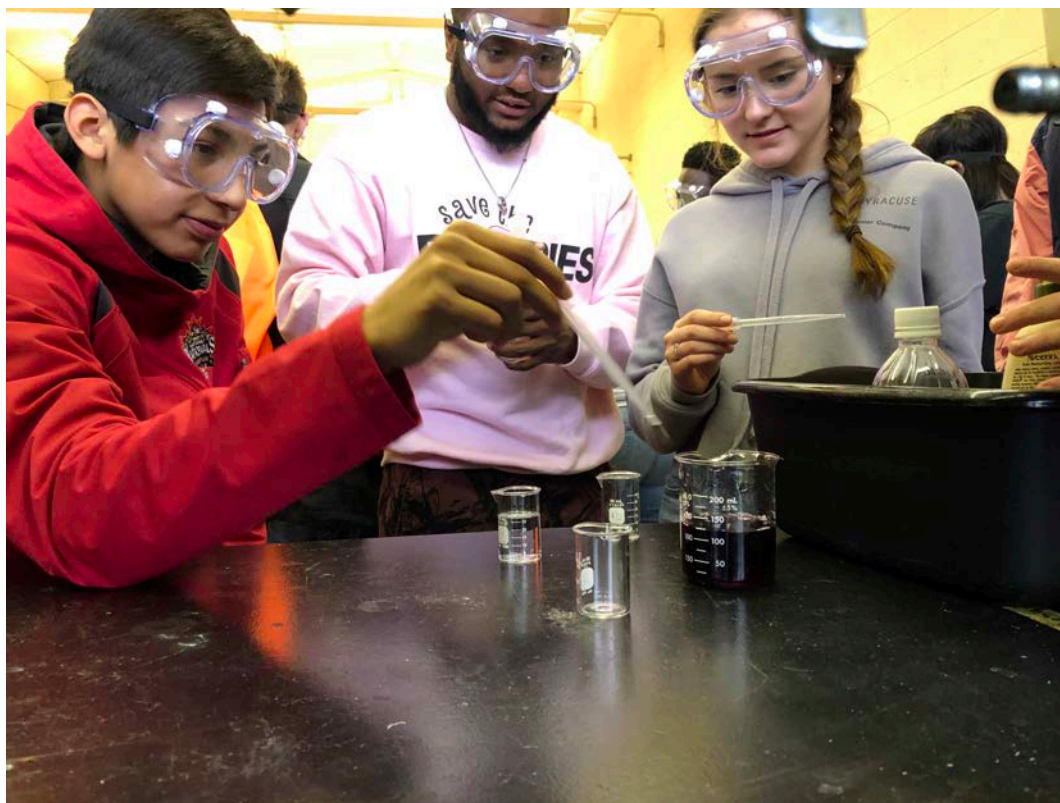
This past Winter, I read Tommy Orange's debut novel *There There*, and after I finished the last words I knew our students needed to read it. Through STEP, we purchased copies for our students. The world has its mysterious ways of working and I don't know if it was serendipitous, but Tommy Orange became one of Central New York's Friends of the Library guest speakers for their 2019-2020 lecture series. On November 12th, Tommy Orange came to Syracuse for his talk, but he also visited the Onondaga Nation School. We gave students the opportunity to hear him speak. It is rare for students to hear the author of the book they just read talk about why they wrote what they wrote, and what they meant in their writing. This allows students to make connections on a personal level and in real time with the author without any ambiguity. Tommy Orange provided a talk that was



refreshing because he refused to give a typical lecture. He broke with lecture norms, which is in step with his writing. To me, this made his writing come more alive. I am thankful I had the opportunity to hear him speak, and I am thankful our students had this opportunity.

That Thursday, students had the opportunity to meet Native artist, Wendy Red Star, who was featured at Syracuse University Light Work. Her art explores the intersections of Native American ideologies and colonialist structures, both historically and in contemporary society (<http://www.wendyredstar.com/bio>). Starting our week with Tommy Orange and ending it with Wendy Red Star was a rare opportunity. These are two artists searching for separate truths that ultimately intersect one another. They are two Native artists who experienced two very different upbringings.

That Friday, students went on a college visit to Utica College hosted by Utica CSTEP. Our students got a tour, had lunch in the dining hall, and visited a biology lab to do a small experiment and learn about some equipment used for larger experiments. Students also learned about the opportunity programs on Utica College's campus.



Now, this last week, two of our 101 students began internships. The 101s are chomping at the opportunity to get out of the building and go on shadow days. They are making all the right moves to pursue options outside of the building. We are working to get them out and get them fully experiencing the Big Picture philosophy.

Lastly, our after school STEP Tuesday Math/Science push is attracting over 20 students every week. Thank you to Rosalie and Leonardo for being our tutors.

## TGIF from April

101s led morning meeting this week. I am really proud of how the students are stepping up and running school wide Pick Me Up's. This is no easy feat. Not only do they have to speak in front of the entire school, I am also requiring that they plan, in writing, what they want to do a week in advance. This week Faith, Victor, Ricky, Coleby, Lexi, Jacob & Phoenix hosted pick me up activities (PMU). They each did a nice job. They were nervous, however each PMU ran smoothly and appeared to bring about morning smiles. The 101s will become 'pro's' at hosting PMUs as we will continue to lead morning meeting a few more times this year; I will also push those that did a PMU in groups to run one as an individual. All these BP style-learning activities places the 101s in terrific position for one of their Gateway requirements that are to be fulfilled by 201 year; exciting stuff!

We have been mastering the power words: Describe, Infer, and Explain. This week we introduced a new word: Analyze. 101s are able to recall the definitions quickly. We continue to work hard at actually incorporating these words into our writing. Walt noticed I was working on adjectives and adverbs with 101s and joined in- he presented School House Rock adjectives and adverbs! WOW what a blast from my childhood! Walt is now joining us frequently during a portion of our advisory time to support our work. This week we worked on Oxford comma usage. He taught 101s the Mac and Cheese rule 🧀. We learned to use a comma before appositive (a noun that explains another noun). Students went to the board and practiced each form of comma usage Walt was teaching us. Example: My cow, Delmonico, is fat. 101s were reminded a subject and predicate are needed in every sentence.



Ex: Last night, mom bought me new basketball shoes. We all learned 3 dots in a row... is called ellipsis. I never knew that! 😊

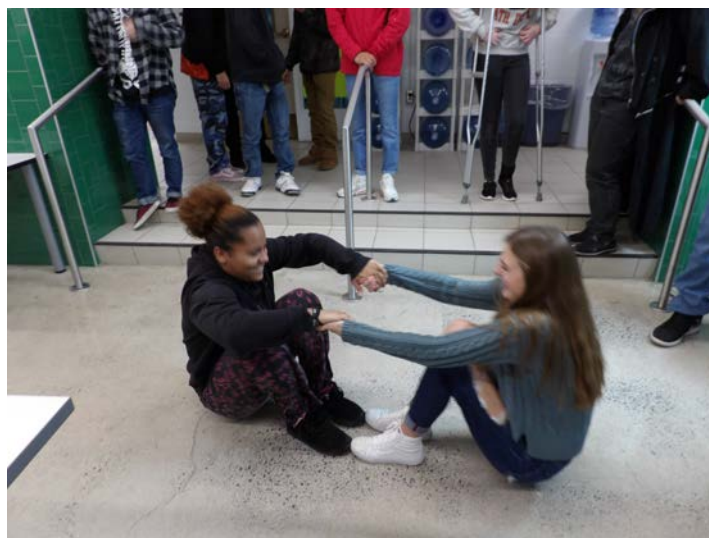
We continue to go out in small groups on Service Learning. I am pleased at how many want to go serve others every week. When we can only go in small groups I have to turn some 101s away. If you have any ideas or

know of some service we can perform with our entire group (16 students) of 101s please let me know. This week we rang the Salvation Army Bells and went to the Samaritan Center and washed more dishes than they could ever have imagined. Lexi and Mya had their first full week of internships and we continue working to get others out to shadow days and internships.

Thursday was an emotionally charged 'note' to the week- one that may just have been a huge break through for some of our negative behaviors. It was quite a bit for many 101s to digest, maybe even tumultuous; nonetheless it was certainly a powerful learning experience. Ultimately, I am satisfied with the outcome- which was completely student driven.

We (101s) will be holding exhibition pre-runs on Monday and Tuesday because when we return from Thanksgiving break we will only have 5 school days (12/2-6) left before our exhibitions!! Most of the boys and some of the girls are struggling with independent work time (IWT), doing work at home, and completion of goals; therefore, I am mandating practice runs so they know what schoolwork they will need to accomplish

over the Thanksgiving break. **PLEASE**, I implore parents & guardians of 101s to please have them complete schoolwork over the Thanksgiving break. Doing so will help ensure a productive and successful exhibition. ALL exhibition work **final drafts** should be completed and turned in to me by Friday Dec. 6. I know December sounds far away- but in reality it is in 7 days.







**After Prom Fundraiser ~ November**

**The After Prom Planning Committee is accepting  
Can and Bottle Returns in November**

**Please leave your returnable at the collection site  
located between Community Center & Dollar General**

**\*if interested in helping out, email [Kweil@lafayetteschools.org](mailto:Kweil@lafayetteschools.org)**