

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

JANUARY 17

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



Our 101s at the Mall after a morning of service learning!

TGIF from Lenny

The past week was filled with challenges and opportunities. Here's a look at a few.

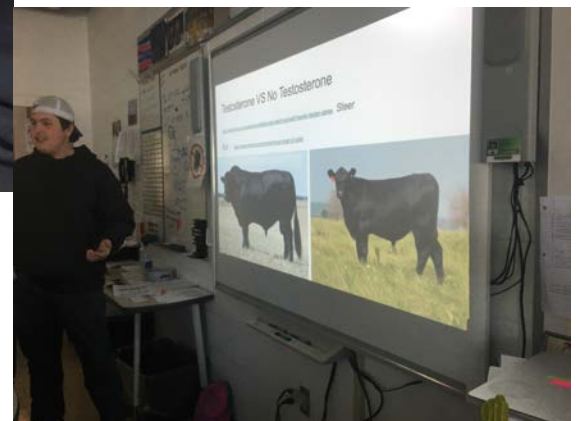
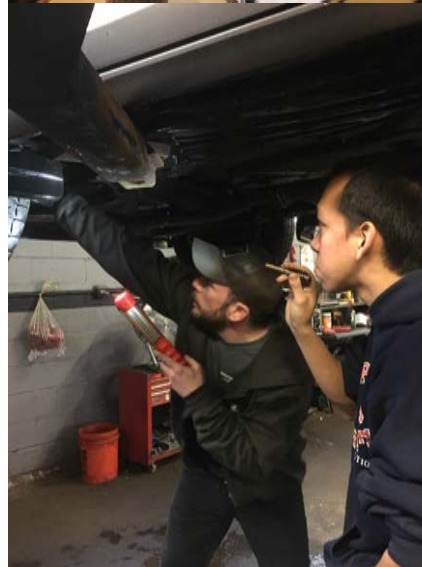
On Wednesday Big Picture hosted our guests from PSLA at Fowler for the Community Wide Dialogue school exchange. We invited Regis to help us begin our day with an opening. This involved Regis verbally presenting what is commonly known as the Thanksgiving Address. During the address, the speaker gives thanks that all present are able to gather and gives warm greetings. The address also gives thanks for all that the Earth has provided us. Regis also gave us explanations and meaningful historical context. We are very appreciative that Regis could begin our day this way. The day of dialogue explored some very tough topics and certainly hit a few nerves with some students. But that's not a bad thing. We had great opportunities for students to work through these feelings and emotions using meaningful dialogue. Thank you again to Andrea and Reggie for planning and facilitating this day.

On Thursday I started the day by visiting Kaia at her new internship at the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center. The visit was brief but I met with her mentor and learned about her responsibilities. Kaia's passion for child advocacy has lead her to this site and she has already learned a great deal and contributed to the work environment. I continued on to Kyle's site at Goodman Automotive. I was able to observe Kyle conducting a NYS Inspection on a vehicle and have a meeting with

his mentors pertaining to Kyles STP. It was a very productive visit. I then visited Audrey at the Onondaga Nation School. Audrey is assisting in a Pre-K classroom with 16 children. Her mentor praised her and was grateful for the help. During my visit the little ones went to lunch so Audrey helped set up their nap cots and blankets then immediately went to resume work on the clothes closet she is creating for her STP. She demonstrated super work ethic.

On Friday one on my Living Environment sections focused on review for the January Regents next week. The other section began student presentations on human body systems. I was so impressed with their preparedness, depth and presentation skills. They even had work-cited pages as their last slide. In ER we tried to clarify aspects of climate change by taking an impartial evidence-based approach. We explored how politicizing a topic can easily distort facts. And in exploratory we had a wonderful yoga session. Riley, Brandon, Kylie, Gabe and Nylah all demonstrated great participation.

The week ahead is sure to present it's share of challenges as we juggle exams, internships, project work and much more. I hope your week is filled with successes!



TGIF from Walt

Things were a bit crazy this week at Big Picture this week. Most of my time was spent bouncing between advisories teaching writing/grammar, grading argumentative essays and trying to get as much ELA Regents prep in as I could before the Regents exams next week. I have also been helping students with learning plans in order to plan out a workshop schedule for this trimester. My goal is to turn workshop related projects into a group internship on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This way I can work with multiple students who have similar interests at the same time. After Regents week, I am hoping to start this with students.

This week's highlights:

Much of my time on Tuesday and Thursday was spent working on projects relating to the coffee shop. We have taken on two new employees, Bri and Alyssa, and they needed to be trained on how to make the various coffees and take orders. I have also been working with JJ and Adam on trying out different recipes while also working out

systems to make sure that all of our orders are sent out consistently and in a timely fashion. Things have been working well, and after Regents exams next week, we are hoping to put some new drink options on the menu.

On Wednesday, I brought Adam to Origins by CoffeeMania in Cortland for a shadow day. He spent the day learning about the various types of drinks they make, how they ensure consistency in their products, how they manage inventory and how they manage their orders. Adam really enjoyed this experience, and he came back with some good ideas on how to improve our school coffee shop.

Darryl and I finished staining his desk this week. Things are finally starting to come together, and we will be finished by next week. Darryl completed most of the work on this desk by himself, and I am very impressed by his work ethic. I can't wait to get this done and completely assembled next week.

TGIF from Jessica

The 301s have had another good week of intensive review. This week we focused on our essay writing skills. We utilized annotating to locate and note evidence in the text that could be used to support, oppose, or develop a claim/theme. From there, we reviewed how to outline an essay with the focus on transitional phrases and sentences. We also focused on maintaining our claim/theme throughout the whole essay, staying on point. At the end of the week, we reviewed tone. First from the perspective of the author's tone elaborating purpose, then from the perspective of writing with a formal tone.

Similar to last week, we spent one day reviewing US History and Living Environment in the 301 advisory. On Thursday I had an opportunity to review with the 201 and 301s for the algebra regents. Algebra review was also offered during exploratory. This week in particular, we went over the grading of each regents, how our effort needs to be sustained throughout the whole test, and what constitutes as a passing grade.

The 301s had a special review day on Wednesday this week with the exception of the 301s participating in PSLA. Five students were able to take a practice English regents. One student practiced US History and another Algebra. Two students reviewed Living Environment. We had snacks and a quiet space to practice, review, ask questions, and study together.

Comming up next week, the 301 students are encouraged to attend the Board Meeting at 5:30pm on Thursday the 23rd in Big Picture. Students are welcome to stay with me at Big Picture until the meeting and dinner will be provided. Participating in the board meeting will be credit towards their participation in government requirements.

TGIF from April

101s had a busy internship/shadow day/ service learning week. Elaina returned to Midnight Sun for another shadow day; business is slow but she enjoyed the shadow day. Faith had a shadow day with the LASP after school program at Grimshaw she had a terrific experience. Phoenix attended a shadow day at Biscotti's and was invited to return to begin an internship. Jordyn's shadow day at Tanglewood Riding Center was so exciting and she began her new internship there on Thursday. On Wednesday all 101s that are not members in the PSLA group went out for service learning. The 101s really enjoy volunteering at the Thrifty Shopper stores so we signed up for that task good work was accomplished. Elijah, and Olivia will begin new internships next week and Ricky the following week. We are getting closer to having all 101s with an internship! I completed some site visits this week- Mya is doing well learning to train puppies and Julien, Dan (mentor) and I were able to discuss various learning opportunities for Julien it was such a great conversation; Julien's learning plan was developed out of that meeting. Exciting stuff is taking place around internships!

Our lunch bunch group sent good wishes to Sam as he was out getting treatments. In our LB we are tackling the 'hard stuff' like attendance, behaviors,

assessment scores while building good relationships and learning new games, like Chinese checkers ☺ we are enjoying the time, and miss a member if they are absent.

This was the week 101s hosted morning meeting. Olivia did a school wide pick me up having the school break into lunch bunch groups to do an activity. Mya's PMU was teaching the school to draw a cat, Leighann with support from Lexi taught the school how to make origami boats for her PMU, Phoenix hosted a survey, and Faith did her daily stand up comedy. I love watching the 101' experience the Big Picture Model and having them host a PMU. They are growing so much through their willingness to step outside of their comfort zone. They are building CONFIDENCE without even realizing it. I am proud of them for following the guidance Hollis and I are attempting to give them. Sometimes it takes prodding, and they might not like it, but they do it and the change in their composure and confidence is SO obvious. That's what it is about-giving students knowledge,

power and confidence. Put down the technology and talk to each other I say. Boy is it uncomfortable for them, but the benefits are tangible!



