

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

MARCH 6 AND MARCH 20

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



Sorry for such a delay in the TGIF. I was out sick last week and this week has been.....well you know.....a new experience. You will find reflections from the staff from the week March 2-6th. Additionally, you will find pictures and a reflection about exhibitions.

As we have moved to distance learning, I am reminded multiple times during the day how amazing the Big Picture staff is. They quickly jumped into action and made this transition as smooth as possible for our students. We are utilizing our Google tools to connect and share with each other. Our students continue to write their Daily Goals in our shared Daily Goal tracker which allows all staff members to see what students plan on working on each day. At the close of the day, those daily goals are checked to see if they were accomplished. Advisories and workshops are meeting daily using Google Meet. Assignments and instructional materials are posted in Google Classrooms. All staff members have established "Office Hours" to allow for one on one meetings and check-ins. For our students without internet access, we are working on providing access through the use of hotspots, but in the mean time, paper handouts are being mailed or delivered to their homes. This is not ideal, but it our ideal for now. Stay Healthy! ❤️ Susan

TGIF from Lenny

Having the same group of students for four years is a very long time. As a teacher and advisory I am with these young people during a time when many acquire their first jobs, obtain their drivers license, choose a college and have their first boyfriends or girlfriends. This is also a time when students may experience great loss. It is quite a journey. And when we start to see signs of spring in their 401 year, feelings of excitement, joy, sadness and urgency all emerge. It is my sincere hope that we can enjoy our last few months together as an advisory.

We finished reading *The Last Lecture* as an advisory on Friday. The experience of reading this book has met many of my expectations. As the author Randy reveals life lessons and advice in his book, we discuss and journal on the topics. I know that the experience of reading this book has driven emotional growth in nearly all of the 401s. I am grateful for this book, as it has been the perfect vessel to impart pearls of wisdom to our advisory.

We also completed most of the STAR screeners in advisory a continued to prepare for exhibitions. Our exhibitions will be combine progress in our STPs, learning from our internships, and requirements from Senior Institute, workshops and STAR.

On Tuesday, Thomas attended a shadow day at Upstate Interactive in downtown Syracuse. Thomas shadowed a software engineer and entrepreneur throughout the day and had a great experience. He got to see the balance

between the responsibilities of a programmer and the challenges of running and growing a business. Thank you to Upstate Interactive and Commonsplace for their hospitality.



On Friday we traveled to Morrisville for some fun and physical activity. We were not in the field house this time, but utilized the gymnasium in the Hamilton Building. We played basketball, floor hockey, tail tag and more. We also utilized the CSTEP building to hold advisory where we completed our reading and had lunch. While we were on campus, Kyle got a tour of the Automotive Facility and Nylah got to see the nursing program. Thank you to SUNY Morrisville for your continued hospitality.

We have a busy week ahead with 15 exhibitions packed into just 4 days. I hope your week is filled with opportunity and success!



TGIF from Walt

Most of my time this week was spent helping students finish up projects for exhibitions. It was very busy and chaotic, but I managed to get a good deal done. I also was able to spend Fitness Friday at Morrisville with the 101s, because April was out, and it was a very positive day. Morrisville days are great for blowing off some steam and doing team building activities, and everyone had a good time.

This week's highlights:

Gabe and I worked on making a mini skateboard park for his Tech-deck project. Tech-decks are miniature skateboards that can be controlled using your fingers and are currently popular. Gabe wanted to make different obstacles that could be used for tricks. We started on a half pipe structure this week, and spent more of our time scaling down measurements from real designs. We then constructed templates from these measurements and prepared all the wood. Next week we are hoping to have a completed mini half-pipe.

My wife, Autumn, came in this week to work with the On The Dot coffee shop employees. She is a photographer/graphic designer and offered to help take drink pictures that can be used for promotional materials. Adam has been creating a website for our coffee shop, and needed images to promote our drink options, so she helped him get started. Autumn showed Brie, Kaia, Adam and JJ how to style and stage the drinks for photoshoots. This was a great help, and Adam is hoping to have our webpage live by the end of next week.

I spent most of Thursday working with Jacob on his underwater remote operated vehicle (ROV), and we are very close to being finished with the



prototype. Most of our time was spent on wiring the electronics and making sure everything was working properly. We completed a prototype controller, and all that we have left to do is mount the engines to the chassis the Jacob created last week. It looks like we will have it completed in time for exhibitions next week.



TGIF from David

We are all storytellers. We are all always sharing some kind of story. Whether we are recounting something from the past, or recalling a present event that happened to us we are telling stories all the time. I know that I have a continuous stream of stories just running through my mind as if it's a receipt machine churning out endless reams of paper. I have no idea if this is normal for everyone because I have not asked many people if that is how their brain works. Whether it is just a constant stream of stories, or just those life moments we are excited to share we are all storytellers.

I should put a sign above my office door that reads, "Storytellers Welcome" or "The New Algonquin Round Table" because I am told so many stories throughout my day. I do not believe I am told these stories as a means to avoid classroom responsibilities because if that were the case the stories would probably sound pointless, or at least meandering just to soak up more time. Young people want to tell their stories and sometimes they just want you to be quiet and listen. The quiet part can be hard because we all just love giving our own input, telling our own stories, but we have to just listen to the stories of others.

Every week tells a story and once again we have some similar themes of weeks past. Thomas went to a shadow day at Upstate Interactive to learn how they provide their expertise to clients who are in

need of computer programming and website development. Thomas wants to be an entrepreneur, or go into marketing in the future. The person who started Upstate Interactive told me that Thomas should absolutely be an entrepreneur because he embodies the personality needed to start a business. That is part of Thomas's story right now, and I have been witness to his lifelong story since he was Kindergarten. An unfortunate part of his current story is the passing of his father, who I also knew since Thomas was just a little kid. There was a memorial this weekend for Thomas's father where people shared their stories of time spent with Tim Farrar. Stories keep us connected even when one of us is no longer here.

More stories of shared moments were retold on Thursday when some of our 8th grade STEP students joined us after school. The Summer Science and Technology Entry Program always has fun moments that turn into fond memories. I hope more of our past Summer STEP students continued to join us on Thursdays after school for more shared fun.

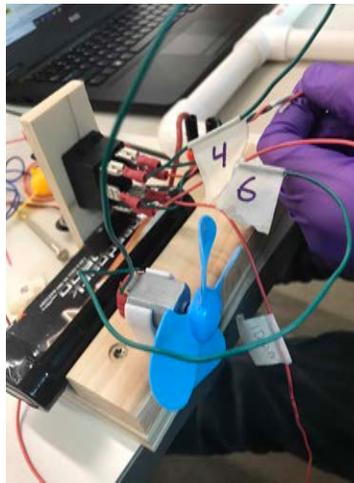
There are probably more stories from this past week, but my son has awakened from his nap and is currently standing in his crib. He is also someone that likes to share his stories, they are unintelligible since he is only eleven months old, but he wants everyone to know about his experience. Storytellers start young.

TGIF from David (last week)

I received a lot of emails this week telling me that we are in uncharted waters. Cancellations across the state have filled my inbox. Every organization from restaurants to online programs have emailed me to update me on their coronavirus preparation. Listservs I do not recall ever being on contacted me this week. I will repeat the message that I received that we are indeed in uncharted waters, and I hope that everyone is taking the necessary precautions as we move forward together as a society.

We kept last week business as usual during exhibitions. I sat in on a number of them and by the end of each exhibition my brain was sparked with many learning possibilities for each student. I saw growth in students and new areas for them to grow.

I especially saw a lot of growth in Jacob, but I suspect he was hiding most of this growth. He is working on an underwater ROV, and has spent many hours at school and at home on the project. You can tell he has spent many hours at home because of the depth of his knowledge on the topic. This required a lot of reading, a lot of study, and a lot of questions. He proved this in his exhibition and his shadow day at Eget Liber. Eget



Liber is a local company that has built a semi-submersible ROV that can eliminate toxic blue algae in lakes. The company is housed in the Genius NY center at the Syracuse Tech Garden. Jacob engaged in a professional dialogue with the owner and developer of Eget Liber. I just sat back and watched the conversation unfold. I could tell the owner was impressed with the way his face changed when Jacob seemed to be asking all the right questions. The company is dedicated to helping Jacob as he continues the next phase of his project. I hope Jacob will stop keeping so much of his learning hidden and make it as public as possible.

We are thankful for all of our mentors and partners that work with our students and we do not know how the rest of the school year will progress. Please know that we are thinking of you as our current circumstances unfold .

For students and their families, I will be available if you need my help. SUNY Morrisville STEP will be available if you need help. Please do not hesitate to contact me through email dstablein@lafayetteschools.org or by phone 315-715-1219.

TGIF from April

This week I am going to highlight a talent that is not in my 101 advisory, but rather a 301 student in my lunch bunch group: Sam R.

Now mind you, that is not to say that most of the 101's have not worked hard this past week to prepare for exhibitions, because I indeed saw some great work being accomplished by Faith, Lexi, Julien, Elaina, Coleby, Olivia, Elliana, Kara and Jacob. All 101's were all very busy trying to fit in STAR math and reading assessments this week as well; not to mention 15 out of the 17 students in our advisory had either internships or shadow days to attend on Tues. & Thurs., so to say we were extremely busy is not over exaggeration. The ONE wish I have, if I could have ANY, would be that students would not procrastinate. When they do it makes it very difficult for me to meet all their wishes and needs. This is not a complaint, merely an observation-I think the students forget I am working with 17 individually (plus students from other advisories) all with very different learning plans. Weeks like these I just do not have enough hours in a day and I get very little sleep trying to meet all students wants and needs as they prepare for exhibitions. I am thankful for Hollis, Walt and Lacy who I leaned on heavily this week to help when I could not be in all places at once. This week of exhibitions should be exciting with such diverse interest based projects! Please drop in and observe some exhibitions if you have the time.

This weekend the LaFayette Players Drama team performed the musical: *ANNIE*. Our very own BP students **JJ and Sam** were both in the production. I attended on Saturday and it was great! JJ, who I didn't even know was in the play, surprised me with his talent, and made me smile with his obvious devotion to his sister, who played the lead of Annie. Sam played the part of one of

my favorite presidents 🥰 FDR. I knew Sam was in the play because Lacy, his mentor, has been working with him in the aspect of vocal development, and has helped him a tad with preparing for the play. He did a terrific job as FDR and he made me laugh a few weeks ago when he told me the play was finally helping him understand the policies of FDR I taught in US history. On top of the play Sam had a chance to showcase his amazing talent at an Open Mic Night at the Auburn Community Theater this past Tuesday night. I had the opportunity to witness his premier debut at the event, and I say premier because he did an outstanding job! He was undoubtedly and understandably nervous, however, when he got on stage, took to the keyboard and began singing he caught the attention of the entire room. People who had been on their phones put them away. All eyes were on Sam and the people began cheering as he sang. It was very moving to witness. Sam had only signed up to perform one song, and when he finished and began to exit the stage the MC/Manager of the theater said, "I believe Sam has one more song to do!" to loud cheers. So Sam returned to the stage and impromptu sang another song. This was not karaoke,

this was Sam singing and playing his instrument with the spot light only on him. I was thrilled for him and when he was done singing for the night the theater manager asked him to come back again and they would put him in an earlier time slot- that they save for their more accomplished musicians. What a tremendous, and much needed, confidence boost for Sam! He was so excited! For his first time ever performing at an Open Mic he nailed it! I was honored to witness his performance. Congratulations Sam on stepping outside your comfort zone, allowing me to push you into conquering your fear of performing live and alone and earning that invitation to return to sing again in an earlier time slot! YOU DID IT! Mic drop!



TGIF from Jessica

After being with the 301s and Big Picture for the past three years, I have come to enjoy the week before exhibitions for the magic that takes place. We labor through the trimester, all starting with the development and beginning of a project idea. Then work into research and development, trial and error, obstacles and successes; which of course is the longest stage. Yet, then we come to the final weeks and we start to see products, student creations, and the whole school turns into a manufacturing workshop. Across all advisories I saw students working on creative products.

Elias has been working with Hollis and Christine learning how to develop his cooking skills. He made his first homemade chicken noodle soup with Christine. Elias learned how to improve the presentation of food, to make it more aesthetically appealing. He worked on this by making roasted tricolored carrots with Hollis. Each product he made, he shared with different members of the school community. There is something about sharing food with others that creates a unique community bond, especially when its as good as Elias was able to make it.

If you're looking for a new blend of music, stop in to Books and Melodies. Randy set up a vinyl and cd display in the store titled Inverter. He has been working with his mentor Nic to create his own selection of music and a brand for himself. Randy has created a social media

account to promote his brand. Moving forward, Randy will learn how to analyze sale trends and adjust his selection to increase customer satisfaction.

Our well overdue Morrisville Fitness Friday was this week! We had the pleasure of using a different facility this time, it was a gym with a stage. Knowing we might not be able to host our usual activities, I created a game called Batteloon. The game is a cross between ultimate frisbee, volleyball, and keep the balloon up. One rule of the game is loosing 2 points for popping the balloon. To my surprise, Brandon and Audrey popped it together when they were going for the balloon. So we did one point loss per team. The game provided more of a workout than I expected! We had about 11 participants and I think they are looking forward to playing again.



