

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2019

OCTOBER 11

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



A few weeks ago I shared how we have changed the structure of morning meeting and have pairs of adults facilitating the meeting. I thought it was turning out great then and I still do! This week, April and Hollis facilitated morning meeting as newscasters and 101 students led breakout activities. It was a fun way of entering the day and the leadership demonstrated by the 101s was impressive.



Another great moment this week was watch Walt

teach Austin how to make a chainmaille bracelet. Joy is helping Austin with his learning plan. She too was learning the techniques from Walt. It was fun to watch all levels of learning and teaching in this moment.



TGIF from Jessica

This week and next week are two short weeks, but we are filling them to get the most out of them. In Advisory, we are progressing through our book, *There There* by Tommy Orange. The students have been reading aloud in class and they are beginning to piece together the connections among the characters. We have created a character map that we will further develop as even more characters are introduced and we will draw more connecting lines as we discover how they all come together and relate to one another. The style of this book is unique because it is told through several characters' points of view, it is cross-generational, and the stories are given out of order in the timeline - sometimes chapters happen at the same point in the timeline, but they are told through different characters' perspectives. With this much variety comes the ability for anyone to relate to this book; from all walks of life and experiences. The book also introduces several struggles people face and controversial issues. This has allowed our advisory to talk about overcoming adversities and obstacles, to consider what they would do in similar situations, and for them to depict their values.

We are continuing to work towards getting shadow days and internships. Randy had a great experience at Books and Melodies this week! He was put right to work and learned valuable skills. Hayden enjoyed his experience at 95x, he got to

meet Marty and Shannon, Joe D and dXn! They showed him around, told him about each career within the station, gave him great feedback and networking for his project idea/interest. Liz has set up her internship at the Library on Tuesdays and she has kicked off brainstorming her project ideas on storytelling with Scott. Tete set up an internship with Meals on Wheels for Thursdays, her first day will be this coming week! Tete enjoyed her shadow day on Tuesday at the Food Bank of CNY, she learned how box food donations for disbursement into the community.

We have completed our first unit in Algebra. The students have demonstrated their knowledge of the real number system and they are able to decipher rational and irrational numbers. The Quantitative Reasoning students are coming to a close on their Excel Training and they will soon be starting their projects in excel. We will also use excel later in the year for them to create their own budget sheets.

Coming up next week, the 301s are taking the PSAT on Wednesday October 16th. This will provide them feedback on how prepared they are for the SAT, what areas we need to work on, and to discuss what their plans are past graduation. We also have our Who Am I Exhibitions at the end of this week for Kylee and Liz! I am excited to see them present in front of their peers, the two of them have really blended well into our advisory community. They are a great addition to our class.

TGIF from Greg

This week the 201s are jumping into their Learning Plans and academics. Morgan took an exam in both Chemistry and Psychology at Onondaga Community College. She's also been learning at her internship, testing the density of rats' eyeballs at Ichor, and keeping a detailed daily log of all of her activities. Devyn's been working on the Onondaga Nation to learn the Onondaga Language on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Austin has started working with Walt on his European 4-in-1 weave chainmaille gauntlet for his first trimester project. Josh went to Clark's Reservation and took pictures with photography class this week, uploading over 150 photos to sort and add to his project. At Giarrosso Sheet Metal, Evan has been making roof edge and air ducts, and is planning on making a go-kart for his exhibition. Claire has been offered the

opportunity to attend the 2019 Women in Engineering day at Lockheed Martin, where she will be exposed to a variety of career paths that engineering can offer. Caitlyn is going to her first shadow day with Blue Prints Dog Studio next week, where she will be learning about dog training and developing her first exhibition based on her new knowledge. During this upcoming long weekend, we've got quite a few students volunteering at the Lafayette Apple Festival. Many of them helped Lenny with bottling garlic-infused olive oil to sell at the Apple Fest as part of a fundraiser. Next week we will be delving deeper into our Learning Plans and making sure we're all on the right track for success with our first exhibitions. We've been working on our Gateway binders and learning what is required to move on to the next step in our education, and gearing up to finish our WorkKeys exams in the next couple of weeks.

TGIF from Lenny

I'd like to focus on our garlic project for my portion of this week's TGIF. As you may know, we grow garlic each year on the Apple Festival grounds and this year we did a small experimental plot in our school garden. Our goal is to grow enough to sell some, make some into garlic oil to sell and reserve some for seed. The success of our crop varies depending on weather and timing. Although we didn't have a great yield last year, we learn lessons from every experience.

In a typical year, students are involved in planting the garlic in late fall, cutting the scapes in May, pulling the garlic from the field in July, and processing or 'cleaning' the garlic in September. On the production end of things we package the garlic into quarter pound bundles and make garlic oil in our kitchen. On the business end we work out the cost of materials, derive a price and conduct the actual sales at the Apple Festival.

On Tuesday and Thursday students sterilized bottles, peeled garlic, weighed and packaged product and applied labels. On Saturday and Sunday, students accompanied Erin, Jessica and I at our garlic booth to sell our product.

There are lessons built into every step of this process. I'll admit that it can be very frustrating when students complain, waste material, drift off on their phones or don't see a task through to completion. But



those behavior act as a reminder for why we do this project. I can't expect every student to walk in our doors with all of the necessary work skills. This experience is how they are formed and strengthened.

At our booth, I typically engage with customers and model how to draw them in and encourage a sale. Then I step back and push the students to do the same. That allows me to visit with former students and parents. This is possibly my favorite part of the weekend. It's heartwarming to see former students enjoying the festival with their young families.

Besides a rainy afternoon on Saturday, the weekend was a success. Thank you to the students and staff that helped with the project and of course, thank you to the Apple Festival Committee for allowing us to grow garlic on the grounds and attend the festival. Have an amazing week!



TGIF from Walt

Most of my time this week was spent assessing Argumentative essays, and working with students on various projects. I have been helping some of April's students prepare for their Who Am I Exhibitions, primarily by assisting them with their Autobiographical Sketch projects. I've enjoyed this project because it gives me a chance to learn more about them, while also giving me a chance to teach some writing strategies.

This week's highlights:

Things went well with the coffee cart this week. Over the past couple weeks, we have been refining our system, and things are finally coming together. Dawsun and I have been overseeing and training JJ, Kaia, Adam, and Sam, but next week we are going to let them take over and run things on their own. JJ and Adam are also doing projects based around the coffee cart. JJ will be learning Photoshop in order to design a new logo for us to use, and Adam will be developing two new products for our coffee cart to use. Kaia is also organizing a collaborative effort with the school SECNY bank in order to offer our coffee as an incentive for making deposits. I am very happy to see that the coffee cart not only provides a good product, but also great learning opportunities for our students.



On Thursday, I taught Kyle and JJ how to make fish chowder. Kyle had a large amount of locally sourced bass fillets, and he asked me to teach him how to make them, so I am teaching him how to make them three ways. We started off with a simple chowder this week that can be used with any mild white fish. It came out very good, and Kyle was nice enough to share with his advisory. Next week, we are going to use the remaining bass and I will be teaching him how to make butter-crumble baked fish, and also a tempura fried fish recipe. I really enjoy teaching students cooking skills, because these lessons can last a lifetime.

I am teaching Austin how to make chainmaille, because he is interested in learning about various types of armor. This week we started off with a basic european four-in-one pattern, which is one of the easiest to start with. We are going to start off by making a cuff bracelet, and if things go well, we will be making a full chest piece. Chainmaille making is one of my hobbies, and I am very happy to teach it to students.



TGIF from David

As we work to push students to achieve higher reading scores and Regents scores, we need to preserve moments to push students to achieve social and emotional stability. We were all teenagers once, and we were all teenagers at different points in different generations. As adults now, we deride the social media use of our students. I guess social media is our, "I had to walk fifteen miles uphill both ways to and from school" moment, our moment to create an ocean wide divide between us and our students. But, this generation of young people are more empathetic, and understand cultural and social differences better than any previous generation of young people. This is due to their social media use. I guess when I was a teenager, the internet was fairly new so no one really understood its power. No one really understood what chat rooms could accomplish, both good and bad. Despite generational differences teenagers face the same issues: alienation, uncertainty, image issues, depression, and etc. Those issues still need time for consideration. Digging into complex teenage problems can still be achieved by conversation.

On my way to a shadow day with a student, we got into a conversation about the student's fears and self-image. This student had many regrets for actions in the past, actions that were completely understandable, but this student viewed those actions as detrimental. So, the student has deep rooted anxiety and hatred for themselves. Those

feelings come through everything they do and every relationship they attempt to build. Those feelings made them uneasy about how they would perform on their shadow day, like this student expected to completely screw up their chance just because that is who they are. It is almost as if the student believes their life is out of their hands. I encouraged this student in ways that I have learned from experiences in my own life and training done throughout my career. This student will need continued conversation on these issues if they are to work through their feelings and the stigma they have placed on themselves. This will require just as much time we devote to reading scores and Regents scores. The two are intertwined because the student will never have enough confidence to be successful at either.

I do not know how conversations went with other students going on job shadows this week, but my conversation was a reminder of why I enjoy this job so much. I believe I can do some good, but I know that every attempt to do good won't always have the best results. I reminded a student of that who sent me a message thanking me for helping them. I will do my best to help, but I can't guarantee it will always be right. Because sometimes, it takes me a bit to understand generational differences comparing them to my own experiences. But, I just have to remember that our students are more understanding than anyone that has come before. We can build on that.



101s
Volunteering
at the Rescue
Mission

TGIF from April

What a full week! SO many new things are happening within the 101 advisory I will mention them but give details on just a few. Mosquitos Game- is fast becoming an advisory favorite 😊.

Introduced at our summer fun day we use it now when we need a break. WAI work is fast and furious so we played mosquito a few times this week, it brings out laughter in them all and includes running! The 101s are trying a new Praise Game to help alleviate distractions in our advisory; I will let you know how that is going as time progresses- it's a slow start right now. As a staff we decided to dedicate time in our lessons to focus on the same 3 power words that will improve student performance across the curriculum. This week the 101s hosted BP morning meeting, Hollis and I presented the daily 'news', the 3 power words: Infer, Describe and Explain and we had morning new flashes aka: announcements & shout outs. My favorite part in our 101 daily newscasts was that each morning our 101 students ran a pick me up (PMU). It really is remarkable that during our very first time hosting morning meeting I had 101s volunteer to run the school-wide pick me up.

The week prior in advisory I explained what a PMU should 'do' (make the audience feel relaxed and/or happy- something to start the day in a positive fashion) and I had more students sign up to run a PMU than we had days last week! (Yay!) To fairly determine who would host PMU's I gave the directive to present me with a proposal and tell me what materials they would need to run a PMU by Friday. For some of them running the PMU was



scary and for all of the 101s who ran a School PMU, (even before they have held an exhibition) it was a huge learning experience! To me it was a sign of potential school leadership for our advisory over the next 4 years- I am super excited! Monday's PMU was run by Kara, Olivia and Jordyn. They proposed to

me that they felt "the staff needed more love and appreciation" so they had every lunch bunch group randomly choose a name of a staff member and write something nice about that staff member. The girls then posted the notes on a pillar in our main room. Tuesday Colby Fisher's PMU was every person had a plate taped to their back and in a designated amount of time everyone would go around the room and write one word on other people's back (plate) that was positive and uplifting about that person. Then the school circled up again and everyone read out loud ONE word off their plate that someone wrote about them, not knowing whom it was that wrote those words. Private adoration in a very public forum; It was cool! It was interesting to watch. Some students may not hear words of adoration

or praise very often, other students can struggle to accept those concepts from the BP adults (for numerous reasons) but I could see those words written without the knowledge of who said them had a lasting impact on some of our students.

Wednesday Elaina

and Elliana had the school pretend we were time travelers and discuss in our lunch bunch groups where we would travel. Thursday, Leighann discussed the butterfly effect and how she wanted to spread kindness using the concept of the butterfly effect. To demonstrate this she made origami paper butterflies for everyone in the school! WOW!! I am very proud of the 101s who completed their first ever school wide PMU- and at the beginning October in their 101 year; that's a new 'record' for students from my advisories! Another 'first' for the 101s this week was leaving to learn as a group. We were able to go to the Rescue Mission Warehouse on Thursday



and serve others. I will admit, I was not sure how it was going to go. We have quite a rambunctious group of youngsters, who are very loud and the boys tend to hmmm I'll say -antagonize each other often. With my expectations clearly laid out, we left school at 8:30. We arrived and when given the tour of the large warehouse I heard grumblings about how "it smells bad in here" so I was not sure how things were going to go. Man, these 101s knocked my socks off!! They were OUTSTANDING! We were scheduled to sort through donations in the warehouse until 11:30. And that is exactly what they did, without complaint and without stopping. The first time I looked at the clock it was 10 minutes to 11 and no one had asked to stop for a drink, no one asked to go to the restroom, no one complained, no one wandered off, no one refused the task they just worked together! Even when the dust got to a couple of them with allergies, they didn't stop- they told me they asked "the

guy" (John) for a facemask. While John was gone looking for masks (probably 10 minutes or so) they kept working. Now this might not seem worthy of putting in writing to you but in the past I have had students refuse to do service learning tasks that may involve physical effort, or if they became discomforted at all – as in wanting facemasks- they would have stopped working and made a big fuss. I was SO impressed with our 101s! We were divided up in two groups in the warehouse and the group I was with worked so intently the warehouse staff had to keep replacing the bins we filled and then we ran out of items to sort so using the fork lift they brought us two more pallets full to sort! Yes, the 101s are still loud and immature but their true hearts shone through this

week -it was Impressive! Our first service learning experience was a huge success!
My word of the week for my 101s: IMPRESSIVE.

