

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

JANUARY 15

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



Who doesn't love new socks?
When I was a teenager my Mom would gift me a new pair of socks when I was sad. A new pair of socks would always cheer me up! We were so fortunate and thankful to Bombas socks for donating socks to our school. Through the wonderful donation from Bombas, our students recieved new socks this week. The socks helped to combat the lack of sun and gray skies.



We were also very thankful this week as we were able to remain in in-person learning. While the Jr. Sr. High School had to transition to remote learning, we were able to stay in person. In past years students might have complained that others were not in attendance when they had to be, but now our students and staff view each day of in person instruction as a gift. We recieved this gift and made the most of our time at school. While our students continue to develop real and rigourous projects, we are desparate to connect with adult professionals. Please take a look at the next page to see if you would be willing to support our students in one of these mentoring options and opportunities.

YOU ARE VIRTUALLY IRREPLACEABLE

MENTOR A STUDENT

VIRTUAL MENTORING

In normal times, students at LaFayette Big Picture are out of school at internship sites for two days each week.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, our students have less of an opportunity to be in the community learning from professionals.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. MENTOR PRESENTATIONS

A mentor presents their work and career, the skills and dispositions that help them in their job, their journey, and advice to the students who share similar interest.

2. INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

Professionals meet with a student or students seeking information on their career, the industry, and the corporate culture of a potential future workplace.

3. DISTANCE INTERNSHIP

Mentors meet with students on set dates and times to complete work and develop a project that is beneficial to the site.

4. MENTOR SUPPORTED PROJECT

Mentor provides industry expertise and guidance for students to develop a project with real work learning connection.



USE YOUR POWER.....BE A MENTOR
CALL THE LAFAYETTE BIG PICTURE SCHOOL: 315-504-1000

TGIF from Walt

This week was a blur. It was a very, very busy week, however, looking back, it is hard to remember exactly what I did. On the whole things were productive. Most of my week was a flurry of working with the 101s on learning plan project/IXI math, evaluating assessments, attending meetings, helping seniors with various writing prompts and making a new curriculum for my ELA workshops. I am glad that we have a three day weekend, because I could use a little breather.



our school. It is difficult transitioning halfway through the year, but the 101s have been very accommodating and are helping her adjust. We also had a visitor this week, Steven. He is from Liverpool and is very interested in coming to our school, so we may also have another new member soon.

Ronnie began working with Hollis this week on a cooking internship project. He has an interest in food, so Hollis offered to work with him to teach him some basic cooking skills. This week they began by making garlic pizza. It came out very well, and my advisory was very happy to get a piece.

In advisory, we have been reading *Mapping The Interior* and participating in a virtual book club with Sweet Home School in Buffalo. On Fridays we meet and discuss various questions about the content of each chapter we read during the week. This week, we finally finished our book. It has been an interesting experience so far, and on the whole, things went very well. We are going to read another book for next trimester, and we are hoping to continue this practice.

We have a new student, Kat, in our 101 advisory. She started this week, and is enjoying being part of

I have been helping Claire on a robotics project, and this week we began wiring/connecting all the servos. This was a tricky task but it was made more difficult with software issues and not being able to instal the required program. Eventually, we found a workaround, but now are struggling with connecting the software to the hardware. Working with technology, in my experience, is mostly problem solving, and we are definitely developing this skill with this project. Next week we are going to try again.

TGIF from David

The waning days of a trimester can spur panic or productivity. Sometimes, these two responses happen simultaneously. I do not know if it is just the nature of the 101s or if it is something we cultivated in the advisory, but they lean heavy on the productivity side. I wish you could all see the illustrations Stone has completed the past week. He has interpreted his reading and his own writings into accompanying illustrations. He even turned one of Walt's ideas into a terrifying illustration. Emily has practiced her own skills to better her method of drawing hands. Any illustrator will tell you that drawing hands is very difficult. Next time you watch animation, count how many fingers some of the most famous characters have. Mickey Mouse has three fingers and a thumb. Homer Simpson has the same. We have a bunch of artists amongst the 101s. Kat, who is new to the advisory, expressed she likes to draw. Lucas, along with his Criminal

Justice interest, is creating a diorama of a crime scene. He is using the woodworking skills he learned last trimester and combining it with new crafting skills he is developing this semester. Jacoby continues to create products through welding. He is deep into welding and this is one of those moments where you just stand back and say, "This kid is in control."

All of the 101s are in control of their destiny. As the window of productivity starts to shrink, I hope they reject the panic. Rejecting that panic is easier when you have mentors to guide you. We are still in need of virtual mentors for not only the 101 students, but all of our Big Picture students. You can help them remain productive and beat back the panic with your expertise. Just send an email, or give the school a call if you want to offer up your expertise. If you have an acquaintance you believe would serve as an excellent mentor, pass along our information.

NATIVE AMERICAN ART SHOW

Submit work to either:

Big Picture

ONS & Jr/Sr High Art Teacher

Shawna Booth

Complete the submission form at:

<https://forms.gle/p5S3fHdGQ3WeXZks7>

Submissions must be in by February 23rd

looking for Native American Artist's

All Ages

All Medium

TGIF from Jessica

Seniors are making strides on their graduation requirements. Several seniors are already completed with their health requirements and more are following suit as they present their four projects to Mrs. Amidon. We are dividing our health work with government requirements and conquering our goals. This week we spent an advisory learning about different forms of government. We looked at countries from around the globe to see how each form of government looks in practice. The 401s always have a fascination with other countries and their lifestyles. During workshop 1 the seniors have been working with Christine researching the foundation of democracy. This week several students are wrapping up their expository paper on who founded democracy.



In continuation of our Everfi mental wellness lesson from last week, we dove deeper into the topic on Friday with the seniors. The first week we covered the general definitions and factors that encompass a person's mental wellness. This week we learned about the brain's functions and roles in relation to our mental health. We looked at specific teens and their experiences. The program graphed and visually showed how our mental wellness can fluctuate within the day and over multiple days. This was a great opportunity to acknowledge that we all fluctuate and that is ok. Especially when something big brings us down or something racks up our nerves; it is ok to not be ok, but the important thing is what you do about it. How do you help yourself and others? The program then went through scenarios along with the associated risk signs. The lesson would pause and allow the students to decide and reflect on what they would do if they were struggling with either their emotions, thoughts, and behaviors. Then each section ended with a chance for the students to proactively pick

what they would do to cope or maintain their wellness. Discussing and reflecting on mental health can be a personal and heavy topic, however, establishing the ability to recognize your needs and developing strategies to address the needs surpasses the difficulty of the topic.

One way to help digest these discussions and return to a balance is to show appreciation and have some fun. This week we received Bomba socks for all! They are so warm and comfortable! To show appreciation, on Friday after our mental wellness lesson, Christine had the idea to take a group photo of our advisory's cozy feet in Bomba socks in the shape of a heart. After the photo, we had a fun sock sliding competition! Which 401 student can slide the furthest in socks? None other than Darryl! Randy was a half an inch behind in second place and I brought in third place. We all had a blast and strong boost to our mental wellness for the day.

TGIF from Lenny

It has been a professional goal of mine this year to better integrate mathematical concepts into project work and science workshops. The intended outcome will not only be an increase in student's math skills, but a deeper understanding of the work as a whole. I have worked with my Better Lesson coach on this focus and have been deliberate in identifying, utilizing and celebrating the math in each endeavor. This past week, great opportunities to use math in a meaningful and relevant way presented themselves at every turn. Here is a look.

Kyler, Aiden and Gabe approached me with plans to construct a half pipe for skateboarding. Using their sketches we began to generate dimensions and create a materials list. This required us to use the formula for the circumference of a circle and manipulate that value in various ways based on the height of the ramp and limitation with our materials. It was perfectly relevant to use math to advance the project and real learning occurred.

When Lizzy entered the shop to begin constructing custom plant racks for the greenhouse, she had already done quite a bit of calculating on her own. But in order to get our angles just right for the triangular style of the rack, we went beyond Pythagorean's theorem. We used trigonometric functions to calculate the



angles at which to cut the boards. We then used a number of tools to achieve those angles including a protractor, speed square and the angle gauge on the miter saw. Success.

There were many additional opportunities to celebrate math in project work. Determining scale and arc radius in Dayton's Batarang, choosing the correct width scroll saw blade for different wood thickness and finding the center of a horseshoe (or Omega) for Jacoby's latest welding project. In each case we made a point to recognize how using math helped us achieve the intended outcome.

In ER we continued our exploration of plastics. We made polymer rubber balls on Wednesday and used our kits on Friday to make four common polymers. We began by making the monomer for each than observed how the structure and bonds changed as we linked monomers together.

In LE we began our Making Connections state lab. We built on our understanding of body systems and physiology that we gained during the dissection and body systems unit. We found our pulse rates, took three readings, averaged them, compiled the class data and created a histogram. The integration of math was effortless.

It was a productive week indeed. And I expect to see many students in the shop this week wrapping up projects. Exhibitions are only a couple weeks away. I hope you have a safe and productive week.

TGIF from April

This week was fraught with emotion for the 201 advisory. The 201s have been struggling with academic deadlines. In an effort to balance that energy, the 201s participated in some fun activities in advisory this week. I shared their past due Christmas gifts, we held a competition of noodle fencing- Phoenix hands down was the champion! A close second place, and almost claiming Phoenix's title was Olivia! Aiden (301) challenged Phoenix- they were well matched.

We also made Shrinky-Dinks! The 201s enjoyed making them and they were each unique and creatively made. We also began taking turns using the Happy Light to help relieve some of the stress they are feeling and alleviate some of the winter doldrums that happen in the sunless sky of CNY winters.

At this point in time the 201 Gateway research papers should be complete with 201 students working toward completing their LTI projects and independent reading books; in preparation for their exhibitions that start on the 1st of February (9 school days). The topics for this round of exhibitions are so varied, exhibitions will be very exciting! The presentations will again be held virtually, so if you are interested in attending any 201 exhibitions please just let me know and I will send



you an invitation. 201 students will also be presenting their letters of recommendation and resumes this semester; that will only leave only one more Gateway specific requirement to complete, which we will accomplish next semester!

It is a big deal to Gateway into Senior Institute; and to accomplish such success during this pandemic is even more meaningful. I am very proud of the students who are striving for excellence and hitting the challenging work head on and to their full potential. The topics of our upcoming exhibition

are: The Emigration of Palestine, Protection and Management of Wild Horses in America, Henry Ford's Impact on Society, The Birth and Death of Stars, Medicinal Plants and the Native American Culture, Upcycling methods, Anatomy and Physiology, Evolution of Time Pieces, The History of Chess, The History and Impact of Spray Paint, Criminal Psychology, Autonomous Farming, The History of Competition/Athletics, Art Therapy, and Gun Control. Please join us if you are able!

In US history the 101s have been working through a timeline concentrating on the Era of Good Feelings. They will be delving into the Supreme Court cases and policies surrounding this time period. We also have been working with our Power Words and incorporating them into our reading and writing. We welcomed Katlin into the course this week as she joined the BP 101 advisory. Welcome Kat!

Hollis continues to work with Phoenix, Carson and Leighann in the culinary internship. This week Carson and Phoenix had a mini cook-off with chicken riggies that they prepared for the school to enjoy during lunch. It was fun to watch them 'work the crowd' for votes on whose recipe was best. They prepared the same dish, yet each was different from the other, so, in my opinion they both were winners, because everyone was able to enjoy the riggies that fit their taste buds best! Hollis also began working with Ronnie this week. I am so excited about this pairing, because I believe it is a great match for both of them! :)

TGIF from Greg

This week the 301s watched a movie called “The Grizzlies”, about a Native community in Canada struggling with teenage depression, alcoholism, and suicide. Crystal came in and watched it with us. We had a great discussion about these issues and where to go for help if needed. The kids showed extreme maturity and engaged in great dialogue when addressing the problems shown in real life.

They are making great strides in their learning plans for the upcoming exhibitions. Claire has been struggling with software issues in the robot that she’s been building with Walt, and has shown remarkable resilience with planning and working on overcoming her technological difficulties. Austin continues to explore 2D cinematography, creating a storyboard with his own characters. Griffin is creating his own flavors of coffee at his internship with the in-house On The Dot Coffee shop. He is excited about showing off his new skills at his 2nd exhibition and showing a better understanding of following his learning plan to stay organized. Kyler, Gabe, and Aiden have combined their skills and interests to create a skateboard ramp on their own and are working together with Lenny to come up with blueprints, a building material list, and scheduling time to get in the workshop and build. Secorrah has decided to expand her mental health studies to research how elementary school-aged children deal with, are diagnosed, and treated for mental health issues. She is planning on making and hanging mental health posters throughout the school, while using guidance from Crystal to come up with helpful information for the posters and her exhibition. Josh has been showing improvement with his engagement and attendance in our Advisory and workshops and has come up with a new project based around his online photography internship with Carol DiSalvo. Garrett has changed gears from his photography internship and is building a guitar with Lenny. While he still is taking photographs and learning about the art, he will be learning to read measurements and use tools he’s

unfamiliar with in the workshop. We are excited to see him expand his knowledge and pursue his interests in music as well as photography. Carson has been blowing us away with his culinary creations, working closely with Hollis in the kitchen to learn and expand his knowledge of being a chef. He spent time researching different culinary schools this week as he begins to plan for life after Big Picture graduation.

The 301 students have shown outstanding motivation and creativity in planning their exhibitions for the second trimester; even without active and involved internships. They are proving that they are self-initiated learners, always wanting to expand their knowledge and skills independently without direct guidance. We can’t wait to see how they’ve continued to adjust to the new world they are a part of now and show how they can overcome the obstacles thrown at them, while still continuing to have fun and hold each other up.

