

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

JANUARY 29

## We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



I loved the energy in our building this week. It was positive and purposeful. The week before exhibitions can go one of two ways. It has the potential to be miserable, stressful and full of anxiety. Or, what happened this week, it can be focused, energizing and productive. I am so appreciative of our students and our staff. A positive week does not happen magically. There is a lot of hard work and many small steps prior. Students were making gains and checking off goals. I was able to take time to observe the productivity and enjoy the curiosity that was being explored. If you are interested in viewing any of the exhibitions this week, please contact us and we will share the link with you.

The Spring semester at OCC starts on Monday. We have five students taking classes this semester as OCC. The semester begins on Monday. They are virtual for the first week and then classes are in person, online or hybrid.

Georgia, the most amazing custodian in the world, has retired. We are so excited for her as she hopefully gets to relax more. Georgia has taken care of our school and the students and the staff for years! She has been an amazing asset to Big Picture and to the LaFayette School District. Thank you for all of your service Georgia! We will miss you!

## TCIF from Walt

Exhibitions are next week, and this week was largely spent preparing for them. Much of my time was spent working with the 101s on finishing up projects and getting their presentations in order. We also did a round of practice exhibitions. I think this will greatly improve next week's actual exhibitions because practice makes perfect. Overall, I think that the 101s are in a good spot and I am looking forward to seeing them present.

This week's highlights:

The On The Dot Coffee shop opened up to the highschool students this week, and it was a big success. Getting to this point has taken a great amount of work and patience, but it definitely paid off. Our coffee staff did a great job keeping up with orders, problem solving on the fly and maintaining

professionalism. I am very impressed with how hard they are working on this project.

Stone and I worked on a book binding project on Tuesday. He has an interest in writing and art. Ultimately he is hoping to create his own book, complete with art to accompany it. This week, we made our first prototype book, a sketchbook that Stone would use to make art. It was a fun project, and the end result came out pretty good. We definitely learned a great deal from this experience and are looking forward to trying it again.

On Friday we met with Sweet Home Schools for our weekly virtual book club. We are reading *One Of Us Is Lying*, which is a young adult murder mystery novel. As a result, we are treating this book as if we were investigating a murder. We are collecting evidence, making character profiles and even putting together a crime board. This is a fun experience, and so far things are going very well.



# **NATIVE AMERICAN ART SHOW**

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**Submit work to either:**

**Big Picture**

**ONS & Jr/Sr High Art Teacher**

**Shawna Booth**

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**Complete the submission form at:**

**<https://forms.gle/p5S3fHdGQ3WeXZks7>**

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**Submissions must be in by February 23rd**

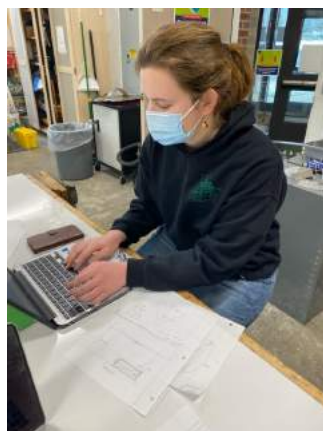
**looking for Native American Artist's**

**All Ages**

**All Medium**

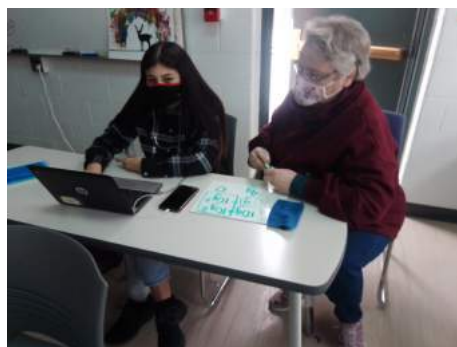
## TGIF from Jessica

This week we were all gearing up for the end of trimester 2. It's bewildering to think that we are 2/3rds done with the year and we are one jump away from graduation! The end of a trimester always sparks production, it's the final step after planning, learning, and fine tuning.



Liz has truly demonstrated this process. Starting out trimester 2, she had mathematically calculated the angles and measurements for her triangular stands for the greenhouse. Which made her first step towards production all about learning how to use tools in the workshop. She had never used all of these power tools, but she caught on quick. After building one of four structures, Liz quickly found out that her angles were accurate, but she made the structure too large to fit through the door. To me, this is a golden learning experience, creating a product, conducting a trial, and refining our work to better suit its purpose. Liz was able to make the adjustment easily and applied her knowledge to her next structure before starting the next build. She has increased her effectiveness and productivity. Liz now has two of the 4 structures built and will be going into trimester 3 with a smooth finish to her senior thesis project. Great work Liz!

Darryl has also spent some time in the workshop this trimester. Although he was off to a late start from trimester 1's work, he quickly regained his timeline and benefitted from his natural talent in the workshop. He is very efficient with his time in the workshop and is able to build well supported structures. Darryl has built two twin bed frames this trimester. Initially Darryl was hoping to donate his beds to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. After a few attempts, we were able to contact the company and learned about their policies. Although we are not able to donate the beds to the organization, they kindly pointed us to Pay It Forward and invited Darryl to join them on their build days. Darryl was excited for the invite, he encouraged Kyle to join him, and the two of them signed up to go this coming Wednesday to help build beds with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. As for the two beds Darryl already built, we are looking to donate them locally and learn about Pay It Forward's organization.



We challenge all students to include rigorous work in their projects. Authentic rigorous mathematics is one facet of their projects. Since the start of the year, we have set intentional times for office hours in each subject area on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I am grateful for this time and the several students that have taken advantage of this. At the beginning of the trimester, Cody came to me with his project idea and goal of learning about the anatomy of frogs. He showed interest in learning about the different organs and had plans to work with Lenny dissecting frogs in their living environment workshop. To blend in

mathematics, we planned to collect data on the size of each organ in order to calculate the average size of the organ. At the end of the trimester, Cody came back with his collected data from each student's dissection and adjusted his work to measure the weight of about 7 different organs. Cody then learned how to create a well designed chart in google sheets and how to use formulas in google sheets to calculate the averages for each organ.

Not only do projects need to wrap up, but our learning in advisory and workshops need to as well. This week, the 401s finished our study of mental health. Instead of using Everfi, we had a class discussion on the internal and external signs of struggling with mental wellness. Every student had information to contribute and we created a wealth of potential signs, a few of which were new to the students. We then had a discussion regarding what prevents someone from getting help and how we can help if we see signs in ourselves or others. The 401s had a very nice reflection and concluded that everyone needs to take care of their mental wellness, utilize strategies to maintain a balance, and know that it's healthy and ok to get help when needed. In Algebra Foundations, the 101s have gladly wrapped up operations with polynomials due to the challenge it posed to them. Thankful to IXL Math and the support of Rosalie, Erin, and Joy, the students were able to reach proficiency on their polynomial skills. For the second portion of the trimester, we have been working with variable expressions and equations which also incorporate substitution and solving. The students found these skills to be much easier. Stone was able to

complete two skills to proficiency in one class period this week!

Nevertheless, an extra hand of help is always welcome and utilized, Sue stepped into the class this Wednesday and found herself to work helping Kat with a question on IXL.

## TGIF from Lenny

I'm sure that if I looked back into my archives of TGIFs I would find many that began with "This week was a blur" or "The week just flew by". This past week followed suit. But what does that say about the experiences when days and weeks 'fly by'? For me it means there was constant action. There were few spaces in between the items on my list and spontaneous opportunities. In a time when we need positive distractions, I wouldn't have it any other way.

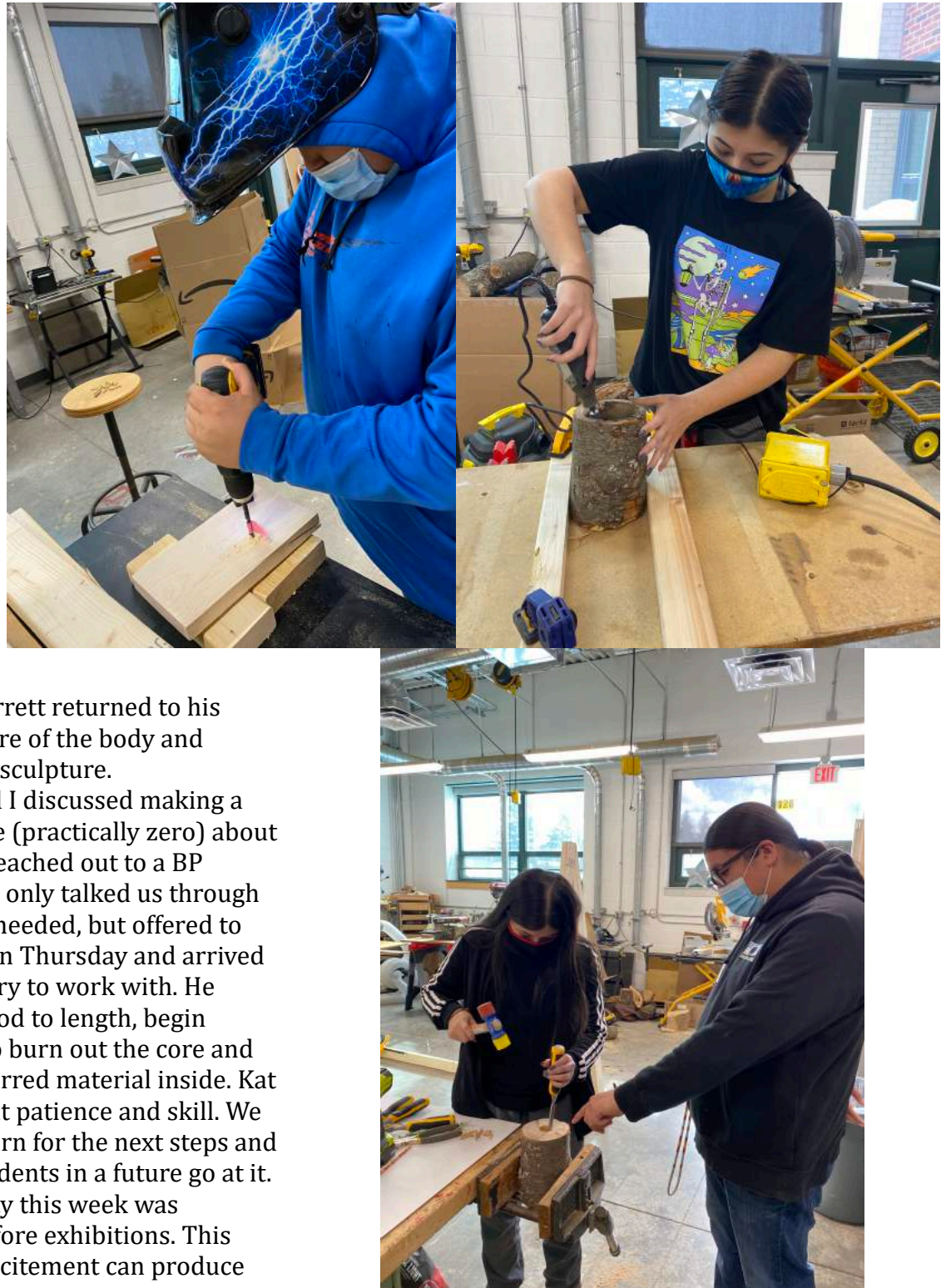
In LE we were able to conduct our heart rate experiments but still need to complete the write up. In ER we wrapped up balancing equations. This is challenging for some, but I am impressed with the grit that many students are demonstrating in an effort to obtain this skill. I had my best office hour's session of the year with 13 in attendance.

In the area of project work, we had a steady flow in the shop. Daryll finished his second bed and Lizzy continued work on the plant racks. Both of these 401s work independently and need very little from me other than occasional guidance. Garrett returned to his guitar project by painting more of the body and Jacoby was welding a unique sculpture.

Late last week Kat and I discussed making a water drum. I knew very little (practically zero) about how to approach this so we reached out to a BP alumnus for guidance. He not only talked us through what tools and materials we needed, but offered to help us out. He did just that on Thursday and arrived with the some seasoned cherry to work with. He showed us how to cut the wood to length, begin boring it with a chisel, how to burn out the core and then how to clean out the charred material inside. Kat took it all in and showed great patience and skill. We hope to have our mentor return for the next steps and maybe even involve more students in a future go at it.

The energy and activity this week was characteristic of the week before exhibitions. This mix of nervous energy and excitement can produce

some great productivity as well as negative behaviors like panic and self-sabotage. In either case, it provides learning opportunities for students as they see what habits move them towards success and what habits do not. I hope your week is filled with positivity and opportunities.



## TGIF from April

I want to start by wishing a Big Picture Family Member- Georgia, our wonderful custodian who has been with us since our days on Feather Drive, a wonderful, happy retirement! She was so good to, and for, our school! We love you Georgia! Thank you for your years of hard work!

This week flew by. Students worked hard, and played hard. As always the week prior to exhibitions can be a wide range of activities, and emotions. It is nice to see that even COVID hasn't changed some things: some students finalize projects, some begin projects, and some completely avoid projects. I anticipate that this coming week of exhibitions will appear to go by even faster. Please join us if you can for these important learning experiences & presentations.

Parents/guardians you should have received an email inviting you to the virtual exhibition of your 201 student. If you have not, please contact me - as possibly I have the information regarding your email incorrect. You also will receive a SEPARATE email from me with a link to the Parent Perception Survey. (In the past you have filled these out in person on exhibition days.) You do not have to wait until exhibitions to fill this survey out-please do it as soon as you receive it. :) Thank you in advance for your help in completing this survey.

A shout out to the students taking part in virtual internships. Ricky is learning computer based skills from James V., a professor at SUNY Morrisville, and he and I were able to go meet James briefly in person this week to pick up some materials that



Ricky will use to further his learning. [Carol DiSalvo](#) continues working with BP students, both virtual and in person. They braved the cold twice this week to capture photographs! With Carol's help, Julien is working on restoring an old Ansco Camera his grandmother gave him. He hopes to recreate some images with the camera that his grandmother captured years ago using that very Ansco.

Melanie Palmer is meeting with Julien and Jordyn to assist them with various projects. Melanie is a graduate of Cornell University and has been working in agriculture for years. Both Julien and Jordyn have been very excited to glean learning from her experience and expertise. Lizzy continues to recruit some 201s for help in her greenhouse project, and as a result has been asked to write

MANY Gateway letters of recommendation! Thank you Lizzy for being so awesome! Bug (aka Max) has been cataloging their art sessions, in response to their study of art therapy. I am excited to see finished art...as with many artists, Bug doesn't like to 'share'/show unfinished art work.

Last, but not least, I want to shout out the 201s for their fantastic work in IXL. Each Monday in advisory I have them working in IXL math. Their results have been fabulous! At first it was a challenge- there were many, many grumbles and complaints. However, each week I share with them their individual and group progress, and I no longer hear the negative comments! - I think they are learning to appreciate the progress and hard work they are doing, which allows them to feel such a sense of accomplishment! Rumor on the street was that I am mandating 100% scores in the skills. That is not the case. Of course, I always encourage students to go the next step and try something new, push themselves, after all that is what learning is all about; and when I see they are close I am their biggest cheerleader - encouraging them to go for it! But the students themselves are pushing for that 100% mastery in a skill. It is the feeling of pride and "wow! I did it! I can do math, even when I thought I couldn't!" that pushes them to excel. I am simply the steering mechanism, they themselves are the propelling force behind, and toward their excellence. Great job 201s I am proud of you!

# *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**