

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

MARCH 12

**We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!**



So many fantastic moments happened at school this week. The kids took full advantage of the sunshine and they were able to each lunch outside again. The sun makes us all feel better. We are eager to move the gaga pit back to the pavement. In the meantime, our students played 4-square and wall ball. With the basketball hoop still down, they thought of creative solutions including hanging a cardboard box on the wall as a basket. James Naismith might have been on to something! Students made cookies, cake, chicken riggies, ice cream and lots of coffee! There were legos....lots of legos. Students were sharing thier passions and learning with other students. Our students took their STAR assessments and there were conversations demonstrating thier commitment to demonstrate their growth. They were taking themselves and the assesement seriously. It is fantastic that our students understand that it is not the assessment that we value, but we use the assessment as one of our measures of growth. There were drawings, paintings, planting, and building. We had a few brief visits from former students. Students were demonstrate their understanding of Supreme Court cases and sharing what they have learned. Students impacted the community with donations. The variety of learning that was shared was fantastic. It was everywhere and just what I needed.

## TGIF from Greg

This week we had a number of 301s work on their exhibitions. Kyler, Gabe and Aiden finally had all of their materials delivered and began building their ramp frame for their half pipe. Secorrah went on her first field trip with the Photography Class to Tinker Falls. She took some amazing pictures and is learning how to use Lightroom to upload and edit them. We are excited to see Secorrah in an internship she is interested in and can't wait to see what she does with her exhibition based on her photography. Austin has been researching how to prepare for employment and learning how to fill out a job application, he will be basing his Learning Plan around this, and teaching the class what employers look for in staff and how to be prepared for an interview. Griffin continued to do an awesome job working at the coffee shop and is looking to expand their high school business to juniors as well as seniors as part of his exhibition. Claire continues to work on coding with a Grimshaw elementary student. Adam and Morgan are working hard taking classes at Onondaga Community College and proving that the Shark Tank is ready to take on the world. Devyn is searching for an internship online to learn automotive skills as well as carpentry skills. Evan has been showing off his welding skills and

maturity by teaching a welding class here at Big Picture and has shown his dedication and knowledge by leading a Google Classroom for his students. Hayden is continuing to learn his welding skills from Evan and is ready to create a project with him for his Learning Plan. In advisory we are having debates on some everyday issues, the students have proven they respect and appreciate each other's differences and similarities, while exhibiting the ability to explain their positions to each other. I could not be more proud of how mature they have been through this lesson. They took their 3rd STAR math and reading tests of the year this week, showing progress and growth as a class. As an Advisory, Adam and Evan are in touch with the CNY food bank to find specific needs we could help them with. Next week we will be reading more of our ELA book, *Kite Runner*. It's great to see the kids learn about another culture and understand world events. They will be working hard on getting their projects together for their last presentations of their junior year, as well as working on their creative pieces for the DIRT books, and getting more in depth with their health projects that need to be completed by graduation. We are so excited to see where they go with this trimester and how they are preparing for the **401** year!

## TGIF from David

I was in the kitchen on Friday just ready to leave for the weekend and the air was thick with moisture. It felt like I had taken a step through a portal that put me right in the middle of Florida summer weather. There was one major difference though, the air smelled sweet, almost like candy droplets hung in the air. The stove was on and on top sat a big bowl of boiling maple sap. I had forgotten about the 101s maple syrup adventure at that moment. This was the second day we boiled sap down to make syrup. On Thursday, as the sap reached its end, it boiled at a too high temperature turning it into a hard candy. Friday, we did not repeat that mistake. Last week, some of the 101s tapped trees behind the school and hung buckets. We only wanted to collect enough to make a show and garner interest for future development. Bruce was enamored with the sweet smell the long boil left in the air. Almost every 101 showed some interest in the boiling process. It was a fitting end to the week. We made a mistake on Thursday, but corrected it on Friday. We learned from our experimentation.

We do not really have enough syrup to enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes. Maybe we can

make a very small serving for everyone with a spoonful of syrup on the side. I do recall some British nanny talking about a spoonful of sugar and its after effects. The bit of syrup we made may just be enough to make the medicine of education go down quite smooth. If you are rolling your eyes at that statement, I want you to know I rolled mine when I wrote it.

Syrup making was not all we did this week. We also had a virtual meeting with a representative from the Iron Workers Union in Syracuse to talk about a career in the union. We also joined Cortland's Chamber of Commerce Manufacturing Career Day. In fact, Thursday was wildly busy. The 101s also worked on their US History projects all week that they began to present on Friday. I am sure April will make mention of this in her TGIF.

This was just another busy week in the 101 room. There was just the added aroma of sugar air on Thursday and Friday. Bruce did ask me on Thursday at one point what smelled so good. I responded with, "That's my deodorant, Au Maple Syrup." He said, "That's gross." Indeed Bruce, indeed.



## TGIF from Jessica

Hayden brought his senior thesis project to a close this week. He spent last week promoting a final collection of food donations. He created an advisory competition and the advisory that brought in the most food donations would receive delicious cupcakes! After counting all of the collections on Monday this week the 401s came in first place and the 201s were in second place. On Tuesday Hayden brought all of the food donations to the CNY Food Bank. All in all, we had 116 pounds of food donated! They were grateful for our donation. Hayden has done a great job seeing his senior thesis project through and giving back to the community.





## TGIF from Lenny

Spring is in the air. The fair weather this week brought excitement, positive energy and action. We worked to steer that momentum towards projects and still left some space to just take in the sun. Here's what we had going.

Ronnie and I germinated more seeds for his project. We also recorded the maintenance and sprouting that occurred. Adam lent a hand and helped plant and water on Thursday. He is a hard worker and has the patience for meticulous tasks.

In the shop Bruce was dismantling an old engine, Stone was testing if clay would work for his pillar, and there were multiple students wood-burning and painting. Lizzy was able to continue work on her greenhouse racks and did so confidently and without my guidance. When she needed an extra set of hands, she recruited fellow students. And in classic Lizzy form, she advocated for those students to be rewarded with PBIS points for their efforts. She exemplified leadership.

Darryl donated one of the beds he made and coordinated the delivery to its recipient. He also made plans to start the construction of a third bed next week. Aiden and Gabe capitalized on the nice weather and got a start on the base for their half-pipe. Garrett and I reached our knowledge limits on his guitar rebuild so, thanks to a great reference, we Face timed a local musician for advice. We have plans to continue with this very valuable exchange.

With many projects in full swing and more in development, it will certainly be a busy couple of weeks between now and spring break. It is a good busy though and I wouldn't have it any other way. Have a great week!





## TCIF from April

This week the 201 students completed the STAR assessments, began their Gateway Personal Narrative, IXL math and worked on mindfulness. We spent quite a bit of time outside in the sunshine this week - it was needed. Some fun group activities in the sun were emotionally healing. The students love playing 4 square in the sun. Leighann used chalk and drew on the sidewalk a model of the brain - something we learned from our reading of *Brainstorm* by D. Seigel. The model is something we continue to practice because you use your hand to demonstrate the model. It is a pretty cool way to learn about the brain and Leighann drew it SO beautifully. The 201s are learning about their prefrontal cortex, limbic system, hippocampus, amygdala and how they impact their behaviors and emotions. The learning was evident on Friday when playing 4 squares and I asked the group why did you draw the squares so close to the parking lot? Phoenix said because we are teenagers and our prefrontal cortex is not fully developed yet. LOL! It was an awesome response and I literally laughed out loud!

USH students have been working through a unit on Supreme Court Case. Friday was the culminating activity, the presentation of their projects. The students had to learn the background of the case, the Constitutional issues and precedents, the arguments for both sides and the judges decisions as well as the impact on society. After they researched their chosen



case and completed all the written aspects of the task the students had to create a hands on project to present their learning to the class. Presentations began on Friday- it was very exciting! Ronnie began the presentations with *Dred Scott V DesMoines*, he discussed Due Process and his physical project was a lego model, including judge, jurors, complainant and defendant in a court house made completely of legos. Cody taught us about *Obergefell V Hodges* and gave precedent cases such as *Love V Virginia* and for his project he

learned how to make a wedding cake, he did a fabulous job on the research, the ability to share and teach his information and the making of the cake. The case surrounded the issue of gay marriage, and Cody decorated his cake in the colors of the pride flag, it was a cool idea for a project. Charle discussed the case of *Gideon V Wainwright* detailing the right to an attorney. She created a double sided drawing of Gideon's mugshot and Gideon receiving the help of an attorney. I am excited to hear and see the presentations continue next week.



# *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**