

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

OCTOBER 2

## We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



A huge shout out to our 101s and 401s this week!

Our 101s successfully completed their very first exhibitions! They were fantastic! All in person and virtual learners presented their Who Am I? projects. There were so many creative products, great presentation skills, and an openness to take a risk. I am so proud of our 101s. I viewed all exhibitions from my office computer as to reduce the number of people in the room for exhibitions. We learned some things from this experience and I think we will get better at sharing in-person and virtual exhibitions.

Now let's talk about the 401s. Our Senior Thesis Project Panel presentations were held on Friday. Dawsun started the day with an amazingly professional pitch that was well researched and polished. Riley ended the day with an emotional passion project of immediate importance. In between, the 401s impressed me with their grit, courage, thoughtfulness and passions. I am so excited to see these projects come to life. Congratulations to Jessica and Christine who planned the day and have coached their students to be able to accomplish something that the students did not believe they could accomplish! Your belief in your students paid off! Thank you to our panelists who spent the day challenging our students to think about their work differently, encouraging them to tackle their passion projects and providing resources and ideas. THANK YOU!

## TGIF from Lenny

Another week under our belts and great things keep happening. Here is a recap from my angle.

With some help from Aiden, Carson and Kyler, we continued painting the sheds on Thursday. The boys are demonstrating improved skill as well as commitment to the project. Nice job boys. Aiden also spent some time in the shop ripping wood for his sneaker rack project.

The 101s were also in the shop quite a bit putting final touches on their Who Am I Projects. Lucas learned how to use the scroll saw to make game pieces for his board game. There was also wood burning and painting as the 101s showed pride in their work.



In Living Environment with the 101s we began learning about chemical reactions and enzyme activity. They are such a curious group and are always up for a science activity. In ER we are watching The Social Dilemma. This documentary/dramatization takes a close look at how social media impacts us. The students are really into the narrative and hopefully will be just as engaged when we unpack the math and science behind it.

There are many large and small projects taking shape between STPs,

Interest-Based Projects and school initiatives. For example, Daryl will be building a single bedframe this week as part of his STP. I can't wait to dig in. Stay tuned and have a great week!

## TGIF from Walt

This was a very tiring week at Big Picture, but a number of good things happened. The 101s had their first round of Exhibitions and the seniors had their Senior Thesis Proposals, so it was very, very busy. Most of my week was spent helping students complete project work, rehearsing presentations and proof-reading written products. When I wasn't preparing for Exhibitions, I was working with 301s in ELA Regents workshop, and 401s in Autobiography writing workshop and Public Policy workshop. Workshops have been going ok, but it is definitely different. Trying to accommodate virtual-learners and in person learners at the same time has been a very difficult task. After the past few weeks of experimenting and troubleshooting technology, things are starting to get better and we are all getting into a routine. As more time passes, I am hoping it will get easier.

This week's highlight:

The 101s presented their Who Am I exhibitions this week, and things went very well. They all worked very hard preparing, and it definitely paid off. Having had two prior advisories, I can confidently say that this has been my best round of Who Am I Exhibitions. This is partly due to the small size, 9 students, but it also was because we took steps to prepare students. David and I spent a great deal of time establishing expectations for presenting and also setting expectations for what completed products should look like, so this helped students understand what to expect. Additionally, I presented a small Who Am I exhibition last week to model what it should look like. One inadvertent consequence of this presentation was that I introduced my advisory to Magic The Gathering, a card game that I have enjoyed since I was a teenager, as part of my "Past Map". As a result, I have been teaching the 101s how to play during lunch time. Overall, I am very happy with how things went with our Exhibitions, and I am looking forward to starting learning plans next week.



## TGIF from April

Typically we focus on the positives in the TGIF. So what I am about to say might not feel comfortable. It is important to be honest. I need to be able to feel I can be honest, and I need my students to know I will always be honest with them. I cannot even describe this week. It was challenging to say the least. Many 201s were not at their best. By Friday I was completely worn down- physically, emotionally, mentally. I am going to leave it at that - and hope for a better outcome next week when we finish our Restorative Circle on Monday (201s have some work to do this weekend so we can finish our restorative circle. Parents/guardians please remind them of that, thank you.)

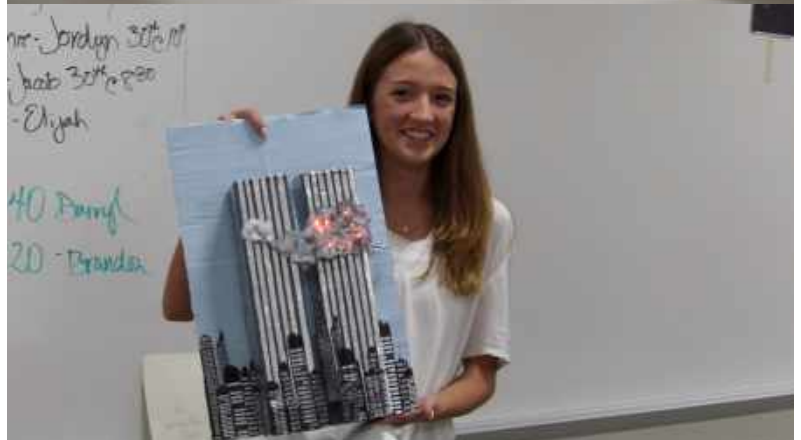
We did accomplish some great things this week. Most of us took our final Work Keys assessments and passed with a Bronze Certificate or higher! I was very pleased with their efforts. We were able to have one on ones (even with virtual learners) and firm up our learning plans. The plans are exciting! I cannot wait to see them come to fruition!

We discussed in greater detail our Gateway requirements. Parents, they will need your assistance gathering some information on activities, awards and such that they have done outside of school for their resumes. They may also need your assistance as they have 5 pages of their autobiography due this semester.

Students have scheduled and are planning their school wide 201 pick me ups. They taught me how to play Ga-Ga ball. (I did WIN one round! ☺). And we were able to get outside despite the rain this week to do team bonding. The 201s are also well on their way to earning enough group PBIS points to have a pizza party next week.

I must give a shout out to the 10's for doing an outstanding job on their USH 9/11 Remembrance Projects! I was SOOOO impressed! They were so thoughtful and articulate. The visuals were moving. When Cody brought me his visual last week to hold for him I literally had tears spring to my eyes. He wrote his project from the point of view of a child. His visual was a burnt back pack- and the smell still lingered. Charlie's was the most

creative and moving version of the Twin Towers I have seen in a long time. Lucas made a large American Flag Airplane to represent the plane going down in PA. They were VERY moving poetry and visuals. I can't say enough! But, isn't that what art is supposed to do? Move you? Thank you, 101s for moving us through your work.



## TGIF from Jessica

Wow! Phew! Those were my expressions at the end of the day Friday. I left for the weekend feeling so proud of my seniors and full of joy from our Senior Thesis Panel Presentations. We started our day at 8:00 with breakfast and coffee made by On The Dot Coffee Shop. We had the pleasure of welcoming six panelists to critique the STP projects, providing feedback and resources. Shawn Reyburn, Susan Johnston, Chad Jaconski, Lauren Sloane, Shawna Booth, and Carol Disalvo were our panelists. I am very grateful for each one and the words of support and wisdom they gave to our students! After a brief welcome, we started our presentations with Dawsun who shared her plans to set up a sensory motor pathway at Grimshaw. Dawsun carried herself as a professional occupational therapist as she stood and described her plan to the panelists. Hayden was next to share his plans of conducting a food drive to help Music for the Mission restock their food pantry due to the demands of covid-19. Liz followed with her idea to design an adaptable setup in the greenhouse at our school so any student can easily utilize the space for their gardening technique. After Liz, Devin shared his plans to do a community technology drive for Computers with Causes which repurposes the technology for students and veterans in need. Our next presenter was Kylee. She shared her plans to host a Native American Art Show of different forms of art pieces from all ages to celebrate the community and her culture. Elias presented next with his plans to make super hero outfits for donated stuffed animals and then give them to children in foster care as a means of comfort and strength. Darryl shared his project to build beds for the organization Sleep in

Heavenly Peace that donates beds to those in need. Randy was up next and he shared his plans to create a student run IT help desk for students, parents, and staff. Stuart then shared his interest in helping the CNY Food Bank with student volunteers for distribution days and reaching areas without food pantries. Brandon presented his idea to host an event for dog owners that brings awareness to proper dog care and local resources for dog owners. Kyle shared his plans to build a sugar shack at Big Picture for students to operate as an internship. At this point we took a break for lunch which was made by Lenny and Erin. Lenny made delicious homemade sauce, baked ziti, and meatballs. Erin made delicious baked goods. After lunch, Sam expressed the struggle elders are facing due to covid-19 and shared his idea to sing for residents in nursing homes. Tierra did a phenomenal job presenting her project plans to host an event in each building in the district with a small group of students. The events would be focused on self care, Tierra would do their nails and take photos while a guest speaker does self care activities. Riley has been passionate about bringing awareness to Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) and her project plan is to create an active facebook page to bring more awareness, raise funds, and host a virtual event. Tete presented on her plans to create jewelry to commemorate pets for grieving pet owners. Lastly, Rioux plans to create a book with his photographs of significant landmarks and items around the nation to give to the elders in his community. Each one of their plans is admirable and I am very excited to see them come to fruition.

## TGIF from Scotty and Nikki

This week the 301s took the PBIS system to a new level. Big Picture at Lafayette has decided to offer a pizza party to any advisory that reaches 200 points. They have combined their points as a class, and as of Friday afternoon, the 301s have reached 163!

### 301 updates:

Evan is at BOCES completing his welding project. Carson continues his pursuit for a culinary internship; Biscotti may be a possible site. Claire, Caitlyn and Morgan continue to work hard on their college classes which they have been successful at, passing all of their tests, and being sure to ask for help when needed. They are working hard at balancing the obligations at both programs and setting the example for their classmates! Garrett, Caitlyn and Josh started photography this week. Secorrah is pursuing an online internship in preparation for a nursing career. Kyler has made strides with his sketches in graphic art designing patterns for sneakers and clothing. Aiden is working

on designing and building a cube for shoe storage with Lenny in the shop. Gabe, Hayden, Payton, Josh and Devyn are continuing online learning and doing great at staying in touch and keeping up with their work. They are doing an amazing job, despite the challenges involved with virtual classrooms. They are searching for internships that can be done online as well. Devyn is going to do an internship in culinary.

The 301s are beginning their advisory project of making protective masks for the Big Picture students. They are designing their class shirts and logo as well. It was a very productive week.

The class has read 4 chapters of Marathon Man. They are now on the edge of their seats waiting for the next chapter, tearing through the vocabulary assignments associated with each chapter to keep the book reading smoothly for them. Next week we are going to do our argumentative essay and focus on our Gateway binders and Learning Plans. Busy month for the 301s!

## TGIF from David

My son's favorite movie is Moana. We limit the amount of screen time he experiences, but Moana is a good way to unwind. If you have never seen Moana, it is an animated movie by the Walt Disney Company. It tells the story of an adventurous teenager on a mission to save her people. Along the way, she meets a demigod, and discovers her identity. I bring up Moana because it is a great metaphor for our 101s this past week. No one harnessed the power of the ocean like Moana, but they did dig deep to inch closer towards discovering their identity.

The 101s have spent the past few weeks working on their Who Am I project. This serves to discover their interests by exploring their family, past, and potential future. It also gives us staff some insight into who they are as a person, what skills they possess, and areas they can improve. Walt and I recognized that we have a good number of students who want to work with their hands, and have a natural instinct for hands-on projects. Jacoby and Lucas both created a game board that detailed their past and desired future. This required time spent in the workshop to cut, and manipulate wood. Then, they personalized the wood to create a playable game board. Bruce also used the workshop to wood burn his family tree, and built an interactive past map using circuitry and lights. Cody built a model of a veterinary hospital to represent his future self. Charlie expanded on the idea of using a song to find a personal connection (one of the requirements), and built a past and future map of individual songs marking important moments in her life. She used fake vinyl records for these maps, and students kept asking her about the CDs.

I was surprised they even knew what CDs were. We learned that Dayton wants to explore painting and Emily is going to pursue cartoon drawing. Hands on projects definitely seems like the avenue to pursue with these 101s.

As much as the Who Am I projects are a guide for the students, they are a guide for Walt and I. They are also a guide for parents. Our follow up meetings with parents went very well, and to hear parents pleasantly surprised with the work their students completed feels like a compliment for all of us. So, I shall take those compliments. I also have to boost my confidence. The next step for the 101s is generating their first Learning Plan. We have a good lead on what to include in those Learning Plans. It is now time to start connecting these 101s with some mentors.

Speaking of mentors, the process for internships is moving slow, but I have heard back from a number of mentors that can provide limited assistance. Guidelines make it tough for sites to host a student. Although, virtual internship has yielded a positive result with SUNY Morrisville's Nursing Program. Assisting students virtually is an option that will work instead of an in-person internship. In-person opportunities were not a viable option in the past. We are adjusting and learning from this moment.

Before the weekend is out, I am sure Moana will be on the TV for my son. As Monday begins, all of our 101 Moanas will begin the process of continuing that journey of self-discovery.