

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

OCTOBER 16

## We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



I frequently laugh at myself. Many times, I laugh outloud at myself for not only my “jokes” but also my actions. This week, I was thinking about my New Year Resolution. I vowed to be positive with my words and thoughts. When this memory came flashing back to me, I literally laughed out loud. I started 2020 with positive words and thoughts. While quarentine and COVID might have blurred by vow, upon further reflection, I think I am still on the right path. I try to practice this vow by looking at every day we are together with our students in school as a gift. We now know it is a gift that can be removed from us quickly as so we try to make every day count. One of our student-led Pick Me Up activities this week was a modified game of Headbands. In pairs, students had to guess their object by asking each other questions. While it was a simple game played primarily by younger students, our kids played. They smiled. They laughed. It was joyful. It was positive. It was a great start to the day and a beautiful moment we got to share with one another.





## TGIF from Lenny

Our school week began on Tuesday and much of my time was spent working in the shop with students. Aiden finished up a shoe shelf he designed and built. I was impressed with his patience and persistence. A number of students stopped in to discuss projects on their learning plans. In most cases we made a materials list and discussed what additional information was needed. I also spent some time planning and preparing for what would be our garlic-planting day on Thursday.

Wednesday was an all around awesome day. It was excellent weather and all three science workshops were given a real treat. We had an amazing guest, Chaun Beskos. Chaun is a professional chef, mycologist (one who studies fungi), forager and much more. Chaun began by sharing his experiences and a professional chef with students. We then headed up to the woods to hunt for fungi. As we searched, Chaun talked about the promise fungi hold not just in regards to culinary but medical, industrial, and environmental capacities as well. In each section, students found different fungi and asked a wide range of questions. The visit was clearly inspiring as many students requested that we continue to learn about foraging and even grow our own mushrooms. Thank you Chaun for sharing your time and knowledge.

As I mentioned, Thursday was garlic-planting day and the weather could not have been more accommodating. What else was great about Thursday you



ask? Well, the 101s were the planting group this year and they had great attitudes. They were curious, fun, hard-working, respectful, quick learners and all around pleasant. We accomplished our goal for the day by getting all the garlic in the ground and we had them back in time for PE. Great job 101s.

We had productive workshops on Friday and I was able to meet with more students regarding project planning. There are many cool projects in the works. At the end of the day I stopped at the CNY SPCA to drop off some blankets made by the 401 advisory. I told the person I encountered at drop off that the blankets were intended for the bunnies, that's all I really knew. With that she offered me the opportunity to stop in and see them. I was stunned. There were over 100 recently rescued bunnies being cared for in that facility. The employees were cleaning, feeding and making space for this influx of rescued bunnies. I was so moved by how hard everyone was working to care for these poor animals. I was told that they would soon be in need of permanent homes and interested parties can check out [www.cnyspca.com](http://www.cnyspca.com) or their facebook page @cnyspca5878 for details on adopting. Please consider looking into it or making a donation.

Have a great week!





## TGIF from Walt

This was a short week at BP, and it flew by. In advisory, we began doing grammar lessons this week. I am starting with the very basics to make sure we are all on the same page. This week we focused on the parts of speech and the various functions/utilities of each. This is something that I would like to spend a few weeks on because I believe it is quintessential to improving writing. Grammar is one of those things that I enjoy teaching because it feels like solving a puzzle, and it helps students demystify the complexities of the English language. When we were not engaged in grammar activities, the 101s were focusing on finishing learning plans and starting projects. David and I have been scaffolding out each project as much as possible. We have also been focusing on what research is, and how to effectively do it. Next week, we are hoping to focus on starting independent learning plan projects.

This week's highlights:

Our On The Dot Coffee Shop is up and running. We have a beautiful new commercial espresso machine that STEP provided for us. It is a huge upgrade and is about 80% faster than our previous model. We have two new employees: Charlie and Olivia. Dawson has been experimenting with our new equipment for the past few weeks and now has it down to a science. She also trained Charlie and Olivia, and both are now well versed in the art of making lattes. I have been working with Dawsun, Charlie and Olivia to refine our menu,

establish new protocols and develop a plan to expand our business. Charlie is interested in learning more about business, and she has been doing a great amount of research into how to market our product, develop nutritional information and expand sales to the traditional highschool. This week, she met with Mr. Ryan in order to start creating a plan for how to open our coffee shop to everyone at the traditional highschool. She now has guidance, and a list of things to get done, so she is off to a great start. Last year Dawsun put a great amount of effort into this project to get everything established, and I am very happy to see that other students are now continuing her efforts and making things even better.

On Thursday, I brought the 101s to the Apple Fest fairgrounds to plant our Big Picture garlic. It was the perfect day for working outside, and it was a very pleasant experience. We spent the day tilling, picking stones, and planting rows of garlic. The 101s worked very hard, and did an amazing job. They were all very positive and fully participated, I am very proud of the work ethic they showed. Because they did such a great job, Lenny provided us with pizza for lunch. Overall, it was a great experience, and I was very impressed with our 101s.





## TGIF from April

Time seems to be flying by very fast! 201 students have been very busy over the last few weeks taking Work Keys assessments, Star assessments, finalizing health projects, working on an advisory Empirical Reasoning project, securing internships and working on their individual learning plan goals as well as completing workshop assignments.

It is so easy to forget to take time to de-stress when we are so busy in our day, but I feel this year it is even more necessary than

usual. Fortunately, CNY has had a few sunny days these past weeks that allowed us to go outside a bit to decompress. We also played our favorite advisory game, Impulse, this Friday and Lenny was kind enough to join in to make our teams even. It is so important to laugh and run around a bit when we have to social distance, and wear masks while still being responsible for our learning. Most of the 201s are so loud by nature, having the ability to release that noise is important for their wellbeing. One day last week they asked me if they could all literally just YELL to see how much noise they could make – which is plenty! ☺ Thank goodness we are in a spot others cannot hear us that much. And I must give a huge shout out to Mr. Seemann who heard us one day gathered at the door (because I didn't realize a storm had moved in until we got to the top of the stairs) and let us run around in the gym for a while to decompress. Thank you Karl!

This past week some 201s ran a school wide Pick Me Up (PMU). They did an excellent job. Phoenix hosted a school wide advisory vs. advisory game of Gaga Ball. Ricky developed a contest between advisories that had students selecting a word that began with each letter in the alphabet to coincide with the month of October, and Julien hosted a game of 'Hedbanz'. Based on the laughter coming from the virtual students -via the

computer, I would say Julien did an excellent job getting the distance learners involved as well as the in person students! And Faith continued her PMU style from last year as she entertains the school with her daily jokes. ☺

Olivia and Faith have been attending their internships at Grimshaw Elementary for two solid weeks now. Olivia also interns at On the Dot Coffee Shop. Jordyn has begun an online virtual internship

with a Nurse Practitioner to develop her interest in anesthesiology. I am serving as Elliana's mentor for sewing this semester and was able to obtain some very old sewing patterns and fabric for Elliana to look at and choose from to begin her sewing work. Lexi and Julien are attending their photography internship virtually with Carol DiSalvo. Coleby began his internship this week with Pat Manley of Manley Collision. Phoenix and Leighann began a cooking internship with Hollis. We are still in search of internships for many Big Picture Students. If you are able to host a student in any capacity we would love to hear from you!



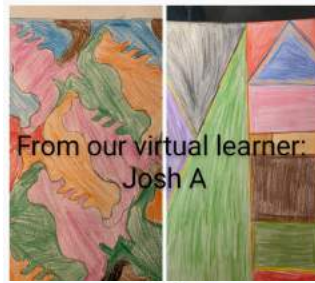


# TGIF from Jessica

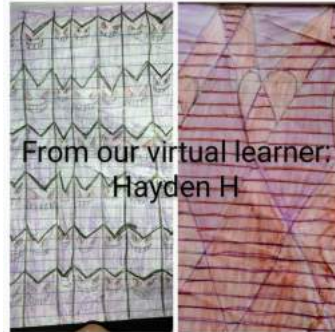
Tessellations are coming! Quantitative reasoning students finished both their abstract and geometric tessellations. Students were challenged to break the code of order and logic with the task of creating abstract symmetric 'square' tiles. They had to create translated, reflected, or rotated lines as borders for their tiles in order to insure their tiles would fit together without gaps. Some students even had to pull in their knowledge of slopes from Algebra. As more tessellations come in I will be sure to share. I am very impressed with their work, creativity, and imagination.

Internships are getting started, even though it has been a challenge, we are expanding to virtual internships along with in person internships. Tierra is pictured virtually attending her photography internship with her mentor Carol. Photography started out this year as both an in person and virtual internship. On Tuesdays, students have met virtually to learn about photography and on Thursdays students have met in person to attend outdoor trips to take photos. Tierra is very excited to be a part of photography this year and she really enjoyed their trip to Clarks Reservation!

Our students never cease to impress us when we allow them to set their own limits. This week, as impressive as she is, Dawsun has impressed me even more! As the developer and creator of On The Dot Coffee Shop, she is still fulfilling internships hours as the manager of her business. She has collaborated with mentors to develop safety protocols for the operation of the shop, she started training new workers, and she is working to insure the success of the shop after she graduates by building up new



From our virtual learner:  
Josh A



From our virtual learner:  
Hayden H



401's Homemade  
Apple Sauce



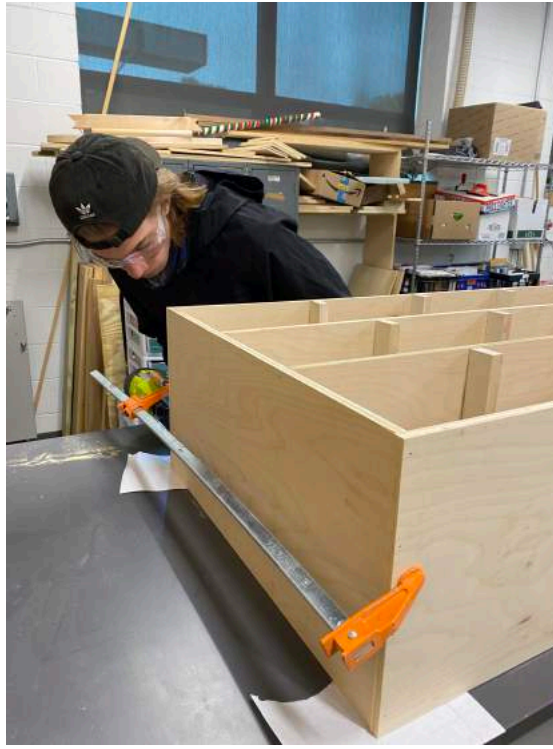
management. Along with her morning internship, Dawsun participates in a virtual afternoon internship with Roe Bartolomeo, our school's occupational therapist. Last year Dawsun learned about occupational therapy from Roe and they began the process of developing a sensory motor pathway. Dawsun had just learned last Thursday that she was tasked with creating a temporary, trial, outdoor pathway. Roe provided her with resources of an OT teacher from another district who has created a similar pathway and our elementary art teacher. With the resources, a little aid from Christine and I, and one more planning meeting with Roe, Dawsun was able to create a sensory motor pathway outside at Grimshaw on Thursday this week! She created large stencils and used spray paint to create the pathway. The pathway is composed of 7 parts with a beautiful sun, flower, apple tree, and more. After making the pathway, she taught Simon, a first grader, how to utilize the pathway. Within 15 minutes she was able to take him through the course multiple times and then film him at each part! She plans to use these videos as a means of training for staff so other students will have the opportunity to develop and work on OT movements and increase their focus.

Thanks to Navarino Orchards, we have had several delicious apples to enjoy at Big Picture. I took advantage of this as an opportunity to teach the 401s how to make homemade applesauce; a simple recipe and future skill to pass on. Hayden and Sam helped clean the apples, Kyle and I peeled, Darryl and Dawsun chopped the apples. With a few more steps, we had a sweet aroma in the building and a whole pot of mouthwatering applesauce to share with all of Big Picture students and staff!



## TGIF from Scotty and Nikki

This week the 301s have been working on their learning plans. Aiden was able to finish the construction of his shoe shelf; he just needs to choose the type of paint he'd like to use for it and finish detailing it. Morgan, Claire and Caitlyn are plugging through their college classes with midterms on the near horizon. Claire is in the beginning stages of building her robot, learning how to program and assemble it. She is finding it challenging and really enjoying it. Caitlyn has been busy creating a poll for our school about creative writing, basing her learning plan around her class and the many ways to write. Carson has created a dessert menu from countries around the world. He has researched different dishes from places such as Germany, Spain and France. He has also included a vegan dish. He started his internship with Hollis. They made apple muffins and shared them throughout Big Picture. Austin is beginning to plan for his animation project. He is starting small and is



learning how to create a flipbook. Kyler has been working steadily on designs for his fall line of clothing and sportswear. He has spoken to Susan about her possibly putting one of his designs on a tee shirt to show off! Adam is working with Autumn Nowey on videography and production. He is interested in video editing and will be creating his own video of our advisory to base his learning plan around. Secorrah has been meeting with medical professionals weekly, learning a lot about the medical field and different facets of mental health. Hayden has been working vigorously to keep up with all

of his work at home. He's been mentoring a 101 and teaching them about welding and how Big Picture Learning works. We're excited to welcome a few of our distance learners back to in-person learning this upcoming week! We can't wait to see them in person and have most of our class back together!

## TGIF from David

What makes you you? That is what I have had in my mind this past week. I have been thinking about my strengths and weaknesses. I have been thinking about my personal history and the culture I was raised in. I have been thinking about the culture I try to cultivate now. I have also spent a lot of time observing students figuring out what makes them who they are even after their Who Am I presentations.

I have noticed that Lucas has wonderful insight into understanding the people around him and complex issues that adults have trouble navigating. He will be a central force in uniting the different personalities of our advisory. Jacoby is clever and probably more clever than a teenager should be. That is going to keep all of us on our toes, but in a thoughtful way. Dayton has a biting humor that is refreshing, but is definitely going to challenge people who are not ready for the challenge. Emily is quiet and kind of reveals her work like a magician might reveal her illusions. Stone is probably

thinking well beyond every moment we all share together in advisory. If we are in 2020, he's probably in 2035. Ronnie is game for anything and ready to step up when counted on, which is going to keep the 101 advisory in the game for any challenges. Bruce may be another quiet student, but that is just because he is listening. If you want to know what is really going on, you should probably go ask him. Whether he tells you or not is another story. Cody bubbles over with an energy that may be a gateway to a better future for all of us. Charlie is the person that is going to pull everyone back from an uncertain edge. She will let them peak over, but snatch them back before they tumble.

This is just a snapshot of what I have observed this week and the profiles they have built since the beginning of the school year. This is going to inform all of us on helping them develop into significant learners. We are still in the learning about one another phase. We will learn the recipe for what makes us us, and then we will add and delete ingredients as we grow.