

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2020

OCTOBER 23

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



TGIF from Jessica

This week I started offering a new online program for our students to use! EverFi is an interactive educational tool focused around the broad topics of finances, health, college/career, and personal development. The system offers both online and offline lessons for all grade levels. Quantitative Reasoning students have started the financial literacy unit on EverFi. To start the unit off, students are learning about banking. They learned about the different types of banks, the different types of accounts, how to open an account and what information they will need. They also learned how to monitor their account, write and read checks, and resolve any issues with their account. They understand what overdraft protection is and

how to set up direct deposit. Furthermore, they learned about bank safety and their rights. As the unit continues they will learn how to fill out employment paperwork, complete taxes, budgeting, along with consumer skills, how to build credit and manage debts, and much more. So far the students have had many questions to ask and they enjoy sharing their own money management strategies.



TGIF from Lenny

The word busy often has a negative connotation. It's implied that to have a great deal to do is a bad thing. But I believe there is a state of 'good busy'. Good busy is when there are many things happening all at once but there is flow. This flow is achieved at school when students have a clear vision, know how to access their resources and they are in charge of taking the next steps. I observed good busy all week in workshops and in student project endeavors. Here's a look.

The shop was humming with activity. The 101s in particular were in and out of the shop as they balanced advisory responsibilities with interest projects. Jacoby has been learning how to weld with assistance from Walt and 301 Evan, Lucas was building a model ballista, Dayton built a wood frame and stretched canvas for a painting he was creating, Bruce was customizing pieces for his model RC car, and Ronnie made progress on his Bokken. In addition to the 101s, Coleby worked on his custom lure, Aiden on his shoe rack and Gabe on his skateboard.

In Living Environment we are learning about ecology. We used the microscopes to view samples of pond



water and found many fascinating organisms. The 101s were enthralled by the variety of life found in a drop of pond water. 101s are creating food webs based on organisms in a freshwater pond ecosystem. We also used microscopes in one section of ER. This is the group that took Living Environment last year and missed many hands-on lab activities due to the quarantine. They were excited to use the microscopes and discovered many cool organisms.

The second section of ER is comprised of 301s and we began a balsa wood bridge building competition. They have chosen to work as individuals so the competition should be fierce. Both sections of ER also planted garlic in their experimental plots. They customized the spacing, fertilizer and ground cover to optimize their yield. Now we just let nature do the work until spring.

Another great week in the books and week filled with opportunities ahead of us. I hope your week is a 'good busy' one!



TGIF from Walt

Now that Who Am I Exhibitions are over, and learning plans are fully made, the 101s have been focusing on independent work. They have all done really well getting right to work on projects, and I am very impressed with the progress they are all making. As a result, much of my time this week was spent helping 101s on learning plan projects, getting started, locating materials and planning out timelines. It was very productive, and I am hoping the momentum will continue into next week.

This week's highlights:

At the coffee shop, we began experimenting with healthier latte options this week. In order to be able to sell coffee to highschool students, we have to make sure our products meet certain dietary requirements. Charlie has been doing a great amount of research on this subject, and this week she met with a nutritionist to talk about healthier alternatives to high sugar syrups and whole milk. She was able to experiment with making lattes with fat free milk and soy milk. She is off to a good start, and next week is hoping to experiment with different sweetener substitutes and also sugar free flavorings.

The 101s have been working hard in the shop with Lenny this week. Lucas created a miniature Roman ballista prototype this week. He is interested in history and carpentry, so he is creating replicas of some historical engineering marvels. The prototype came out very nice, and he is now hoping to make a larger version that is fully functional. Lenny has also been working with Ronny to make a wooden bokken training sword for martial arts. Ronnie has an interest in woodworking and has been doing martial arts, so this was a great way to combine these passions together. He was able to shape most of the bokken this week, but needs to do some finishing work next week. I can't wait to see how it turns out.

Jacoby is interested in welding, and this week he began working with Evan to learn the basics. Last year, Evan interned at Guirusso sheet metal and was taught the basics of welding. This year he is taking a welding

course at BOCES in order to learn more and get a certification. He is now teaching Jacoby what he has learned, and is acting as Jacoby's mentor. I love seeing students teaching one another, and Evan has been doing an amazing job so far. This week, they went over welding safety, and Jacoby was able to start learning proper welding techniques. Next week, Evan will be teaching Jacoby how to cut metal and weld angles.



TGIF from April

What is emotional intelligence? This is a topic I asked the 201s to explore this week. I was very impressed with their introspection. Friday we held an advisory chat 'circle' something we have not been able to do since last February due to COVID and distance learning, it was wonderful to practice one of our advisory norms again. The 201s shared in a manner I was not expecting. It demonstrated their trust in the advisory, despite the angst they often display with each other. It was raw and powerful. My take away was the work Hollis and I do on a daily basis regarding emotional intelligence is paying off and definitely worth it.

I must say having Crystal as part of our Big Picture team has been wonderful! She brings a perspective and ability to connect to the students that I SO appreciate. We love that Susan, Rosalie and Crystal are frequent visitors to our 'new space' during COVID. We also love that this fall has been fairly nice weather wise. It has allowed us to get outside. This week Hollis's mindfulness activity took us under the beautiful maple trees outside the school, to draw leaves of inspiration and relaxation.

Coloring in our adult style coloring books also helps 201s relax, and is becoming a favorite activity to do while spread out in the hallway on the floor. Playing mosquito with pool noodles, yoga or simple tag is also a way we are relieving the stress of day-to-day COVID fatigue.

The 201s are working on improving their research and writing skills, as they get ready to approach their Gateway Research Paper. They also have been



presenting their health projects to Mrs. Amidon (the health teacher); she has told me how much she is enjoying their presentations. The 201s have absolutely ROCKED their Work Keys testing! Work Keys are a series of 3 tests that measure the skills need for math, technical reading, and locating information- graphs, charts and more technical jargon within the workplace. These are very important 21st Century Skills. I am so please to say ALL 201s have completed all three tests with a bronze, silver or gold certificate. Elijah has earned platinum in 2 of the 3 tests and a gold in the third, yet he is determined to retake the gold so that he can earn a platinum certificate. I am very proud of his self-determination, as it was completely his thought and decision to strive for the platinum certificate.

US history students have been working on analyzing documents, and thinking like a historian as they practice formulating questions and looking at more than one side of a present day current event/situation or historical even. I am really impressed with the effort the 101 students are putting into US history and the energy they bring! I am really enjoying getting to know them!

201 Internships are going well! Faith has received rave reviews from her mentor at Grimshaw Elementary. Coleby's mentor asked if he could attend his internship for more hours- that's exciting! Elaina is working hard on contacting companies that do screen printing- she is getting responses, unfortunately, none that can take her for a shadow day yet- but she continues her quest. Colby will be starting back on his project for the Big Picture Ag

program at his internship this coming week. Leighann and Phoenix are doing fantastic work learning to cook with Hollis. Jordyn is knocking it out of the park learning about the medical field from her mentor virtually. Elijah is working with Megan Smith and I mean WORKING. As his mentor Megan is teaching him about how the muscles work and running him through physical work to improve a vertical jump. Olivia is working on a mural for the entrance at Grimshaw Elementary. Julien and Lexi are working with Carol DiSalvo Photography and were able to go off campus for a photography shoot this week. Elliana is working on fashion at her internship. She is doing a fabulous job learning how to read the technical jargon found in patterns and using the charts to understand how to lay out a pattern on the fabric. She was able to cut out a pattern on fabric and learned how to thread the sewing machine, and use different style/length of stitches. Elliana has also been working at home on learning to hand sew which will allow her to work on her ER hypothesis. I am enjoying being Elliana's mentor as she is so eager and willing to learn. Her excitement throughout the process so far is contagious and we are thoroughly enjoying the learning experience.



TGIF from Scotty and Nikki

It was a busy week for the 301s! This week the 301s continued working on their products for their exhibitions. Carson and his mentor, Hollis, met with Chef Cruz Nieves from Rella Restaurant in Rochester about becoming a cook. He has been fine tuning his dessert menu to present, and learned the proper steps to baking an apple pie from scratch. Gabe worked on his skateboard deck that he has been designing and building for his exhibition. Evan is a mentor for students who are interested in welding. He works with them on Tuesday and Thursday before he goes to his BOCES welding program. Hayden is doing an awesome job in Cross Country, coming in 3rd this week at his meet. He has been amazing all of us with the amount of work he's accomplished both with virtual learning, and now in person. Griffin has

jumped right into his learning at Big Picture and is going to start interning at On The Dot Coffee, the student-run coffee shop. Adam continues to learn how to use Photoshop software for his exhibition, and has also filled in to help staff with the On The Dot Coffee shop, showing the new interns how everything works with both orders and deliveries. Secorrah has been meeting weekly with a Doctorate of Nursing online for future job and college training research. She is exploring clinical psychology as a career.

Next week the 301s will begin their Advisory project by making masks for the students at Big Picture School. They will continue to finish up their Gateway from last year, and are hoping to finish their Advisory book in English with Walt.

TGIF from Hollis

We've all been enjoying the huge bags of delicious apples that Nikki has brought in to share with our whole school. Apples are wonderful in so many recipes. Last week the students in my internship made dozens of yummy apple muffins to share with both staff and friends.

This week they each made a large apple pie. On Tuesday, they made homemade pie crust dough. On Thursday each student searched for a pie recipe that looked just right to them. Carson chose a recipe from "Williams-Sonoma." Phoenix picked one from Allrecipes.com

called "5 Star Pie by Grandma Ople." Leighann picked a classic recipe from "Betty Crocker."

They each made a beautiful pie that could have been featured on the cover of a cooking magazine! They followed the directions, shared measuring instruments, and encouraged each other the whole time they worked creating their own pies. The kitchen smelled amazing. While the pies were baking in the oven, all three of them thoroughly cleaned up their individual work spaces. You can see from the photos how successful the pies turned out. You'll have to check with Carson, Phoenix and Leighann to see how the pies tasted. They each brought their pies home to share with their families. I bet the reviews were fantastic!

