

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

JANUARY 8

## We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



### TGIF from Lenny

Happy New Year! The first day back from a long break usually requires dusting off some cobwebs, but there was little time for that and we hit the ground running on Monday. It was a productive week on many fronts.

In LE workshop we engaged in a frog dissection. You may recall that I mentioned Cody's involvement in this lab in a previous TGIF. Cody piloted the dissection before break, created a document where students can record the mass of various organs and is assisting fellow students with dissection technique. When all the data is collected he will compile it and analyze it as part of his interest-based project. Great job Cody!

In ER we began exploring plastics and delved deep into hydrocarbons. We have been making molecules with our kits and learning the systems for determining chemical formulas and naming the molecules. Its great that the models allow for hands-on learning, but what I enjoy most is the low risk trial and error that students go through to get to the correct structure. A needed reminder that it is all part of the process.

The shop was a busy place this week as well. Jacoby has been welding as he works on his "hand" project and also gave some guidance to Colby on welding techniques. Leighann cleaned and calibrated an old telescope to use for her main trimester project. Lucas was creating a model of room where a crime scene unfolded and he used various tools and woodworking skills to do so. Lizzie was in making final tweaks to her plant rack designs for the greenhouse. And the coffee shop staff was in and out as we fine-tuned the functional sink we made for the coffee cart. They also graciously kept me well caffeinated in the process.

Have a great week and stay safe.

# *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**

## TGIF from Walt

This was a very busy week at Big Picture. Most of my time was spent helping the 101s work on their independent projects. Exhibitions are coming up very quickly, so we are focusing on learning plan goals and getting projects going. I have been very impressed with how well the 101s worked independently this week. The majority are really throwing themselves into the project work and working hard to get things done. I am hoping they will continue this momentum to exhibition week.

This week's highlights:

Even though the coffee shop expansion has been delayed due to Coronavirus concerns, Charlie and Olivia have been working hard to create new drink recipes. They have been experimenting with a sugar free white chocolate peppermint latte recipe that is low calorie but delicious. It has been challenging making drinks that meet dietary guidelines, but Charlie and Olivia have been doing a great job trying to make it work.

Jacoby has been very busy working on his welding project in the shop. This week he began his metal hand sculpture, and he is making very good progress. Jacoby is also teaching Colby Fisher how to MIG weld, and is currently acting as his mentor. I love to see students teach others, and this is a great experience for both Jacoby and Colby.

Stone has been very busy working on a short story based around the genre of cosmic horror. His goal is to complete a short story, create original artwork to go with it and bind it in a hardcopy book. This is a very ambitious undertaking, but Stone has been working very hard to get it done. This week he experimented with digital art creation and began learning photoshop. I am very impressed with what he has accomplished so far, and I can't wait to see the finished product.

Lucas has been researching criminal justice and forensics for his learning plan. This week he began constructing a crime scene diorama. Lucas is creating a mini staged crime scene to show what he has learned about forensic analysis. This week he completed the base and began construction on the mini furniture. Things are going well, and it is coming along nicely.



# **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 was like going through a tunnel. At the start, it is dark and there is not much stamina for the long task ahead, but at the end there is light and joy with readiness to travel onward. The 401 advisory has felt the weight of senior year and the daunting thoughts of entering into the world as it is. We all felt the strain on Monday, coming back to face our obstacles and transition from resting to putting every ounce of our efforts into succeeding beyond these obstacles. As an advisory, we need time to mend, build connections, and establish support for the work ahead.

This week we spent some time on Everfi learning about mental wellness. We talked about how we all have a physical wellbeing and a mental wellbeing, both of which are important to maintain and care for. The 401s learned that our mental wellness determines how well we are able to handle the demands of each day. The program explains that our mental wellness is determined by several components which can be summed up as our thoughts, behaviors, and emotions. The best way to support and develop our mental wellness is through 4 avenues; maintaining a positive mindset, developing healthy habits, maintaining positive relationships, and developing emotional awareness.

As we head into the next week, we will spend some more time on these topics.

Over the weekend I watched a movie that reminded me to appreciate each moment and the time we have with others. Sudden deaths, catastrophes, pandemics, etc, etc. Life can have all of these twists and turns. Yet life can have many beautiful moments as well. The truth is that's the way life is and it's full of both. We have to appreciate the present moment, make the best of it, and try to keep in as much positive energy as possible.

I said our week had a light at the end of the tunnel. In the morning on Friday I was gifted a very over wrapped box of Dunkin' cereal from students, Charlie and Dawsun, involved with On the Dot Coffee Shop as a comedic request to support our school coffee shop. Within an hour the box of cereal went missing and immediately Cody jumped to investigate the case of the cereal thief. Cody took the job seriously, asking me for a statement and interrogating possible suspects. He even put Christine on room arrest! At the end of the day, the 401s lead me on a scavenger hunt they created all through Big Picture. It was a blast, very creative, and very comedic. It was just what we all needed. A break to laugh, to appreciate each other and the advisory bond we have, to feed our soul and boost our morale. Leaving for the day with a smile is what all of us needed.

## TGIF from David

The 101 advisory is getting close to finishing the book *Mapping the Interior*. We are close to discovering whether the supernatural events proposed by the protagonist are real, or imaginary. The book is heavy on symbolism, which the 101s explored this past week with their guesses on what events will take place and what it all means. We met again with our book group from the Sweet Home Schools in Buffalo, NY. The questions and proposals by students suggests they do enjoy the book. I hope we can replicate this interaction with the next book we choose.

Getting deeper into texts and content has been the theme of the week. Lucas virtually met with Mark Blakesless, SUNY Morrisville Criminal Justice professor, to discuss Lucas's forensics and law enforcement learning plan. Mark has enjoyed the meetings with Lucas because Lucas is always prepared with questions and engages in dialogue.

They will meet again this coming week to discuss Lucas's progress. Cody is finally getting into the ethics of animal dissection by reading articles arguing for and against the learning practice. It is difficult to determine what information is best to evaluate when you are young. A goal of this part of Cody's learning plan is to better seek out information and determine its efficacy for arguing your point of view. That is a skill all of our 101 students need to work on, especially when there are so many resources for information that are not rooted in any scientific, historical, or philosophical thought.

There is precious time left to work on the learning goals the students set for themselves before exhibitions begin. These next few weeks will serve as either a crunch time, or reflection on work completed. Wish all the 101s the determination they need to earn success for this trimester.

## TGIF from April

Happy New Year! This semester 201s have been working on proper research techniques in preparation for their Gateway Research Paper. They have been gathering information from sources and compiling them in an analytical annotated bibliography, then they are writing their alphanumeric structured research paper outline. I am excited to see the completion of these papers. The topics are so very diverse and most 201s are using the topic of the research paper as a springboard for their LTI projects (Learning Through Interest). Exhibitions are coming up in just a few short weeks and I am really looking forward to the presentations! I want to thank Kym for helping so many 201 students work through the process expectations.

This week we also went 'fishing' for dreams/hope/aspirations. I know we are living in trying times, but I believe it is important to remind ourselves, and our students that having hopes and dreams are important. The really great thing about this activity was that- just as when fishing- you never know what you are going to 'catch'. No one caught their own dream, and in that manner we were all part of hopes and aspirations larger than ourselves. It was a tad challenging to figure out what activity we could do that incorporated in person and virtual students, in the end I think it all worked out and those digital learners were able to enjoy the activity while collaborating with a student in the building. We also continue to work on our mindfulness activities like yoga and coloring, to help relieve stress from the political climate and during COVID. Thankfully students



are amazingly resilient, even in this challenging time, but teaching them how to destress is just as important as academics in our current worldly circumstances.

Leighann had a big week of learning! She and Phoenix are learning wonderful culinary skills at their internship with Hollis. Leighann has also started her LTI project which is based on her research paper, the birth and death of stars. With the help of Lenny she repaired a telescope and is SO excited (as I am for her!) to begin her stargazing.

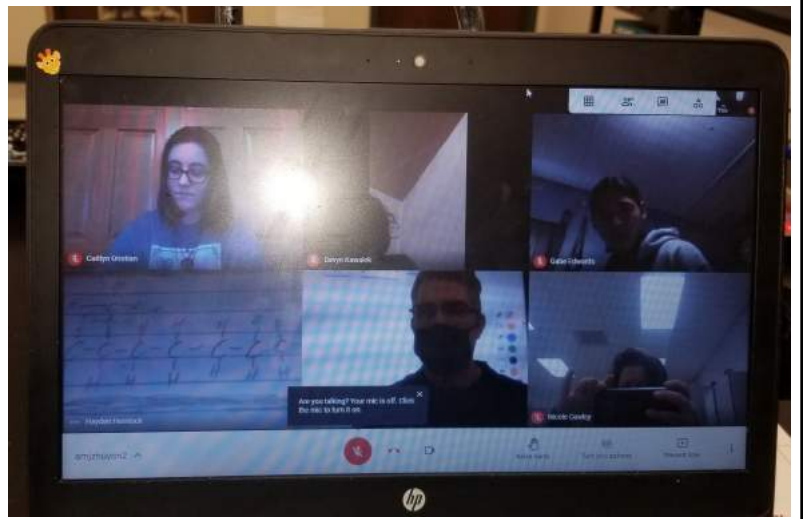
Jordyn is taking on a new venture that she and I are both very excited about. More to come on that later! All of the 201s are rocking their work in IXL math and I am seeing so much progress it is amazing! Now that they are seeing evidence of their improvement they aren't complaining about doing IXL. It took a little bit of time to get them to 'buy' into my plan for IXL, however, now I actually catch some of them working in the program when it is not assigned. WOW! Fabulous! And I must say Jordyn is leading the example when it comes to that!

I have five (5) 201 students who have signed up to participate in the Onondaga Historical Association writing contest. I am super excited, I believe they will do well in the contest. I want to give those students kudos for participating: Ricky, Phoenix, Julien, Elijah, & Elliana. I am hoping Coleby will as well- he is on the fence at this moment. :)

Peace, Health and Happiness in the new year are my hopes for you all.

## TGIF from Greg

The 301s jumped right back into learning in their first week back from break! They were out on quarantine for most of December and showed their perseverance and ability to overcome the challenges thrown at them with remote learning. This week the 301s have been hard at work on their Learning Plans and getting ready to present their exhibitions for the second trimester. Claire has been working on coding her robot with Walt as well as jumping back into the robotics club at the Junior Senior High School. She's enjoying her break from her college class, but looking forward to getting back into it in the next few weeks, having signed up for a chemistry class at OCC. Carson has been doing really well in his cooking internship with Hollis, making his own variation of beef stroganoff to share with us. He has been researching culinary institutes to attend after graduation. Secorrah met with a representative from Bryant and Stratton College on Tuesday and has been pursuing education in the medical field. Griffin has been hard at work in the On The Dot Coffee shop, trying to create his own beverage to share with his classmates at his exhibition, and possibly add to the menu for the student-run shop. Adam has decided to explore the field of psychology, interviewing Kelly Drapikowski this week to gain more insight into the studies he may want to pursue, as well as being registered at OCC this semester for a general psychology class. Austin has been back at work looking into animation, and has been basing his Learning Plan around that topic. Kyler, Gabe, and Aiden have been working together on creating a ramp for their exhibitions. Kyler and Aiden have been looking at designs, and Aiden has been drawing them out, showing the skills he learned previously when interning at Black Mamba creating blueprints and instructions. Our virtual learners have been logging on and working hard to get through their Learning Plans and classes. We can't wait to have them back in person with us again! In Advisory we have



completed *Marathon Man* and watched the movie to compare and contrast the two. In general, the class decided they actually liked the book better! In the middle of the week we split the Shark Tank into small groups based on their Lexile scores and worked together to do a literary scavenger hunt, finding specific examples of metaphors, similes, tones, themes, (etc.), throughout the book. They showed great understanding of the literary elements and are well on their way to being able to prove their learning and succeeding on the Regents exam in ELA. In Empirical Reasoning they are learning about chemical bonds and molecules, creating 3D models of the chemicals Lenny teaches them. In Quantitative Reasoning Jessica has the 301s learning about the "Baby Steps" from Dave Ramsey and expanding their knowledge of finances in the real world. Next week they will continue to expand on their Learning Plans, and some may even be ready to run through their presentations for practice. SHARK TANK HOO HA HA

