

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

JANUARY 22

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



Exhibition week starts Monday, February 1st. We are holding all exhibitions virtually. Please let me know if you are interested in being a panelist or observer for any of our exhibitions. We will be happy to send you a link. The majority of exhibitions will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and running most of the day. I am sure we can find one that will match your schedule. It is so important to us that our students are doing REAL work. Real work is meaningful, lasting, important and has real world consequences. Real work deserves real audience. We would love for you to see what are students have been working on. You will be impressed!

This week had hints of the feeling we had years ago when we were located on Feather Drive. The High School had to move to remote instruction so we were occupying the building with the BOCES classroom. Although we are pretty self contained, you could feel the emptiness of the Junior Senior High School. We were able to stretch our legs a bit and it felt good. I enjoyed the energy that the week brought us.

The energy on Thursday was off the charts! Snow! Cake! Sledding! Pizza! Popcorn! It felt so good to hear the laughter of our students. There was so much movement! I loved it! The students had a great day and I am sure it will be one of the days they remember for years to come. It almost felt “normal!”

# *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

Most of my time this week was spent working with the 101s on preparing for the upcoming exhibitions. I'm glad it was a short week because things were a bit challenging in advisory. With exhibitions approaching, this time of year is always stressful. The energy has been all over the place, and funneling it into project work was difficult. We are doing practice exhibitions next Thursday, so hopefully next week will be more positive and hopefully this will encourage the 101s to finish projects up.

This week's highlights:

Ronnie has been interning with Hollis to learn about basic cooking skills, and this week they made a chocolate cake. It has been going very well so far, and Ronnie is really enjoying this experience.

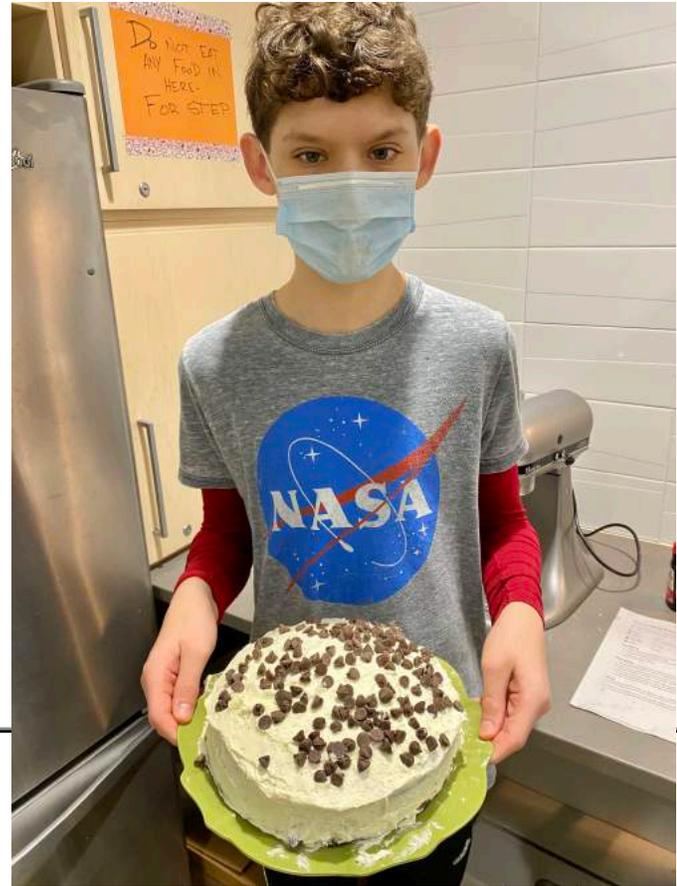
The On The Dot Coffee shop has been very busy preparing for next week's expansion into the highschool. They will be opening up to students and will be offering a variety of coffee drinks. Coffee staff is very excited for this, and are very eager to get selling.

## TGIF from David

Every four years we listen to a new Presidential Inauguration speech that forces us to reflect on speeches from the past. Some speeches are just flowery platitudes, while others truly capture the moment in history in which they were delivered. There is JFK's famous line from his speech, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Then, there is FDR's famous line from his speech, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." It is that line that characterized some of the 101 actions this week. For some 101s, the fear of confronting skills they struggle to master paralyzed them from advancing some of their work.

As we inch closer to exhibitions, refining work and making scholarly connections becomes the last piece of learning plan goals. This can cause some students to flee instead of meeting. Sometimes, it is a reminder of what they do not do so well. They may be a master craftsman with their hands, but trying to put that into language for others to understand can be a mental roadblock. When it comes to project based learning, the final product illuminates all the

We began reading a new advisory book this week: *One Of Us Is Lying*. We will continue doing our virtual book club with Sweet Home Schools. We met this Friday and discussed the first chapter and speculated on what was going to happen next. It has been tricky doing virtual sessions, but I think we are starting to get that hang of things.



learning done, but there are many steps of that learning that needs to be shared. Articulating these steps can be difficult. This sometimes forces students to confront skills they have struggled to master. I know when there is something I am not very good at, I have a tendency to try to avoid it. When our students do it, it doesn't mean they are being defiant. It means they fear their deficiencies being on full display.

So, it is up to us to help our students work through that fear. We do it through listening, empathizing, and redirecting. This can be difficult when you know you are working against time. This coming week will be full of these moments as the 101s wrap up work. They will be successful because they have already proven they have the will to be successful. As I move into the new week, I have to remind myself that success will look different for every student. We just have to work through the fear together.

# **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

The consensus is in, we feel like this 4 day week felt longer than a regular 5 day week! For the 401s, our week was jammed packed with fun and learning. The week's focus was to progress on their senior autobiography writings and their independent reading book work.

This Tuesday Christine showed the 401s how to make homemade soy wax candles! Each student played a roll; measuring out ingredients, melting the wax, stirring in the scents, preparing the candle jars with wic, and pouring in the candles. The scents created a great fragrance that spread into the mainroom. After the candles solidified, the students decorated their jars. Kylee, Dawsun, Liz, Sam, Stuart, Randy, and I were surprised to learn how easy the process of making candles was.

Scotty and Nikki invited the 401s out for some senior institute fun on Thursday! We went out sledding together now that we have some snow to play with! The 301s and 401s had a blast, laughing, sledding, and playing in the snow. After enjoying the cold, we came in to warm up with a nice cup of hot chocolate.

To close out our week, we continued reflecting and learning about mental wellness. This week's lesson focused on the different types of thoughts we have and how they impact us. The 401s learned how to



acknowledge our emotions and validate them, but state a thought that leads to a positive action. An action that moves us forward rather than casts us down or holds us back. Reshaping those thoughts can create positive habits and cycles that encourage continued positive thoughts, emotions, and actions. We talked about different strategies that can help us break negative cycles and develop positive cycles. The Everfi program went one step further and encouraged students to evaluate whether the strategies they pick are effective and try out different strategies until you are able to return to a balanced mental wellness.



## TGIF from Lenny

Winters can drag on in Central New York. There are plenty of ways to embrace the snow by skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling et cetera, but the cold and gray can get to you. I mention this because it is during this time that it is most important to have a sense of purpose. The accountability of creating something and the opportunity to generate a joyful moment can get us through some dark times. This is what I witnessed in school this week. There are a lot of us feeling the weight of the pandemic compounded by winter. But we also worked with a sense of purpose and found moments to be joyful.

In the workshop, Lizzy took next steps in her greenhouse racks and is at the point where she can proceed independently. Daryll also demonstrated his leadership and skills by nearly completing a second bed for his STP entirely on his own. Daryll used his first bed as a template and recalled all the techniques applied to its construction. We are currently working out a plan to donate the beds to Sleep In Heavenly Peace.

Garrett expressed interest in building a guitar. Randy had some parts that he wasn't using so he generously gifted them to Garrett. Consequently, Garrett could get straight to work sanding and painting the body. He also created a list of additional parts that he needs to see the project through.

Gabe, Kyler and Aiden completed their material list for the half pipe and we were all surprised at how much wood is needed for the frame. They have worked out a possible solution that we will try out next week. The solution? Pallets.

We received a new dust collection system for the shop

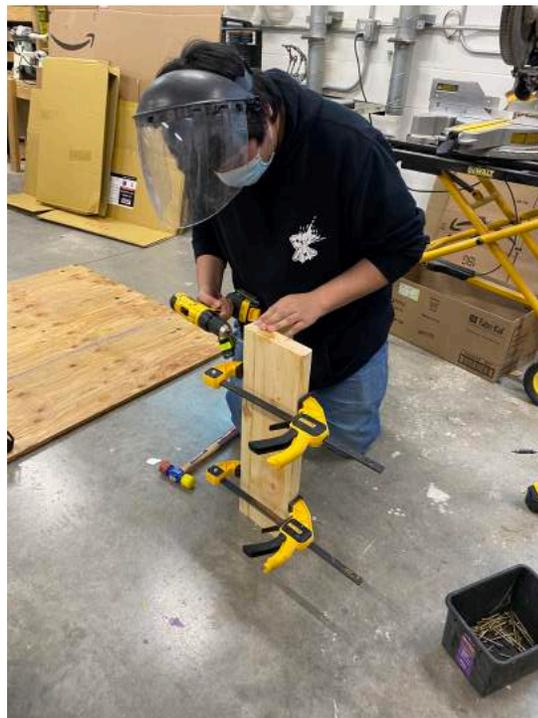


but it required assembly. Enter Dayton with problem solving skills and motivation. Later that same day we had a fully functioning dust collection system. We tested it on one of Daryll's cuts and soaked in the moment of success.

In ER we tackled balancing chemical equations. It was interesting to see which students were naturally good at this. True, some of us struggled, but that made it all the more rewarding when we were able to find balance. It is important to remember that finding the solution often takes multiple angles of approach.

In LE we took the next steps in our Making Connections lab and this week students will be designing and conducting their own experiments. I can't wait to see the creative designs that this crew comes up with.

This last week of January is going to be a cold one reminding us that there is still quite a bit of winter ahead. With exhibitions only a week away, we will all work with a sense of purpose and hopefully find the joy in our accomplishments. Have a joyful week.

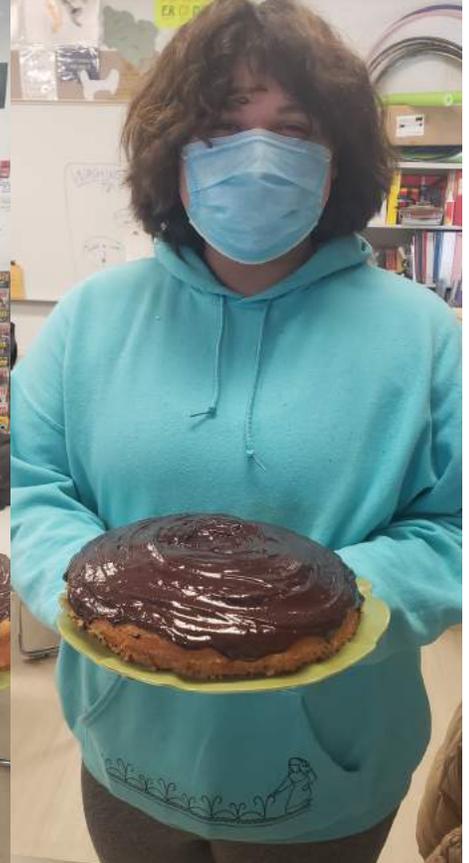


## TGIF from April

This week 201 students and US history students watched a historic event unfold right before their eyes- the inauguration of Kamala Harris. I explained to students irregardless of thoughts or personal political views, this was an amazing time in history that they were witnessing. The first woman ever holding one of the highest positions in our nation is indeed historical. For women it is akin to women's suffrage. I want students to understand this was not a lesson about the very polarized political views that are taking place across America; yet it IS a momentous occasion for America. For most students it was the first time they have watched an inauguration, the scope of what they witnessed has not reached them yet; hopefully as they mature into adulthood they will gain an appreciation for, and understanding of, this time in history they are living through. It *certainly* will be a year of historical significance in so many ways.

This week was cake week! I joked with Hollis about Marie-Antoinette, during the French Revolution being rumored to say: Let them eat cake. Of course Hollis's version of let them eat cake was much friendlier than that of Marie-Antoinette. Hollis had Ronnie, Carson, Phoenix, and Leighann all making different versions of cake on Tuesday and Thursday during their work with her. The bakers then shared their cake throughout the school and man was there cake! Cupcakes, yellow cake, marble cake, boston cream pie cake, boxed cake and made from scratch cake. All the cake was fitting for it was Hollis's birthday this week and she indeed loves cake! :)

201 students continue preparing for our exhibitions that take place next week. Please reach out if you would like to attend any exhibitions, as a reminder: they will be held virtually. For those who love the snow, enjoy the beauty of the season!



## TGIF from Greg

The 301s had a productive and fun week, despite not having school on Monday. They worked hard on their exhibitions and learning plans to get ready for their upcoming presentations. Carson is learning more about being a chef, making a cake from scratch this week with Hollis. He has been gaining a better understanding of how to fill his learning plan in on his own and what is expected of him in the weeks to come. Adam has been hard at work learning coding, and is well on his way to creating pixel art, which is the basis of his learning plan. Garrett has been showing off his newly acquired skills in the workshop with Lenny, creating a model guitar and getting to the painting stage this week. It's great to see him in school and really interested in this project. Claire has been bouncing back and forth between the robotics lab in the high school and Big Picture. She and her teammates

went to a robotic competition this past weekend and **KILLED IT!** We are so proud of our students for pursuing learning outside of school! Austin has been focused on 2D animation and is hard at work creating his own storyboard. He brought up an interest in the history of cartoons, and was able to have a Facetime meeting with Mr. Scott, Greg Scott's father. He asked him questions about the original cartoons that Mr. Scott watched, how they are different from today's cartoons, and what they were like. They had a great conversation, and Austin invited him to join his Google Meet at his exhibition to see his presentation. Gabe, Kyler, and Aiden have been making progress on their skateboard ramp. They have come up with final supply lists and blueprints for the build, and are ready to begin as soon as they can get in the shop. Caitlyn has been pursuing the creative writing route, focusing her learning plan around redaction poetry, as well as continuing her internship with Carol in photography. They braved the cold Thursday to take pictures in downtown Syracuse, getting some great winter shots.

On Thursday after lunch the 301s invited the 401s to take the afternoon off to **JUST PLAY**. Everyone brought in their snow gear and extras to share with each other,



scrounged up as many sleds as they could, and went out back on the big hill to race each other, have snowball fights and be kids. Scotty and Jessica got in on it, with Jessica showing off her aerodynamic skills and beating Scotty to the bottom! It was great to see everyone have so much fun, and even Christine jumped on a sled, getting in on the fun in just her school clothes! Crystal joined us and brought some sleds from home for us to borrow - it was fun to show her what Big Picture is all about: The Students!

Next week the 301s are getting back into their work, buttoning up their presentations and going through practice runs. They are continuing to look for internships for the third trimester, and hoping to find new opportunities virtually.

