

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

OCTOBER 29

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



On Monday during our faculty meeting, I facilitated a goal setting protocol. We have been brainstorming our goals for the year and this protocol allowed us to refine what is important and what we want to measure for this school year. It was a simple but fast paced protocol where staff used 2 minutes to personally reflect on their goals. Three minutes to share ideas with a partner. Two sets of pairs became a foursome. Each time the groups increased in size they were sharing and refining thier ideas. We left the meeting with 12 ideas that will be transformed into four SMART goals for the year. Each goal will have action steps. As a staff, we are excited about the larger goal ideas that we are working on. Once completed, I will share!

The 101s hosted a Halloween Party for the school during exploratory on Friday. If this is any indication of what this group can do, I am so excited for them. Please read Jessica's refelection for the details of the planning and hosting of the party. It was a great way to end the week. It did take me a little time to get over the fact that I did not win the coloring contest. I am trying to not be bitter or make excuses. I do want a rematch!

Internships are up and running. It is fantastic to hear from the students who return from their sites with excitement and stories of what what they did and learned.

We are looking for contacts in the following professions. If you have anyone that would be willing to speak with us, we would love contacts for welding, woodworking, robotics, electrical engineering, illustration, animal care, and culinary.

TGIF from Lenny

Each week a different pair or triad of staff members is responsible for running morning meetings and PMU. Gathering in a circle as a school each day is a critical element of our model and imperative to keeping connected. Students sometimes approach morning meetings with grumbles as they still haven't completely woken up. But we are undeterred. This week as Erin and I led morning meetings, our PMUs included the standard announcements and shout outs, daily goal achievement recognition and our vocabulary word of the day. For PMU we had a "name that staff" member competition (from childhood photos), stocks and investment lesson and simulation with candy as currency, student project highlight, rock-paper-scissors- math game, and a Theremin song with live demonstration. It takes work and there are often obstacles to success, but I am proud of how our school begins each day.

Excessive rain dashed our plans to plant garlic on Thursday as the field was still holding water. Those same rains pushed many of our projects indoors so the workshop was buzzing. Ronnie created another draft of his Ronnie's Diner sign, Steven taught Evan how to wood burn and Lucas A. learned how to use a trim router as he back cut a recess for a frame. Ryan's project was the one I used as the student project highlight this week. Ryan wanted to make a tensegrity table. A tensegrity table (also called a floating table)



is basically a structure that has a system of isolated components under compression inside a network of continuous tension. I recommend that you look it up as there are some fascinating designs out there. He worked with Jessica on the foundation work and a small model. He then came to the workshop with plans to make a larger model. Aside from overseeing him use

some of the power tools, Maddy and him built the structure on their own. There were numerous modifications that needed to occur but they met each setback with patience and moved forward. It was a great interest based project that also provided learning opportunities for each person who saw it. Ryan plans to make a final large version that can function as a table and support significant weight.

On Tuesday Cuyler from SUNY Morrisville worked with students to get our indoor growing project going. Ronnie, Kat and Bruce inventoried, cleaned and organized materials we had from our last growing project. We then created a list of what we needed and ironed out some details. Ronnie already has cilantro seeds germinating and we will start more seeds on Tuesday. More to come on this endeavor for sure!

We hope to plant our garlic this week, providing things dry up. We also have some outdoor agricultural things to button up including winterizing the sugar shack. With the garlic in the ground we will shift our growing focus indoors until spring. Happy Fall!



TGIF from April

This week was full - I remember saying on Tuesday: "It's almost Friday" and people thought I confused the days. I knew however, that this week was going to fly by.

In advisory we worked on budgeting and understanding internet safety. Learning economics in regard to personal finances is important to teens. The 301s also began working through the health grad point modules. They should be about finishing their Book Club readings and have completed weekly logs individually after meeting with their group to discuss their reading. Then they should be working as a group or individually on an AE piece to go with their Book Club novel, I can't wait to see what the groups come up with. Internships are going well and Jace began his internship at the LaFayette Inn this week; he is beyond thrilled with the opportunity! Exhibitions are just around the corner.

In history workshops students are completing projects, practicing the Socratic method of learning and really engaging in various styles of learning. I am working with them through what I am calling a content concept map that allows them to think about what they are learning in any given area of history. We have been trying to incorporate EL strategies as well as the power words. We learned as a staff about



GIST this week. Stimulus based concepts and overarching themes and ideas are going to be important for USH students to understand so knowing how to read content heavy literature is important. Global studies students are also practicing for the work keys exams and learning how to cite sources properly.

On Thursday my Art Exploration class was able to go to an art showcase in Syracuse. The artist is Skip Frost, an art professor at OCC, and his work is fantastic! He mainly works with the human form, showcasing people in everyday life. The human form is what we are tackling in art exploratory class. No easy feat and often students are scared away because they think they are not good enough to draw people. I am thrilled to have so many students stay in the exploratory when the topic/task is what they consider difficult; so the art exhibit was a nice break (and inspiration) for the students. The students engaged with the art and each took a piece of knowledge back with them. Next week we are going to practice the 'thing' that is hardest for us whether it be eyes, hands, noses, clothing, jewelry etc. Each student will choose what human form skill they wish to improve upon, based on what they saw at the art exhibition. I plan to put together an art show at the end of the year with all the student work. They are doing fantastic work!



The week ended with a fun Halloween party hosted by the 101's! It was fun and thoughtful, thank you Christine and Jessica! My thoughts as we are entering November- it is going to go very quickly as the calendar is already full! Don't forget: we love to welcome guests to our exhibitions!

TGIF from Jessica

I value Big Picture learning and the way we structure our school so that we have time to be with each other and enjoy one another. One of those times we get to do that is during lunch bunch on Mondays. We are in small groups, typically one student from every advisory and we are able to use the time however we feel our group needs. This week, I took my group outside to photograph the fall. We passed the cameras around and enjoyed taking creative and abstract photos. We had a fun time expressing ourselves through our individual style of photographing. These times are so valuable because they give you a moment to breathe and be mindful of your senses.



We had another time to enjoy being with each other on Friday thanks to having exploratory. The 101s were able to host a Halloween Party for the school! They planned out the event, asked for permission, brought in the supplies, made a few posters, prepared and set up for the event. They took 100% ownership of the whole event! Each student took charge of a station where they were able to lead and host it independently. Jayden taught students how to make spooky slime! Gabby hosted a coloring contest and a neon "tattoo" station! Maddy hosted a photo shoot! Ryan hosted a costume contest! Lucian and Romeo hosted a halloween cupcake and cookie decorating station! Lucas helped make an "eyeball" filled red punch! We witnessed positivity and staff and students enjoying the event we planned for them. They received several compliments for their efforts



and we were able to wrap and clean everything up to jump back into workshop 2 after lunch. I am so proud of the 101s for creating a time to have fun and enjoy our school.



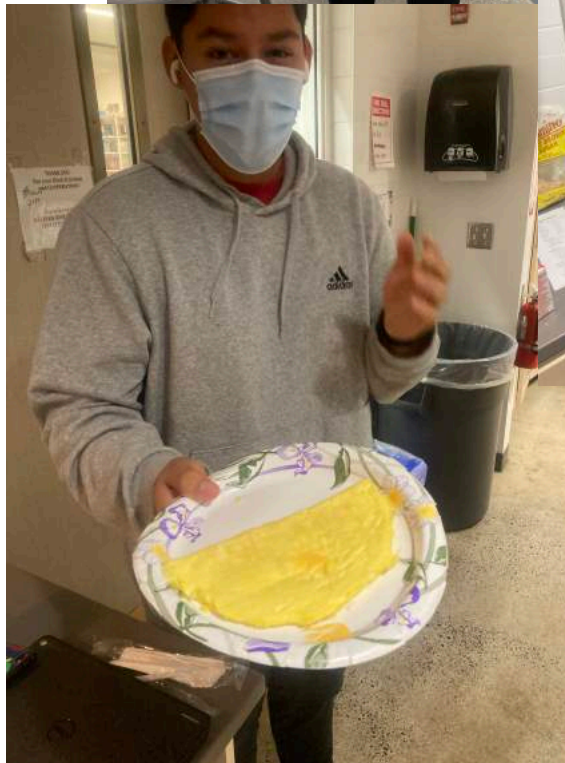
TGIF from Walt

Things were a bit stressful this week, and it felt like everyone was a little off. Much of my time was helping students prepare for the practice exhibitions we had on Friday or work on various learning plan projects. As we get closer to exhibitions, things tend to get more stressful, even though the exhibition itself is supposed to be a celebration of the work each student has completed. Although some students did well, our Friday practice exhibitions definitely did not feel like a celebration. I am hoping that next week we can reset and try another round on Friday with more positivity.

This week's highlights:

Lucas is interested in learning culinary skills, so this week I taught him how to make sushi rolls because he has an interest in Asian cuisine. We started off with a basic california roll because it is a great entry level sushi dish that appeals to most people. Sushi making appears simple, but it is a complicated process. Lucas did a great job and the rolls came out very good. Lucas was then able to show Kat, Bruce and Jade how the techniques I showed him, and they were also able to make their own california rolls.

On Tuesday, I taught Jade, Ariyahna, Bruce and Kat how to make country style omelets. I started with going over egg basics, and thus far we have covered scrambled, over-easy and sunny-side



up. They were all a bit nervous to attempt the omelettes, as they do require a little extra skill. However, I taught them the basics and each student took turns making omelettes. They were able to watch and learn from one another, and I was very impressed by how well they supported and learned from each other. In the end, after a few tries, they all successfully made an omelette. Next week, I am hoping to train them how to run an omelette station, and may have them take orders from staff and students to test their skills.

Bruce and Kat made caramel apples this week and sold them Friday afternoon during the 101 sponsored school Halloween party. Since many of my students are interested in culinary, we are trying to upgrade our kitchen equipment, specifically the pots, pans and utensils. Many of these are second hand donations and are very well worn. As an effort to get new equipment, Bruce and Kat are interested in creating food to raise funding. They

started with caramel apples and ended up making enough to buy a decent non-stick pan. This will definitely help with making omelettes in the future.



TGIF from Greg

This week the 401s worked away at completing their first part of their Senior Thesis Projects along with their Learning Plans. They are also busily working away at their autobiographies, as well as looking at internships for their final year as Big Pic students. Hayden had his senior night for cross country on Wednesday, leaving his opponents behind by at least 10 seconds! We are so proud of him! Kyler has been steadily going through his Gradpoint for his health credit, while coming up with amusing anecdotes for his autobiography and excelling at his internship. Gabe has been killing it with his OCC classes 4 days a week, while Adam continues to succeed and work through writing college essays and psychology. Morgan has been helping Secorrah and Gabe register for their next semester at OCC and has herself ready for 2 classes again in January. Garrett has been making progress in his internship with Carol Disalvo and is enthusiastic to drive around the Onondaga Nation to photograph landmarks for his upcoming projects. Austin will be learning how to interview a new candidate for Ronnie's Diner this week, after creating and posting an application for a new hire. He will be researching what types of questions are typically asked at job interviews and coming up with his own to use. Carson has been working to create his bakery cart for his Senior Thesis Project and looking at different ways to present, store and mobilize his small entrepreneurship. Devyn has been going through his Learning Plan



and working to organize his exhibition, learning the history and medical uses for CBD. As a group the 401s are almost completely done with all of their health credits, which includes dangerous drug projects and public service announcements, their Gradpoint modules, and various presentations and posters. Mrs. Amidon has been extremely helpful in setting up presentations and getting the kids on the right track. Once these are done they will be able to shift their focus more to their STPs and autobiographies.

We ended the week with Halloween fun! The 101s hosted a FANTASTIC Halloween party for all of the Advisories in Big Picture, with decorate - your - own cookies and cupcakes, popcorn, and of course, a costume contest. It was so great to see the younger students jump into the family atmosphere and share their party with the rest of us! Jessica and Christine are working hard with the 101s and we're grateful to have them right next door to us! After the party the high school

invited all seniors over to carve and paint pumpkins, take a fun class photo and have a relaxing afternoon. Next week we will be doing practice presentations for exhibitions, making sure they are prepared. They are well on their way to completing their first (and last first!) trimester of their 401 year!

