

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2022

APRIL 8

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



On Saturday, I went to the Syracuse Stadium Cross event which is advertised as “the intense, adrenaline pumping, high flying action of indoor motocross racing.” It sure was! Two Big Picture students were racing, Luke (pictured center) and Coleby. Lucas (left) was there helping Luke. I was surprised to see Evan (right) there when I got there. He told me he was there to support his students. Me too! Evan has been mentoring a group of students in welding. As he has built relationships over the context of welding, he has build friendships with those that share interests and passions. This happens with our adult and student mentors and well as our student to student mentors.

Motorcross racing was new to me. Luke harasses me about 100 each day to be allowed to drive his “bike” to school. The answer is still no, but I now see why Luke and Coleby enjoy this sport so much. It was exciting to watch. I want to go again!

I might have been one of the only person there thinking about how this sport could so easily be translated into Big Picture learning goals. Every learning goal could be explored deeply and rigorously including physical education. Watching the physical requirements of a motorized sport was intriguing as well. I hope these two will build learning plans around this passion.

TGIF from Lenny

In our last few communications I focused quite a bit on our maple syrup project. In the past couple of weeks Kyler has completely taken over the project and with the help of other students, has wrapped up boiling for the season. His motivation and leadership exemplified what we strive for in student driven project-based learning. This allowed me to shift attention towards a number of other student projects as well as workshop endeavors. Here is a look.

In ER we are sowing seeds. Students first chose plants that they want to grow for their own purposes. My hope is that these plants will find their way into student home gardens this spring. In the second phase students chose one of three teams. There is team pumpkin, team tomato and team pepper. The goal is to bring as many plants as possible from seed to seedling. The team with the most plants wins but the real purpose is to have plants for our school garden.

In LE we have been learning about infectious disease. Each student chose an infectious disease, researched numerous aspects of it, created a visual and presented it to the class. This method of students teaching other students is commonplace in our school due to exhibitions. It really showed in the ease in which they could stand in front of their peers and confidently articulate the information. It was impressive to see, especially for 101 and 201 students.

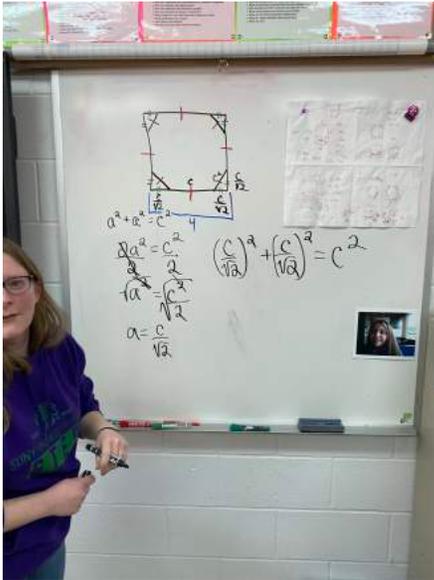
The shop was humming with activity once again. Steven is combining his love for aviation and interest in small electric



motors sparked by our last ER unit. Steven is attempting to integrate five motors into one prop and mount it to a custom built plane. Will it fly? Stay tuned. Steven did take a break from his mission to teach Ronnie how to wood burn. Students teaching students is one of the greatest things that I can hope to

see in a day. Jacoby continues to work on his putting greens, but with increased independence as he gains skills and confidence. Ricky is attempting to repair a lawn mower that was abandoned a while back. He is gaining many new skills and again collaborating with students who already have experience with small engine repair. I'm serious when I say that these students know their stuff. Ryan, Lucas A., and Luke are all 101s and I'd trust them with my mower.

In my opinion one of the coolest experiences of the week occurred while Lucas B. and I were working together. Lucas is building an eight sided card table. We aren't going off plans but rather a vaguely instructional video. In an effort to conserve material, we were trying to make the largest possible octagon out of a 4 foot by 4 foot piece of plywood. At first glance, one might think you simply cut the four corners off. But to ensure that all eight sides are equal in length, you must employ some math skills. Lucas and I went to Jessica's room to get some guidance as she is the school's QR specialist. Over the next 20 minutes or so many students offered solutions and we tested them and debated their accuracy. Meanwhile, Jessica worked through formulas to find the most efficient solution. Having worked it out on a napkin, she then wrote it out on the white board and she explained the reasoning to us. The solution was that each side needed to be $19 \frac{7}{8}$ inches long. Not so obvious. Lucas and I went straight back to the shop and marked it out. The conclusion was that it worked out perfectly. Once again, math had won the day.



As a final note I'd like to show appreciation to Walt and Braxtin. Walt has worked for a long time to perfect his pizza dough recipe and his method for baking pizza. He is sharing this wisdom with Braxtin and on Thursday many students witnessed this in our kitchen. The wonderful aroma of baked dough, tomato sauce and melted cheese filled the school. I was lucky enough to taste their creation and it was magnificent. It was seriously one of the best slices I have ever had. Thank you Braxtin for your work and thank you Walt for sharing your wisdom and demonstrating great pride in your craft. Have an amazing week!



TGIF from David

Good things come to those who wait. That is the saying, correct? Although, at Big Picture, waiting can feel like an eternity. When you are itching to get out of the building for a shadow day, every Tuesday and Thursday can feel like forever. Well, finally this week, Evan went out on his first shadow day to Baltimore Woods. Evan shadowed Anna Stunkel, one of the Environmental Educators at Baltimore Woods. They traveled the woods using binoculars to find birds. Birds are Evan's passion. He talks about birds every single day and has an encyclopedia knowledge of birds. Being out in the woods and looking for birds really put Evan in his happy place.



Hands on learning was put into practice this week as students worked in the workshop, the kitchen, and in the classroom. The great thing about all of these hands-on projects is that they will serve as great representation of student work at the 201 Gateway Celebration. Learning can often go unseen, but when you are building a big poker table it is difficult to remain blind to its presence. When a student makes a batch of Madeleine cookies, as Kat did, it is difficult not to smell the sweet aroma coming from the kitchen. It feels like some of our 201 students are in a transitional mode where their learning is present and active. Their learning is always visible.



The break comes at a good time for all of us. A break feels needed. Students are in a good place to take a break where they will come back not missing a beat.



TGIF from Greg

This week was tremendous and busy. Claire has been accepted to RIT and been granted the ROTC Commanders Scholarship. Tyler is crushing it with his Sugar Shack. He has tapped numerous trees, boiled down the sap and filled many bottles with syrup. He has been working with the STEP program at Morrisville to showcase his project and will be presenting at the end of April at an Earth Day event with them. He is planning on going to Keuka College next year. Evan and Aiden went with Nikki and I to Lowe's and Home Depot to get their supplies for their STPs. We have the wood and materials for Aiden's bench as well as a new welder for Evan to teach his students with. Garrett and Carol worked on taking historical pictures on the Onondaga Nation. This week they were able to photograph Carson in his Regalia to showcase Native American culture. Carol also worked with Josh on the history of LaFayette through photography, they went to visit the town library last week and have been in contact with the town historian for more information. Austin is crushing it at his internship with the High School cafeteria as well as at Ronnie's Dinner. Austin is learning culinary skills as well as being accurate with the register drawer. He has also been working on creating flyers for the marketing of Ronnie's Diner and was able to finalize one of them to hang around our building. Adam



continues to work with behavior management and teaching techniques with a student in need of support. He has also been accepted to Geneseo, Nazareth, and St. John Fisher. Gabe was able to procure the materials needed to begin work on his mural for the High School. He has been working with our custodian Dave to confirm the location and timeframe. Morgan has been working away on her STP fundraiser for the Mended Little Hearts Association. She's been in contact with local businesses, crafters, and volunteers to make her event full of activities for the families, as well as a profitable fundraiser for MLH. She's been pushing through her college classes, research paper and just wrapped up her final season in hockey.

Morgan is going to St. John Fisher next year. Devyn has been learning about foods from different cultures around the world and has been able to make a few specialty dishes with his culinary course at Morrisville. He aced his first college presentation this week. He worked hard with Joy (THANK YOU JOY!!) to be prepared and used the public speaking skills he's been working on since he joined our class. He's been accepted into the culinary program and will be starting in the fall! Griffin continues to be a staple of hard work at On The Dot Coffee Shop. He has come up with new recipes and choices for the coffee menu. Next week we are looking forward to a much needed break, but the 401s will be back at it when we come back, working hard to complete their Learning Plans, checking to make sure they are on point with the timelines they've set up for their Senior Thesis Projects and finalizing any college application requirements not yet met. They are setting great examples for the underclassmen and will be showcasing their finalized Senior Thesis Projects at our open house on Wednesday, May 25.

HEART WALK FUNDRAISER

MAY 22, 2022 - 11 AM TO 4 PM
LaFayette Stafford Park

Food & Drink Available For Purchase By Valley Men's Club

Carnival Games & Craft Tents

Lacrosse Shot Speed Competition

Raffle Baskets & Bead-For-Lap Bracelet Making



TGIF from Walt

The past couple weeks have been filled with project work in the kitchen and making progress on learning plan projects. Things have been a bit difficult in advisory, and project work has been very slow to start this trimester. At this point of the year things start to get a little stressful, especially with Gateway exhibitions coming up. I am looking forward to the much needed spring break and hopefully everyone will come back refreshed and ready to start anew.

This week's highlights:

Braxtin is interested in learning how to make pizza for this trimester's learning plan, and for the past two weeks he has been experimenting with different styles of pizza. Pizza is something I am very passionate about, so I taught him how to make Neapolitan and New York style pizzas from scratch and then had him do it on his own. This involves making everything from scratch in order to be as authentic as possible. His goal is to make one to two pizzas a week in order to learn the necessary techniques for proofing, stretching and using a

pizza peel. In addition to making the dough and sauce, after break I will also be teaching Braxtin how to make fresh cow's milk mozzarella to use for Margherita pizza and we are going to start a fresh herb garden.

Kat has been very busy working on her baking project, and this week she made her first batch of madeleines and chocolate chip cookies. She is working with the On The Dot Coffee shop in order to create cookie options that will go well with coffee. Ultimately, these will be used at the coffee shop to accompany their beverages. Her first batch of cookies came out very good, and she is hoping to start sampling them at the coffee shop after break to get feedback on how to improve.

Ronnie's diner has been running very smoothly the past couple of weeks. Ronnie and Austin have been cranking out grilled cheese and quesadillas quickly and consistently. They have also cut their prep time in half, and are finally falling into a routine. It has taken almost two years to get to this point, but I am very happy with the progress they are both making.



TGIF from April

I have to start out with a “funny” (because I am not a comedic person lol) Jacob had a birthday recently, and we always sing happy birthday at the BP morning meeting for any birthday student or staff. Well, I love both of these people dearly so I feel I can share- Lenny wanted to stand on the stairs next to Jacob as we sang happy birthday to him,, so that Lenny could ‘appear’ as tall as Jacob! :). *That* photo op was just too good for me to pass up! <3 Happy birthday Jacob, and happy tallness Lenny! (Is that even a word?! LOL)



We have been busy in advisory tackling economics, understanding economic vocabulary in the traditional sense, and then in a fun way by playing a game- that as a 301 stated was like playing 4 of their childhood games in one! They appeared to have fun while mastering the vocabulary and in my book that equals success! Next steps are personal finance in economics.

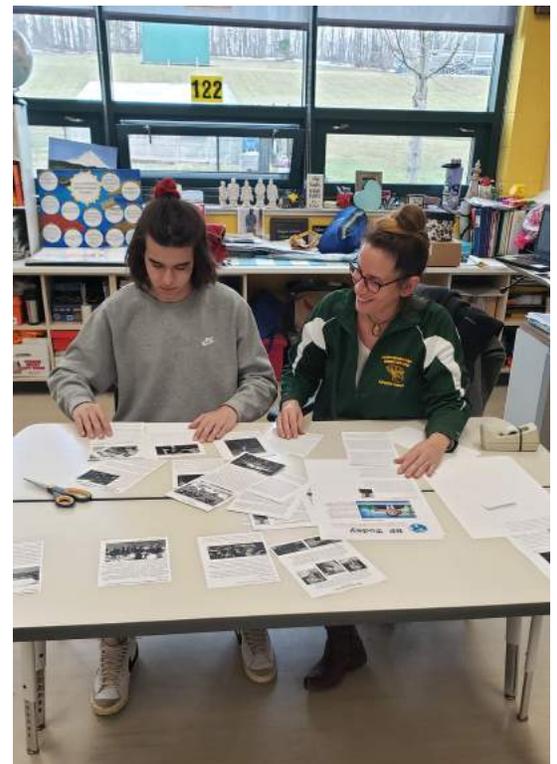


I am very proud of the work Elijah did in pulling together an advisory assignment on current/world events and learning how DIFFICULT it is to be a newspaper editor. 301 students were tasked with taking *any* information they have learned in the last few weeks in advisory about the Russian/Ukrainian conflict, or anything NEW they wished to research concerning the events, and writing a journalistic style article. After submitting, and then editing and resubmitting (*side note- SOME editing was not complete due to time constraints) students demonstrated a true understanding and learning about world events. The range of topics covered was wonderful-they even surprised me by learning about the pets in Ukraine. Elaina and Elliana really KNOCKED it out of the park with their articles! After students submitted their articles, Elijah volunteered to be the assistant editor. He had NO idea what he was in for lol, but after gaining understanding he did a terrific job

putting together the 301 BP Today Newspaper!! He had to create additional articles, come up with filler advertisements as well as photo essays. Then organize all those components into a visually appealing Newspaper. Which he also helped print. Start to finish Elijah learned how to put together a student newspaper that looks and reads like any national newspaper. Great job Elijah! I am thrilled the 301 students are able to share their work publicly in this manner - such fun! (*301 Students submitted proper citations for their articles- not included in the 301 newspaper to keep it in the form of a newspaper.)

USH is wrapping up the civil rights movement and learning how that movement impacted other social movements. In Global we are learning how Gandhi influenced Nelson Mandela. History is a cycle, we must remain aware that history can, and does repeat itself if we do not educate ourselves in both the cause of events, and the outcomes. Erasing history does not change what happened, it just makes it likely that it will repeat itself. Good or bad, no difference- education and research, facts vs opinion, will help our students become civic minded participants in society. Current world events have led to some good, thought provoking conversations with various students in advisory and separate from advisory. I love that some young

teens are engaging in their own thought process. That is what education is all about!



LaFayette Community Peace Garden

- Grand Opening -

Wednesday June 8, 2022 6:30 pm

*Location: South parking lot of LaFayette Jr. Sr. High school.
Follow the sidewalk behind the Big Picture entrance, located below the football field.*

(Map of Jr/Sr HS. Star is garden area)



All community members are welcome to use the garden!

The garden was designed and constructed by LaFayette Big Picture Senior Julien Lamson, as a space for all to find peace and comfort among nature's beauty.

*Julien was able to construct the garden and patio area with the generous support of:
Swimm Landscaping, and Faverolles Gardens of LaFayette.*

We hope students, staff, and community members will find joy in visiting the Peace Garden for many years.

Please join us for the grand opening of the Peace Garden!

TGIF from Jessica

We are into trimester 3, projects are all planned, and we started our new advisory book. We are reading *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M Draper. For this advisory book we are focusing on practicing our reading skills and answering inferential questions about a text. The students seem to enjoy reading the book and feel a sense of care for the main character; Melody, who is a child with cerebral palsy. In advisory we have researched cerebral palsy and present our findings to the class. On Friday before break we had an insightful conversation about what normal is and if normal can change. To learn new vocabulary in the book, we are playing vocabulary jams on vocab.com. The students are put into two teams and they compete for points as they all answer vocabulary questions.

This 101 group's strongest feature is taking initiative! They jump on opportunities to be involved, to be helpful, and to have internships! At one point, I had an empty classroom because all students were out at internships/service learnings/or shadow days! Maddy has been working with the horses at Tanglewood. Ryan has been working on cars at Sauve Brother's Body Shop. Ryan, Lucas, Luke, Wes, and Maddy have all been learning how to weld. Luke has been interning at Upstate Equipment and shadowed at Micro-Bore. Wes shadowed at Tanglewood and helped with deliveries. Romeo, Yaya, and Haji have



participated in work with the Syracuse Stage. Romeo and Roy did a service learning with the Rescue Mission. Yaya is cooking at Ronnie's Diner and she shadowed the coffee shop. Gabby is expanding on her skills at On the Dot Coffee Shop. Roy, Lucas, Wes, and several others have been helping with collecting sap. Jadyn is building her skills with the pre-k students at Grimshaw. Lucian is learning baking skills at Biscottis. These internship opportunities are what make our school the place that it is and it's sometimes the only thing that keeps the kids coming each day. I can't thank our mentors enough and the businesses that open their doors to our students!

There are a few other ways we get to have fun at our school as well. We brought exploratory back to twice a week. Christine and I have been doing sticker art and we made sock bunnies! Gabby's, Lexi's, and Haji's bunnies are photographed. On Friday before break, the 101s played charades in advisory and we will definitely be playing again. We were having so much fun I forgot to take

photos, however a few good visuals are Maddy playing ping pong with a sock bunny and a whiteboard eraser and Luke walking like a penguin!