

LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2022

APRIL 24

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



It does not seem possible that this was just our first week back from Spring break but it was. We also had a snow day on Tuesday which made for another interesting event in the week. The snow day seemed oddly placed in late April and it landed on a Tuesday which left us with only one internship day this week. However, our students were out and about and engaged in many amazing learning opportunities.

We had a 101 land an internship at Syracuse Stage. We had several students take two college visits. We had a sophomore register for their first college class for next semester! Our in house internships were busy! We also hosted our first set of 8th graders who are checking us out to see if Big Picture might be the right fit for them next year. We look forward to 3 more visit days coming up.

My family's pancakes on Easter morning were topped with our very own Kyler Potak syrup! It was delicious and made our meal together as a family that much more special.

I want to give Jessica a shout out here for all of her hard work leading the Big Picture PLC. The work she is facilitating is going to make us all better educators!



TGIF from Lenny

Last week we had a surprise snow day and two college visit opportunities for students. Needless to say, there was a good deal of juggling. Missing one of the internship days limited the project work but we made some solid progress.

Jacoby has reached the point where he can jump right into working on his putting greens with no assistance. He understands the tools, materials and process. It's great to see him exhibit autonomy. Aiden and I worked on building a bench for his STP. We learned about cutting at different angles using hand tools and gauges. We are happy with the results, but decided to make the completed bench a first draft and we are looking to improve our results on draft 2. Dayton and I met to discuss plans for building a skee ball game. Stay tuned on that one.

In ER we identified various rocks and looked for clues as to how they formed. We also examined fossils, learned about the history of Earth Day and read excerpts from Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. In LE we began the Relationships and Biodiversity Lab. I like completing this lab towards the end of the year because students must utilize skills that they have learned already. These include using microscopes, chemical indicators and chromatography paper. It is evident that they are retaining many skills.

One highlight of the week was how busy the kitchen was. Many students are creating wonderful foods and we are the lucky ones who get to taste test. Ronnie's Diner with Austin produces lovely grilled cheese and cheese quesadillas, Kat is perfecting pastries, Braxtin's pizza is top shelf and now add Carson's cinnamon buns. Delightful.

We have many exciting projects on the horizon and hopefully spring will come back and stick around so we can get in the greenhouse and garden. Think spring and have a wonderful week!



TGIF from David

I do not recall having a snow day in April, especially the third week of April. I guess the snow just wanted one more day with us before it packs up and leaves until the Fall. Even with one less day of the week, there was still a lot we crammed in. Thursday and Friday were days of visits for students to college institutions. On Thursday, a group of students visited the Renewable Energy Program at SUNY Morrisville. This new facility houses multiple renewable energy classes. Students learned about biofuels, geothermal energy, solar energy, thermal solar energy, and more. New York State will be completely run on renewable energy within the next thirty years, so this is a great opportunity for our students to learn about these programs today. The future of New York State will need people trained with the skills to build renewable energy systems. They do not have to go far to earn a degree in this field of study. They only have to go down the road on RTE 20 to SUNY Morrisville.



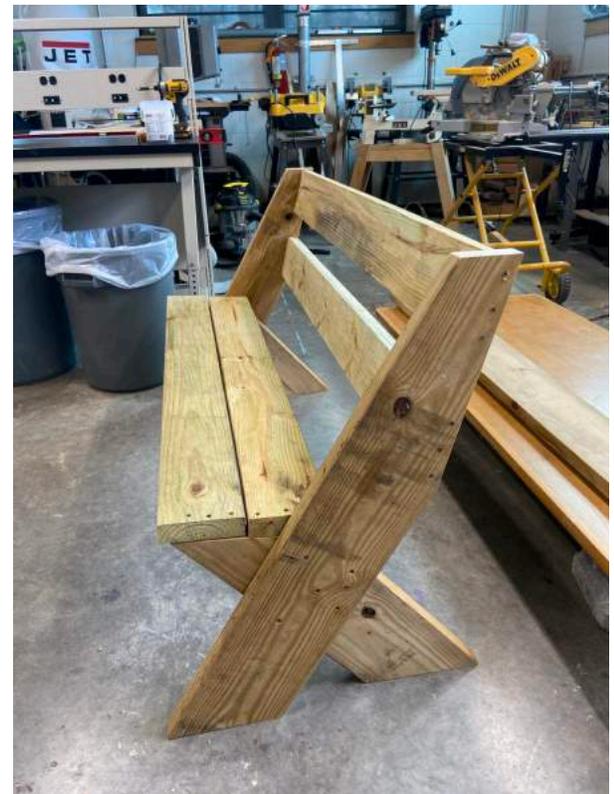
On Friday, a group of students went to visit Utica University for a college visit. Utica University is the new name of what was Utica College. The name change happened this February. We have not done in-person college visits since Covid hit because a lot of campuses were closed to outsiders for some time. It felt good to introduce students to a college

campus once again. At one point, Jacoby turned to me and asked if I thought he could go there. I told him yes. He holds the power to make that a reality. His future is in his hands and if he wants to go to school there he can make it happen.



TGIF from Greg

This week the 401s jumped right back in after spring break. They have surely matured and it shows by the way they have filled in their learning plans. They are practicing for their exhibitions for their third trimester. This will be their final exhibition in preparation for their Senior Thesis Project. I can't be any more excited about what they are doing. Kyler has completed the process of making syrup at his sugar shack. He presented his work at Morrisville College alongside college students. It's nice when the president of a college tells a high school kid that "You're what we need here). I have tasted his syrup on pancakes and, oh my, is it good. Adam is doing a tremendous job with the school psychologist working with students needing behavior modification and motivation strategies. Morgan is so prepared for her fund raiser with Mended Little Hearts. She has become a great leader, teacher and mentor to a lot of students. As I always say to her and the kids, "Standards". Aiden is making and donating a bench for a golf course in the area. He has really progressed over the last few weeks. Evan is utilizing his welding skills and teaching younger students how to weld. Devyn completed a culinary project at his Morrisville college class and earned a 100%. The professor told me how into it he was and it was reflected in his grade. Morrisville is an integral part of our learning here. A big thank you to David for setting this up. Secorrah is plugging away on her historical overview of the history of lacrosse through photography. Austin did wonderful work at his internship at the cafeteria. He worked at Ronnie's dinner making Quesadillas this week which were tasty. Garrett and Josh worked with their photography internships preparing for their STP's. Gabe has begun the painting stage of his indigenous mural being placed in the hallway of the school. Big thanks to Lenny for helping our kids in the workshop. Claire is doing so well teaching robotics at the elementary school. I went to the school and observed her in action and can say she is already an effective teacher. Cai is completing work in gender studies at OCC which has helped build Cai's STP even more in depth.



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 April

In our continued study of economics 301s have learned how to determine if a consumer had/has a valid complaint, who to file a complaint with, what consumer protection agencies are out there, and then how to write an effective (business) complaint letter. Writing a letter was a challenging concept for the adolescents due to their electronic lifestyles. They have been born and raised in an environment that makes what they consider ancient ideals difficult for them to comprehend. "Why can't we just write an email?" The concept that writing a letter of complaint can be done electronically, or physically, but you still need the skill of WRITING a formal letter/document seems foreign to teens who use social media- with character restrictions and text messages to communicate. It was fascinating to focus much more on the aspect of writing/communicating effectively versus the aspect of economic situations. I think this is also because they don't yet value the concept of finances impacting them as they still live with their parents so their funds (from jobs or gifts) are still solely discretionary funds. The students were given various scenarios and then had to write a complaint letter, we then critiqued each group's letter and the students came away with some great concepts needed to write an effective letter for any economic situation.

USH students should have completed their practice essay this week. We also assessed our learning of



the Civil Rights Era using a student favorite assessment tool called KaHoot. The global students recently finished up their learning about how Gandhi influenced others such as Nelson Mandela and his fight against apartheid in Africa; we will be creating the T-shirts David planned as a final project soon. While waiting for the T-shirt materials we have moved on to the reading of Animal Farm. We are working on writing out the GIST, and having great discussion about the passages as we read and making connections as to how the story relates to world history. The students will utilize their GIST forms to help with their culminating project once we finish reading the book.

On Thursday David and I took a group of students to Morrisville to tour the new alternative energy building. It was

a fascinating learning experience. The upcoming job opportunities in this field are huge and an incentive for students to engage in this type of work and education. The professors that gave us a tour were very informative and engaging. If your child has any interest in the environment or the way NY is working towards alternative energy forms you should check out the program at Morrisville. Lucas B. really was impressive with his engagement in the presentation. Great job Lucas B.!

Friday David and Hollis took a group of students on a college visit to Utica College. It is nice to see students once again getting out on college campuses to learn about the various offerings campuses provide. COVID restricted that option for too long. Being on a campus versus reading about a college online is definitely a different feeling. Thank you David and STEP for making these trips possible.



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

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about probability and statistics in both Quantitative Reasoning Workshop and Applied Math Workshop. Prior to that we developed our understanding of google spreadsheets and the creation of data tables and graphs.

To start off our new unit, we focused on collecting data, analyzing data, and synthesizing our findings. We used a familiar concept from living environment and PE to do so. The students measured and calculated their resting heart rate. They jogged for 3 minutes and measured and calculated their exercise heart rate as well as their target heart rate. Students made data charts and analyzed what factors could effect heart rate both with in and outside of their group.

We learned the difference between experimental probability and theoretical probability as well as how to calculate each. The students rolled dice and created spreadsheets for their data as a review of their

probability knowledge and as a summation of their spreadsheet knowledge. From there they transitioned into compound probability and we were able to use IXL math (an online program) to develop our skills.

To expand upon our understanding of probability, students learned about and, and or sets. They collected data about the students in their class and recorded their information into A, B, and C sets. They visually represented their data into vendiagrams. After learning about unions of intersections, they were able to label their vendiagrams with proper set notation. Next the students found the probability of several different unions of the data to develop their understanding of how and, and or effects the probability.

This week the students learned how to translate the probability of gummy bear flavors into a pie chart. They used protractors to measure and draw angles to create their unique pie chart. We worked on identifying biased and unbiased samples. This information will transition us into statistics. The students will

be reviewing their understanding of mean, median, mode, and range. They will develop their skills to determine the best measure of central tendency and learn how to create box and whisker plots.

By the time we are done with these concepts, students will have a well developed understanding of how data is collected, measured, and represented. They will also know how to analyze data as well as determining if data best represents the sample.

