

# LaFayette Big Picture TGIF

2021

OCTOBER 1

We are PRESENT, POSITIVE and PASSIONATE!



Emotions were high this week. Running the wavelengths of excitement, fear, pain, and love. We participated in two remembrance/honoring events this week. One for a young life lost too soon. Tyler Christman was a friend of Coleby's. They raced together. We took a school picture and a moment to honor Tyler. The following day we honored so many young lives lost too soon. We had been learning about Every Child Matters Day as well as the horrific effects of the boarding school experience for Indigenous Children in the United States and Canada. Although painful and tragic, it is so important that we learn about the effects and honor the survivors and those that lost their lives.

On the flip side of this sadness, we also experienced the excitement of what is to come and what can be done. Our seniors presented their ideas for their yearlong project to a fabulous panel of community members. Thank you Shawn Reyburn, Amy Roe-Ryan, Shawna Booth, Chad Jaconski, Ed McGraw and Janet Oppedisano for spending the day with us and offering such great advice, suggestions and connections to resources!

Between these peaks of feelings, we continued to build community with one another by learning more about each other, working through misunderstandings and conflicts. We celebrated success and encouraged one another. We are certainly feeling all of the feels! We are alive.



## TGIF from Lenny

Fall brings a great deal of activity to the workshop. We have 101s creating authentic products for their Who Am I? Projects, 401s making plans ahead of their proposal presentations for their Senior Thesis Projects, and of course preparing garlic and garlic oil to sell at the Apple Festival. These three endeavors characterized most of the activity in my sphere this week. Here's a closer look.

The 101s as well as a handful of 201s and 301s pitched in to clean, weigh, package, peel, cook and bottle garlic this week. It was a pleasure to work with students who refrained from complaints, shared experience and technique, and got to know each other a little better.

The 101s have their WAI? Presentations this week so we had some great hands on learning taking place. Maddy made a tree to represent her support network using various wood, wire, felt and rocks. Ryan built a water feature that required the use of many shop tools as well as engineering skills. Lucas A. used the scroll saw to cut out an intricate silhouette of a dirt bike. This feat required skill and patience. What I was most impressed with though was what happened before he cut out the piece. We noticed that the saw was missing a small hose used to direct a slight current of air towards the blade to remove saw dust as the wood is cut. When I mentioned it to Lucas he said, "No problem, I saw some hose over here left from Ryan's project". Then, using hose, wire and zip ties, Lucas proceeded to replace the missing part with a custom part that works just as well or



better. Awesome job.

In ER we learned about tree decline and ventured into the woods to look closely at our trees. Students searched for evidence of stress and parasites in a variety of tree species. In LE we made great progress in our Making Connections lab. Students were exercising, collecting data, graphing and making predictions. In both sections we have been monitoring trout eggs. So far we have kept the water temperature steady at 10 degrees C, have had no deaths, and many have begun to develop eyes. So far, so good.

Finally I want to give a shout out to our 401s who presented their STP proposals on Friday. I also want to give a special thank you to our panelists for spending the time and energy to support our students. They not only give great suggestions, but often offer amazing resources to strengthen the project's rigor. Thank you again panelists. Have a great week!





## TGIF from April

Julien presented his Senior Thesis Project (STP) proposal this week and received great feedback and encouragement for his project idea/s. He now is venturing into the second phase of the necessary planning; once he has full approval from all necessary parties I will share more details of his project. We are very excited and thankful to SUNY Morrisville's Janet Oppedisano expertise and willingness to be part of Juliens resource group and thankful to the people who sat as part of his STP panel.

Also this week Faith and Felber were able to begin their internships. Faith is at Grimshaw again, with a new teacher/mentor which is wonderful, and Felber is back at K & H Motorsports. Coleby actually was employed at K & H over the summer so they were excited to have him back with them as an intern this fall. Other 301s are working diligently to find internships. Phoenix is interning with Evan welding. Jacob has reached out to companies that build prosthetics. Elijah is looking for someone in the field of electrical engineering, and Jordyn is looking for someone who has expertise in restoring old trucks.

Ricky is joining Carol D. in photography this year. I hope to find Payton a spot with an interior designer and Jace at a restaurant. Jace has done a great job learning from and working with Walt on the catering for the STP proposal panel luncheon! Bug and Fisher are learning in their areas of interest through the BOCES program. Leighann is hoping to intern at a public library, and Elliana and Elaina were able to experience two shadow days within their two points of passionate interest: skateboarding and fashion!



Thursday I took Elliana and Elaina to visit our old (he is not old- our BP relationship is old lol) friend and mentor Scott at Black Mamba skate park in their new location. WHAT A TRANSFORMATION from their old location at Shoppingtown Mall to their new place off James St. in Syracuse. It was so bright and cheery and the skate park portion was also huge and

bright. I can see why it is the girls' favorite spot to skate locally. Scott was full of helpful information, it was nice to catch up; and he allowed the girls to measure their favorite mini-ramp at his park in order to determine the size and style ramp they want to build this semester.

Then, after two long years of perseverance, cold calls and covid, (and some luck) I was able to secure Elaina and Elliana an opportunity to volunteer behind the scenes at an event that was a fundraiser for the CNY Foodbank.

**Syracuse Fashion Week.** The event showcasing local fashion was this past week/weekend. One portion of the event was held Friday night at the Barnes Mansion in Syracuse and the girls were invited to volunteer to assist. Elaina and Elliana arrived 3 hours prior to the fashion show to do whatever was needed to assist the director of Fashion Week. When I arrived for the show at 8 pm the girls were in their glory! They had been able to witness all the backstage work that goes into fashion, meet models *and* designers, and when I arrived they were showing the models the 'route' as this particular venue was a strolling show. After their work was done, the girls enjoyed the

fashion show. I had the pleasure of sitting alongside them - their enthusiasm and excitement was palpable and SO contagious! It was a fun night of learning and giving back to the community at the same time. I will say when the girls first arrived they were asked who they were modeling for- so I see that in their future as well! I am so excited to see what Elaina and Elliana do post high school, because I am pretty sure they will have a top of the line upcycling eclectic through back, skateboarding fashion line with their names on it! (Remember I said it here! Lol)



## TGIF from Walt

This was a very busy week, and the majority of my independent work time was spent working with Jace, Bruce and Katlyn on a catering project. In advisory we have been focusing on finishing learning plans and getting projects started. It has been a little difficult getting the 201s motivated this year, so we have been focusing on developing cognitive strategies to be successful during independent work time. As a result, I have been seeing some improvement with productivity, and I am hoping to see a good amount of project work happening next week.

This week's highlight:

This week I worked with Bruce, Jace and Katlyn to cater the Senior Thesis Project Presentation Luncheon. Catering is a difficult task because it requires a great deal of planning, problem solving and creative thinking. It is much different than cooking at home, and the stakes are fairly high because others are counting on you to deliver a good meal to make the event special. Despite these challenges, Bruce, Kat and Jace were very eager to step up and take on this task. Last week, each of them picked a dish to make and spent time



researching how to make the item. Based on recommendations by the 401s, Bruce chose chicken riggies, Katlyn chose chicken parmesan with garlic bread, and Jace chose baked ziti. On Tuesday we were able to do a test run and each student made their recipe and received feedback from the seniors on how to improve it for the event on Friday. They then took this feedback and modified the recipes accordingly. On Thursday Bruce, Jace and Katlyn spent all day preparing for the event. They prepped as much as they could to make sure they would be ready for the event. This frontloading paid off, and on Friday things ran very smoothly with very little stress. The luncheon was a success, and all of the food came out delicious. I am very proud of the work

that Bruce, Jace and Katlyn did. They impressed me with their grit, cooperation skills and cooking abilities. I believe that they have truly found a passion for cooking, and I am excited to work with them on future cooking projects.





## TGIF from Jessica

The buzz and hum that we always have throughout the building the week before and of presentations/exhibitions was in full force this week. Within the 101 advisory alone we were gathering materials and putting together projects in the workshop, posters with crafts from the supply room, and files on the computers. We were working to prepare for our first exhibitions as 101s which is the Who am I exhibition. These exhibitions are the first taste of project based learning that the 101s have. We all enjoy this project as a way to get to know everyone in the advisory. They complete their first learning plans around the project and they begin to learn how to manage their time and pace their work out. As always, this is a fast paced project and represents half a trimester. The 101s have really invested in their work and they have enjoyed using these opportunities to learn new skills. I look forward to their exhibitions next week!

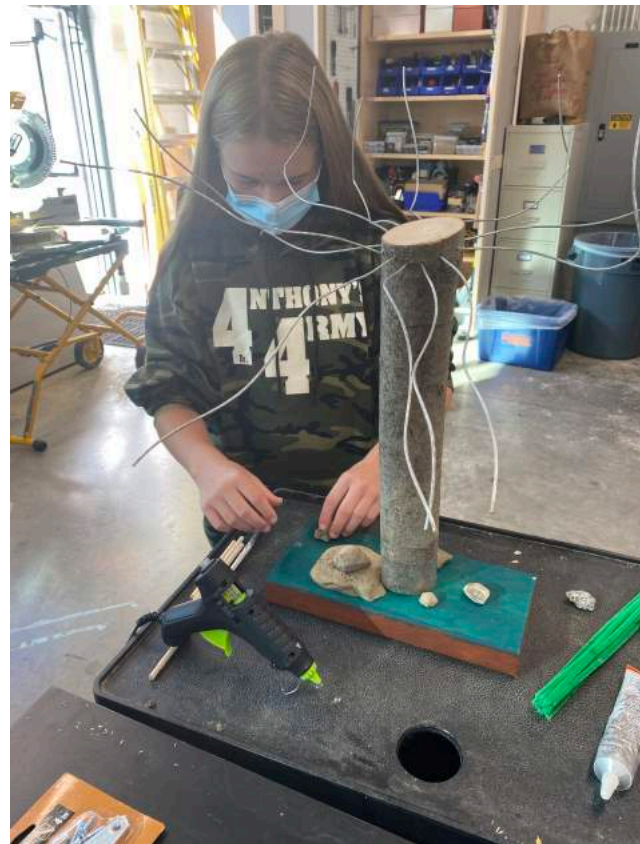
In the midst of preparing for exhibitions we were also working to prepare garlic for the apple festival.



Our crop of garlic had been drying out over the end of summer and during the last two weeks the 101s have cut and cleaned the garlic. We had a good yield of garlic, so the simple task of cleaning the garlic became more extensive with a small advisory. By this week, we called on other advisories to help

with the process. We had the garlic cleaned, but with the help of some 201s and 301s we were able to sort the garlic for cooking, selling, and planting. The cooking garlic needed to be peeled and minced for infusing garlic into extra virgin olive oil. The garlic for selling needed to be weighed and packaged. Thanks to the help of the 201s and 301s, we were all able to maintain a flowing production on Tuesday. There is still more work to be done to be ready for the Apple Festival this weekend, but I am confident we can get it all done. Even with exhibitions, we always find a way. I am looking forward to being back at the Apple

Festival this year!



## TGIF from Greg

The seniors had a busy week. Internships started in Big Picture this week for many of our students. Austin started working on food preparations in the Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria. Secorrah began working with Carol DiSalvo again in photography, as well as learning how to work in our in-house coffee shop, On The Dot. Griffin returned to On The Dot, as well, taking his internship farther with his S.T.P. by wanting to expand the business and assist them with making it more sustainable and earth friendly. Kyler returned to Ambition Upstate, learning about small businesses and entrepreneurship. We also have Secorrah, Gabe, Morgan, Cai, and Adam taking OCC classes throughout the week in addition to their regular workshops. The 401s spent most of their time preparing and finalizing their proposals for their Senior Thesis Projects. Each student showcased their own year-long project idea in a presentation to a panel of community members, receiving feedback and ideas to better their events or projects. Hayden is planning on creating 2 box lacrosse goals from scratch by welding and planning, and then donating them to the Onondaga Nation Box Arena. Aiden will be working with Orchard Valley Golf Course to create a bench, ballwash, and golf club stand. Austin will be working with Walt to create a business plan for Ronnie's Diner, as well as marketing and adding to the menu. Cai is showing their organizational skills and empathy by working to educate staff and students on LGBTQAI issues and spreading educational materials. Carson explained how he plans to create a bakery business to go along with the coffee shop, and how he would like to build a stand to sell his baked goods. Claire showed a well organized and well presented slideshow about how she plans to create a robotics program for both Grimshaw and the Onondaga Nation School. Kyler is planning to handle the marketing and branding for the sugar shack that High School and Big Picture is going to have up and running this year. He will be looking to

create apparel and the labels we use for the syrup. He will also be painting the inside of the shack, bringing his Native culture into our school. Morgan is holding a fundraiser for the organization, Mended Little Hearts. She will be working closely with the group to hold a walk and community day in our local park. Secorrah is doing an updated documentary on the Lafayette Lacrosse team. She will be interviewing players, coaches, and members of the Onondaga community while working with Carol to learn more about photography and video editing and highlighting their heritage. Gabe will be learning to carve wood to produce a mural of Sky Woman for the high school lobby. He is interested in representing his culture in the school and working on bringing the two communities together. Adam will be starting a day of play at both the Onondaga Nation School and Grimshaw, initiating activities and wellbeing for the elementary students. He has been studying psychology at OCC last year and this year and is interested in mental health in childcare.

We need to send out a VERY special thanks to Walt Knowey, who catered our lunch for our class and panel members, as well as three students, Jace, Bruce, and Kat that worked tirelessly with Walt cooking and learning how to serve a meal to a large group. We are also very grateful to David Stablein for organizing the panel members, setting up the sound, and working with STEP to purchase the provisions for the breakfast and lunch. It was great to have him with his experience and background knowledge. We still have a few students to present that were unable to Friday, but all in all, our students did great and we are extremely proud of them all. We are looking forward to seeing their projects come to life and watching them grow in their final year of Big Picture.







## TGIF from David

Getting deep into the learning plans is a lot of fun. Monday's advisory was centered on making clear expectations for learning plan projects. Cody has a solid project that we needed to attach some standards to and make sure he understood what was expected of him. The standards help us and students put into language what they are learning. Dayton also connected reading and writing standards to his project. Putting language to students' learning also really helps us build better narratives at the end of the trimester.

Thursday we had Dana Zanders join us from the WISE Women's Business Center and as acting principal officer of Phill Financial, INC. Phill Financial is a firm Dana started in 2012. Dana came to talk about developing a business plan and to help individual students with their entrepreneurial adventures. This visit was coordinated by STEP. We have a number of students looking to start a new business or expand on the small business we have brewing in our school.

Friday was our Senior Thesis Project proposals. We were able to return to

the auditorium this year. This allowed us to add a bit of a personal touch to each student's presentation with music and lighting. I worked the board and provided some interstitial music during breaks. All of our other Big Picture students were able to watch the 401s present and this is important for our school community. Having students support one another and to see us celebrating student learning is at the core of Big Picture.

