

October 16, 2011

Advisor, Lenny Oppedisano, and several students from Lafayette Big Picture, at the Apple Festival selling their 'Scholarship Garlic' that the students and staff have grown to raise funds! Want to know more or want to purchase some garlic? Email Lenny: lppedisano@lafcs.cnyrc.org



Half way through October already!?!

October is flying by - so much happening around the network. Exhibitions have started, students are out in the community doing real work in the real world, and the Big Picture Network is in full swing.

Check out all the great news this week - our students and staff are doing amazing work!

In the news this week:

- The press continues to roll in on our award winning BPL students from the Met Providence. ABC6's feature story and interview with John and Anthony. <http://www.abc6.com/story/15661717/providence-students-ring-wall-street-bell#>
- Nashville Big Picture High School senior Brayton D., will soon add national presenter to his resume. The 12th grader has spent the past two years interning with Dr. Joseph, Hamilton, Landon C. Garland Distinguished Professor of Physics at Vanderbilt University. Now, thanks to his hard work and commitment, Brayton will travel with the professor to Roanoke, Virg., to present at the Southeastern Section of the American Physical Society. Brayton's research has also become part of his Senior Capstone project, a requirement at Big Picture. You can read part of his research here: <http://www.mnps.org/Page76595.aspx?Panel=Reading&EntryID=622601>

Keep sending pictures and news and we will share with the network!

Have a great week!

Mark your calendar!

Principal Retreat in
Sunny San Diego California!
February 8-10, 2012
More details will be coming soon - but
hold the date!



Tulsa MET High School Student, JD, working on the new student designed mural for the building shared by the Tulsa MET Middle School & High School

Co-Corner: D to the E

From Doc

Well, I had my arthroscopic surgery for a torn meniscus Wednesday. I'm feeling good and resting. I did 22 phone calls from my couch yesterday- so, business as usual.



I'll be back Monday for a meeting in Connecticut. A little physical therapy and I will be able to dunk a basketball.

"No Busy Work"

A friend who teaches in NY asked his students to design their own school. They all said "no busy work". The students know they need real work- how come their teachers don't know that?

Had some visitors from Springfield, Ma come on Wednesday. It was a guy from Hasbro and some people from a big family foundation. It is so rewarding- wherever Nancy and Traay put them- they were very impressed. I feel so comfortable just letting them go- thanks, Liberty.

Congrats again to our 3 winners Troy, Jonathan and Anthony. We are planning a big event on May 10th to make our center known to the business world of RI. It's a sexy, hot word these days- entrepreneur- so it may bring funders to the table. It would be great if every year some student from The Met were in the top 3 winners. This would establish us nationally as "the school" that teaches entrepreneurship the best. We are also working on a Roger Williams certificate program, where our students can get college credit for the work they have been doing, as well as opening it up to adults in the evening.

Our legal cases begin, as a school is refusing to pay for their kid's transportation to The Met- off to a legal hearing today. Everyone who is in the classroom or even principals should be thankful if you don't have to do the stupid stuff that needs to be done. It is clear why nothing ever gets done in our world-but someone's got to do it. We have a good team at The Met- I hope other schools have people to fight and protect them.

I went to my cabin last weekend and had a chance to read all the things I hadn't read in the last month. I committed to not bringing home any old Ed Weeklys or magazines. It worked.

I found a connection to man who moved into my little town of Winchester. He started the virtual high school in Concord, Ma, best man at his wedding was Senator Kerry and he gave 1000 acres of his land to the state in Colorado. Sounded connected to me- tracked him on google- emailed him at 6am on Saturday and by 10am

I was having tea in his living room. I love when things just connect. We'll see what happens.

Can you do a \$5,000 a year college? That's what people are trying to do. I'm so scared everyone is looking for efficiencies not education.

Peace,

Dennis

From Elliot

I'm in the down under part of down under, visiting our schools in Tasmania. It's the weirdest thing to go to a place so far away and be part of PMU's, advisory, and LTI work and get the same response from students as you walk through a door that you would get at the Met in Providence albeit with a different accent. It maybe that no two schools are alike as Ted and the Eight -Year Study authors argued years ago, but we've done something where the schools are alike and different in the right kinds of ways that communities are wanting to adopt a BPL school structure. This is yet another part of our innovation.



Because I've been away for so long and because the technology has changed so much over the last year, I've become pretty proficient in making meetings, doing conferences, and running workshops over SKYPE where the time zone changes are measured in days and hours. The good thing is that it really works. I've put up documents and videos and led and facilitated from afar whole school meetings. Almost 20 years ago, Dennis and I started a program called Here, Thayer, and Everywhere. The idea was there but the technology was so cumbersome. Now it is here and it makes a big difference. We were onto something 20 years ago when we won a Ford Award for doing that work. Our work now is so easy. Where the setup alone took days to coordinate, it now takes seconds and what cost a small fortune back then is now basically free. What a world.

When I was in Sydney with Viv, I met with two of her funding sources. One is Origin Energy, an energy company that works on sustainable energy resources. They are international and are interested in our work, especially around creativity. We meet with them again next week at the Australian Big Picture Conference.

This week, I reviewed some research Charlie sent me around non-cognitive dimensions and 21 Century Skills. Also, Kari and Carlos went to an EdLead 21 conference in Dallas where superintendents attended a conference on what they thought was about 21

QR Spotlight

Halloween Candy Statistics

It's that time of year when candy in many forms begins appearing everywhere from grocery stores to office desks. So...we are wondering - which one is the favorite? And does it vary by region or age? If you have students/staff who are interested in taking on this mini-QR quest - survey your students and staff asking them to tell us which candy is their favorite. Send the results to Kari (kthierer@bigpicturelearning.org) and the results will be published in the Network News next Monday. Deadline to send results is Friday, October 21st. Take on this mini-QR quest and send us your results!

CTC Focus in October

How are you prepping students and helping them with their post high school plan?

FRESHMAN ADVISORIES

Freshman Advisories

Freshman should be focusing on their interest exploration. What are they passionate about? What do they like to do? Why? This is the perfect time to help students understand the purpose of post planning and introduce them to college language and terminology.

SOPHOMORE ADVISORIES

As students prepare for Gateway, Advisors should remember to incorporate some of the post high school planning practices into their curriculum. Students should continue to explore their post high school interest by visiting colleges and universities, learning about financial aid and the scholarship search process, as well as prepping to take the PLAN/PSAT exam.

JUNIOR ADVISORIES

- Students will research the colleges, universities, and programs (i.e. trade) that match their goals and objectives.
- Begin to generate draft of college entrance essay
- Students should take the PSAT/PLAN
- Have thorough knowledge of college terms/terminology and specific objectives of collegiate support programs, offices, etc.
- Host college information nights for students and parents (along with non-college options and opportunities for students)
- Continue participating in college visits/fairs

SENIOR ADVISORIES

- Finalizing essays (if not already complete)
- Working to obtain letters of recommendations from mentors, employers, etc. (at least 3)
- Narrowing down the college list (schools s/he will be applying to)
- Begin completing college applications
- Take (or re-take) the SAT/ACT exam in October (take the TOEFL exam if applicable)
- Visit colleges of interest including support program offices
- Begin (if not already done so) the scholarship search process
- Non college-bound students should explore Gap Year programs, employment opportunities,

Create the culture: What are you doing as a school to create a college-going culture? Share your ideas!