



Big Picture

June Newsletter



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Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

Ben Becker: Ben has been with Big Picture for three years and his growth has been immense. He is a wildly gifted graphic artist who took a turn at tiny houses before building his design portfolio with internships at Amalgamated Cultureworks, Skillet Creative and then Select Design. His legacy will live on at SB in the gym floor he designed and the children's book he illustrated. We wish Ben the best at Flagler College in the fall.

Matt Bodykevich: Matt joined Big Picture for an Exceptional Senior Year. Adored by David Bolger's first and second graders, Matt took inspiration from them and wrote a children's book about the importance of a growth mindset. We loved having him and are excited to hear what the future has in store for him.

Emily Greenstein: Emily's growth over the three years she has been in Big Picture has been amazing to watch. She found her voice, her calling, and her courage and shared it all with the world through projects that focused on important topics like healthy sexual relationships and ending stigma around mental health. She found her passion in farming at New Village Farm. We wish her the best at Hampshire College next year.

Peter Lumholdt: Another Exceptional Senior Year participant, Peter took Big Picture by storm! He unleashed his creativity, found his true self and liked what he found. He wrote a novel in a month, created a world complete with its own language, lorded over Dungeons and Dragons and read us Vonnegut and poetry. We can't wait to see what Peter does at Champlain College in the coming years.

Makayla Millette: Makayla has demonstrated the hands down best work ethic Big Picture has ever seen! From creating her own video about anxiety and depression to hosting the Bess O'Brien documentary *All of Me*, Makayla pushed through her own fears and educated others along the way. She continued the conversations at her internship with Young Writer's Project. We are so proud of her and wish her well at Johnson College next year.

Thomas Urbanak: Our third Exceptional Senior Year student quietly added great humor and kindness to Big Picture. Thomas spent his year exploring a myriad of interests including the virtues of unstructured play, training as a first responder/firefighter, rock climbing, and preparing for a year of working on organic farms-- that is if he doesn't become a ferry boat captain-- all while working two jobs to keep his car on the road.

...and Congratulations to our Early College Students! Shawn Allard, Colton Hulce and Liz Nasab have chosen to pursue a year of Early College next year.

Spotlight on Service Learning Term

Vulnerable Pollinators

You've probably heard on the news that pollinator populations are in trouble. Big Picture explored this issue and its various solutions by partnering with two farms: Wild Roots Farm and The Farm Between. There, students learned about pollinator habitats, the life cycle of bees, and the relationships between farming, food and pollinators. They also helped plant pollinator-friendly trees and created an art installation that uses bee boxes to educate visitors about honey bees.



Precious Plastics

Though more and more people are recycling in the United States, we still produce a huge amount of plastic waste. Big Picture chose to create a direct solution to this problem: a machine that will recycle plastic such as bottle caps into reusable material that can be molded into new products. Senior Peter Lumholdt helped lead the group through the process of building the machine with their community partner, The Generator.



Veterans Affairs
Veterans who return from service face many challenges, from mental health issues to drug addiction to difficulty finding work. Big Picture chose to recognize and raise awareness about the many veterans living in Vermont by adding a digital component to the Dorset Park Veterans' Memorial. With leadership from senior Shawn Allard, the group interviewed veterans and their families to create a digital archive that can be accessed from the memorial.



From all of us at Big Picture, have a great summer!

-Kevin, Jim, Christine, Ellen, and Halina

