GRADUATES: LY/YTD
- DREAMS: 5/3
- DSSM: 7/1
- KAISER PARK: NA/0
- MURROW: 39/13
- SCHERMERHORN: 53/13

ATTENDANCE:
- DREAMS: 46%
- DSSM: 57%
- KAISER PARK:
- MURROW: 84%
- SCHERMERHORN ST: 54%

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

BK NORTH EXAMINER

“MAKING MOVES”

WAY TO GO DREAMS
MAKING MOVES@ DREAMS:

On November 3rd 2017, the students, teachers, and staff of DREAMS Youthbuild had the pleasure of participating in the Youthbuild NYC Collaborative Award Ceremony on the steps of City Hall. DREAMS Youthbuild was joined by youthbuilds from Harlem, Long Island, and The Bronx to appreciate and celebrate the support of our respected city council members. Youthbuild Harlem presented to City Council Speaker Melissa Mark - Viverito, DREAMS presented to city councilman Dr. Mathieu Eugene, and The Bronx to council member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. The DREAMS students all appreciated the ability to network with the other youthbuilds in the city.

This was a great experience for all.
COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ACTION:
P2G BROOKLYN NORTH PRIDE:
“GREAT JOB ATASHA”

Last week, Ms Atasha Fletcher and representatives of the staff of Dr. Susan Smith McKinney Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (DSSM) participated in a City Hall Borough Initiative Resource Fair which was organized by the mayor’s office and held at Brooklyn College. The city agencies disseminated information to other community associates, and Mayor Bill De Blasio was there to address the concerns of the community. Even though Atasha was unable meet the mayor, under the guidance of Mrs. Angela Cooper, Volunteer Director of DSSM, she interacted with the representatives of several agencies and obtained invaluable information from them. According to Atasha, “It was a great opportunity and a lifetime experience.” Great job Atasha!

During this activity students use pennies to determine the traits for a smiley face, then use Microsoft Word or crayons to create the smiley face. After students have completed the faces, I displayed them in the classroom and had students use their knowledge of genetics to answer questions about smiley faces, traits, and probability. We had so much fun creating those “babies”!!!!!
Biographies Come Alive at P2G Schermerhorn

What do Mao Zedong, Stevie Wonder, Elizabeth Taylor, George Washington, and Muhammad Ali have in common? Not much, except that they are all famous and the subjects of multimedia biographical studies by Mr. Murphy’s intermediate ENL class. Sena, Sophiana, Jinglin, Angie and Antione each selected a famous person to study, mind-mapped eight areas of their lives, researched on the net, sketched the subjects, selected key quotes, write a fact sheet, wrote a four paragraph essay from a model, colored an illustration, and organized all on art paper for a stellar mini-poster. "Mao Zedong lead modern China and educated Chinese," noted Angie. "Stevie Wonder is blind but still made great music," wrote Antione. “George Washington was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,” quoted Sophiana. “Elizabeth Taylor won Academy Awards for her movies,” noted Jinglin. “Muhammed Ali was a champion boxer who won many fights,” wrote Sena. This project’s purpose was to aid student in organizing, preparing, and presenting an informational essay for the TASC exam. The pupils performed outstandingly and their posters can be viewed in room 310 at P2G Schermerhorn St.

Mr. Murphy
In math we were working on graphing and solving linear equations using my favorite activity- SCAVENGER HUNT!

Scavenger hunts have numerous benefits for students:

1. **Build Problem-Solving Skills**
   
   including increased memory of previously taught concepts. Scavenger hunts allow kids to practice problem-solving in a tangible way. It helps to reinforce and act-out methods they have been taught by parents or teachers in a physical way, leading to increased retention of the lessons.

2. **Exercise both body and mind**
   
   As discussed above, scavenger hunts help exercise the mind by reinforcing problem-solving skills. However, they can also be good exercise for the body. You can incorporate clues that get kids moving and running from place to place. Get those legs moving!

3. **Teach Teamwork**
   
   Participating in a group scavenger hunt at school helps teach students the value of teamwork, in addition to promoting social interaction. Students have to work together to solve clues and get to the final destination. Learning to work in a team is an essential skill, so why not teach it in a fun way?

This week we were working on “Graphing using X and Y Intercepts” scavenger hunt. I printed 16 question cards, laminated them and put them up on walls around my
classroom. Next, students were arranged into small groups or pairs and sent to a random starting card. They read the question, worked out the solution and searched around the room for the card showing their answer. They solved a new question and repeated until they ended up back at their starting card.

Once again, we had so much fun in math class!!

MRS. M.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CORNER:

Although this week was one of my busiest, it was also one of my favorites. First, I completed ½ of my peer shadowing; I shadowed Milan Owens, the social worker at Bushwick Campus LYFE center. Although I was familiar with the LYFE center it skipped my mind that the LYFE center is where the beautiful babies are held. So, when I walked into the daycare and had to put on booties a wave of nostalgia swept over me and brought up memories of when I used to work at daycares as an assistant. All of the babies and staff were all so welcoming towards me and I met the chunkiest and cutest baby boy. I had a great time speaking with Milan exchanging ideas, thoughts, resources and tools we can use to have more successful sessions with our students. Towards the end of shadowing I was invited to join the center for their Animal Day where a young man brought in a turtle, frog, lizard, toad, chicken, roach, bunny, chinchilla and a few more friends for the babies to pet and become familiar with. It was fun seeing the clueless babies engage (grab, caress, pull, or try to eat) with the animals that most of the teachers were scared of. What started off as a hectic morning trying to get to Bushwick ended as a relaxing and enriching day. The second event that made my week took place at Murrow! Wednesday morning a student walked into Ms. L room and I asked him, “are you ready to register for college?” His response was “no, not yet” and I left it at that. That morning I showed Murrow students the video “Eric Thomas 10 Rules for Success” as my workshop and although I got mixed reviews the same student I spoke with earlier and another student found me after class and wanted to register for college. That made my week! I also attended a very informational professional development but these two events where my biggest highlights.

Ms. Beaubrun
Jibreal Abdulkhabir, Personal Essay

November, 2017

The pain first started when she said “I can’t be yours anymore.” My chest felt as if it was going to implode on itself. At that moment I realized the pain of heartbreak.

The woman I loved had just cut all ties with me, for she had loved another. Admittedly, perhaps I was too dependent on her, but how could I not? She was my Sun, my Moon, my everything.

We grew up together. She was my best friend for years. Somewhere along the line we fell in love. She was everywhere, I found her comfort in every aspect of my life, I saw her smile in the darkest of times, she was so beautiful and caring. My home felt like a prison, but I could always look forward to hearing her voice or seeing her smile to brighten my day. But that day was a different day, the day I’d experience the worst pain I’d ever know.

When she ended things, I experienced a great depression. I wouldn’t eat and in doing so I lost a small amount of weight. A regular at hospitals I became, prone to panic attacks and the feeling of blades in my chest. This would be the hardest moment in my life to overcome, but I overcame it. I learned not to rely on anyone more than myself. I taught myself to be independent. I became the Sun and Moon of my own world.

When I gained this new strength I realized I had the world at my fingertips. I thought to myself that if I could overcome this, I can overcome anything. I decided to just not be hurt anymore. I decided to just push on and take life one moment at a time. Little did I know that she would come back. It was a dream come true, I got the woman I loved back, as well as a new strength. This new strength drew positivity and my love back to me. I accept the hand I was dealt in this game called life. Only time will tell what my next play is and I’ll be ready.
WHO WILL BEGIN THE BUMP ON THE HUMP?

A Weekly Morale Boost for Teachers

Sending out bumps—emails with compliments shared among staff—is a simple way to spread positivity and increase teacher efficacy.

By Mary Davenport

I cannot count the number of times I’ve heard a colleague advise a student to do what makes them happy. Yet I wonder often how many teachers are happy in their jobs. In a 2012 survey, job satisfaction was at a 25-year low, teacher turnover is alarmingly high and costly, and morale is constantly under assault by social and political commentary. But who needs statistics? Just look around during a staff meeting to see the weight educators carry.

In an effort to counter these patterns, stakeholders need to build systems of support for each other. It’s even better when those support systems are grassroots efforts instead of mandated. One way I’ve done this for the past several years is through what I call the Hump Day Bump, a compilation of staff-to-staff notes of gratitude and compliments (bumps) emailed to staff each Wednesday.

I started the Hump Day Bump as a way to spread much-needed positivity in my first urban school. Poverty, violence, and limited resources overwhelmed the students. A sense of defeat pervaded the staff, compounded by low scores, exacting evaluations, divisive cliques, and grueling hours. Internal and external pressures exacerbated tensions between administration and staff. The Bump email gave us all a chance to read good news in our inboxes, observe good things in each other, and share those things in a nonthreatening medium.

However, the Bump is not just a tool to counter pervasive negativity in our field—it’s also a way to build capacity. First and foremost, a viable adult culture based on mutual respect is critical to a school’s success. It’s nearly impossible for an educator running on empty to give the absolute best to students, and a healthy adult culture helps keep our tanks full.

Additionally, hearing affirmation for what part of our pedagogy and professionalism is effective boosts teacher efficacy, another critical component of both the happiness of teachers and the achievement of students.

Most importantly, to capitalize on the aforementioned benefits, our field is in desperate need of teachers who are in it for the long run. A revolving door of teachers benefits no one—neither
students nor schools. Teachers who feel valued for their contributions are more likely to stick around. I know I am.

**Implementing the Hump Day Bump**

Planning your inaugural Hump Day Bump is straightforward. (Feel free to pick a different name, of course—I have a colleague who calls this Bump-Ups.) In your email system, set up two folders: Fishing and Hump Day Bumps. Pick a small group of colleagues in different departments or grades with whom you already collaborate frequently. Send them an email that describes how and why you plan to implement the Hump Day Bump. Ask them for bumps, notes with compliments and/or expressions of gratitude for their peers. I call this the “fishing” email.

Here are some recent bumps I’ve seen:

- “I am in awe of all the untapped resources in the Library, and truly happy that you are there to help. You are now my Yoda!”
- “...for putting together a wonderful Trick or Treat Street!”
- “Thanks for being willing to cover my class so I could collaborate with another teacher.”
- “I might take up choir lessons just to try and be as cool as you. From conversations about TOK and panels, to living in this crazy city, it is so easy to be around you!”

As your colleagues respond, keep all those emails in your Fishing folder.

When you have some time (it usually takes 10–30 minutes, depending on the number of bumps), copy and paste all the fishing responses into the body of an email. Make each bump a separate bullet point, and format them so names stand out (using bold, for example). Delete the emails as you copy and paste (to keep yourself organized).

Now the fun part: Send your inaugural Hump Day Bump to the full staff. To avoid unnecessary reply-alls or distracting applause for the sender, it’s best to use BCC for this. Give an overview of what the email is, why it matters, and how you’ll approach it each week.

Once you’ve done this for the first time, set a routine. I usually send fishing emails on Friday for the following week’s Bump. If I don’t get enough responses, I’ll send a reminder on Monday or Tuesday.

Either Tuesday night or Wednesday morning, I synthesize bumps into an email, which I send out on Wednesdays. I typically end that email with a call for shout-outs for the following week, as well as some kind of funny image, meme, or video. Keep the Hump Day Bump emails in your designated folder.
Make it work for you! Here are some modifications and precautions: You can include students as recipients or authors of bumps, or do this activity in your classroom. You can also use a verbal version to start collaborative meetings.

Elicit specific bumps for certain educational holidays—e.g., Secretary Appreciation Day.

Keep track of who is not receiving bumps, and reach out directly to their colleagues for something to add in the next edition. If there’s a downside to the Bump, it’s that it has the potential to highlight those staff typically highlighted and ignore those typically ignored. Tracking involvement can help mitigate this. Or send emails to department and grade level heads so they can make sure no one is overlooked.

Eleven years and four schools later, the Hump Day Bump is still going strong. In fact, not only have I carried it to all my schools, but so have several of my colleagues. The Bump is spreading, and I hope now it can provide some positivity in your schools.

EVENTS:

› 11/13 Cycle #2 Begins
› 11/14 ORT
› 11/15 TASC exam
› 11/15 Brooklyn North Meeting at Schermerhorn St.
› 11/17 Selfie Scavenger Hunt at the AMNH
› 11/21 Game night “FREE FOOD”
› 11/23 & 11/24 Thanksgiving vacation
› 11/30 College and Career Fair
› 12/15 Social Studies Fair at St. Francis