GRADUATES:
LY/YTD
- DREAMS: 5/16
- DSSM: 7/6
- KAISER PARK: NA/1
- MURROW: 27/39
- SCHERMERHORN: 53/55

ATTENDANCE:
- DREAMS: 48%
- DSSM: 59%
- KAISER PARK: 60%
- MURROW: 86%
- SCHERMERHORN ST: 47%

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

BK NORTH EXAMINER

“THIS IS WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT”
Exploring at the Court Street Barnes & Noble

“Oh, an author is not a God-- he or she did not drop from heaven.” stated Ms. Leigh, Community Business Development Manager from Barnes and Noble, as she spoke to Ms. Baker’s ENL class as a prelude to our trip to the bookstore. She continued, “The reader has the right to judge an author’s work and has POWER. You can stop reading a book if the words are not inviting.” These were motivating words prompting students to think about the scope of their reading experience.

Ms. Leigh spoke openly, from her heart, about her love of reading. She emphasized the difference between a bookstore, a place that sells books that are new and trendy, and a library, a place to find accurate information that can change or save your life. Students listened intensively.

At Barnes & Noble we were given a tour and an explanation of the how the books are organized and marketed to entice a reader. We enjoyed searching through the stacks, soaking up the ambience, and taking the book home to read. Two students won a raffle for a beverage or sweet treat at the café.

In this day and age when people are g-e-t-t-i-n-g better prices by buying books online, it is a novelty to visit a bookstore- it’s a book museum. We’ll be back there soon.

Teachers,  Ms. Baker and Mr. Daniels
PROM EXTRAVAGANZA:

Yesterday I had the wonderful experience of taking two of my favorite students to their Prom. It was the type of experience where I received the gift of giving. You see Sierra Barnes, the young lady could not go to Prom without a ride there and back. Her mother was adamant about her traveling to and from the event. Here is where I stepped in to help. I proposed to her mother that I would pick up and return Sierra promptly without any incidents. Since I am a Teacher and a Dean, it sealed the deal. The heartfelt joy I witnessed from Sierra’s family and Mother as she watched her daughter experience another step towards womanhood, with her handsome date “Jerrod Bethea” was more than I had expected. The feeling of satisfaction from these young adults and their families is the reward of both teaching and mentoring.

SINCERELY,

BENNIE DANIELS
EXPLORING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY:

On Wednesday, Kaiser Park students visited the New York Aquarium, enjoying a day of learning and togetherness. We took in the sights and sounds of the world-famous Coney Island Boardwalk on our 30 minute walk. Students Sapphira Bowers and Aniya Brewer shared stories about growing up in Coney and the fun times of their youth. Ms. Llanos, her phone at the ready, regaled us with the history of the Parachute ride, the Wonder Wheel and the Cyclone.

At the aquarium, we first watched the sea lion show in the aquatheater. We were surprised to hear that only 1 of every 5 plastic water bottles is recycled! Millions of tons of bottles and other plastics find their way into the world’s oceans every year. Playing penguins, the recovering coral reef tank, and a dozen or so salt and fresh water tanks completed out tour of the aquarium. On the way out, we stopped by the 4-D theater to take in a 10 minute film that had us flying through time and space with Scratte from Ice Age. We shared the theater with about 30 screaming middle schoolers - HILARIOUS!!

Later this month, a huge seascape facility will open, nearly doubling the size of the experience. The new building will feature the aquarium’s growing population of sharks. Ms. Llanos and Mr. Bray look forward to making this an annual event!
6 PD Reads You Shouldn’t Miss

We asked about the professional development books you’d recommend to your teacher friends. Here are the six that stood out.

By Stephen Merrill
July 11, 2017

In May we used our Facebook and Instagram feeds to ask, “What books would you recommend to your teacher friends this summer?” We expected to round up five to 10 professional development texts pretty quickly, but we weren’t entirely surprised when, with the end of the school year clearly in sight, you suggested a reprieve: “Read for pleasure” won the day, garnering far more mentions and likes than any of the PD books nominated.

Right. We get it.

So we held this list of PD books until the early days of summer had passed—we hope by now you’ve had a moment to take a deep breath, catch some sun, and put the past academic year safely in the rearview mirror. Here are the six PD texts that made our final list, drawn from hundreds of recommendations by educators.

1) Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking
Extroversion is overvalued in American culture and overrepresented in positions of power, according to this best-selling 2012 book by Susan Cain. It’s a cultural bias that marginalizes a large segment of the population—one-third to one-half of Americans are introverts—and ignores the powerful traits associated with introversion, such as concentration, listening, caution, and independence.

For Edutopia reader and educator Penni Davis, the book confirms that teachers “often have classroom expectations that benefit extroverts more than introverts,” and makes you “rethink how you put your classroom together.” Some of Cain’s own thoughts on K–12 education, particularly the emphasis on class participation in grading, can be found in her 2013 article “Help Shy Kids—Don’t Punish Them.”
2) The Innovator’s Mindset: Empower Learning, Unleash Talent, and Lead a Culture of Creativity
George Couros’s 2015 jeremiad against cultures of compliance within the school system emphasizes empowerment instead, stressing the importance of questioning, creativity, and wonder for students, teachers, and administrators alike. Couros is influential—he has 173,000 followers on Twitter—and his book is a big ask: It summons educators to confront traditional models and perspectives and adopt a mindset that fully embraces transformational change and innovation.

3) Mathematical Mindsets: Unleashing Students’ Potential Through Creative Math, Inspiring Messages, and Innovative Teaching
Jo Boaler’s 2015 book traces the research behind math anxiety, the crippling response to high-stakes testing and rote mathematical drills that, according to Boaler, follows students from elementary school through adulthood and results in a lifelong fear of the subject. With a forward by Carol Dweck, who popularized the idea of growth mindset, Boaler’s text pairs research insights with practical strategies for building confident, resilient math learners who can help ensure that the U.S. remains competitive in growing fields like computer science, artificial intelligence, and green energy.

Edutopia readers keep Boaler’s innovative work top of mind. “My copy is right beside me,” said Jen Bowlby Mikolic, speaking of Mathematical Mindsets, while teacher Tina Mahler vouched for Boaler’s videos instead: “Have you watched her online class videos through Stanford? I start the year with them in math! Good stuff!”

4) Teach Like a Pirate: Increase Student Engagement, Boost Your Creativity, and Transform Your Life as an Educator
Five years after it was published, Dave Burgess’s Teach Like a Pirate still figures prominently on lists of must-read PD books for educators. Derived from Burgess’s spirited seminars of the same name, the book urges educators to embrace their passion and actively demonstrate their creativity as a way to drive student engagement.

The book’s focus on teacher autonomy and creative license is a stiff rebuke to the troubling overemphasis on standardized testing and rote memorization in schools, a perspective that may frustrate some readers—while inspiring many others.

5) Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary “Executive Skills” Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential
A practical approach to helping children between the ages of 4 and 13 who struggle
with executive functions, the fundamental skills that govern things like impulse control, focus, and organization. Authored by Peg Dawson and Richard Guare—psychologists at the Center for Learning and Attention Disorders in Portsmouth, New Hampshire—this 2009 book provides rubrics to determine a child’s areas of strength and weakness, and offers strategies, worksheets, and activities to boost self-control. Dawson and Guare also address older kids: *Smart but Scattered Teens* came out in 2012.

6) **Making Thinking Visible: How to Promote Engagement, Understanding, and Independence for All Learners**

A well-organized, research-based guide for teachers who hope to move beyond test scores to meaningful lessons that support higher-level thinking. Published in 2011, this book by Ron Ritchhart, Mark Church, and Karin Morrison provides dozens of practices and learning routines for K–12 classes that are designed to deepen comprehension.

The book’s structure is of particular value: The thinking routines are broken down into easily digestible categories like purpose, execution, classroom examples, and assessment.
UP AND COMING EVENTS

› 6/20 Graduation
› 6/20 Tasc exam
› 6/26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL