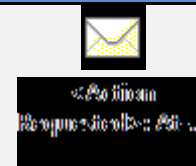
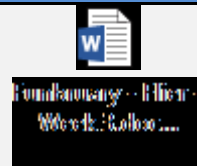


**From:** Keith Brooks  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 22, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** BrnMS\_Teachers  
**Cc:** Amy D'Angelo; Josh Lauren;  
**Subject:** Week 24: The Screech



Week 24: Week of February 23, 2015

### Attachments



### Quote of the Week

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.” – Malcolm X  
(Submitted By: Camad Hembree, Behavior Specialist)

**2014-2015 Goal**

**2014-2015 Priorities**

**Under Construction – KPI Coming Soon...**

Priority	Aligning Our Time : This Week's Focus
<b>Strong Achievement Results (Character &amp; Academics)</b>	Character Team Meeting New PM Clubs Begin
<b>Strong Scholar/Family Investment</b>	Multicultural Celebration @ CC Surprise Brownie/Donut giveaway @ lunch Administer Scholar Surveys (Window #3) Pastries w/ Principal #2 (Math Focus) Funbruary! College/School SWAG Day SD Event (Away)
<b>Strong Adult Culture (PD, Investment, Coaching)</b>	TIR Cohort Meeting Amy here to support our team Coaches Meeting Aubrey here to support our team (ELA) Haddy here to support our team (Math) Brooks Out @ NY MS Cohort Mtg Nate Out @ SSM Cohort Mtg
<b>Built To Last: Scaling Our School Effectively and w/ Excellence</b>	Cabinet Team Meeting ELA/Math Weekly Call Recruitment Check-in Demo Lesson: Wallace Weaver (History) Demo Lesson: Jadine Joseph (Math) Will and Steph Sun's Hireversary

**(UPDATED 2/1) School-Wide Essentials Focus Of The Month: February= Joyful Rigor (aka "Mojo")**

9. POSITIVE CLASSROOM CLIMATE					
	5: Exemplary	4: Strong	3: Solid	2: Emergent	1: Ineffective
Joyful Rigor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All descriptors for Level 4 are met and</li> <li>Scholars indicate, through their questions, comments, body language, and "jump-to- it" response to work, that they are authentically excited to take on the rigor.</li> <li>All scholars receive the message that although the work is challenging, they are capable of achieving it if they are prepared to work hard.</li> <li>Reinforcement system recognizes effort in proportion to scholars' individual accomplishments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The teacher communicates the importance of content and the conviction that with hard work all scholars can master material.</li> <li>Teacher leverages highly engaging instructional strategies that effectively push the lesson forward.</li> <li>Scholars indicate, through their questions, comments, body language, and "jump-to- it" response to work, a desire to understand content.</li> <li>In discussion or partner practice, scholars assist their classmates in understanding the content.</li> <li>Scholars take initiative in improving the quality of their work.</li> <li>Reinforcement system recognizes significant academic effort (e.g., studying hard and making incremental gains) and mastery of a well- defined, <b>absolute</b> bar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The teacher communicates the importance of content and the conviction that with hard work all scholars can master material.</li> <li>Teacher conveys an expectation of high levels of scholar effort.</li> <li>Teacher leverages somewhat engaging instructional strategies in an effort to push the lesson forward.</li> <li>Scholars expend good effort to complete work of high quality.</li> <li>Reinforcement system recognizes <b>basic</b> academic effort (e.g., class participation, homework completion) and mastery of a well-defined, <b>absolute</b> bar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher attempts to create an environment of joy that does not simultaneously enforce rigor. For example, the teacher leverages chants or cheers that are high interest, but do not push the lesson forward.</li> <li>&lt;or&gt;</li> <li>The teacher leverages high rigor without introducing joy.</li> <li>&lt;or&gt;</li> <li>The teacher's energy for the work is neutral.</li> <li>&lt;or&gt;</li> <li>High expectations are conveyed only for some scholars.</li> <li>Scholars exhibit a limited commitment to complete the work on their own; many scholars are looking for an "easy path" or to just get the work done.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is not a focus on joy or rigor in this classroom. For example, the teacher's primary concern is around completion.</li> <li>Scholars do not exhibit a commitment to complete the work on their own.</li> </ul>

## Thought Of The Week:

### Giving

Submitted By: Cameron McLinden (Dean of Students)

Gina and I debated at the baggage claim. We decided that Friday was in actuality the worst day of my life.

I thought I would come away from a week touring ancient ruins in Athens with some education-inspired thought of the week, but instead, I woke up Friday – an hour and a half before I had to leave to the airport – with the worst food poisoning I'd ever had. Everything you could imagine plus some. And there I was, barely boarding a 2.5 hour flight to Zurich, where I had to switch to a 9.5 hour flight into Newark. In the tiny coach seats, my knees were at my chin and my head in a waste bag. It was then that an attendant went out of her way to let me sit where the flight attendants sit. She gave me cold cloths for my temperature, hot tea, carbonated soda, and water and checked in on me every couple of minutes. Before long every flight attendant had been asked to give their two cents as to how to help me feel better and two hours later I could breathe and had at least enough energy to make it onto my connecting flight.

I was too delirious to remember her name, and thanked her as much as I could, but she got nothing in return for her above-and-beyond love and help. I thought about tipping her, but found it condescending at best. She was a giver and sustained by the idea that when people desperately need help, help that she can give, then she gives it.

In *Give and Take* by Adam Grant (who is now working on a series with Sheryl Sandberg for the NYTimes on women in the workplace), Grant shows that “takers” are often seen as more successful than “givers”, but in truth the hyper-successful are almost always givers. Among other things, you primarily have to keep in touch with the benefits you reap for others from the seeds that you so painstakingly sow.

We return tomorrow as a staff full of givers who get very little in return. Because of people like you all, I went from a car as my childhood world to the ancient ruins of Athens for leisure. Our kids will get that, too. And, they will deserve it even more. And, finally, they will get it, at least in part, to your selfless giving, day-in and day-out.

Thanks, givers, from our kids.

## What's Happening This Week

Monday 2/23	Tuesday 2/24	Wednesday 2/25	Thursday 2/26	Friday 2/27	Weekend 2/28-29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funbruary: Favorite Hat Day!</b></li> <li>• School Pride Mondays (Wear your school Polo and black bottoms)</li> <li>• Amy here to support our team.</li> <li>• McCune on Paternity Leave (2/9-2/27)</li> <li>• Administer Scholar Surveys (Window #3)</li> <li>• Tariq Late Arrival (11:45am)</li> <li>• Science Rolled Off For Grading</li> <li>• Coaches Meeting</li> <li>• New PM Clubs Begin</li> <li>• CT Deans &amp; Teachers here to visit</li> <li>• Erin working remotely this week until Baby Crespi arrives</li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;Action Items Due Today&gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math Intervention Plans Due by 7:45am</li> <li>• No survey this week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funbruary: Favorite Shoe Day!</b></li> <li>• Apollo MS Visit to observe PM Clubs</li> <li>• History Team Rolled Off For Grading</li> <li>• Aubrey here to support our team (ELA)</li> <li>• Demo Lesson: Wallace Weaver (History)</li> <li>• Demo Lesson: Jadine Joseph (Math)</li> <li>• Haddy here to support our team (Math)</li> <li>• Cabinet Team Meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;Action Items Due Today &gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week 25 LPs due to your coach by 8pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funbruary: HR Choice Day!</b></li> <li>• Pastries w/ Principal #2 (Math Focus)</li> <li>• Character Team Meeting</li> <li>• Tariq Out (Personal)</li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;Action Items Due Today &gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher Gradebooks up-to-date in IC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funbruary: School Spirit Day!</b></li> <li>• Brooks Out @ NY MS Cohort Mtg</li> <li>• Skaggs Late Arrival (7am-11:00am)</li> <li>• SD Event Away</li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;Action Items Due Today &gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Week 25 LP Feedback due to teachers by 8pm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funbruary: Culture Day!</b></li> <li>• College/School SWAG Day</li> <li>• Will and Steph Sun's Hireversary</li> <li>• Nate Out @ SSM Cohort Mtg</li> <li>• Friday E Schedule: <b>No Specials &amp; Math</b></li> <li>• Community Circle Focus = <b>Multicultural Celebration @ CC</b></li> </ul> <p><b>&lt;Action Items Due Today &gt;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out to families of scholars failing your class.</li> <li>• ELA teachers upload data to Illuminate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy Weekend!</li> </ul>

## Visual Anchor Of The Week

**I am a dad first and a principal second! This week's visual anchor arrives in your inbox courtesy of my visit to Success Academy over the Break with Katherine and Kristen.** We saw a lot of good stuff during or visit: an inspiring parent meeting, classrooms oozing with joy, rigorous math instruction in kindergarten that felt like it could of easily been a third grade classroom, differentiated first grade instruction, careful analyzing and breaking down the prompt in second grade and critical thinking in fourth grade; however, the best thing that I saw all day was Mikayla and Maliya getting a great education. On behalf of all charter school parents – thank you for all that you do for our scholars! #classroomswithmojo



Got Mojo?

## Announcements

**Priority Highlight – Strong Scholar & Parent Investment: School Health Survey Data (aka Family Survey)**

Our school was founded on the belief that strong relationships with families matter a lot! We aren't effective unless we have strong achievement results AND a strong adult culture AND strong relationships with families/scholars. Below are the results from our Family Mock Survey results taken in December compared to where we ended the school year last year. The official survey for this year will be administered during the month of March – this is the survey used towards our AF Report Card score.

**Headlines:**

- 83% of families took the mock survey (compared to 67% last year) <shout out to Daisy>
- Even with 90ish more families, we are on track to meet our goals again this year (last year we were the only Middle School to receive full points on the AF Report Card for School Health )
- We ranked in the top two on most questions across our the MS cohort in our region on the mock survey
- 92% of families give our school an “A” or “B”
- 61% of our families give our school an “A”

**What's Next?**

- Keep your communication with families strong by ensuring that your posi to concern interactions is high
- When you identify a family/scholar who needs some love, show them some ☺
- When you identify a family who might be at-risk of withdrawing, bring it to the attention of your coach by completing the “At-Risk” interaction email template (see attached template)
- Families will take the official survey over the next few weeks
- I've identified families that have a low grade and low scholar investment and will work with Cabinet to intervene with these families

	2014-2015 Mock School Health Results	2013-2014 Final & Official School Health Results
I would recommend the school to parents of other students in the city	88%	92%
Overall, how would you grade the school	92%	95%
The school is a safe place for children	92%	96%
The school holds students to very high behavioral standards	98%	98%
I am satisfied by how well the school communicates with me throughout the year about the progress of my child and events happening at the school	86%	89%

I feel welcome when I visit the school	93%	95%
I can tell that the teachers and staff at the school love my child	81%	84%
I am pleased with the principal of the school. The principal does a great job	90%	92%
The school has very high academic standards and a rigorous curriculum	99%	98%
<b>Overall Average</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>93%</b>

**Parent Grades For Our School By Grade Level Team:** Of the parents who took the survey, the table below shows how they graded our school.

	Total	A	B	C	D	F		Total	A	B	C	D	F
5th	72	42	21	7	2	0	5th	72	58%	29%	10%	3%	0%
6th	78	41	30	6	1	0	6th	78	53%	38%	8%	1%	0%
7th	71	52	18	1	0	0	7th	71	73%	25%	1%	0%	0%
	221							221					

**Data Day #3 Schedule**

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> is Data Day #3. The schedule for the day is below.

Time	Full Team Schedule	Science/Math Schedule
8:00-8:50	Opening w/ KB	
8:55-9:55	Content Team Time • ELA: KR • History: KW	Work Time/Data Achievement Meetings
10:00-10:30	Co-Teacher Time w/ KW	
10:30-10:45	Break	
10:45-11:45	ASA w/ AL	
11:45-12:15	Lunch (Provided by Ops)	
12:15-1:15	Work Time/Data Achievement Meetings	Math PM Clubs (math teachers only)
1:15-2:15	Work Time/Data Achievement Meetings	Math Review Reteach (math teachers only)
2:15-4:15	Work Time/Data Achievement Meetings	
4:15-4:30	Closing w/ KB	

**Katherine ELA Visit**

**Me Time w/ Principal ( March 16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>)**

Twice per year I meet with all staff to see how each of you are doing – be on the lookout for your personal invite from Daisy.

**Multi-Cultural Celebration @ Community Circle**

Our second annual multi-cultural celebration will be this Friday. Please let Sam know if you'd like to participate by showcasing your culture at Community Circle.

**This Week's Cabinet Agenda Topics**

- Family Mock Survey Results
- Referral Room Coverage Workshop
- Post and Transition Support
- 15-16 Staffing Plan

- 15-16 Readiness

**On The Horizon Topics:**

(If you would like to submit an agenda item for the Cabinet Team to consider, please send an email to Keith with the subject line "Cabinet Meeting Agenda Item Request".)

## Announcement Dashboard

This Month's Friday PD Location = <b>Patriot League</b> (We will rotate HRs each month)	Hiring 2015-2016	Upcoming Friday Roll-Off Schedule	Scholar/Family Investment Events
<p><b>Focus: Personal Priority Friday</b></p> <p><b>1:30-2:10 - GL Team Time</b> (Presenters = Natalie, Jess and Keith) <u>Attendance</u> = All Grade Team Members</p> <p><b>2:15-2:30 – Opening Routine</b> (Presenter = Keith) <u>Attendance</u> = All Staff</p> <p><b>2:30-3:15– IPP/LASW</b> (Presenter = Katherine, Kristen and Emily) <u>Attendance</u> = All Content Teachers</p> <p><b>3:15-4:00 – RTI Tier 2</b> (Presenter = Keith, Will and Cameron) <u>Attendance</u> = All Staff</p> <p><b>4:00-4:30 – Closing</b> (Presenters = Camad [On Deck = Allison→Sean→Ryan→Alex→Andy] <u>Attendance</u> = All Staff</p> <p>a. Inspiration (3-5 min) b. Circle of Trust (15 min) c. Eagle Award (1 min) d. No Socks Award (1 min) e. "We Believe" (1 min)</p> <p><b>Upcoming Friday PD Scope and Sequence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LASW: Response to Data</li> <li>PM Clubs PD</li> <li>State Test PD</li> <li>Org Health Review</li> </ul>	<p>Seats Needed = TBD Seats Filled = 4 Offers Out = 0 Upcoming Demo Lessons/ Finalist Interviews = 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Class of 2015-2016</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Gila Belsky (Math)</li> <li>✓ Nisha Acharya (Learning Specialist)</li> <li>✓ Darryl Gladstone (TIR)</li> <li>✓ Briana Valentine (TIR)</li> </ul> <p><u>Offers Out</u></p> <p><u>Upcoming Demo Lessons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wallace Weaver (History)</li> <li>✓ Jadine Joseph (Math)</li> </ul>	<p><b>3/6 – Friday A:</b> No Lit &amp; Writing</p> <p><b>3/13 – Friday B:</b> No Math &amp; Science</p> <p><b>3/20 – Friday C:</b> No History &amp; No Specials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2/26-</b> SD Event (Away)</li> <li><b>2/27-</b> Multi-Cultural Celebration @ CC</li> <li><b>3/4-5-</b> School Store Opens</li> <li><b>3/6-</b> Academic Awards @ CC</li> <li><b>3/12-</b> Lunch Surprise #2</li> <li><b>3/13-</b> Pi Day @ CC</li> <li><b>3/20-</b> AR Awards @ CC</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center; background-color: #F2F2F2; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"><b>On The Horizon Events</b></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3/2-</b> Data Day #3</li> <li><b>3/2-</b> Handyman Josh Nelson here to support (OPS)</li> <li><b>3/3-</b> Emily, Kristen, Katherine Out Academic Dean Cohort Meeting</li> <li><b>3/3-</b> Bulletin Board Competition</li> <li><b>3/4-</b> Albany Rally</li> <li><b>3/5-</b> Brooks Out @ Principal Cohort Mtg</li> <li><b>3/5-</b> KIPP NYC Science Team Visits</li> <li><b>3/6-</b> Falsgraf &amp; Witt Out @ Curriculum Fellow Mtg</li> <li><b>3/6-</b> Beginning of Trimester #3</li> <li><b>3/6-</b> District 23 Superintendent Visits</li> <li><b>3/6-</b> Jess &amp; Nat Out Curriculum Fellow Roll-Off</li> <li><b>3/8-</b> Daylight Savings Time (Spring Forward!)</li> <li><b>3/8-</b> Cam's Birthday</li> <li><b>3/9-</b> Keith Out NY MS Cohort Meeting</li> <li><b>3/9-</b> ELA Practice Test Simulation #1</li> <li><b>3/10-</b> Chris H. here</li> <li><b>3/10-11</b> Roger Out @ PIR Cohort PD</li> <li><b>3/11</b> Ryan's Birthday</li> <li><b>3/11</b> Christine's Hire-a-versary</li> <li><b>3/12-</b> Field Lesson #2</li> <li><b>3/12-</b> Witt Out @ PD</li> <li><b>3/12-</b> Michelle's Hireversary</li> <li><b>3/13-</b> Pi Day</li> <li><b>3/13-</b> Ximena's Birthday</li> <li><b>3/16-</b> Day of Practice #4</li> <li><b>3/16-</b> Kristen, Will, Cam @ Cohort Mtg</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3/16-20-</b> Me Time w/ Principal</li><li>• <b>3/17-</b> TIR Cohort Meeting</li><li>• <b>3/18-</b> Sean's Birthday</li><li>• <b>3/19-</b> Report Card Afternoon (1/2 Day for Scholars)</li></ul>
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