

For our children, summer is a time to expand their minds and explore new opportunities. Our district team had the joy and benefit of seeing so many of our students doing these things through their participation in the District 26 Summer Enrichment Program at MS 74 and Summer in the City programs at PS 46 and MS 158. For the adults in our community, summer is a time for rest, relaxation, and reflection. Our work during the year is meaningful, and we are only at our best when we allow ourselves the opportunity to unplug, if only for a short while. We hope that you have made the most of your time and that you are as ready as we are to jump back into the powerful and important work we have ahead of us.

New Faces in both New and Familiar Places

All through last school year we have been briefing you on the progress of PS 376 as it progressed from an idea on paper, to the selection of a project director, through the process of building out its staff and student registers, and now finally to the opening of its beautiful (and very modern) building on 48th Avenue! With the opening of its doors this September, it is with great pride that we announce the transition of Clara Kang from Project Director to Interim Acting Principal of PS 376!

Additionally, join us in welcoming Nicole Colón (I.A., PS 133) and Ayanna Greenidge (I.A., PS/IS 266) as new leaders of communities in District 26!

By the Numbers: A Deeper Look at District Data

“Excellence is not a destination; it is a continuous journey that never ends.”
-Brian Tracy

Brian Tracy’s words in the above quote are worthy of contemplation at the start of every year in our District. The work we all do to ensure the students in our charge receive the highest quality educational experience in the city



Inspired by our visit to the Bayside Historical Society, D26 is "Roaring into 2017-18!"



6:07 PM - 5 Sep 2017

8 Likes



D26 Leaders discovered the rich history of Bayside in the early 20th Century through the lens of the @NYCSchools Passport SS Curriculum.



5:51 PM - 5 Sep 2017

2 Retweets 5 Likes



is ongoing. A critical first step on this annual journey is taking time in the summer to conduct a deeper review of the outcomes of the previous year, so that our work in the upcoming year can be focused on ensuring that all students have access to the very best of ourselves.

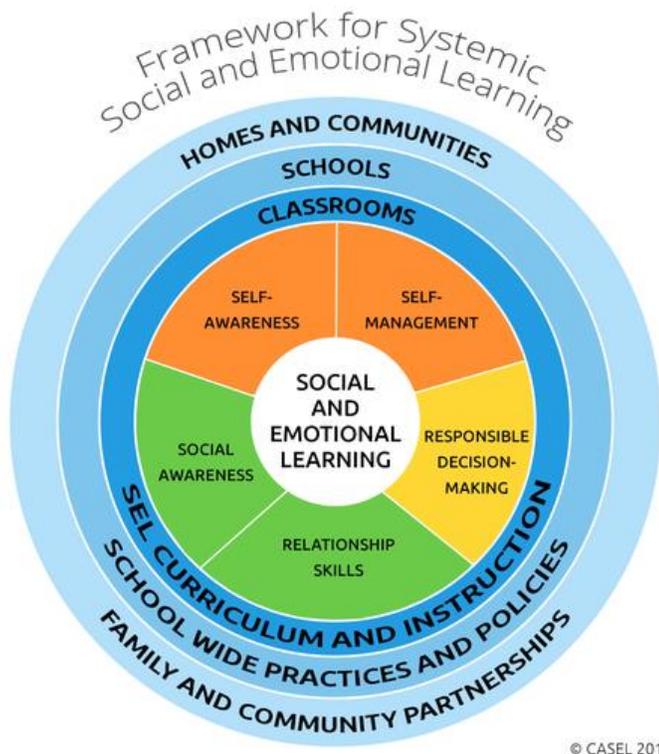
Twelve of our schools in District 26 were identified as Reward Schools by New York State for the 2017-2018 school year, which represented the highest percentage of any K-8 district in our City! As a district, we continue to have the highest percentage of students in the city who are proficient in Math and the second-highest percentage of students who are proficient in ELA. When combining average scores for our students in ELA and Math, 100% of our schools are in the top quartile of schools in the city. Check out the [City](#) and [State](#) data pages for a more detailed look.

What anchors you in your work?

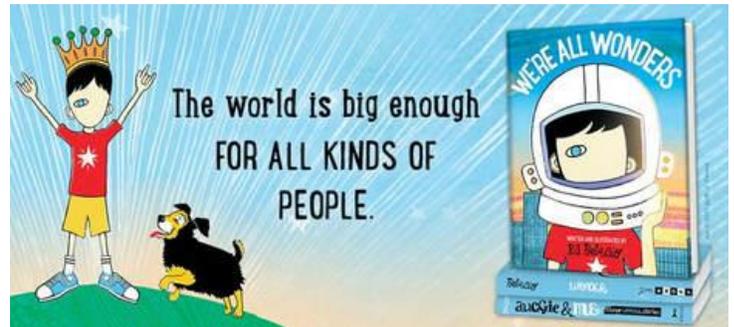
It is in the quieter months of the year that we can truly connect with what we value. This summer we were fortunate to continue our partnership with Star Factor Coaching—the professional learning arm of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. Our two July sessions enabled principals to begin to think about the role that Emotional Intelligence plays in their creation of supportive environments within their schools. We do a disservice to our communities if we do not position ourselves at the forefront of thinking about leadership in schools. Our ongoing partnerships with [Learner Centered Initiatives](#) and the NYCDOE Central Office continue to provide us with new ways of thinking about the work that goes on in our schools. At the district level, we have channeled this work into two working-questions that we are excited about being the drivers of our work:

Enraged	Furious	Frustrated	Shocked	M	Surprised	Upbeat	Motivated	Ecstatic
Livid	Frightened	Nervous	Restless	O	Hyper	Cheerful	Inspired	Elated
Fuming	Apprehensive	Worried	Annoyed	O	Energized	Lively	Optimistic	Thrilled
Repulsed	Troubled	Uneasy	Peeved	D	Pleasant	Joyful	Proud	Blissful
M	O	O	D	M	E	T	E	R
Disgusted	Disappointed	Glum	Ashamed	E	Blessed	At Ease	Content	Fulfilled
Mortified	Alienated	Mopey	Apathetic	T	Humble	Secure	Chill	Grateful
Embarrassed	Excluded	Timid	Drained	E	Calm	Satisfied	Relaxed	Carefree
Alone	Down	Bored	Tired	R	Relieved	Restful	Tranquil	Serene

1. How do we model (and provide models of) self-awareness, reflective practice, transparency, and ethical behavior for all stakeholders so that our district represents the very best of how we want our students to treat themselves and others?
2. What illustrates our commitment to upholding democracy, equity, diversity and social justice as pillars of the district, school, and educational experience for all students across District 26?

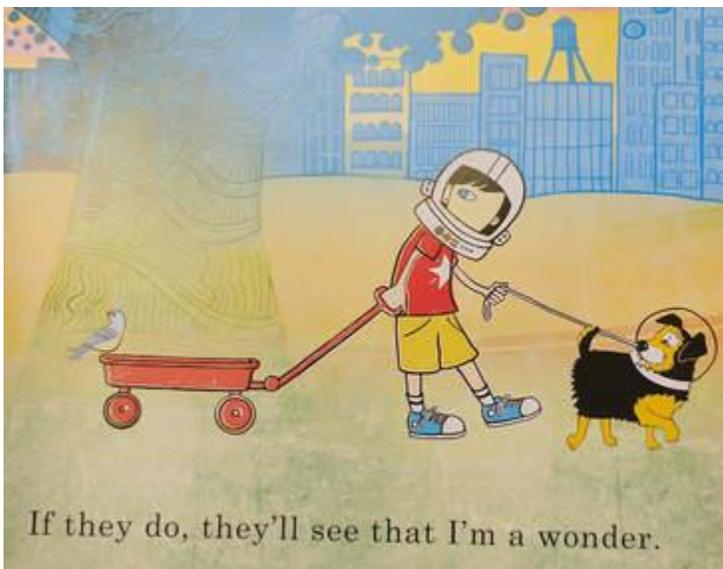


Indeed, these are rich questions, and without the right mindset it might be overwhelming to seek out these truths. Fortunately, we have a champion for our mindset: his name is Auggie.



Auggie is the main character of R.J. Palacio’s world of *Wonder*. While all of the books in the series have powerful messages about openness, empathy, perspective, and listening, the line of Auggie’s that is driving our thinking comes from the story, *We’re All Wonders*:

I know I can’t change the way I look. But maybe, just maybe, people can change the way they see.



We are all wonders.

As we start the year, we are hopeful that you will meet with your core team—whether that’s your family, your School Leadership Team, your department team, or community-based support group—and take some time to think deeply about how you are going to be more like Auggie in our collective endeavor to make District 26 a more **WONDER**ful place.

Every year brings new faces, new places, new opportunities, and new challenges. As we navigate this year together, know that we are here for you in service of the students of this district. One of our offices key partnerships in this work is the Community District Education Council. CDEC 26 meetings are open to the public, and they get at the heart of the big issues we confront as a district. We are hoping you are able to join us on Tuesday, October 17th at MS 67 as Chancellor Carmen Fariña joins our CDEC meeting for a town hall.

We enter this year with boundless ambition, and we can't wait to get out into the community to support all of you as we touch the hearts and minds of all students in our district. The next big event in this endeavor is our Bi-Annual Fall Parent Conference on Saturday, October 21st at MS 74. It is our pleasure to continue our work with Star Factor Research at this event so that parents can experience the magic that is unpacking Emotional Intelligence. We hope to see you there. In the interim, here's to another year of excellence in education in District 26!

Sincerely,

Danielle Giunta, Superintendent, and the District 26 Team