



College for Certain Newsletter | January 2016

Dear Friends,

I hope your 2016 is off to a great start. It seems like yesterday I started at Aspire, but January 25th marked my 100th day. It's been a thrilling four months visiting all 38 of our schools, each Regional Office and spending time with our Home Office staff. I've had wonderful conversations with various teammates and I've consistently been inspired by the passion and commitment to Aspire. So many of our staff members have been with us for 10+ years! That dedication to our scholars is a testament to the tremendous organization Aspire has become and will continue to be in the future.

This month we share a story about a recent visit from Bryan Stowe at Aspire Benjamin Holt College Preparatory Academy. Bryan was assaulted outside an LA Dodgers game five years ago and now spends time talking with youth about the negative effects of bullying. We were honored to have him with us and speak to our scholars. We also highlight a story about one of our Blended Learning Teaching Assistants at Aspire Monarch Academy - he is a "wizard" of technology. Lastly, we celebrate Aspire Memphis being named one of the top workplaces for 2015. Congratulations to our Memphis team!

I look forward to continuing to share what is happening in and around Aspire and as always, I'm very thankful for your continued support.

Happy 2016!

Carolyn Hack
Chief Executive Officer

**Bryan Stow Visits Aspire Benjamin
Holt College Preparatory Academy**

On Friday, January 15th, all of our Ben Holt students got the opportunity to hear Bay Area hero Bryan Stow speak at two assemblies at the school. As part of his speaking tour and our comprehensive program promoting physical and emotional safety for students, Stow spoke to over 700 Aspire students about the negative effects of bullying behaviors in school and adulthood. Bryan also taught our students how to live kinder lives and help empower a change in attitude for kids with bullying tendencies.



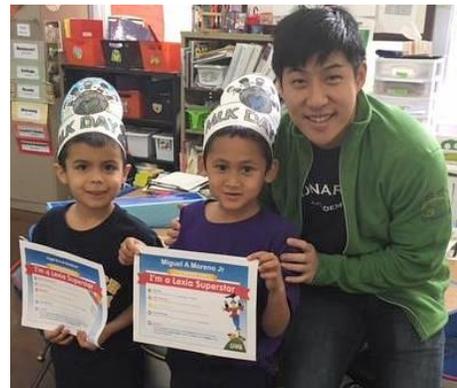
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Meet the Wizards Of Blended Learning

from EdSurge

by Brian Greenberg, Caitrin Wright and Rob Schwartz

Who is Matty and why might he be the missing link for blended learning success?



Walking into a second grade classroom at Aspire Monarch Academy in Oakland, CA, two months into the school year, you would not expect a new administrator to have deep connections with kids. As Matty enters the classroom, though, the kids light up with excitement, eager to show him what they are working on.

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Memphis Workplace Award

The entire Aspire community was honored and thrilled to be a recipient of one of the [Commercial Appeal's Top Workplaces 2015 awards](#)! Hundreds of workplaces were surveyed and we stood out for our communication. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make Aspire so successful and tight-knit. It is because of your hard work that we continue to succeed and give our kids College for Certain year after year!



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