

It was a Grand Day for Learning, and the Teachers of Edison were there!

Saturday, October 15, Columbia University hosted its 75th Saturday Reunion. The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project garnered the energy of over thirty presenters and the enthusiasm of hundreds of participants into one powerful day of “insight, inspiration, and companionship needed to turn ‘points of light’ into beacons”.



Lucy Calkins

Lucy Calkins [*Units of Study*] opened the day in the beauty and peace of Riverside Church. She reminded the teachers that the richness and range of the day were a gift from the presenters, who simply gave of their experience and insight.

James Howe was the morning keynote speaker, author of more than seventy novels for young readers, including *Bunnicula*, *Pinky and Rex*, and *Sebastian Barth*. Mr. Howe reminded his listeners of the words of Saul Bellow, “Yes, yes! That’s true! I’ve known it all along, but now my heart rises up because I recognize it . . . I just never had the words myself.”



James Howe

Other excellent presenters included:

Smokey Daniels:

Literature Circles: Voice and Choice in Book Clubs and Reading Groups and Minilessons for Literature Circles

Carl Anderson:

Assessing Writers
A Writer’s Notebook

Kathy Collins:

Reading for Real
Growing Readers

Four hour-long sessions were held across the campus, along with book signing and sales. Three closing presentations to choose from sprang from the topics:

- Using the Nonfiction Read-Aloud to Build Comprehension and Vocabulary . . .
- Teaching from Our Hopes—Not Our Fears . . .
- When We Teach the Social Strategies Needed for powerful Small Group Conversations, We Make Sustained, Deep Critical Learning Possible.

The Edison teachers in attendance are grateful for the generous support of the District in encouraging the day—Dr. Rose Traficante and Mr. Bill Muzio in particular made the day a priority for the District. Mrs. Diane Wilton of MLK has brought our District to appreciation for this nearby opportunity, and each fall and spring session



Edison Teachers at Columbia University

has seen additional teachers signing up. This autumn, participants included teachers from Martin Luther King, Menlo Park, James Madison Intermediate and Primary, Lincoln, Hoover Middle School, Lindeneau, and Ben Franklin.