Crystal Ball Edition: Prognosticating, & Educated Guessing

There are days that are truncated, by parent conferences, for example. These might not provide sufficient time to accomplish a real learning goal, but not in the case of the KozWiz Summit. In this case it’s IDEAL! A now-legendary 8th grade SS tag-team, Sandy Kozden, & Rob Wisner, fashioned an opportunity for students to use their prior knowledge to predict the future, a.k.a. their future. This exercise used our wonderful library space very effectively, as it housed double-classes very nicely, permitting collaboration across the teams. Our 8th grade SS teachers called upon their students to summon their prior knowledge, acquired in their respective classes, in four key areas of life today, (see yellow chart.) Nothing sharpens the mind like a lack of time, & these seasoned teaching professionals took full advantage of this nook of time, preparing for this constraint by having materials ready to work with, as well as using the library’s whiteboard, & collaborative set-up. This exercise was a real-world experience as in “real life” we often have near-impossible deadlines thrust upon us. The other real component was a peer review to share the ideas presented. Using economysized post-its, the predictions were posted in the corridor outside our library for students in all the SS classes to peruse at the conclusion of each period, but they were left up for ALL of our NMS students to see & digest... they are there still... As is the future!

“Deadlines refine the mind... The closer the deadline, the more likely you’ll start thinking waay outside the box”

~~~Adam Savage
Another joy is providing "enrichment," especially to our ENL population. Pictured here: Mrs. DePalma’s newest crop of 6th grade ENL students. They are individually charming, & collectively smart as whips! The picture below is at the conclusion of a lesson on an innovative scientist, William "Snowflake" Bentley ~ a man who devoted his life to discerning the science of snow. After reviewing his accomplishments, & snow crystal formation, we tried to imitate nature, by cutting out paper snowflakes. (Using tech in background ~ to spur our creativity.)

When fashioning autodidacts ~ thinkers who seek to educate themselves independently ~ there is NO better place to do that than in our Library, (or any library for that matter.) My poster boy, (literally,) was the character created by Peter Weir in his groundbreaking book, The Martian.

His character had no option, but to educate himself, just to survive the harshest possible conditions, (found on Mars,) until he could be rescued. While our MS experience does not rival those exigencies* our collection is so very diverse, that almost any interest can be pursued.

Back to the future . . . Had the privilege of presenting to our District’s Technology Committee just before the Winter Break. Essentially, our Tech Committee is putting together a five-year plan to roll out new technologies, & I was able to share some of my thoughts on what our library should be like. Unlike some folks, I am a super-strong proponent of books in print, (though digital may be folded in,) as anecdotally, our students still prefer print, plus, [btw] print book sales have recently surged past digital downloads.

Looked about for images that spoke to my notions—like this futuristic bookstore, replete with individual kiosks, forged to create digital products, & listen to likes of podcasts, or to view videos, etc.

Ideally, I would like a special feature; a Communications Center & I plan to visit installations at other school libraries to enhance my comprehension.

The Library of the Future virtual vision board can be found in the Resources compartment on my NMS Library Page—see the Live link on our NMS Library Page [read more] if you are intrepid, type in this address: http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?present=true&i=1618247

*Exigencies—something that is necessary in a particular situation.