



116th Street School kicked off African-American History Month with a presentation and discussion with JoAnn Crozier Allen Boyce. Mrs. Boyce was one of the Clinton 12. On August 26, 1956, the Clinton 12 were the first African American Students to desegregate a high school in the South. Clinton High School also holds the honor of having the first African American student to graduate from a public high school in the South; His name was Bobby Cain. Mrs. Boyce chronicled the events of that school year for the students and encouraged the students to eradicate hatred and bigotry from their hearts, and to pursue their dreams. In preparation for Mrs. Boyce's visit to 116th Street, the students conducted research, viewed a documentary, and prepared questions for the discussion portion of the event. Mrs. Boyce left the students with the following message: "Learn to love reading it teaches you everything about the things and people in this world. Don't be afraid of new and different things, fear drives hatred and don't be afraid to be who you are. You are uniquely wonderful, you are kind, smart, capable, and you give me hope."