

## News Release

### Dobbs Ferry Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Host 7th Annual Poetry Café

*Over 100 students and 400 guests to participate in Poetry-fest*

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. June 19, 2014--** Dobbs Ferry Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in a night of poetry dressed as waiters, waitresses, hosts, hostesses, servers, greeters, and “bartenders” while reading their original works in front of an audience of family and friends. Billed as the “Poetry Café,” guests can enjoy an evening of lattes, finger foods and great prose. The seventh annual event will take place this Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. in “The Commons”. The Poetry Café is sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry PTSA.

“Last year more than 90 students participated in the poetry celebration and we had over 300 guests,” said Rachael Lief, 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher. “Every year the poetry café grows larger and larger and this year is no exception with more than 400 people expected to be in attendance.” Students will be reading their original poetry as well as showcasing other types of performance art focusing around the spoken word. In addition to the annual poetry-fest Lief, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade special education teacher Bryan Korzen, added a technology component this year via Animoto video <http://animoto.com/about>

Each student made an Animoto video for one of their original poems and audience members will be able to view these videos from their seats using iPads provided by the school or on any mobile device. Guests can scan the QR Codes and watch the video while dining. Friends and family are encouraged to download the QR Reader app on their own mobile device ahead of time and bring headphones if they so desire. It will be a unique 21<sup>st</sup> Century poetry jam.

A former student of Ms. Lief’s, Cynthia Keteku from MS 181 in the Bronx, has been working with the Dobbs Ferry 7<sup>th</sup> graders during a week-long workshop within their ELA classes. She has been focusing on writing and presenting various styles of poetry. The students just finished up a special poetry unit which is part of the English Language Arts curriculum. According to Lief, every student was asked to create a piece of “art” using only their words and imagination. They were required to write multiple poems using an array of different styles and prompts. Every year she is astounded by the range and depth of the students’ poems.

**For more information, please contact:**

Public Information Officer, Liz Hausman 914-693-1500 x3013