

## News Release

# Dobbs Ferry Middle School Hosts Annual Career Days For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. March 24, 2015--** It's never too early to start talking to Middle School students about college and career readiness as Dobbs Ferry 7th and 8th graders can tell you. The DFMS 7th Grade Writing Career Day 2015 took place on March 11th and the 8th grade Career Day will be held this Wednesday, March 25th.

The goal of Writing Career Day, orchestrated by Middle School Counselor Rose Mittan, is to educate students about a variety of professions, while teaching them the value of good writing skills in these fields. The 115 7th graders attended five presentations given by Middle School parents. Presenters included: **Patricia Straub**, personal trainer and owner of Spincredible Indoor Cycling; **Bill Feingold**, Co-Founder and Managing Principal of Hillside Advisors, LLC; a **Special Agent** with the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration; **Jenny Rosenstrach**, Cookbook author and creator of Dinner: A Love Story and her husband **Andy Ward**, Editorial Director of Random House; and **Tom Andrews**, President of SY/Partners.

"Students learned about the speakers' career paths and educational backgrounds, job tasks and responsibilities. The real take-away is understanding that no matter what field they go into, they have to become good communicators and develop solid writing skills," said Ms. Mittan. "The culminating activity centers on the importance of building a resume."

The 8th Grade Career Day, coordinated by Middle School Counselor Sandra Hacker, kicks off with keynote speaker, marketing expert, Founder and CEO, BrandTwist and DFSD parent **Julie Cottineau** in an assembly for the 128 eighth grade students. The students are "matched" with 4 out of the 14 speakers and attend pre-selected sessions (1/2 hour each) according to their individual schedules. The students were surveyed ahead of time to find out what vocations they would be most interested in learning about.

"We were offering college and career-readiness activities even before it became mandated as part of the Common Core State Standards," said Ms. Hacker. "It's so important for students to be exposed early to different career opportunities as it helps them make informed decisions. At this age, the sky's the limit. It's all about finding your passion."

The 8th Grade Career Day presenters include:

- Jeffrey L. Young MD, MA - Sports Rehabilitation and Exercise Physiology, **Young Med Solutions, LLC**
- George Longworth- Commissioner **Westchester County Public Safety**
- Barbara Bayer-Mertens - Former High School English Teacher, **NYC Department of Education**
- Patricia Sheridan, JD - Associate Professor of Law, **Manhattan College, School of Business**

- Katherine Hough, MD, FAAP - Pediatrician, **Pediatrics on Hudson**
- Ted Werthman - Senior Portfolio Manager, **Barlow Partners, Inc.**
- Lisa Baglieri and Binny Tercek - Interior Design, **Binny & Lisa**
- Mary Jane Farnsworth - Photographer, **Mary Jane Photography**
- Ted Warner- UX/UI Developer (computer science/programming), **Bloomberg LP**
- Nick Pagerie - Executive Chef, **Larchmont Yacht Club**
- Donna Assumma - Vice President, **ABC National Television Sales**
- Myrosia Dragan - Structural Engineer, **WSP Engineering**
- Michelle Kelly Wurf - Owner/Director, **MK Dance**

The Middle School guidance department would like to thank all of the Career Day volunteers for making these events so special and educational for the Middle School students.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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