

### *New Club Encourages Kids to Write Out of the Box*

On Thursday, January 30th, 2014, at 7:30 am, thirty-five students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade gathered in room 312 under the supervision of Mrs. Florio and Mrs. Jeczko. Why? To form the first-ever *Creative Writing Club*! In this brand-new before school activity, where members meet Thursday mornings at 7:30, students from all grade levels will write creative works, such as short stories, songs, poems, plays, and more. You may be wondering why students would rise early to get to school, in order to do more writing. . . It turns out that there are a lot of serious writers at this school.

The club members have already started working on their first project, in which they will write individual children’s books about a stuffed animal (received at the first meeting). The story and the plush will be donated to Morristown Memorial Hospital, so a sick child in hopes of getting better will have his/her spirits lifted by the toy and corresponding original story written by a club member. Another project of the club is separating into small groups and developing scripts for original short plays that will be performed collectively at an assembly for elementary school students.

This reporter spoke with club co-advisor Mrs. Florio, who said, “This club was formed to give kids who really enjoy writing an opportunity to be creative, to have fun, and to see their work in action; to see their writing come alive as it’s put to really good use.” Co-advisor Mrs. Jeczko commented, “I would really like the kids to find the joy in writing when there isn’t an assignment attached and to be able to experiment with their writing without being worried about a grade.”

The first meeting kicked off with a creative writing game akin to a written version of the game “Telephone.” Mrs. Florio and Mrs. Jeczko gave all members a bouncy ball, saying, “Creative writing is a ball!”

And the club members couldn't agree more. Students are extremely enthusiastic about their new creative outlet. One member said, "I love writing, but I sometimes feel restricted with the school's curriculum of essays and analyses. With the creative writing club, my friends and I can write our way and have lots of fun, too." Three out of five other students said they couldn't wait for the second meeting.

All students are welcome to participate in this group of creative writers. If you are interested in becoming a member, talk to Mrs. Florio or Mrs. Jeczko. So what are you waiting for? Get off your bottom and get out of the box with the Creative Writing Club!

If you want to write for a bigger audience, you might consider joining the Teen Writing Club at <http://teenwrite.webs.com/>, an online publishing site for writers under the age of 18.

Byline–Florio