

Middle School Guidance



Loretta Clairborne

April 2014

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Loretta Clairborne is an American global speaker who competes in the Special Olympics. She has been honored with the Arthur Ashe ESPY Courage Award, completed 25 marathons, competed in the Special Olympic World Games where she has won various gold medals. In 2000, Disney filmed a movie based on her life entitled, *"The Loretta Clairborne Story."*

On April 23, 2014 Berlin Brothersvalley Middle School held an assembly after lunch. Students were assembled in the auditorium and introduced to the Disney generated movie, *The Loretta Clairborne Story*. Students and staff viewed the movie and then were surprised when they were introduced to Loretta Clairborne. When she walked into the auditorium, students cheered and gave her a standing ovation. Loretta's message to the student body was that of overcoming adversity. She spoke of many obstacles that stood in her way as she grew up. "At one time in my life, they told me that I was nothing," she said. She has traveled

around the world to many countries, won several gold medals in the Special Olympics, competed and completed the Boston Marathon as well as having met and dined with several United States Presidents, and is a spokeswoman for the Special Olympics. She is also scheduled to meet with President Obama this summer and is looking forward to speaking with the First Lady, Michelle Obama about her "Let's Move" program. Clairborne pointed out that Disney used creative liberties during the movie and used the phrase, "Stick and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Loretta responded, "That is the worst phrase that was ever made." She said that she was called many negative things. Not only do words hurt, but they stay with you, she said. "So young people, think about things before you say them," she said. "The worst weapon on your body is your mouth." At the end of her speech, Loretta opened the audience up for questions and answers.

Loretta Clairborne's message to the students and staff was well received and inspired many students to comment to their parents and teachers about the experience. I would encourage everyone to rent the movie and watch it. I would also recommend taking the opportunity to listen to Loretta Clairborne when she is speaking publicly. For more information about Loretta Clairborne, please visit her website at: www.lorettaclairborne.com

Quote of the month

"I didn't always have friends so I'm careful to take good care of them." -

Loretta Clairborne



Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into PowerSchool parent portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

Phone # 267-6931

E-mail - msmith@bbsd.com

Webpage - <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/faculty/marksmith>

Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

April 7, 2014 through April 9, 2014 - P.S.S.A. Writing Assessment (Grades 5 and 8).

April 23, 2014 - Loretta Clairborne assembly.

April 28, 2014 through

April 29, 2014 - P.S.S.A. Science Assessment (Grade 8).

May 1, 2014 - Middle of the fourth nine-week grading period.

May 12, 2014 through May 13, 2014 - Keystone Exam for Algebra 1 students (8th grade)

