

AUTHOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER BROOKE ELLISON TO INSPIRE 2005 KIDS IN ACTION YOUTH CONFERENCE

Companion Character Education Lesson Plans to Enhance Experience

Long Island's Brooke Ellison, an author, student, motivational speaker and subject of a motion picture, will inspire middle school students participating in the fifth annual Kids in Action Youth Conference, with the story of how a tragic accident has enabled her to understand life and its most important parts. The conference is set for Friday, Dec. 2, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., on the campus of Farmingdale State University. The conference experience will be augmented with sample lesson plans that will be provided in advance to participating schools.



BROOKE ELLISON

lyzed from the neck down and dependent on a ventilator to breathe. But, with her determination, and the help of her family, Brooke used her energy to pursue a positive future.

Brooke attended Harvard University, earning both an undergraduate and Master's degree and currently is working on her doctorate at Stony Brook University. Her struggle with paralysis was the sub-

ject of "The Brooke Ellison Story," a 2004 TV movie directed by Christopher Reeve, himself a quadriplegic, who starred in four "Superman" films from 1978-1987.

In May, representing the Reeve family, Brooke accepted an honorary doctor of humane letters degree, awarded posthumously to the late actor and director at the Stony Brook commencement. Her experiences have been with one goal in mind: helping to empower those who face adversity or discouragement of any kind.

Conference to Support Character Education in the Classroom

Character education and the enhancement of students' self esteem are areas where Kids in Action supports the efforts of schools across Long Island. To make this year's program a more meaningful and effective component of schools' character-education programs, Kids in Action has retained professional educators to develop companion lessons for participating schools – one or two to be used in advance of the conference and a follow-up lesson for use after the event. Teachers also may consider using them as an advisory or homeroom activity.

FOURTH KIDS IN ACTION YOUTH CONFERENCE BLASTS OFF WITH ASTRONAUT GUY GARDNER

More than 1,200 Long Island middle school students and their faculty advisors figuratively reached for the stars with former NASA astronaut Guy Gardner at the fourth annual Kids in Action Youth Conference, held in December 2004. The crowd at Farmingdale State University was enthralled as Gardner described the 'fun' of flying in space.

He narrated a video showing some of his and other astronauts' experiences in space and on the ground. Students were able to imagine themselves experiencing riding a rocket, being weightless and looking at the Earth from space.

Guy enjoyed the experience as well. He sent the following message to Kids in Action:

Thanks again for an exciting and motivational experience for both Linda [Mrs. Gardner] and me. We had a blast! The students seemed to really enjoy all of the activities, and I certainly enjoyed interacting with them during my presentation. Being with such fun and enthusiastic students was both a pleasure and an honor for me.

Linda and I also enjoyed our time at lunch with the volunteers and supporters of Action Long Island, along with a few of the students. It's always inspirational for me to see people come together and work for the

common good of all the people in a community. I hope that my presentations have in some way helped fuel such dedication. I also hope I have helped inspire both students and adults to not only dream dreams but to reach for those dreams by being excited about learning and living their lives with integrity.

Please pass on my thanks to all who worked so diligently to make the day a success. It was exciting, fun, meaningful and awesome!

~ Guy

The delegation from West Hollow Middle School was honored for their winning essay on why they'd like a private meeting with an astronaut. They were presented with a \$250 check for their student government, and had a session with Guy Gardner following the event to ask questions and take photos.

As always, 106.1 BLI Hit Music Radio was present to entertain the crowd, this year with LJ Lovely and the BLion. As a special treat, international singing sensation Taborah opened the conference with the national anthem.

2004 KIDS IN ACTION YOUTH CONFERENCE THROUGH THE LENS



GUY GARDNER CAPTIVATES THE CROWD



WBLI'S LJ LOVELY AND THE BLion



MAKING THE EVENING NEWS



WEST HOLLOW M.S. RECEIVES ITS CHECK



ACKNOWLEDGING SELDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

2004 HONOR ROLL OF ATTENDING SCHOOLS

Baldwin Middle School
 Brentwood North Middle School
 Bridgehampton School District
 Commack Middle School
 Dawnwood Middle School
 Dr. Martin L. King Jr. Elementary School
 East Hampton Middle School
 East Northport Middle School
 Eastport-South Manor High School
 Grand Avenue Middle School
 Great Hollow Middle School
 Great Neck North Middle School
 Hauppauge Middle School
 Henry L. Stimson Middle School
 Islip Middle School
 Lawrence Middle School
 Locust Valley Middle School
 Long Beach Middle School
 Longwood Junior High School
 Merrick Avenue Middle School
 North Country Road Middle School
 Northport Middle School
 Oceanside Middle School
 Old Field Middle School
 Ralph G. Read Middle School
 Robert Frost Middle School
 Rocky Point Middle School
 Roosevelt High School
 Selden Middle School
 St. Patrick's School
 Valley Stream Memorial Junior High School
 West Hollow Middle School
 William T. Rogers Middle School
 Woodmere Middle School

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SAVE THE DATE

The Fifth Annual Action Long Island
 Kids in Action Youth Conference
 Friday, Dec. 2, 2005, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
 Nold Hall, Farmingdale State
 To reserve space for your class, contact
 Action Long Island's Michelle Dalpiaz
 Tel.: (631) 425-2700
 e-mail: mdalpiaz@actionlongisland.org



Action Long Island is a volunteer advocacy organization of concerned leaders from the business, professional, labor, education, government and civic communities who have joined together with local, county, state and federal officials for the mutual benefit of the business climate and quality of residential life on Long Island.

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