

## Superintendent's Highlight June 15, 2018

“If you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will spend its whole life thinking it was stupid.” This was one of the quotes from *Fish in a Tree*, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, contemplated at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School's recent book talk. Students, teachers, and parents read this text together and gathered to talk about the social emotional issues children often encounter, using a literary adventure.



Ms. Gentile, Ms. Quattrocchi, and Ms. Pedersen welcomed everyone with a delicious bagel breakfast and an informal opportunity to talk about the book. Everyone then went to various stations, led by students, to participate in lively discussions that included analysis of quotes and word choice used in the text. Some of the students took on the persona of characters in the book and stayed true to form during the discussions. At one station we examined the impact of friendship and discussed how many times in life the impossible becomes possible. Students were challenged to think “out of the book” through game-like activities, and a raffle for a prize sealed the morning's success!



The event ended with the group reflecting on how the main character, Ally, was smart enough to fool a lot of smart people and how her teacher was able to bring out the creative genius in her beneath the bravado of being a trouble maker. Ally's story is one of triumph, discovery of purpose and growth in confidence. A great message to send us into the summer!!