

WESTMORELAND SCHOOL

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**Christine Dell'Aglio
Principal**



The morning after Michael's *Beyond the Chair* Presentation, a beautiful paper chain created by a kindergarten student was left on my office desk. The message on the back of the paper chain read "Different Rocks". It is obvious and apparent that Michael's powerful and amazing presentation resonates with even our smallest students.

Educating children is about so much more than academics. It's about teaching our students that different people have different abilities and different ways of demonstrating their abilities. It's about teaching our students that it's important to be kind, accepting and understanding of what makes each of us unique. It's about teaching our students that perseverance, determination and having a growth mindset are necessary to overcome obstacles in life.

Michael's presentation made these ideas come alive for our students. His video clips and sharing of candid photographs show an inside glimpse of Michael's family and vast experiences...showing student's that he is just like everybody else and causing all of us to look beyond the chair.

I am so grateful for Michael's willingness to present to our students each year. His message is one that we all can benefit from hearing over and over again.

Christy Dell'Aglio
Principal
Westmoreland School