

On April 13, Pentucket Middle School had the distinct privilege and pleasure of welcoming guest speaker and author Andre Dubus III. Mr. Dubus shared anecdotes with the eighth grade students regarding his career, personal life, and inspirations. We learned that originally, Andre Dubus did not have the desire to write even though he is the son of American short story author Andre Dubus II. However, the younger Andre did work as a carpenter, actor, private investigator, teacher, bartender, and bounty hunter. Later as he got older he was drawn to writing. Mr. Dubus was not sure how his variety of jobs contributed to his becoming writer, but he said, "I think they've given me a wide range of experience, which is helpful. Although I don't believe we have to go out and live all of these adventures in order to write well."

Andre Dubus has written several best selling books, such as *House of Sand and Fog*, *Garden of Last Days*, and *The Last Worthless Evening*. He inspired students with the dramatic tale of his late father's accident and added that sometimes it takes a dramatic event like that in life to inspire you to begin writing. As Mr. Dubus continued to speak to students he stated, "What I love most about writing has to be that feeling that you really nailed something. I rarely feel it with a whole piece, but sometimes just a line can make you feel that it really captured what it is inside you and gets it there out for a stranger to read." Pentucket Middle School students were fortunate to have Andre Dubus speak and his speech inspired a statement from a student shortly after of, "It actually made me want to write after hearing him talk!"

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