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Far Hills Country Day School
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Far Hills Country Day School Sponsors Morristown Festival of Books' Kidfest

Far Hills, NJ—The streets of Morristown, NJ were teeming with literary enthusiasts of all ages on Saturday, October 13–14 at the Morristown Festival of Books. Among them were Far Hills (FH) Library and Media Specialist Sara Ridder and Language Arts Specialist and Curriculum Manager Ivette Gonzalez as well as several FH students who participated in the Kidfest portion of the festival.

The festival kicked off on Friday evening with a discussion by keynote speaker and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. Chernow, who penned *Hamilton*, released his latest biography, *Grant*, just days before the festival. Chernow was one of over 40 authors, including many award-winning and best-selling authors and poets, who led discussions about their recent publications and signed books for fans, including FH fans: Kathryn Brower, Krissy Coombs, Jennifer Phillips, Ed Thompson and Tom Woelper.

On Saturday, Kidfest welcomed a variety of childrens and young adult authors who presented their work to a crowd of enthusiastic young readers. FH sponsored three of the childrens authors: Tracey Baptiste, Donna Jo Napoli and Cressida Cowell. FH students Juliet Mitchell, Anya Nisar and Katherine McCaig were among a group of students who enjoyed meeting the authors and getting the backstory of their books. Ms. Ridder and Ms. Gonzalez were honored to take Tracey Baptiste and Donna Jo Napoli to lunch. In addition to book signings and readings, Kidfest also featured music and crafts to engage kids all day.

Although the Morristown Festival of Books has only been around for a few years, it has rapidly become known among literary circles and attracts authors from across the country and fans from up and down the East Coast.

For more information about Far Hills, visit fhcds.org or contact Stacy Ducharme, Acting Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications at sducharme@fhcds.org or (908) 766-0622 ext. 1427.

-Far Hills inspires academic excellence and life skills such as resourcefulness, resilience, integrity, self-control, and a myriad of other invaluable traits that lay the foundation for lifelong success. We call that RIGOR.

Our students don't just learn answers. They develop the courage to challenge those answers. They learn not only problem solving, but also gain the confidence to stand by their solutions. They don't simply learn to play a musical composition, they develop the self-esteem to stand up and perform. This is the balance that defines Far Hills—and sets our students apart.



FH faculty and students with Donna Jo Napoli, author of *Fish Girl* and Tracey Baptiste, author of *Rise of the Jumbies*.