

## Local Leaders Offer Students Tips to Excel

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By Scott Fishman Staff Writer

Coaches, religious figures, government officials, CEO's, news anchors and other successful professionals met with fifth graders for breakfast at the NSU University School. The inaugural event capped off a unit on leadership where students found out firsthand what it takes to stand at the front. The gathering was another opportunity to interact with community leaders. These were individuals who students interviewed and composed an essay about for a final assignment. For Adam Carswell, Lower School director, each part of their experiences can have a long lasting impact. "The parents are expecting these kids to be the leaders of tomorrow," he said. "You have to learn by doing. We talked a lot with them about shaking hands and etiquette, eye contact and engaging the adult guests in conversation. So a lot of those little details can make a difference." During the semester, the children examined leadership qualities of a novel's characters from the stories. They learned about various leadership roles within the community, discovered mission statements and even wrote their own. The students selected leadership quotes and thought about what they can take from the words. In January, students got a hands-on lesson in philanthropy by spending a day packaging food to be sent overseas through the Feed My Starving Children organization. They also participated in a three-day leadership trip that featured a low ropes course and a community service project at Rainbow Springs State Park. Holland West and Dani Sinai enjoyed their experience working as a unit. They especially liked the interview portion, choosing Stacy Ross, circuit court judge in the Juvenile Division. "She works with the juveniles who get into trouble and think about the best way to help them," West said. "It's nice to find out really what a judge does."

"We watched her at work and it was really interesting," Sinai said. "We found out a lot about her. We learned about the challenges she went through and some things about the job I would have never known otherwise."



The honorable Ross felt she also got a lot out of the project. She got to see the courtroom through a fresh perspective. "When they asked me

some of the questions, they stumped me a bit," Ross said. "One of the things they asked me was who was an inspiration to me. I had to think about it. My biggest inspiration was my father. We talked about ourselves and each other." Sarah Guttman and Camila Goldszmidt went the law enforcement route for their pick by reaching out to Chief Patrick Lynn of the Davie Police Department. "He was our first choice," Guttman said. "He is really a great leader. And being a leader is a hard job. You have to take action and set an example for the people around you." "We didn't just learn about our leader, but others, too," Goldszmidt said. "You get to see what kind of skills you need. It was all really fun."