



Caitlyn McConnell and Catherine MacConnell pose with Language Arts teacher, Carrie Cherek

**MOMM: What did it feel like to be selected for the Watchful Eyes series event through Writers in the Schools?**

**Catherine:** *I was really honored and excited when I found out that my piece had been selected. I don't really normally like public speaking, but I'm so glad I got the experience to stand up and read my piece in front of that large crowd. I was pretty nervous going up there, but afterwards I thought, 'ok that wasn't that bad.' This experience has inspired me to enter more writing competitions in the future.*

**MOMM: Why do you love writing?**

**Catherine:** *I like writing because you can express yourself. There aren't specific guidelines, so you can be creative with your topics.*

**Caitlyn McConnell, '18**

**MOMM: Where did you gain inspiration for your piece?**

**Caitlyn:** *My piece was about writing. I described why I like writing, and how and where I get my inspiration. In class, Ms. Cherek gave us a topic called 'ego-tripping,' where we were supposed to write about something that we are really good at. I think I write really well, so that's why I wrote about writing.*

**MOMM: What did it feel like to be selected for the Watchful Eyes series event through Writers in the Schools?**

**Caitlyn:** *I was elated when I found out I won; I honestly didn't think it was my best work!*

**MOMM: Why do you love writing?**

**Caitlyn:** *I started writing when I was really little. Everyone has a perspective, and it seems really cool to me that I can make up someone and tell a story from their perspective. There's a quote I reflect on while I'm writing, which is 'Write as though you're taking pictures with words.' I love this quote because it's like I'm making a movie with my mind and sharing it with other people.*

**Daniella Nassar, '17**

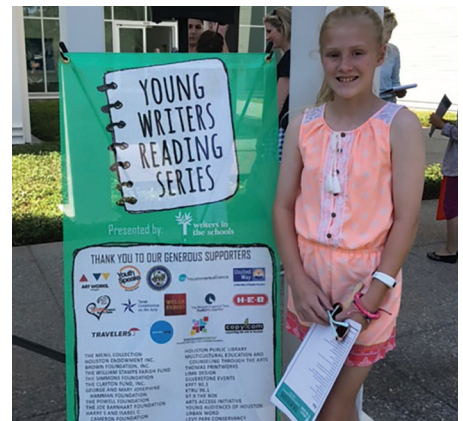
**MOMM: Where did you gain inspiration for your piece?**

**Daniella:** *My piece was about someone looking beyond the surface and not judging a person when you first meet them. You never know who you could be talking to. No matter how they look, or what your first impression is, the accomplishments of an individual can be quite different. We had a project where we looked at a photo. I saw different ways to look at the photo prompt, and I also thought about my own personal life. People used to look at me without talking to me and assume that they knew something about me without getting to know me.*

**MOMM: Why do you love writing?**

**Daniella:** *Writing is another way to express how we feel. It is so calming for me and helps me think outside of the box.*

*I felt really accomplished when I found out that I won. It's so nice to see something that you worked hard on get recognition.*



Above: Caitlyn McConnell reading at the WITS Event; Irene Roddy poses in front of the Young Readers Writers Reading Series sign