



## **The BWL Peer Relations Program** **in Lower School**

The Headmaster of *The Birch Wathen Lenox School*, Frank J. Carnabuci III, introduced the *Peer Relations Program* to our community in 1998. At its core the program seeks to address the social and emotional topics that naturally arise among peers in all school settings. Additionally, it is designed to introduce students to service-learning opportunities, social justice issues, and community building activities. In these efforts, the program Director, Geoff Fisher, works in conjunction with the three Division Heads, the Director of Civic Engagement, the Grade Deans, the School Psychologists, and the Director of Diversity.

As we stay current, our program has evolved to include conversations around Internet etiquette and safety, global citizenship, as well as issues of gender identity and race.

Our **LOWER SCHOOL** teachers, led by the Lower School Dean of Students, Sarah Joyce, engage in developmentally appropriate class activities and read-alouds to learn about positive communication, integrity, identity, and other essential topics. Also, every year, each grade takes on a service project to teach students about civic engagement. In the past, students have made sandwiches to be distributed at the New York Common Pantry, traveled to the NYCP to sort and bag food, and written holiday cards to people living in the local senior center, among other projects.

Finally, through our *Bacon Dee Grants* and with the guidance of our Director of Professional Development, **FACULTY** are encouraged to attend educational workshops, observe master teachers, and continue their own education in order to bring back valuable teaching tools to our school community. In every way possible, we encourage the involvement of all community members in the *Peer Relations Program* in order to foster a unified and healthy school community.