Freshman Writing Summer Reading Guide

The Red Bandana
By Tom Rinaldi

Welles Crowther did not anticipate becoming a hero on the morning of September 11, 2001. But when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, he courageously gave his life to save others. Crowther, who played lacrosse at Boston College, chose to put himself in harm's way in order to help strangers escape from the South Tower. This is the story of Crowther's life and death and how his example came to inspire others. Ultimately, *The Red Bandana* serves as a powerful tribute to a young man's commitment to the good – as well as an example of loving sacrifice.

Please consider the following questions as you read this wonderful story:

1. Why did Welles carry the red bandana? What did it mean to him? Do you have any similar items that you carry with you?
2. What parts of Welles's upbringing may have led to his heroic actions on 9/11?
3. How did Welles discern his ultimate purpose in life? In what ways was he struggling with his career choice?
4. How do Welles's loved ones deal with his loss? In what ways does the story of Welles's heroism help others deal with grief?
5. To honor Welles, Boston College designates one football game each year "The Red Bandana Game". Why do you think this tradition has endured?
6. What is the most important lesson you learned from *The Red Bandana*?