

WEDNESDAY'S LUNCH IS...

By Katelyn Rapp

Often in the halls and classrooms of LPA you'll hear students expressing their frustrations about the seemingly low expectations today's pop culture has set for them. As it turns out, two 19-year-old brothers from Portland, Oregon - Alex and Brett Harris - have shared those frustrations. These two teen, self-proclaimed, "rebelutionaries" decided to take action and recently have written a book called, Do Hard Things - A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations. Lighthouse instructor Debi White recently discovered the book and also decided to take action. She formed a book study for LPA students, now being held on Wednesdays during lunch.

The study began this week and will go until February 24. It is open to any junior or senior high student who wishes to participate. White pointed out that, "I chose this book because I think it's a message that most young people don't hear from their peers. I want this book to make them think about *why* they do the things they do and don't do."

Already in our first meeting the book brought up lively discussions, like what the students are going to do that will change how they react to expectations. One idea presented by junior Cara Alexander was that the low expectations of society couldn't just be "risen above" but had to be "redesigned." She suggested, "Just meeting or even rising above society's expectations is still conforming to what society expects. We have to make our own set of expectations."

Lighthouse Preparatory Academy is a school designed to challenge students in a variety of ways as they travel along their educational journey. This book study of Do Hard Things provides a character challenge for participants. "The reason I joined this book group," freshman Amy Palmeri said, "was because I wanted something to challenge me in my faith and challenge me to do things the average teen isn't expected to do. I want to grow closer in my walk with God. I hope to learn more about how I can do things that will have a positive impact on people, by doing things that are out of my comfort zone and being expected to follow through."

Eighth-grader Jacqueline Riley said that reading and studying this book might help her go outside of her comfort zone by "talking to people that I know, but don't usually talk to."

Other book study participants echoed similar thoughts about getting out of their comfort zones and not only rising above society's expectations, but setting new high standards of their own. Hopefully in 2009 new positives things will be happening at LPA and God will be honored.

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