

# Speaker inspires Lynn English High School students

Teenagers don't always want to listen to their parents or teachers, but last week over 1000 Lynn English High students gave all their attention to motivational speaker Ed Gerety. Gerety's message was to respect each other, and to respect yourself enough to stand up to peer pressure. Freshman Grace Petty got the message. "He was very, very funny. Now I'm not going to treat others badly because I wouldn't like it if I was treated like that." Another student added, "It makes me want to be nicer to my little brother."

Using dramatic moments to keep their interest, Gerety had everyone "raise your hand if you have lost somebody close to you." Then he asked them to imagine they had only one hour to live. "Who would you call, what would you say . . . and why haven't you done it?" He picked freshman Gary Rosario from the audience and persuaded him to call his mother on the spot, just to say he loved her. Freshmen Zakiyyah Williams and Asia Tran agreed that it was "very touching." "He really made me appreciate the little things in life, and

he rely got me thinking about the 'what if's'," added Tran. Their classmate Johnell Jaquez commented that people should "cherish every time you see your friend or family member."

Gerety explained that bullies act differently in groups than they would by themselves. Speaking with the voice and behavior of a kid with "attitude," he told stories of bullies who discovered another side to their victims. "Don't sell yourself out to be accepted by a group of people. Be yourself." "It taught me not to make fun of people because you really don't know what they have been through," said freshman Arnold Welch.

This is the fourth year that Gerety has made a presentation at Lynn English High School. "LEHS is a first class school and the students were wonderful." Gerety is the author of several books and tapes. His website, EdGerety.com, emphasizes leadership training for young people: "Ideas for the leader in you." He told LEHS students, "Lead by example. It isn't what you say, it's what you do." Freshman Nick



**Motivational speaker Ed Gerety talks to Lynn English students.**

Newhall said, "Now that I've heard it I feel like I could make a difference."

Debbie Mishel appreciated the fast-paced style, "Instead of just giving us a boring speech he really got involved with us." The audience responded to the upbeat message with enthusiastic applause and cheers of "Ed, you

rock!" Some students changed their behavior immediately. As the students left the auditorium, a girl called to her friend to wait for her. At first the friend kept walking, but then she turned back, saying, "Oh, yeah, I forgot what the guy just said about helping people."