



TWS EMAIL UPDATE



Kindergarteners pose in their fun hats with NFL player Shaun Smith; Smith reads to students in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

NFL Defensive Lineman Shaun Smith Returns to Hometown to Celebrate Dr. Seuss's 107th Birthday with Trey Whitfield School Students

Dr. Seuss's famous words, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go," were vividly brought to life when NFL Defensive Tackle Shaun Smith spent March 3rd reading and talking with Trey Whitfield School (TWS) students about the importance of education and staying in school.

In celebration of Dr. Seuss's 107th birthday, the Brooklyn-born football player donned the quintessential red and white striped Dr. Seuss hat, and spent the morning reading *The Cat in The Hat* and *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, to students in kindergarten through second grade. Students followed Smith's lead, putting on hats of all kinds, to illustrate the stories in a fun and exciting way.

"It was delightful to have Mr. Smith come back to Brooklyn to share the importance of literacy with the students," commented Head of Lower School, Ava Bradshaw. "He taught them that it is not trivial to be concerned about their education and I think that message will stick with them forever."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Smith attended Midwood High School, where he was discovered for his incredible talent in basketball, track and football. He went on to become the #2 ranked defensive lineman in the nation with 128 tackles and a season record of 20 sacks while attending Butler Community College in Kansas.

Smith spent the afternoon sharing the story of his rise to success with the TWS upper school students. He encouraged them to focus on their education and to view it as the key to success in any endeavor. "He really inspired me," remarked 8th grader Andrew May. "His teachers said that he wouldn't amount to anything, but he did. If he can do it, so can I!"

The school's founder, Janie Whitney, counted the day a great success. "Shaun's presence showed our students that, regardless of humble beginnings, they can go as far in life as they desire, if they put their education first. Shaun Smith is an inspiration to us all."