



## Antilles e-Newsletter for Parents | December 9

### The Art of Storytelling

It took V.I. author Melissa Fredericks more than a decade to publish her debut novel *Mer: A Caribbean Underwater Adventure* and the lessons she took away from that process were shared with Middle and Upper School students who, during a special assembly Friday, also sought advice on everything from overcoming writer's block to finding inspiration.

"My struggle wasn't finding the idea - I always knew what I wanted to write," Ms. Fredericks shared. "It was finding the discipline I needed to sit down and write the book - saying to myself, you need to get this done, and thinking about how I could really get that idea from my mind to the page."

Doing small things, like taking a break from social media or writing a minute or two a day is helpful, but what made the most difference, Ms. Frederick said, was cutting out the self-editing and revisions that delayed the actual development of the storyline.

"It's difficult to be objective about your own writing - and that's also another important lesson," she added. "Don't try to edit yourself, just write the book. The editing can come after, and you have to be open about working with others and accepting their feedback because that's what makes you even better."

Ms. Fredericks was joined in assembly Friday by colleague Tiffany Warren, who also spoke to students about character development and the importance of showing the journey of your antagonist or protagonist from beginning to end - click the image below to see more.



### Antilles School

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