

EVENTS

PROGRAMS We kicked off the Kindergarten Book Bag program, Storytime Stars, Fluent Flyers, and the 3–5 AR Program.

VISITORS Visiting pop-up engineer Bruce Foster earned a student ranking of “You rock, man!” when he used photos to show kids how pop ups are made. Mother Goose charmed the kindergarten and PK students again this year.

BOOK FAIR Our book fair was even more successful than last year, despite tightening budgets. We are using our profits to buy additional technology, especially interactive “clickers.”

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

READING ROCKETS This year we are offering a new reading program that takes reading past hearing books read (Storytime Stars), and reading with and to parents (Fluent Flyers), and onto new reading frontiers by encouraging students to read fiction, nonfiction, and Power Booster Authors. PBA are those authors that every second grader should know but often miss out on. Response from parents has been positive.

COOL CREECH BOOK CLUB Encouraged to “embrace a 2.0 tool,” I built a wiki for a fourth grade book club. Though we only had 9 members for the first club on *The Big One-Oh*, they included 4 boys and 5 girls. The first meeting was a success, and 15 people have signed for the second book, *Eleven*. We meet once every six weeks in person for a College Bowl-type trivia game based on the book. Students love using the light-up buttons that indicate who buzzed in first. We have snacks and talk about the book.

COLLABORATION WITH FIFTH GRADE In a planning meeting that lasted until after 5:00 p.m., four fifth grade teachers and I revamped their Big Six project, set up a timeline and library use calendar, and designed a new product. They will have the kids use technology to design and print a baseball card-type product for their Revolutionary Period person. I used the e-Tools to design a program for the clickers that will let the fifth graders vote whether they had enough information about the person, from hearing an oral report, to vote them into a Hall of Fame.

COLLABORATION WITH THIRD GRADE I designed a PowerPoint and kick-off lesson on genres that incorporated pumpkins. Students completed an activity that checked their learning and, with the answer key I provided, could be graded by the teachers.

YET ANOTHER FORMAT FOR CHECKOUT If students don't read, it won't be because they didn't have the resources they like at the library. In addition to the Playaways, books on CD (extended to second grade), and graphic novels, we've added another format suggested by students. It took some doing to figure how to barcode them for checkout, but students may now check out the back issues of our nine magazine subscriptions.

SUPPORT FROM COMMUNITY The Texas Roadhouse restaurant has provided gift certificates for a free kids meal to the library. We are using them to accompany the first genre tag earned by each child in 3–5. Students seem to like this idea of celebrating their reading efforts.

LIBRARY NEWS

READERS LEAD Boys are still leading the way in reading, against stereotype and common experience, though girls are rallying. So far we have given 22 medals, mostly to boys. However, our first oak tree reader (ten genres completed), is a girl, Hannah M.

TWO BRAINS ARE BETTER Our suggestion box is very busy. I write back to each student to tell them if their suggestion was accepted. Some requests are for books too advanced for our library, so I recommend the public library. Some are for books we already have. They are happy when I point out that the book is here for check out! I've built credibility by checking out the suggested book first to the child suggesting it, and by honoring as many of the suggestions as meet the collection guidelines for our campus.

QUALITY COLLECTION We loan out books to other campuses every week, many of them newer titles. This is because I work to learn about and purchase the best of the new books to meet interests and extend curriculum. Teachers are pleased because odds are high we will have the book(s) they need. If we don't, I make every effort to get them through interlibrary loan and by adding them to the next book order. Sometimes I'm even able to check the catalog at the public library and make them aware of how to get the title there.

VOLUNTEERS Kristen V. has been very active in recruiting new volunteers to the schedule. We lost a number of key volunteers when their youngest moved on to junior high. Kristen has greatly diversified our volunteers, even bringing on some very shy mothers who want to help at school, but don't enjoy the limelight.

STATISTICS

Books circulated, Aug. 15–October 30:

Birthday Books:

Reading Awards Earned: