

Sample Survey Results

I made a chart to compile the percentage of each grade that liked each event mentioned in Part One, the numerical ranking of events. These are suggestions students wrote in the section where we asked what they would like us to start doing. Some students think we have a much bigger budget that we do:

- “Do construction on the library to build a reading lounge.”
- “Each six weeks, all the kids who reached their reading goal get lunch with the librarian.”
- “At the end of the year to celebrate making our reading goals, each kid should be given a free book.”

A few children made me realize that things we were already doing needed more publicizing.

Some asked that I put American classics on the shelves, have a reading zone, decorate the library by month, let kids check out books of a particular genre, and tell everyone about the suggestion box.

There were humorous ideas:

- “Start being weird.”
- “Give pickles.”
- “Donate all the library books that kids don’t want.”
- “You don’t need to do more. You are a nice librarian. Oh, and I don’t need help in the library.”

Some comments were things we needed to hear, one of which required retraining my aide about her tough-love attitude: “Believe your children when they say they lost their book and care about it.” Evidently someone had a bad experience with our parent volunteers: “Get better people to help in the library.”

Their imaginations came up with some interesting ideas like Fairy Tale Friday, field trips to the public library, a medieval theme for fifth graders, a circus theme for fourth graders, and a visit from a snake handler.

Some ideas were impossible:

- “Get J. K. Rowling to come to our school.”
- “Name a king and a queen each six weeks who can go anywhere in the building all day.”
- “More copies of each book.”
- “More mature books that our parents would have to give permission for—like *Clique*.”
- “More violent movies.”

There were suggestions we implemented: think of a way we can take magazines home for checkout; get more scary, military, graphic novels, manga, sports, and history. It was heart-warming to know they like what we do: “Start doing even more games, more lessons, more reading programs, more time for free reading, read to us more, and let us sometimes stay in the library and read all day.”