Books With Bite

During Teen Read Week, 219 books were checked out, and each student who checked out a book was entered in a drawing for a gift card. Will Kaelin, Blake Smith, Jake Abston, and Alex Jarrett won gift cards to Starbucks and iTunes. Howard Choi and Anand Patel answered our Vampire Quiz and won gift cards to Barnes & Noble and Starbucks.

Tuesday Andy Saunders read a gripping rendition of “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe, and then Thursday we watched 2 scenes from Macbeth, including a sword fight on the balcony. Our gratitude to Andy and Tim Greer for their eagerness to help us celebrate Teen Read Week. See the library’s blog for a short video of the two events.

MUS moms baked cookies and the library distributed them during O.P. on Tuesday and Thursday. We definitely appreciate all the hard work our library volunteers have put in this semester.

The Books with Bite display was left up for an extra week because of Halloween. As one girl passed the library display on her way to Macbeth, she was heard to exclaim, “You have Twilight? I have to see this!” To which our student shrugged and said, “It’s Teen Read Week.”

Free Hot Chocolate

Last school year the library offered seniors and faculty the chance to get a free cup of Starbucks coffee in celebration of graduation. Well, we’re doing it again. This time any student is allowed to come by the library during exam week and get coffee or hot chocolate and a muffin before or after their test. Be looking for further details the closer we get to exam time.

Big Move

All the Fiction books, which used to be on the second floor, are now shelved in the back of the library. The Story Collection (books with SC on the label) have merged with Fiction downstairs. Now that we have extra shelves upstairs, we can shift all the nonfiction books over to the empty bookcases. Starting with the 900s, MUS moms have come in twice so far to move books. Thanks to the mothers for all their help!

Guys Read

Boys will read if you let them help decide what to read, but we owe them guidance. Here are a few tips on reading from the IBSC Conference:

- Young adult fiction should be used in the classroom; try to find books that stimulate emotional growth.
- Include novels, poetry, song lyrics, and dramatic reading in the curriculum.
- Different types of literacy can be recognized as legitimate, but reading solid text is still important.
- Literacy is making sense of text; it’s not the physical book that’s important; it’s the text and the story.
- Lastly, reading aloud or listening to an audiobook while reading can help students who are having trouble.

MUS Authors

The library will feature the MUS Community of Authors in its main display for the rest of the semester. We appreciate Dr. Harkins’s help in collecting this information, and the help of those who suggested additional writers. War Birds, the movie Dr. Harkins showed in assembly, is the film version of John MacGavock Grider’s nonfiction account, also in our display. With notables like Hampton Sides and William Bradford Huie, the display showcases the amazing talent within the MUS community.
Faculty Book Club

Lin Askew has volunteered to facilitate the library-sponsored faculty and staff book club. His first pick for our enjoyment is the nonfiction book *Blue Arabesque: A Search for the Sublime* by Patricia Hampl. The New York Times reviewer called it “a critical examination of art and literature as vehicles for a (if not the) holy ghost.” It begins with Hampl’s first sighting of Matisse’s painting “Woman Before an Aquarium” and her subsequent quest to discover art with “transcendent power.” Here are some of Lin’s thoughts on the book and his instructions for those of us reading it:

Since it is a short book, the temptation is to read it quickly. Don’t. Imagine yourself in the narrator’s place as if you too are arrested by this book the way she is by the Matisse painting. Treat the book as if you are looking at painting. The first chapter establishes many of the tensions and motifs: gazing vs. glancing, rush vs. leisure, open vs. closed. Hampl relies on the tried and true tools of any artist: repetition, tension, movement. Look for it; mark up your book. Also notice the chapter titles: the movement from chapter one to chapter two the window—from closed to open. There are patterns throughout. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10 at 2:30 at a place TBA.

Branch Out

Winter break offers weeks of uninterrupted reading time, so try something different. *by Nancy Arant* (from publishers’ descriptions)

**Season of Life: a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood** by Jeffrey Marx

As MUS’ stellar football season winds down, this is a great time to read a chronicle of the inspirational life of former NFL star Joe Ehrmann. Now a minister and volunteer football coach at an independent school in Baltimore, Ehrmann teaches his players that “being a man means emphasizing relationships and having a cause bigger than yourself. It means accepting responsibility and living courageously. It means that empathy, integrity, and living a life of service to others are more important than points on a scoreboard. [This] is a book about what it means to be a man of substance and impact.”

**Change We Can Believe In: Barack Obama's Plan to Renew America's Promise.**

With the election behind us, you might be interested in President-elect Obama’s outline of his vision for America.

**Losers, Loners, and Rebels: the Spiritual Struggles of Boys** by Robert C. Dykstra

Investigates the interior lives of boys as they develop their sense of self and begin the spiritual journey that will carry them throughout their lives.

**Hot, Flat and Crowded** by Thomas L. Friedman

“Takes a fresh and provocative look at two of the biggest challenges we face today: America’s surprising loss of focus and national purpose since 9/11; and the global environmental crisis, which is affecting everything from food to fuel to forests. In this groundbreaking account of where we stand now, he shows us how the solutions to these big problems are linked--how we can restore the world and revive America at the same time.”