Free Hot Chocolate

Do you remember when we gave out Starbucks for the seniors? Well this year we’re doing it again—but now it’s open to everyone. During Exam week at MUS, the Library will be giving away free cups of coffee or hot chocolate and muffins in the lobby. Be listening to find out more details as exam week gets closer.

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. (For a review of the book, see our September 08 issue of the newsletter.) With notables like Hampton Sides and William Bradford Huie, the display showcases the amazing talent within the MUS community.

Branch Out this Winter

Winter break will offer you weeks of uninterrupted reading time. Check out the main lobby for some suggestions on something new to read or just ask a librarian for help picking out a new sci-fi series, a juicy biography, or a literary novel. If you tell us what you love to read, we can find something you might like just as well.

Books With Bite

During Teen Read Week, 219 books were checked out, and each day you checked out a book, you were entered in a drawing for a gift card as well as receiving a prize. From a Get Out of a Fine Free card to rubber vampire teeth to candy, the prizes were rewards for reading during Teen Read Week.


On Tuesday you came to hear Mr. Saunders’s gripping rendition of “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allen Poe. On Thursday we watched 2 scenes from Macbeth, including a sword fight on the balcony. MUS moms baked cookies and the library distributed them during O.P. on Tuesday and Thursday after these two dramas. See the library’s blog for a short video of the two events.

The Books with Bite display was left up for an extra week because of Halloween. One girl accompanying an MUS student to Macbeth exclaimed as she passed the lighted library display, “Twilight? You have Twilight? I have to see this!” To which our student shrugged and said, “It’s Teen Read Week.”

We encourage reading for fun because reading improves critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as being a great alternative to constant, mind-numbing television. Reading raises test scores on standardized tests like the ACT. Also, reading a book is cheaper than buying a ticket—the cheapest form of travel you can get. Finally, reading gives you insight into cultures, languages, and people, and that gives you an advantage.
**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!

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**This Just In**

--from publishers' descriptions.

**Winter New Releases**

As MUS' stellar football season winds down, this is a great time to read *Season of Life: a Football Star, a Boy, a Journey to Manhood* by Jeffrey Marx, which chronicles 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 leading 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. It is a moving story that will resonate with athletes, coaches, parents -- anyone struggling to make the right choices in life."

*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.

*Cool Stuff Exploded: Get Inside Modern Technology* by Chris Woodford. The book shows piece-by-piece breakdowns of cell phones, computers, cars, etc. and includes animations of those featured in the book on a CD-ROM.

*Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.

After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, 17 year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

*Gem X* by Nicky Singer

Sixteen-year-old Maxo Strang, the most perfect human ever made, suddenly discovers a "crack" in his face, which leads him to expose his community's dark underworld of secret scientific research and the city's corrupt supreme leader.

*Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins.

In a future North America, where the rulers of Panem maintain control through an annual televised survival competition pitting young people from each of the twelve districts against one another, 16 year-old Katniss and her male counterpart, Peeta, are pitted against bigger, stronger representatives who have trained for this their whole lives.

*The Battle of the Labyrinth* by Rick Riordan.

The Percy Jackson & the Olympians series continues with the 4th novel in the series. If you haven’t started this series, the library has the first three books as well.

*Once Upon a Time in the North* by Philip Pullman

Before ever meeting Lyra Silver-tongue from Pullman’s *Golden Compass*, the American balloonist Lee Scoresby and the armoured bear Iorek Byrnison meet when Lee and his hare daemon Hester crash-land their trading balloon onto a port in the far Arctic North.

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"It’s no use going to school unless the library is your final destination."  --Ray Bradbury

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**LAST DAY** for checking out books is **December 8**!

After exams are over, you can come back to the library and check out books again.