What happened in the library?
We began a 3-year phased project to refurbish and renovate our library spaces by executing the first step: removing a walled-in office area and workroom and putting in a new Welcome Desk.

Why did you do that?
We wanted to open up the space and be able to greet people as they come into the library, as well as update the 40-year-old building to fit current needs and practices.

Why didn't you do it over the summer?
We started the project over the summer, but it took longer than we expected because a lot of electrical work had to be done and some masonry had to be drilled out.

How did you get a different color of carpet from the rest of the school?
We had a designer who proposed an olive green color scheme, which happens to coordinate well with our cherry-stained wood and also happens to fit in with the ‘green’ movement in architecture and design. Our carpet is environmentally friendly in several ways, and we plan to continue using ‘green’ design as much as we can.

Do you like the new setup?
Yes, we love it! Already we are feeling like we’re more available to help people and it’s refreshing to see the green front lawn.

What’s going to happen now?
We plan to consult with our designers and the administration to see what furnishings can be replaced next summer, and eventually we plan to recarpet and refurbish the entire library. During this school year we’ll be discussing and planning what we need to do next. Who knows—we may even add on to the building some day.

What are you going to show on the flat screen TV at the front desk?
Right now we keep a news program on during the day, but we can show any content we choose on satellite tv, on dvd, or from the internet.

--Bonnie Barnes, Library Director
Lost Symbol by Dan Brown. Featuring Dan Brown’s unforgettable protagonist, Robert Langdon, “This book’s narrative takes place in a twelve-hour period, and from the first page, Dan’s readers will feel the thrill of discovery as they follow Robert Langdon through a masterful and unexpected new landscape.”

Where Men Win Glory: the Odyssey of Pat Tillman by Jon Krakauer. In May 2002, Pat Tillman walked away from his $3.6 million NFL contract to enlist in the United States Army. Two years later, he died in Afghanistan. Jon Krakauer draws on Tillman’s journals and letters, interviews with his wife, friends, and the soldiers who served alongside him, as well as extensive research on the ground in Afghanistan to create a definitive account of the events and actions that led to his death.

South of Broad by Pat Conroy. Leopold Bloom King is the son of loving parents who work as a teacher and principal at his high school. After Leo’s older brother commits suicide at the age of thirteen, the family struggles with the shattering effects of his death.

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson. (recommended by Rachel Krantz) After the disappearance forty years ago of Harriet Vanger, a young scion of one of the wealthiest families in Sweden, her octogenarian uncle is determined to know the truth about what he believes was her murder.

Meriwether Lewis by Thomas C. Danisi and John C. Jackson. (recommended by the chapel speaker) Biography of Meriwether Lewis with a new theory on the murder/suicide question and content that focuses on his life after the expedition.

Shooting Stars by LeBron James. James, the highest-paid athlete (including endorsement deals) in the NBA, tells the story of his meteoric rise as a high school basketball player, when he and his teammates took a private school in Ohio to state and national championships.

Cotton and Race in the Making of America by Gene Dattel (’62) Dattel explores the link between the development of American capitalism and the devastation of the African-American community. The price of cotton as the determinant of America’s destiny, influencing and even overcoming individual will and ethical behavior, is showcased in an economic look at cotton production in the United States.

Memphis Chronicles by Dr. John Harkins. Recall the days when downtown gridlock was caused by streetcars and wagons, and the Mid-South was ruled by the likes of the Chickasaws, Confederates, King Cotton and Crump. Discover the origins of the yellow fever epidemic, Memphis in May, Elmwood Cemetery, and the heroes of Shelby County history.

Shimmer by Eric Barnes. A cautionary thriller about ambition and corruption in corporate America. Robbie Case, the 35-year-old CEO (and largest shareholder) of Core Communications has managed to grow the business from 30 employees to more than 5,000 in three short years. But his $20 billion company, linking main-frame computers worldwide to the Internet backbone, is built on faulty technology, false promises and questionable finances.

Glimpses of the Past by Katie Broer. Bessie Dean Parr (1875-1960) operated a commercial photography studio in Collierville next to her husband’s dental office from about 1900 to 1915. Parr was notable for producing portraits for black clients, as well as for the town’s white citizens. Her work, forgotten and mislaid for decades, is restored and printed by Collierville resident Katherine Broer (Parr).