Frank Beddor’s Wonderland

On Friday, January 7, Frank Beddor came to MUS to speak, meet with students, and sign copies of his books. He gave a rousing performance in chapel and got several students up on stage to read for movie parts. Mr. Beddor is a world champion freestyle skier, an actor, a stuntman, and the producer of a hit movie, as well as the author of The Looking Glass Wars series. He talked about developing the idea for his books, spending five years writing the first one, and finding a variety of ways to tell the story—including the novels, the movie (which is awaiting production), an interactive computer game, a card game, and now a Broadway musical that’s in development. Mr. Beddor spent hours talking with students, faculty, and library staff. During lunch with our book clubs, he discussed the creative process and gave some advice on writing. He encouraged the boys to explore different ways to tell their own stories through art, music, theater, and writing. Mr. Beddor was impressed with the personalities and ideas of the MUS students and said, “I like this school—I want to stay here!”

Exam Week Warm-Up

During exams last semester (December 13-17), the library handed out free hot chocolate and Dunkin’ Donuts coffee, plus cinnamon rolls, muffins, brownies, and other baked goods. U Kin’ Do It lasted all week and students lined up in the foyer to get a pre-test treat. Several parent volunteers brought food or stopped by to help us manage the lines and keep the water boiling, and we appreciate their tireless efforts!

InterLibrary Loan

We have a great collection of books and articles in the Hyde Library, but did you know that through networking with libraries across the U.S., we have access to millions more? At this moment, 11 of our books are out on loan to libraries like Rhodes, UNC-Chapel Hill, and the University of California. We also get lots of requests that we don’t fill because MUS students may need those books. We recently borrowed sources for Mr. Sellers, Mrs. Crosby, and Mr. Broer, and students can use this service too. Books may take a week to receive, but articles arrive quickly. If you need a book or article that we don’t have, please ask us and we’ll do our best to get it.
New Arrivals

(from publisher’s descriptions)

Green jobs are becoming one of the most dynamic career paths in this country, outpacing even traditional job growth. Deitche’s easy-to-use reference guide will help people at all education levels find the latest information.

How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming by Mike Brown.
In 2005, astronomer Mike Brown made the discovery of a lifetime: Eris, a tenth planet slightly bigger than Pluto. But instead of adding another planet to the solar system, Eris’s discovery demoted Pluto to the title of dwarf planet and pushed Brown into a maelstrom of criticism, debate, and hate mail. This book is about that tumultuous year in modern astronomy.

Shadow Wave by Robert Muchamore.
Book Twelve in the CHERUB series tells the story of James Adams, a young recruit to a secret agency who is now on his last mission: to protect the corrupt governor’s family on their tropical island. Muchamore plans on releasing another series of CHERUB novels which will feature new agents.

The Boy Who Dared by Susan Campbell Bartoletti.
Based on the true story of a Hitler Youth, this novel imagines the final thoughts of a teenager awaiting his execution during WW2. Helmuth Hubener was a real person whose German patriotism changed to sedition once he started questioning his government’s anti-Semitism. This is also a Volunteer State Book Award nominee for 2010-2011.

Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins.
He’s not a demon; he’s a fallen angel. And the slacker teenager whose body he’s taken over wasn’t doing anything with it anyway. Now Kiriel wants to experience what it means to be human. This is a nominee for the Volunteer State Book Award.

Frankenstein’s Monster by Susan Heyboer O’Keefe.
At the end of Shelley’s classic, the creator dies but his creation still lives, condemned to a life of isolation and hatred. This novel continues the monster’s story as he discovers his own humanity and tries to elude the ship’s captain who vowed to hunt him down.

VSBA Nominees

MUS students can help decide the 2010-2011 Volunteer State Book Awards! Students may pick up a ballot at the library’s front desk to vote for their favorite book. According to the rules, the student must have read at least three of the nominees and can vote only once. The library will send in the name of the winning book and that will cast MUS’s ballot in the state competition. Last year’s winner was Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer. Check out the nominees for 2010-2011: