Teen Read Week is a national celebration during October each year in which libraries promote reading with contests, prizes, and displays. Our parent volunteers sent cookies and snack items for the students on Tuesday and Thursday to complement the Hyde Library’s two literacy events: the Battle of the Books and the Reading Contest.

In our online Reading Contest, students could enter the titles of every complete book they had read since the school year began. Results were surprising: the winner, 9th grader Ethan Schaffer, had read 37 books this school year, while the second place winner, senior Sam Ostrow, had read 24 books. Nine students participated with a total of 80 different books listed in the contest, and eight of the books had been read by more than one contestant this school year. Prizes for top readers were awarded in the form of Amazon and iTunes gift cards, and a random drawing gave Zack Whicker a prize for the eight books he had read.

We conducted three separate Battle of the Books contests for 7th grade, 8th grade, and the Upper School. The 7th grade and US contests were held on the front porch steps and questions were based on summer reading books; 8th grade was held at the Lower School. First and second place winners were awarded gift cards to iTunes, Sports Authority, and Amazon. The winners for Upper School:

1st place - Ahmed Latif and 2nd place - Jack Richman. In Lower School, 8th Grade: 1st place - Charlie Wiener and 2nd place - Andrew Green; 7th Grade: 1st place - Omkar Hosad and 2nd place - Stan Smythe.

Students could enter a drawing every time they checked out a book. On different days, they could also receive a Halloween prize, or a fancy pen, or a coupon that would pay one overdue book fine. The Upper School winner of this drawing was Ethan Wright, and the Lower School winner was John Ross Swaim.

Congratulations to all our winners and thanks for making 2012 Teen Read Week such a success.

To get help with your math homework, try out our Discovery Education math explanations. Go to Discoveryeducation.com and log in. Your username and password are described in the U-Book; we can also give them to you at the Welcome Desk or by email. Select your course (for example, Geometry) and grade level from the menu and optionally type in a keyword or the term math explanation in the search box. You will find thousands of explanations of key math concepts, drawn and explained by math teachers. Kahn Academy is another source for homework help. It's free at kahnacademy.org. Check out the Hyde Library website for more help by clicking on Practice Tests and Study Aids.
T.A. Barron, author of the Lost Years of Merlin epic, The Great Tree of Avalon trilogy, and the Heartlight Saga, will speak in chapel on January 11 and have a book signing afterwards. He will also be here during 4th period to meet with students. He’s still writing and publishing and has a movie deal for the Merlin material in the works.

Barron established The Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes, which honors young people who exhibit heroism.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
A coming of age novel about Charlie, a freshman in high school who is a wallflower, shy and introspective, and very intelligent. He deals with the usual teen problems, but also with the suicide of his best friend.

The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Bilbo Baggins, a respectable, well-to-do hobbit, lives comfortably in his hobbit-hole until the day the wandering wizard Gandalf chooses him to take part in an adventure from which he may never return.

The library also has companion material on the making of the movie and unofficial guides available for check out.

Books into Movies

Ender’s Game by Orson Scott Card
The alien Buggers threaten humanity with extinction, and Earth’s ultimate savior may be one small boy. Andrew “Ender” Wiggins plays computer games simulating his command of Earth’s last great fleet, only to discover he has been cruelly deceived.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel
The precocious son of a zoo keeper, 16 year-old Pi Patel, sets sail with his family and some of their menagerie to start a new life in Canada, but when their ship sinks, Pi is trapped on a life raft with a hyena, an injured zebra, a seasick orangutan, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

Exam Week Refuel

It’s nearly time for the library’s annual Exam Week Refuel! Grab hot chocolate or coffee and a pastry in the library foyer in the morning before your big test.