

# LIBRARY NOTES



**Grand Prairie Independent School District**  
**Grand Prairie, TX 75052**

**V.11, No.8**  
**May 1, 2007**

## **Texas Library Association First Branding Iron Award For Collateral Materials**

**Belinda Jacks**

The Texas Library Association has launched a series of awards in the area of Library Public Relations. They are known collectively as the Branding Iron Awards. These public relations awards will be given annually at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference. The first ever conference award winners were announced Saturday, April 14, 2007 at the Texas Library Association Conference in San Antonio. Categories such as best collateral materials, best outside advertising, and Best of Show were announced.

We are proud to say that Grand Prairie ISD has been selected as the winner in the Best Collateral Materials category of the TLA Branding Iron Awards. Gloria Meraz, Director of Communications for TLA, nominated the Read Across the Prairie initiative. The entries will be showcased in the summer issue of the Texas Library Journal. We are well on the road to expanding our *Read Across the Prairie* initiative across the world.

**2007**  
**BRANDING**  
*Texas*  
**IRON**   
*Libraries*  
**AWARD**

**Grand Prairie  
Independent School District**

CATEGORY:  
*Collateral Materials*

Sponsored by the **TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

PRESENTED APRIL 13, 2007, TO:  
Grand Prairie ISD for the  
wonderful materials - including  
key chains, wristbands, T-shirts,  
and reading pledge cards  
- created to celebrate the ISD's  
successful *Read Across the Prairie*  
campaign. The widely popular  
effort that encouraged parents  
and students to read was  
recognized by resolution by the  
Texas House of Representatives.



# AUSTIN ELEMENTARY

Kathy Brundrett

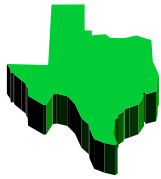
As the 2006-2007 school year is quickly coming to an end, the students at Austin have been reading hundreds of minutes. The ABC (Austin Book Club) Reading Program ended on April 20th with many students earning stickers, pencils, bookmarks, pencil sharpeners, notepads, free books, and invitations to cookie, ice cream, popcorn and pizza parties. Prizes were given for 30, 60, 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, & 700 minutes of reading. We also had 119 students earn a Six Flags ticket for reading 6 hours or more. They will be receiving their tickets at the Longhorn Pride Celebration the last week of school.

Are you traveling this summer? Want something that doesn't require batteries or electricity and works well while relaxing (inside or outside) or riding in a car? Grab a book and read, read, read! Remember, the Public Library also offers audio books if you like to hear the book or if you would like to read along. If you plan to visit the Grand Prairie Memorial Library or any of the branches, you can look online at <http://www.gptx.org/Library/> to see what Summer Reading Programs will be available. I know the students at Austin Elementary will continue to read "just for the fun of it" this summer as they "Read Across the Prairie"!

# BONHAM ELEMENTARY

Pat Phipps

Bonham Yellowjackets "buzzed" around the library this spring looking for books ranging from ocean life to space! Our kindergarten students used *Curious George* to study the elements of a story. They also read nursery rhymes and sang songs. First graders researched fish using library books and computer resources. Second graders learned about plants then came to the library to talk about what part of their lunch came from plants. Second and third graders made concrete poems as we celebrated poetry month in the library. Fourth graders made up Texas Tongue Twisters with the help of the 976 (Texas) section of the library. Fourth and fifth grades made "Bio" poems that required lots of thought and were lots of fun. Fifth graders did research on animal adaptations using our Gale resources.



Thanks to all of our wonderful fourth and fifth grade students who helped so much in the library this year and to the teachers who allowed them to come in. They did a fabulous job! We had a very busy year and hope that this summer is a time of reading and relaxation! Happy reading!

# BOWIE ELEMENTARY

Elaine Tricoli

The highlight of April in the library was a visit from award-winning author, Kimberly Willis Holt! Before her visit, all of our 3rd and 4th graders came to the library to visit her website together. Ms. Holt has the most creative biography we've ever seen - she shares the story of her life in food! We had a really great time finding out all about her and the books that she's written through her web page! Then each of our 3rd and 4th graders had the opportunity to learn more about Ms. Holt through her writing when their teachers read aloud one of her books, *Mister and Me*. *Mister and Me* was on the Texas Bluebonnet list several years ago. So, now we'd learned about her online and learned about her through one of her books, and we were getting very excited about the actual day of her visit! Classes made banners and posters, wrote letters and reading responses, and one class even made Kimberly Willis Holt t-shirts!

On the day of her visit, we rolled out the red carpet! Our students welcomed her on the announcements with a resolution declaring April 11, 2007 Kimberly Willis Holt Day at Bowie Elementary School! Our 3rd and 4th graders gathered excitedly in the cafeteria, and after an introduction by one of our students, Ms. Holt talked to all of us about what it's like to be a writer. Her presentation was so entertaining and inspiring. We loved seeing pictures from her life - pictures of her home, what her writer's notebook looks like...and we loved hearing about how she tackles revising her work



and how long it took her to find a publisher for her first book, *My Louisiana Sky*.

Our day also included two small group (20 eager 3rd grade writers) Writing Workshops led by Ms. Holt! lasting 1-1/2 hours each. Though not a teacher by training or profession, Ms. Holt led the students through the writing process encouraging them to include meaningful details in their writing. She worked one-on-one with each writer and listened as each one read his/her piece of writing aloud.

We also enjoyed a delightful lunch in our Library Cafe - guests included our 3rd and 4th grade teams, our writing committee members, Mrs. Ailara (our principal), and Mr. Martinez (our assistant principal). It was Mr. Martinez who first started the ball rolling when he asked me if I knew any writers because he really wanted our students to have the opportunity to learn about the process of writing from a real author of books. Ms. Holt came immediately to mind because I'd taken a class to see her once before and loved the interaction she had with our kids.

Each of our 3rd and 4th grade classes got to come in for a class picture with Ms. Holt, and our school purchased copies of *Mister and Me* for each of our 3rd and 4th graders - a HUGE thanks to Mrs. Ailara for her generosity and to April Strunck, our Scholastic Book Fair rep, who scoured the country finding us enough copies!!

What a wonderful thing it is to connect children to books and what better way than to introduce them to one as who creates them! Thank you, Ms. Holt, for inspiring us to become better writers!

Happy Reading AND Writing!

## BUSH ELEMENTARY

Michael Broussard



Wow, another school year is almost over. As the 2006-2007 school year finishes I hope you are able to still have time for pleasure reading. I also hope that your summer is filled with a lot of pleasure reading. Do not forget that the Grand Prairie Public Library, and almost every public library, offers a free summer reading program. Have a wonderful summer!!

As the school year comes to a close the library has still been a busy place. Students have been enjoying reading all of the new books that arrived in the library. Several grade levels came to the library to do research. Students also still enjoyed story time in the library.

Have a wonderful day, week, weekend, month, and summer!! See you in August for the 2007-2008 school year!! Happy reading!!

## CROCKETT ELEMENTARY

Lisa Howell

Great things are happening in the Crockett Library! At the beginning of the final six weeks first grade began their unit of research on animals. The first graders were taught how to use the Gale Database and found great information about their animals! Fourth grade also worked on an individually based research project. Students in Mrs. Rodriguez's and Mrs. Lopez's fourth grade revisited their wonderings they have been collecting throughout the year to drive their research process.

As spring has arrived, so have many new books in the library. The students of Crockett are enjoying new titles purchased this year. In fact, students in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades are already asking about the Bluebonnet books for next year. They are anxious to get started with their reading!

Don't forget to read everyday this summer – just for the fun of it! See you next year!

## DANIELS ELEMENTARY

Gale Albritton

I already knew that Librarians wear many hats but I can add another hat to mine. It's wallpapering!! Fellow Dragons and myself wallpapered a **HUGE** map of the world! Getting all that slimy, gooey paste on my clothes and face made the effort worthwhile. It looks amazing! Now we're trying to find something to cover its size (5 ft x 6 ft).

Officer Slater visited the Library and gave a presentation to the kinder classes about "Safe walking with Stanley." His presentations are always informative and fun.

We had several research projects this month. The first graders studied ocean animals while the second graders told fairytales and a fifth grade teacher showed her class how to make a rhyme or two with poetry.

We're going to have a **BOGO** event here!! Actually, it's a Buy One/Get One Scholastic Book Fair, May 7 - 11. We're all very excited about this one! What better way to end a school year with books that students will have for the Summer!

## DICKINSON ELEMENTARY

Melissa Forsythe



Summer is fast approaching, and I hope everyone has plans to vacation with a good book. Be sure to visit your local public library to check out their summer reading program. Students who participated in the Six Flags Reading Club will be able to celebrate reading by using their free ticket they earned at Six Flags this summer.

First grade is getting ready for summer time by researching ocean animals. Students have learned to use our online library-searching tool to find good books about ocean animals. They are using Internet resources, as well, to complete their research projects. Great job first grade!! Fourth graders are learning about Texas heroes. Students are using print resources as well as Gale Databases to help them find the information they need. Way to go fourth grade!!

We will have an Scholastic Buy One Get One Free Book Fair during the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the perfect opportunity to buy some wonderful books to read this summer. What a great way to finish off the school year!!

## EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY

Mary Hill

Wow! Another great year has come and almost gone and you may wonder what's so great about 2006-07? Well, end of the year awards will prove more students will be on their way to ride for free at Six Flags because they chose to read for fun. Another indicator of a great year is the massive number of trophy candidates for SOAR reading. Families are working together till the end to achieve those reading goals. Our last library night is May 8<sup>th</sup> and will be celebrated with an "open mic" so come prepared to share. Basically the year has been a success because of students who say things like, "*Ghost Fever* is my favorite book. I've only read it three times." Or the comment, "You know that book *Lightening Thief* that was on this year's bluebonnet list...well the author wrote another book that you should put on the next list." Have a great summer and remember May 16<sup>th</sup> is the day to meet Kathi Appelt.

## FANNIN ELEMENTARY

Karen McPherson

Have you seen the 2006-2007 school year? I think it was that blur that just flew past my library windows! It's hard to believe it is almost time to gather the books back in for their summer hibernation.

It was such a treat to visit with Joe Hayes before

the Bluebonnet Luncheon. He wanted me to tell all of you how honored he was that the kids, especially from Grand Prairie, had enjoyed his book enough to vote for it.

It's beginning to feel like a zoo around here. Many classes have been in to do animal research. Multiple print and non-print resources were used.

Fannin students are really looking forward to greater participation in the public library's summer reading program. Having a branch at the Bowles Life Center right here in Fannin's neighborhood makes the program readily accessible. Have an awesome summer! Don't forget to lose yourself in a good book!!!

## **FLORENCE HILL ELEMENTARY**

**Karen Sims**

It's hard to imagine that another school year has come to pass. This May will end my 9<sup>th</sup> year at Florence Hill. How time does fly when you are having fun! I'm looking forward to my 10<sup>th</sup> year at Florence Hill Library and all the great books my students and I will share! What an adventure!

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, I was able to meet some bright new shining faces at Kindergarten Roundup. Their excitement was contagious. They are looking forward to becoming part of the Florence Hill Family.

Speaking of the Florence Hill family, I am sad to say that some of my friends (one very dear to my heart) will be joining Ms. Milham at the new school. We all wish them well on their new grand adventure, but will truly miss them as they venture on to the new school.

I know that we will have new faces on our faculty real soon. So, I want to also take this opportunity to say welcome and please stop by the library - I have the perfect book for you!

Please don't forget to join the Grand Prairie Memorial Library summer reading program. You don't have to be a resident of Grand Prairie to get a Grand Prairie library card.

I hope that all of my students and teachers remember to follow my motto this summer and READ FOR FUN!

Happy summer to all and to all a good book!

## **GARCIA ELEMENTARY**

**Michelle Casey**

The Garcia Toros are still reading strong. They are ending the year, but not their reading. I have gotten consent request for scary stories, the Bluebonnet Winner *Ghost Fever* by Joe Hayes, and *Captain Underpants*. They are also looking forward to enjoying their well-deserved Six Flags Ticket for reading six hundred minutes.

The students, parents and teachers flocked to the library to take advantage of our last book fair for the year. It was a buy-one-get-one-free book fair. Just in time to stock up on great books for the summer. It was a great success.

Have a great summer and continue to rock and read.

## **GARNER ELEMENTARY**

**Joette Cook**

The Garner library has been a busy place this spring with so many new books on the shelves! New books are arriving daily and we have so many interesting, new titles!

Kindergartners have learned their way around the entire everybody section and they are ready to become first graders! Second grade students have become experts in the nonfiction section!

Students in Mrs. Karen Rogers' and Mrs. Felicia Scruggs' classes have placed their habitat projects in the library for all to enjoy. Mrs. Julia Asif has been working with the entire fourth grade on their World Fair projects. They have been researching countries in the library. Fifth grade students have been working on their state research projects in the library.

Many thanks to my third, fourth, and fifth library leaders who have been so helpful! A special thanks to Ms. Hester's fifth graders--Adrian, Joseph, Justin, and Tom--who have helped in the library all year! Have a great summer!

## **HOUSTON ELEMENTARY**

**Marcie Eckout**

The end of the year is near and we have all enjoyed reading a lot of books as we *Read Across the Prairie*. Be on the look out for the Houston Hornet Summer Reading club and earn a free t-shirt when school begins in August just for reading for the fun of it. Also, don't forget to visit one of the Grand Prairie Public Libraries this summer and check out all of your favorite books and authors and maybe discover some new favorites.

The school year may be coming to an end soon but we are expecting a large book order any day now. So come by and visit the library and check out the brand new books.

Our last Family Library Night will be Thursday, May 3, 2007. It will begin at 6:30 and end at 7:30. The Grand Prairie Library will be here to sign parents and students up for public library cards, which are free, and to introduce us to their Summer Reading Program.

Please feel free to stop by Houston the week of May 7<sup>th</sup> for our ½ priced Scholastic Book Fair. Yes, that means all of the Scholastic books will be half price during this week, stock up on summer reading.

## **JOHNSON ELEMENTARY**

**Monica Dubiski**

Our fifth grade students are well into their research and studies of famous Hispanics. Putting together a comprehensive folder for Mrs. Reynolds's Social Studies class, they are learning to evaluate the authoritativeness of web sites as they explore their options. Of course, a major focus is the meaning of plagiarism. A big thank you goes out to Jackson and Kennedy Middle Schools for allowing us to supplement our large supply of biographies with some great selections borrowed from them.

GT students are learning about the Holocaust. It is amazing the variety of Anne Frank journals and stories available that are age appropriate and filled with extraordinary and insightful accounts of her life. Several of the younger grades have been studying Texas, Texas traditions, seeds and growing plants. Mr. Delgado's class has been watching with enthusiasm the results of their growing experiment with seeds.

Mrs. Winn's kindergarten class loves to come to the library and show off what they have learned. The week of Easter we enjoyed their rendition of "Little Bunny Foo Foo," complete with hand motions. We've had a hopping good time reading all kinds of bunny stories. Plans are in the works to celebrate National Library Week. We've wrapped up our last Scholastic Book Fair for the year and the proceeds were amazingly good for our PTA. Happy Spring to everyone from LBJ!

## MARSHALL ELEMENTARY

A.J. Tickell

Wow! Where has the time gone?! It seems like just yesterday that students were signing pledge cards and getting dog tags. We have had a great time this year at Marshall with flashlight reading, book fairs, research projects, storytelling and boxes of new books. Soon it will be time to reflect on the programs this past year and plan for new ones for the next school year. In 2007-2008, Marshall will enjoy more storytelling performances, more new books and reader's theater opportunities just to name a few.

Before we all say good-bye there will be one more book fair May 14-18, Buy One get One Half Off. So if you are interested in getting some discounted books come on by.

The Mustangs are also looking forward to *Librarian Idol* voting. While in San Antonio for the Texas Library Association Conference in April, Mrs. Tickell signed up and posed for her *Librarian Idol* mug shot. Whichever school has the most votes for their librarian will win \$1,000 in books for their school's library! Please vote everyday until mid September at [www.savehalfonbooks.com](http://www.savehalfonbooks.com). Have a safe and wonderful summer!

## MILAM ELEMENTARY

Sarah Coolidge

Reading a great book to yourself in a comfy chair is a wonderful way to have fun and relax, but do you know what is even more fun? Reading a great book with a friend, of course! The Book Buddies program at Milam allows students in one grade to choose buddies from another grade and read together just for the fun of it. This month, students in a third grade class eagerly helped those in a kindergarten class choose a variety of storybooks, and then settled down for a fun-filled reading session in the library. Pairs of students turned pages at tables, read on rugs, beamed at books on benches and, of course, rocked and read in the rocking chairs. The library was packed and space was scarce, but no one seemed to mind – everyone was too involved in reading for fun to notice! Friendships formed through reading can last a lifetime, and we hope that the book buddies of this year will remain reading partners in the years to come.

Although the end of the school year is approaching fast, the reading fun is far from over at the Milam Library. New books purchased with Title I funds continue to arrive weekly, and everyone is excited about the upcoming book fair during the week of May 7th. The last month of school should certainly provides some wonderful opportunities to jumpstart a summer of reading enjoyment, and I know that the Milam Mavericks will continue to develop their love of adventurous, interesting and just plain fun books during their lifelong journey of "Reading Across the Prairie."

## MOORE ELEMENTARY

Linda Dragg

As the school year winds down, we are looking forward to some great end of the year activities in the library. Our second annual *Read Across the Prairie* Night will be held on May 10. All students who attend will receive free books, and everyone will hear the wonderful stories of storyteller Toni Simmons and participate in flashlight reading. It will be a great evening for students and parents to share books and read together!

Students and teachers alike are always excited about our May book fair, as it will be a buy-one-get-one-free fair. Boys and girls are always able to get lots of good books for summer reading. Speaking of summer reading, we hope to have the public children's librarian visit our school once again to tell us about the summer reading program. Also, Ms. Overton's class will be enjoying a Library Read-In one afternoon to celebrate their victory as the class that read the most Bluebonnet Books this year. Of course, those long awaited Six Flags tickets will be here this month! We have some awesome new books. Students have been enjoying our new science and math books, as well as some new graphic novels. Hope everyone has a great summer full of good reading!

## POWELL ELEMENTARY

Nancy Warder

Miss Bonkers of *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!* came to visit fourth grade students the day before TAKS testing. Arriving in tennis shoes straight from the Boston Marathon, she shared Seuss' story and her confidence that Powell students are prepared for the big test. Gratefully no one will be forced to go to school in dreary Flobbertown.

The month of April found Powell students celebrating National Library Week with each student receiving two free books of their choice. We are grateful for the donations from Scholastic and friends.

The Franklin Club Celebration saw the library crawling with enormous turtles. First grade students eagerly read Franklin books during the 5th six weeks and completed a packet to earn membership in the club. The children made their own turtle shells to wear on their backs during the party. Painting Franklin's portrait, playing the Turtle Match Game, and creating a Franklin mosaic made for a snapping good time. The Franklin readers left the library all smiles with bookmarks and door prizes.

## RAYBURN ELEMENTARY

Diana Lopez

Rayburn Roadrunners stepped into TAKS testing with a desire to do their best and finished with a smile. Fourth grade is about to research the rain forest, which is a welcome change after reviewing and testing. All Star Readers will culminate their reading records on May 4, which will be followed with parties galore for accomplishing different levels. Mr. DeLaCruz will be taking the top readers to Chucky Cheese for lunch at the end of school. Family Library Night took place on April 23 in which it became Camp Readalot with tents and covered tables that gave students lots of cozy places to read with a flashlight. The night ended with a popcorn party and a book raffle. This offered an encouragement to all to keep reading over the summer. Read On Roadrunners!!!!

## SEGUIN ELEMENTARY

Evelyn Edington

It is time to vote for your favorite librarian in the Librarian Idol Contest. Everyone can vote from now until September 15. Your vote may help us win free books for our library. So, please vote now and vote often at [www.savehalfonbooks.com](http://www.savehalfonbooks.com).

Joe Hayes was such a pleasure to see at the Texas Library Association Conference. Mr. Hayes won the Texas Bluebonnet Award for his book *Ghost Fever = Mal de Fantasma*. One hundred and twenty-eight of our students at Seguin voted for his book. Mr. Hayes was so excited about the award that he was ready at 8 am, but the luncheon was not until noon. At the luncheon, Mr. Hayes gave all the librarians some homework. He told us a story and challenged each of us to go back to our schools and tell the story to our students. If you would like to hear a good Joe Hayes story, just come by the library.

Corine Barbarena of the Grand Prairie Public Library will be coming to Seguin to give a presentation to our students and faculty on the Grand Prairie Public Library Summer Reading Program. For more information here is the website: <http://www.gptx.org/library/>. Remember to read this summer each and every day just for fun.

## TRAVIS ELEMENTARY

Susie Hall

May has arrived quickly and we are rapidly trying to accomplish all those needed tasks before the school year ends. We are happy to say that the Travis Library will host a Half Price Book Fair this May. Hopefully students will take advantage of this opportunity to secure some summer reading materials. Mrs. Hall is planning to reclaim

the championship from the Grand Prairie Memorial Library's Summer Reading Challenge. We like having those trophies on campus!

*"It's a Mystery to Me!"* is the theme for this year's Travis Summer Camp. Great mystery books have been selected to read while students develop their problem solving strategies to solve or create mysteries this June. Our teachers are excited as they prepare for our fun filled event.

Here's hoping that our faithful readers have a great break and practice the 3R's this summer—Rest, Regroup and READ.

## WHITT ELEMENTARY

Lisa Miller

The HERstory Reading Club, as mentioned in the last newsletter, was a raging success! Activities included book talks on *A Picture of Freedom: the Diary of Clotee, a Slave Girl* from the Dear America Series and the "Addy" books from the American Girls series. Club members made homemade lemonade and shortbread from *Addy's Cookbook*, and did a splatter work art project appropriate to the time period in which Clotee and Addy's stories are set. To wrap things up, the club members enjoyed their homemade snacks while watching Clotee's story on video. Plans are currently in the works for another meeting before school ends.

The Stallions are currently awaiting the arrival of the final Book Fair for this year. We want to stock up on summer reading materials. Have a great summer and remember to spend some time with a good book! See you in this column next fall.

## ZAVALA ELEMENTARY

Linda Laib

The school year seems to pick up speed as we get to May! Zavala has been a whirlwind of activity, celebrating our 30-year anniversary in April. National Library Week involved month long activities including poetry, student book recommendations, a "lucky reader" contest, and a book walk. Teachers were not forgotten as they were invited to the library for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **Books & Bakery**, including a teacher book exchange and lots of baked goodies to enjoy during their lunchtime.

Attending the Texas Library Convention in San Antonio is a wonderful way to reinforce what libraries and librarians are about. I met wonderful authors, heard fabulous storytellers, and viewed great materials to add to our library collection. Stephen Krashen, a highly acclaimed linguist and educational researcher presented some of his findings on reading and literacy. Here is heartening news from an article he wrote in 2004. "We know that the more children read, the better their literacy development. There is now overwhelming research showing that free voluntary reading is the primary source of our reading ability, our writing style, much of our vocabulary and spelling knowledge, and our ability to handle complex grammatical constructions. It has also been confirmed that those who read more know more: They know more about history, literature, and even have more "practical knowledge" (research reviewed in Krashen, 2004)." To read more, go to [www.sdkrashen.com](http://www.sdkrashen.com).

**Happy summer reading!**

## ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beverly Harkness

The library will host the last book fair for this school year. The bookfair will be a BOGO sale. Students will be able to take advantage of the buy one, get one free sale in order to stock up for their summer reading. Mrs. Harkness would also like to encourage everyone to visit their public library to sign up for the summer reading clubs.

After reading *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt, students researched the Civil War. The library has been the home to a variety of creative Civil War displays provided by Mrs. Barton's classes. Coach Brown brought his classes to find information on famous scientists. Students used the Biography Resource Center to find a wide variety of interesting facts about their favorite scientist.

Ross the Reader has been busy reading and traveling to new and exciting places. He was spotted reading on the East Coast and West Coast this past month. He has been quite the traveler this spring. We are looking forward to seeing what exciting places he travels to over the summer.

## **ARNOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Kyla Schooling**

Arnold has been a busy place the past month. The day before TAKS testing was one of the busiest days of the year. It is good to know that students enjoy relaxing with a good book after a long day of testing.

Playaways are continuing to make a big splash in the library. The campus owns 32 Playaways, but you can usually only find three or four on the shelf because they are so popular. Students and staff have requested that new titles be added next year and Mrs. Schooling plans on adding as many as possible.

The final due date for all library books is May 14<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your books up until the very last minute, but get with Mrs. Schooling if you've lost or damaged a book so that she can help you take care of it. The campus will be participating in DEAR day on May 4<sup>th</sup>, so have a good book ready to read. The final Accelerated Reader store of the year will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> and students will have an opportunity to cash in their points for prizes.

Mrs. Schooling received a grant from the Grand Prairie Education Foundation. Grant money will be used to purchase a Kamishibai theater for the library. Kamishibai is a form of Japanese storytelling that was popular before the advent of television. The money will be used to purchase a wooden Kamishibai "stage" and 5 sets of storytelling cards. Thanks to the foundation for supporting our libraries!

There is never a dull moment in the Arnold library. Thanks to students and staff who love and support the library and make it the best place on campus to be. In fact, Mrs. Schooling is already preparing an order for next year's books because she wants the latest and greatest for the students of Arnold Middle School.

## **JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Katie Sessler**

We've had a great year Reading Across the Prairie. We're rocked in the chair and read for many hours and we've enjoyed all the promotions involved with the program. Several students even received cash for having their RAP dog tags on as they read.

Many classes did research and TAKS preparation in the library in April. Every student had multiple opportunities to check out a book to read after they finished testing. I'm sure their good reading habits will continue after the tests are a thing of the past.

One fun project with the ESL classes was to make a bi- or tri-lingual dictionary for students in elementary schools.

Enjoy your summer and be sure to visit the Grand Prairie Memorial Library so you can keep reading!

## **KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Marjory McCowen**

We have had an exciting time at the Kennedy library. The first part of April witnessed an extravaganza of student work displayed in the library. This was the WOW Library Gallery which featured interdisciplinary units of work done by each grade level. Monday featured the topic of "African Safari." There were many extraordinary projects featuring the dioramas, posters and charts made by our sixth graders exploring the various roles of animals in the

deserts, grasslands, and tropical rainforests of Africa. African music was playing as parents, students and invited guests admired the many pieces of work and the information gathering done by our sixth grade students. On Tuesday, the library was transformed to the Texas scene with a unit on "Black Gold." Seventh grade students had thoroughly studied the oil industry in Texas and the use of energy. Notable among the exhibits were models of Ferris Wheels made by Mr. Hall's classes that were powered by light cells. On Wednesday, the eighth graders presented their work on genetics under the title, "We are family." Pictures of each day are featured on the Kennedy web site under the title of Longhorn pride. Great work, students!!!!

Mrs. McCowen had a great time at the state library convention held in San Antonio this year in April. Notable authors in attendance were Avi, Walter Dean Myers, Sharon Creech, Darren Shan, Sarah Weeks, Margaret Peterson Haddix and Sherry Garland. Darren Shan who has become very popular with Kennedy students presented one of the best talks. Mr. Shan has a twelve-volume series, Cirque du Freak, about freak shows and the weird things that can happen there. His newest series is called Demonata. After reading one book from each series, it is clear why the students keep checking these books out. On an interesting note, Mr. Shan stated that he uses "blood and gore" sparingly in his books. This is mostly to spice things up.

The first of May will bring our second book fair for the school year to Kennedy. This fair will be a "Buy one, get one free" and is always well received by the Kennedy students. Hopefully, our library patrons will get a good selection of books for summer reading.

## LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Barbara McCaffrey**

Our library was surprised and delighted with the ten thousand dollar Title One allotment from Mrs. Brewington to our library. We worked diligently in compiling our order and look forward to plenty of new books for the start of school.

Our book fair was a wonderful success enjoyed by many, staff and students alike. The butterfly contest helped add interest to the affair and usher in spring. Students contributed entries of beautiful butterflies, which are on display in the library. Thanks to everyone who participated and made the book fair a success.

TAKS preparation and testing took a lot of our energy at Lee, but the following classes visited the library: Mrs. White, Ms. Brown, Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Hamilton, Ms. Porter, Mrs. Taliaferro, Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Nolen, Mr. Lehnis, and a special welcome to Ms. Baker and Mr. Zalinski, math department. Individuals came daily from various classes including Ms. Radanovic, art, to use our computers and check out books.

Our final *Read Across the Prairie* Day was celebrated school-wide on May fourth. As summer approaches may you, once again, find joy in rest, relaxation and reading!

## REAGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Linda Clearman**

Mrs. Simmon's seventh grade class, assisted by student teacher Mr. Cyr, recently completed a "Getting To Know Me" project. To help them with part of the project, they spent time reading poetry books and discussing the various types of verse. Each student then created ten original song titles that represented his or her life, created a name for a CD album, and designed the cover. To complete the assignment, the students chose one song title and wrote at least three four-line stanzas that told about their lives. The CDs were displayed in the library. We discovered that there are some promising poets or lyric writers at Reagan and found this to be a creative way to celebrate National Poetry Month.

Students, parents, and teachers welcomed the opportunity to stock up on books for summer reading at the Scholastic "Buy One – Get One Free" Book Fair held the first week in May. The participation of many resulted in a successful book fair.

Another school year has quickly passed, but it has been one with a lot of good memories. Our collection continued to grow, and students enjoyed reading many good books during the year. The new Playaways were a popular addition, and students have liked being able to check out magazines for the first time. Valuable lessons were learned from the hours of research done by all grade levels. A variety of contests, recognition ceremonies, and other exciting events took place in the library throughout the year. *Ross the Reader* took interesting trips to Mexico, Japan, and Israel. Thanks to everyone who had a part in making each of these things happen and for making the Reagan library a most enjoyable place to be each day.

Happy Summer to all from everyone at Reagan.

## TRUMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Linda Johnson

With the help of student requests to fill out the list, the final book order for the year is in the process of being completed. In conjunction, Ms. Johnson is in the process of ordering AR titles when available.

Final AR projects are due this month; students are scrambling to get their points before the deadline. In an attempt to make AR less restrictive for students, Ms. Barber is allowing her eighth grade students to present their books in the form of slide shows...very creative!

Truman students continue to be fascinated by the supernatural. In order to properly feed this fascination, Ms Johnson has been introducing some fitting series offerings. Students who enjoyed the Cirque du Freak titles are being introduced to the Demonata series by the same author. Those who enjoyed the Alex Rider books by Horowitz are eager to read The Gatekeepers series. And last but not least, Neal Shusterman fans are devouring his Dark Fusion offerings.

## GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Carmen Koshnoodi

**Libraries are part of the American Dream-places for opportunity, education, self-help and lifelong learning.**  
-National Library Week 2004 Proclamation

The end of the year at Grand Prairie High is rushing to a close and it continues to be extremely busy. April was a fantastic month with pleasure reading checkouts at an all time high as well as research classes coming in and out at a steady pace all month.

**National Poetry Month** was highlighted with displays of books on poetry and poets. With spring fever taking effect the display on vacations and travel was also a favorite with our teachers and students, along with our shelves on plants and gardening. Also in **April** we celebrated **National Library Week** by giving out special bookmarks with each checkout.

Cinco De Mayo was celebrated by having a display emphasizing materials relating to Mexico and its culture. Another favorite area in May was Mothers Day. We had many biographies of famous mothers and many other popular titles.

The GPHS library will of course be open until the very end of school even though we will be in the process of collecting all materials and equipment. We wish everyone a safe summer vacation and look forward to seeing you in August.

### SOME GREAT SUMMER READING:

**Janet Evanovich:** *Lean Mean Thirteen*  
**David Baldacci** *Simple Genius*

**James Patterson**      *The 6th Target*  
**Dean Koontz**         *The Good Guy*  
**Jonathan Kellerman**   *Obsession*  
**J.K.Rowling**          *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

## GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH NINTH GRADE CENTER

Kathy Nichols

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. We praise every teacher who works with our students and we have enjoyed working with this group of students. The month of April has been busy month with English classes researching the Renaissance. Students worked on an assigned topic, took notes, and learned the important information needed for a bibliography. In addition, our computer animation teacher, Mr. Adams, brought his classes to research Shakespeare. They will take the information and create a web page. Geography classes have also come to the library to research regions in the United States and diseases designated as a major threat to world health.

In honor of National Poetry Month our Library Lunch Bunch met to share poetry. Many shared their favorite poems plus we enjoyed listening to those who shared their original poetry. We have very talented young writers.

The library is pleased to announce that our audio book collection is growing. We have added a variety of books on CD including the Harry Potter series, which has been very popular. We also have added "Playaways." These digital audio books are lightweight, easy to use, and a valuable addition to our collection. In the future, the library will be adding a variety of DVDs to supplement the curriculum. We will be adding Playaways, graphic novels, and books for pleasure reading as well as to enhance the curriculum.

## SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Martha Jordan



*Destination Library*

On April 25, all 180 faculty and staff were treated to a terrific time of 'show and tell' in the SGP Library. Busy teachers do not have time to come to check out each new addition as it arrives. So we bribed them! **Destination Library**, created by Library Assistant **Laurie Kubicek**, invited all staff to drop in, relax with refreshments, and peruse displays of new books, new equipment, and new online resources. Library Assistant **Susan Overton** organized wonderful snacks from the Culinary Arts students, so we were able to treat our campus staff all day, as they dropped in during their conference period. Displayed around the library were new Elmo document cameras, new Playaway audio books, eBooks online, new multimedia projectors and new laptops, along with over 1300 new books and over 200 DVD's - allowing for hands on use of almost anything a teacher could think of. All staff went away with new ideas using library resources to enhance their classroom instruction.

Because the official **National Library Week** was during TAKS, our library chose to celebrate a week later. **Destination Library**, lots of new displays, and daily announcements were part of our special week. We also encouraged all students to check out a new arrival – then they were rewarded with a special pencil or other item – **all about READING.**

Did I say it is **'all about READING'?** **Right! I did!** **The SGPHS administration agrees that it is 'all about READING'** and together we are working on a new literacy / reading program for next fall. It looks and sounds like it is going to be TERRIFIC! With the great foundation and awareness created by Read Across the Prairie over the last 2 years, we already have a head start in placing reading at the forefront of the learning strategies in every classroom. **Our goal for next year will be to make reading and literacy even a more important part of each student and teacher's daily learning experience.**

Check in next year for details! And don't forget to read for fun every day! Enjoy your summer!

Back by popular demand – Summer Checkout at SGP – for  
students and teachers

## **SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE NINTH GRADE CENTER**

**Belinda Stanley**

Spring is here and only a few weeks are left in the 2006-2007 school year, but students at SPG 9 are still enjoying all the new books that have recently arrived. Most of the books on the Lone Star and TAYSHAS reading lists are now in the library, and many are also available in Audio Book form. Sixty new books on CD arrived at the library in April.

Health classes continue to research diseases and health related careers. This month we were fortunate in the library to witness the fruits of their labor as they presented their research projects in the library. English, Biology, and Communications Applications classes also made use of the many resources available in the library for projects and presentations.

SGP9 art students are incredibly talented, and the library was lucky to have the opportunity to display unique sculptures created by these students. Thank you, Art Students, for all the great displays all year long!

The library staff wishes everyone a wonderful

summer, and we hope you continue to Read Across the Prairie!

## **LAMAR ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**Velma Alexander**

We have new books in the library ready to be checked out. We have new computers up and running for your student's research projects. Come and visit the library, there are good things going on here. For those students who are taking the TAKS test, good luck to you.

Have a great summer; return rested, revived and refocused there is much work ahead. See you next year.

## **BOZE LEARNING CENTER**

**Velma Alexander**

As we rapidly approach the end of another school year, the teachers, TAKS administrators, and principals are looking for innovative ways to inspire students to be the best they can be. And of course the library is the place to go when you are looking for books, newspaper and magazine articles and study materials to get through the last moments of study preparations. Good luck to those test takers.

We have new books in and on the shelves in the library, come, visit, and check out a book.

Have a great summer and see you next year!!



## BOOKMARK FOR THE INTERNET

By Carmen Galindo

### Personal Emissions Calculator

[http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html)

This is an online calculator to obtain an estimate of your personal greenhouse gas emissions or your family's greenhouse gas emissions. ( From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency -EPA.)

D.E.A.R. DAY

May 4, 2007