

LIBRARY NOTES



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

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Who Needs Libraries?!!!!

Belinda Jacks

Are you a library user? Do you find yourself in libraries in strange localities or spending your free time visiting a library? The love of books, the thirst for knowledge has always brought people to libraries.... at least since the beginning of libraries. Libraries have always had magic for me. Reading every book in the 398's at my public library when I was a child still brings that feeling of excitement and contentment that reading those books on a rainy day does. The thought of reading books I couldn't or shouldn't read holds special appeal. In third grade, I was just beginning to believe I could read anything I wanted. I chose *Little Women*. I carried that book around for a couple of months plowing through it. Was I old enough to understand the magnitude of what I was reading? Of course not. I read the words and understood the story on a simple level. I never finished it....until later. For me that book symbolizes my belief in the possibilities of what I could do. It made me believe I was a reader. As a reader I have read *The Mystery in the Old Clock* by Nancy Drew and *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne, in the same year. As Bart Simpson would say, "It's all good!"

I am a librarian. I spend the vast majority of my work time in libraries. How do I spend most Saturdays? I'm in the library doing genealogical research. When I'm on vacation I am somehow drawn to libraries like a magnet. On a trip to Washington D. C., I took a bus to visit a historical home in Georgetown. I arrived an hour early for the tour, so I looked up and there was a library. Did I go shopping or eat dessert? No. I went to the library, and I was late to the opening of the historical home. If that is being a nerd - so be it.

Why do people go to libraries? Here are a few reasons.

- To find a book...a dvd...an audio book...a refuge.
- To get out of the heat, rain.
- To be safe.
- To find your ancestors.
- To register to vote.
- For a quiet place to think.
- For a noisy place to explore information.
- For the knowledge, the history, the ambiance.
- Just because.....

We must not let the generations that follow lose the love and magic that libraries bring. They are symbols of our thirst for knowledge and the human need to escape our world into others. The value of libraries is not the building but the ideas and opportunities for learning. It is a place where all thoughts, no matter how controversial, are explored and valued. Who needs libraries? I do. You do. We all do.

AUSTIN ELEMENTARY

By Kathy Brundrett

The students at Austin are all "dog" tired. They have been reading just for the fun of it as they pledged to do when they signed their *Read Across the Prairie* pledge card and received their dog tag. They have been checking out a variety of books and even some magazines to be sure they have enough to read. We are flying our new flag so that the whole community knows we are *Reading Across the Prairie* here at Austin. What have you read lately, "just for the fun of it?"

Have a great day!

BONHAM ELEMENTARY

By Pat Phipps

September and October were busy months as books fell like autumn leaves in the Bonham library. To celebrate fall and Johnny Appleseed's birthday, we read books about Johnny, made apple graphs, and looked at hidden pictures. Intermediate grades reviewed the use of the Gale databases and our library catalog and then did research on various Tall Tales. Our Book Care Bookworm grew bigger as students listed rules for proper book care. Second and third graders played Library Lingo to review library terms. We began a new Bonham Book Bunch where third, fourth, and fifth graders come to the library once a week to read together. We are currently reading Bluebonnet selections. We found lots of neat new books at our first Book Fair of the year.

Our *Read Across the Prairie* promotion got off to a great start with the addition of our new flag and the signing of new pledges. The students loved the new key chains and promised to read every day 'just for fun'! Bonham students love to *Read Across the Prairie!*

BOWIE ELEMENTARY

By Elaine Tricoli

We're wild about "boo"ks, especially during the month of October! "Boo"wie students have been doing tons of reading and researching!

Our 4th graders worked hard on a "top secret" NABI (Native American Bureau of Investigation) project reuniting a lost Native American found wandering around Texas. Teams worked together to compile a dossier on one of the Texas tribes in order to determine where best to relocate the displaced Native American. After gathering information and creating a double bubble map comparing their tribe to the lost Native American, the teams debated and chose the best tribe for him to join. Ms. Tricoli was impressed by each team's diligent and efficient information gathering, and by the way they worked out a solution to such a complicated problem. It's great to have lots of Bobcats in the library tracking down background information for their science fair projects!

Our October PTA program, "sponsored" by our 3rd Grade team, is going to be Book Bingo Night! We're looking forward to lots of fun with our Bobcats and their families! A big thanks to our friends at Scholastic Book Fairs for letting us come shopping at the warehouse for our prizes! Books, of course!!

On "Spooks and Books" Day, Bobcats coming to the library to check out will get a treat, and who knows, maybe we'll even throw in a trick or two!!

Happy reading and researching!

BUSH ELEMENTARY

By Mike Broussard

Wow! Bush had our science exploration fair in the library, and the kids loved it. This was a great way to get kids excited about science and thinking about science projects for October. For a week, the library was transformed into a fun exploration zone for kids to play with numerous science items. Throughout the day the balloon rocket could be seen and heard in the library. The rain tube could be heard making it sound like it was raining in the library. It was wonderful to see the kids so excited about all of the science items that Heath Scientific brought. We also had some live animals that the kids never tired of seeing. Among the live animals were live tarantulas, Beta fish, millipedes, and frogs.

Kids have really been enjoying checking out books and magazines from the library. All of the new books have been checked out and enjoyed. The new graphic novel biographies seem to be a hit, along with all of the books on the military. Magazines are very popular with grades first through fifth.

Students have really been enjoying coming to the library for story time / read aloud. We all have a lot of fun with the stories that are read each week. Pop-up books seem to be the favorite with all grade levels.

Keep reading for fun!!

CROCKETT ELEMENTARY

Lisa Howell

Crockett kicked off *Read Across The Prairie* during the month of September with a promise by all students and staff to read everyday, just for the fun of it! Students and staff visited the library to sign pledge cards and receive their dog tags. Everyone was so excited! Crockett is also proudly flying our *Read Across The Prairie* flag, announcing that we ARE a community of readers!

October offers great things! Being the official "Read Across the 'Scary' Prairie" month at Crockett, students will be enjoying scary story times, flashlight reading, mystery book hunts and much, much more!

The Bulldog's are reading everyday for the fun of it, which makes each day a new adventure! Keep up the great reading!

DANIELS ELEMENTARY ACADEMY

Gale Albritton

Lights! Camera! Action! It's nonstop action as I work hard to learn how to perform each of the duties of Daniels KDEA television broadcast studio that is manned by the students. A fourth grade student had the opportunity to read a letter she received from President Bush during one of the broadcast. What a great opportunity to expose and showcase their talent!



The Library is alive with activity as classes return books and check out gobs more. Stories are read aloud at least twice daily to the youngest readers. Like its mascot, David Daniels is on fire!

DICKINSON ELEMENTARY

Melissa Forsythe

What better way is there to spend an afternoon or an evening than sharing a good book with a child? Sharing good books is exactly what we talked about during our first 2 X 2 Book Talk. Families of children from age 2 to grade 2 were invited to learn about this list of 20 books chosen especially for children by members of the Texas Library Association. We looked at each book and talked about tips for reading with and to children.

Our Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. Thank you to all our families that purchased books and helped with this library fundraiser. Because of our successful book fair, we are planning to bring a special author to speak to Dickinson students in December.

Our Dickinson Reading Restaurant is scheduled for the week of October 16 – 20 with an oriental theme this year. Students in fourth and fifth grade will work in the restaurant as chefs, greeters, and servers. Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade customers will enjoy a delicious treat as they are served scrumptious books from the restaurant menu. Come with a ravenous appetite for good books!!

EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY

Mary Hill

What a wonderful experience parents, students and staff had with September S.O.A.R. The library filled to overflow status in the first 30 minutes with newcomers anxious to learn more about stickers, patches and trophies, plus many returning families that have experienced the excitement that reading as a family can bring. Have you ever had a picture book that brings out the deepest, most loving emotions? Well, you might try reading Munsch's *Love You Forever*. As a 4th grade teacher, many years ago, I was present when a storyteller captivated a cafeteria full of readers by sharing, singing and rocking that sweet precious baby that becomes a man. So as the approaching SOAR event collided with a turn for the worse in my own mother's health, I turned to the solace I found in that book and knew I had to share those feelings with my favorite readers at Eisenhower. What a payoff! When a book can bring children reaching out to share hugs, kisses and tears this librarian has been rewarded.

October 23 is our next SOAR. Join us for a Reading Round-up as Mrs. Biehl will share a chapter from her favorite *Hank the Cowdog* book. Get yours checked out now because after she reads they'll be hard to find.

FANNIN ELEMENTARY

Karen McPherson

"The book fair is here! The book fair is here!" could be heard daily the first week of second week of September. The students, parents and teachers all enjoyed the selections this time. *Captain Underpants* devotees were especially thrilled to get their hands on the latest epic and, of course, were inquiring whether or not it would appear on the library's shelves. Absolutely!

Fifth grade started on an epic journey to learn about the lives and motivations of the men and women who explored the uncharted areas of the world.

Fourth graders started research projects on Native Americans in Texas. Based on information they gleaned from print and non-print sources, they became a part of the tribe they were researching and wrote a creative piece detailing a day in their "lives".

Third grade came in for lessons on how to use print and non-print resources to find information to answer key questions for research. Note taking techniques were also demonstrated and practiced.

FLORENCE HILL ELEMENTARY

Karen Sims

The chill is in the air! Time to snuggle up with a good book and watch the leaves fall from the trees! What a better way to celebrate the days getting shorter than to fall into a good book! Books have been falling off the shelf here at Florence Hill. Our third graders are excited to know that they get to vote for the Texas Bluebonnet Award and come in daily to see which nominated books are available. The nominated books are always checked out! Fourth and fifth grades are enjoying the Bluebonnets too!

Kindergarten is venturing out into open checkout. It is fun to see the younger ones coming to the library independently and finding a new book! Of course, first graders are old pros at open checkout and are always willing to help out our newbies in kindergarten.

Second grade is opening up the vault to the Magic Tree House books! They have discovered Annie and Zach and can't wait to snatch up the latest edition!

We are excited about kicking off our *Read Across the Prairie* program this year! I have to take a moment to brag on all of my students that bought a new Read Across the Prairie t-shirt. We sold over 200 shirts (and over 200 last year too)! Come and “Read Across the Prairie” with us!

GARCIA ELEMENTARY

Michelle Casey

The Garcia Toros had a great time at the “Reading Rainforest” Book Fair. They were able to share it with their parents before and after the PTA meeting, and show them all the titles that were available. The Pre-Kindergarten classes have been to the library to enjoy read-a-louds on the five senses, along with our PPCD classes. The non-fiction titles on weather has been a hot topic for the first grade students, fifth graders have been looking into biographies for books on their favorite stars, and our fourth graders have been in the library to search and find “good-leads” in our wonderful picture book selection. There is something for everyone in the Garcia Library.

GARNER ELEMENTARY

Joette Cook

Garner students are busy signing their new *Read Across the Prairie* pledge cards. The dog tags are awesome and students are displaying them proudly on their backpacks. Garner students and faculty will be wearing their *Read Across the Prairie* t-shirts on the first Friday of every month. Students wearing their shirts on that day will receive a ticket for a freebie from the library. Most students’ favorite freebie is the privilege of checking out an extra book from the library! Other upcoming activities include a book character parade, flag raising ceremony, and bulletin board displays.

Third, fourth, and fifth grade students are making fantastic progress on their Bluebonnet reading. Mrs. Karen Stevens’ third grade class has already earned their Bluebonnet bookmarks for reading three Bluebonnet books.

Kindergarten students are making great progress in learning how to take care of library books! They are so proud of themselves!

Garner All Stars read for fun every day! Happy Reading!

HOUSTON ELEMENTARY

Marcie Eckhout



The Houston Hornets are off and reading this school year. Third, fourth and fifth graders have viewed the Bluebonnet video from Texas Library Association and are racing to read at least five of the twenty nominated books so they can vote for their favorite in the spring. Kindergarten through fifth graders will begin the Pizza Hut Book It reading program in October to earn free pizzas and prizes from Pizza Hut just for reading. This goes right along with the district wide reading initiative of reading everyday just for the fun of it in the *Read Across the Prairie* reading program.

Houston is proud to announce a new Family Library Evening. This event will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. At 6:30 parents and students will be encouraged to spend time as a family browsing, reading and checking out lots of books to share at home. Then, at 7:00, we will have a guest reader share their favorite children’s book with the families. We hope to have a great turn out for this new family reading program.

JOHNSON ELEMENTARY

Monica Dubiski

HOWDY! The LBJ Texans are bouncing with enthusiasm over the upcoming launch of this year’s *Read Across the Prairie* reading program. Students ask daily when they get to sign their pledge cards, receive their dog tags, and purchase another RAP wristband. All kinds of ideas have floated around about where to display their new tags. The excitement is contagious. You’ve got to love and appreciate those young minds.

Another reading incentive program adopted and implemented recently at LBJ is BOOK IT. For the next six months students can earn a free personal size pizza from Pizza Hut based on meeting specific criteria determined by each teacher - such as the number of minutes or hours the student spends reading, and the reading level of the materials.

We are looking forward to a great academic year. Our goals have been established and it will be fun to see the positive results of the endeavors contributed collectively by the learning community. The library can play an instrumental part in the successes of the school, as the librarians take on the role of consultant, teacher, and information specialist.

MARSHALL ELEMENTARY

A.J. Tickell

Late September and early October were extremely busy months at Marshall. The students were able to read their letters from the Grande Prairie, Canada students and get started on their replies. The letters were filled with pictures of their homes, school and hobbies. Our new pen pals also wrote about their favorite movies, video games, places to shop and their favorite subject's in school - which was Recess, of course!

We all signed new pledge cards to read for the fun of it and got our totally awesome dog tags! As if that wasn't cool enough, we also got our *Read Across the Prairie* flag and it is flying proudly in front of our school.

The Mustangs were then astonished to learn that Thanksgiving Day in Canada is celebrated on the second Monday of October, so our students decided to make them Thanksgiving cards. They drew Thanksgiving pictures and wrote letters to share our traditions with them. Also in October, in honor of "Read Across the Prairie" Month, we had flashlight reading and spooky read-alouds. Coming in November the Mustangs are getting revved up for the Scholastic Book Fair and Fall Carnival!

MILAM ELEMENTARY

Sara Coolidge

Things are galloping along great at Milam Elementary! Our fifth grade students have been busily searching the Gale databases to complete their research on the fifty U.S. states and have enjoyed learning about state birds, flowers, and industry. Our fourth grade students are also using the excellent database resources to uncover facts about Native American culture and were captivated by several read-aloud sessions on Coyote, also known as The Trickster or The Tricky One to the Native American people. All students are enjoying the library's new system for magazine check out - magazines such as Ranger Rick and American Girl have been flying off the shelves.



Students and parents flocked to the library during the second week of September to visit the Science Fair Shop and purchase educational toys, games, and live animals (frogs, tarantulas, and millipedes to name a few). Based upon this great turnout and the expressed interest of many who attended, I am sure that October's book fair will meet with similar success. After all, with an eager community of readers like the Milam Mavericks, great accomplishments are always possible!

MOORE ELEMENTARY

Linda Dragg

This month was the big kick-off for our district-wide *Read Across the Prairie* reading initiative. Students and staff eagerly signed pledge cards, committing to read a little every day just for the fun of it. They were delighted when they received the *Read Across the Prairie* dog tag to help them remember to read every day. The dog tags have been prominently displayed on tons of backpacks. Thank you to Mrs. Belinda Jacks for providing such great "reminders" for all of us to read, read, read!

Students and teachers are reading Bluebonnet Books as fast as they can. Many teachers are reading them aloud with their classes. The race is on for each student to read five before January! Kindergarteners have

learned about bookcases, how to use shelf markers, and what a kindergarten book should look like. They are now ready to select and check out their own books. Mrs. Shapira's class came to the library for a lesson about the difference between fiction and non-fiction books.

We will end this month with a big event, our first Scholastic Book Fair. Students and staff alike look forward to all the good books and fun items in the book fair.

POWELL ELEMENTARY

Nancy Warder

Did you notice any statues as you traveled on vacation this summer? Students reading *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan now know that Medusa from Greek mythology may be responsible! Avert your eyes if you should come across a scary woman with snakes writhing in her hair, lest you become a statue too. The book has made eager readers of our 5th grade lunch group. We wonder, can Percy successfully return Zeus' missing lightning bolt? We'll keep reading to find out.



Research is as simple as a song for our fourth grade students. We sang "The Research Quest" to review the seven steps to successful research. What is their quest? They have to imagine traveling back in time to the year 1750. They are Spaniards exploring Texas and are stranded. What customs and lifestyles would they choose from Texas Natives to create a NEW tribe in which to live?

What makes a story a tall tale? That's the problem posed to third grade students. Each class came to the library to investigate. We read four tall tales to find the literary quality each had in common. As the final product, our researchers had to create their own tall tale character.

RAYBURN ELEMENTARY

Diana Lopez

Rayburn had their first Scholastic Book fair on September 25. They were excited to see the new Black Lagoon books by Mike Thaler along with the other good books in the bookcases. Parents were able to preview the fair during Family Library night and were ready with their lists by Monday. Students love the new system to check out magazines. It has been very successful. Magazines and books are flying off the shelves at Rayburn. Read On Roadrunners!!!!

SEGUIN ELEMENTARY

Evelyn Edington

If you think that comics and graphic novel heroes are all for boys, guess again. Babymouse is a fun graphic-novel series for girls. Our hero, portrayed by author Jennifer Holm as a drama queen with a fetish for pink hearts, will keep you laughing. For a superhero that began as a doodle on a napkin, Babymouse has become a smashing success. You will find more information about graphic novels, Jennifer Holm and Babymouse at www.babymouse.com.

Is there a safe place for students to surf for answers to their questions, search for research sources and look for information, with their parents at home? Students at Seguin are learning that the answer is Gale. In classes before school, students have searched for information on topics such as the Constitution, 911, and Labor Day. We compare what we find in the Gale Databases to materials that we have available in our library. Usually we find only one or two sources in our library, but with Gale everyone has access to the same information. Students have begun to rely more on Gale as they have become more familiar with this database. We are learning that with the Gale Databases, information is only fingertips away.

TRAVIS ELEMENTARY

Susie Hall

Mrs. Hall would like to thank the Travis fourth graders for guiding some lost Texas Native Americans back to their rightful tribes. (It was getting crowded in the library!) After noting attributes of these fellows, students from Ms. Olsen, Mrs. Rodriguez, Ms. Guerrero and Mrs. Fox researched Texas Indian tribes to

locate information so they could help these wandering guys find their way home. We are happy to report that everyone is back where they belong.

October means SCARY stories and our third graders are busy becoming experts on chilling tales so they can write their own. After reading all kinds of frightening works, the students will tell you that a story doesn't have to have monsters, witches, black cats or spooky mansions to raise goose bumps. They certainly have written some spine tingling accounts of "it was a dark and stormy night." Who knows? One of these young writers may be the next R.L. Stine or Stephen King!

In between all the research, writing and technology, we also have lots of great reading happening in our library. Students and faculty are thrilled with our Read Across the Prairie dog tags, t-shirts and flag. What a great time we are having!

WHITT ELEMENTARY

Lisa Miller

Whitt has just completed our first successful Book Fair for this year! By adding these profits to our "savings account," we are hoping to add some cool new seating to our library. Mrs. Whitenight's PPCD and Ms. Alden's PreK classes have been enjoying read alouds, especially ones that involve singing and/or movement (they don't even seem to mind that *certain people* aren't stellar singers). Classes have been making sure to sign up for a few extra minutes to sign Read Across the Prairie pledge cards and snap up those new dog tags. Jonathon London's "Froggy" books, Eric Carle, and David Shannon, are favorite choices for younger Stallions, while R.L. Stine; Barbara Park (Junie B.); and graphic history books continue to draw the older crowd. Next up for the Whitt library...magazine checkout. Stay tuned.

ZAVALA ELEMENTARY

Linda Laib

What's black and white and 'read' all over?? Our Read Across the Prairie t-shirts! People stop me whenever I wear mine. It gives our Grand Prairie community a common thread. We are all celebrating the joy of reading.

Family Library Night was so much fun. Students and parents got psyched about reading patches, trophies, and enjoying reading time together. Everyone who came signed a Read Across the Prairie pledge card, got a Read Across the Prairie wristband, and went home with tips on 'How to Raise a Reader,' as well as ideas for participating in this year's Zavala Science Fair. Katie Gomez wowed the crowd with *The Science Fair From the Black Lagoon* by Mike Thaler. Zavala Lions are *roaring* to go!

ADAMS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Beverly Harkness

Adams Middle School is enthusiastically Reading Across the Prairie! Students loved the idea of reading just for fun. The Panthers have taken their pledges very seriously, which is evident by the amount of students checking out books that they love to read.

A big congratulation goes out to Adams Middle School paraprofessional, Jeff Lemarr, who recently published a collection of poetry, prose and short fiction entitled *Fallen*. After Mr. Lemarr's poetry had been featured in several online publications, he was prompted to collect some of his favorite poems and short stories to be included in this independently published collection. Mr. Lemarr's book contains humor, drama, a true story and some fantasy in the vein of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings. *Fallen* is available exclusively through www.cafepress.com/jpatricklemarr. We would like to thank Mr. Lemarr for donating a copy of his book to the Adams Library for our students to enjoy.

ARNOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kyla Schooling



Howdy partner! Students from Mr. Duff's SLC classes, Mrs. Lovell's Functional Skills classes and Mrs. Olsen's DLS classes visited the library this past month for cowboy story time. Students got to join in for a fun story called *Texas Zeke and the Longhorn*. Then they learned some cowboy lingo. Mrs. Schooling made each of them a personalized bandana and the students learned three different ways that cowboys used them. The only thing better than the story was making homemade trail mix. Students got to scoop their favorite ingredients into a cowboy bag and then enjoy the snack. October's theme will be spooky stories!

If you don't have time to visit an art museum, just stop by the Arnold library instead. The Arnold art classes have filled the library with beautiful works. The most interesting pieces are wire sculptures that show animals and humans in motion. Students borrowed many books from the sports and entertainment sections to get ideas for their pieces. Thanks to their teacher, Ms. Lynda Harris.

Reading Across the Prairie is back! Students eagerly signed pledge cards through their ELA classes and received their RAP dog tags. And while Arnold students do enjoy the incentives to read, they would read for fun even without them! Arnold's readers rock!

JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Katie Sessler

Our newly elected Student Council unfurled the wonderful *Read Across the Prairie* flag and the Jackson Eagles are again pledging to read just for the fun of it. The dog tags are a big hit and pledge cards are being signed and returned.

ELA classes have been to the library to learn the rules, and to learn about IPAC and Gale databases. They are also checking out books to read for the love of reading. This year's group of sixth graders seems to be especially excited about books. We love to see that! Circulation numbers are up. We have a box of "Good Books"; students may add their favorite book to that box anytime. When another student says, "You don't have any good books," Mrs. Sessler points them to that box so they can get something their friends have declared to be good.

Mrs. Smith's science classes spent a day in the library doing a metric madness scavenger hunt. Banned Book Week (September 23 – 30) was the subject of a display and much discussion. Our website is being updated, too. There are tons of reading suggestions in the Library section, "What's Good to Read?" Take a look! (<http://jackson.gpisd.org>)

KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marjory McCowen

Our history classes at Kennedy have been coming to use the Gale databases that are on our GPISD Intranet. We also discussed the differences between the Intranet and the Internet (world wide web). Students are really in awe of the research tools placed at their disposal by the school district. We have also had our Spanish teachers, Mrs. Camarillo and Mrs. Johnson, in to use the library resources and computers.

Our reading classes have gotten off to a good start and have tested on STAR to check reading levels and started AR testing. We would like to welcome our new technology facilitator, Katherine Fahey, who will be helping the teachers in the technology labs and with our AR program.

For sports fans, three books on the Lone Star list for this year are real winners. Soccer fans will really enjoy *Keeper* by Mal Peet. El Gato, whose team won the World Cup, tells about his life and experiences from growing up in the rainforest in Brazil, to his successes on the soccer fields. *The Runner*, by Carl Deuker, combines sport and mystery in this story about a boy who is paid to pick up a package on his daily run and leave it at a drop site. While he has the feeling this might not be legal, the money helps take care of necessities for his alcoholic father and their expenses living on a boat in Puget Sound. He eventually comes

to the realization that smuggling is a really bad idea and has a hard time getting out of his predicament. *Last Shot*, by John Feinstein, will delight all of our basketball fans as we get inside seats to the Final Four. Stevie and Susan Carol, winners of a reporter contest, are sent to cover the big basketball tournament with full press credentials. They accidentally overhear what could be a player being threatened if he does not throw the last game. The mystery is on! Kennedy Library just obtained the sequel to *Last Shot*. *Vanishing Act*, a mystery at the U.S. Open, starts with the disappearance of one of the newest and best players, and then gets really exciting. Our two young sleuths are able to solve the mystery and give us an inside view of the sport of tennis.

LEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Barbara McCaffrey

Mrs. White, Mrs. Nolen, and Mrs. Taliaferro helped us kick off the Read Across the Prairie reading program on Monday, September 18. Students signed pledge cards and received dog tags to a background of western music. Mrs. McCaffrey, attired in western wear, read a version of *Pecos Bill*, and then the class watched another variation of the tale (with Robin Williams narrating) as they munched on trail mix and sipped punch. Everyone, of course, then enjoyed a little time for reading just for the fun of it. On Tuesday, September 19, Mrs. Jackson's classes signed their pledges and met at the flagpole to read the Read Across the Prairie pledge. Many students and staff are signing the pledges and having a great time initiating the program.

Library instruction has been a major part of this month. Database orientations are mostly completed. Students received their yellow cards and learned how to access the Gale Databases from home and school. Library aides have been trained in the many functions and duties they perform daily. The library continues to be a busy place with students and staff visiting before, during, and after school.

Mrs. McCaffrey visited with the departments and discussed copyright, library services and research. Packets of information concerning these topics were distributed to faculty. Mr. Mezzles is making plans to do a research project the first week of the second six weeks.

We are looking forward to Teen Read Week and our first book fair in October. Planning is in the works to make these events a lot of fun!

REAGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Linda Clearman

The district's Read Across the Prairie reading promotion is off to a great start at Reagan for the second year. Almost all students and teachers have signed pledge cards and are wearing dog tags to encourage them to read every day just for the fun of it. Reading log minutes are increasing as classes take time to drop everything and read. The RAP flag flying in front of our building announces to the community that Reagan is certainly a "reading place." With Teen Read Week just around the corner, the library will be sponsoring activities that focus on the Read Across the Prairie theme.

Our fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held the first week in October. We had a very successful fair last year and are expecting this year to be the same.

Mrs. Collier's seventh grade social studies classes recently spent time in the library to research the Texas gubernatorial candidates. Students were required to visit each candidate's website and evaluate each one's stand on the issue of education. They were directed to decide which candidate they felt offered the best plans for education and explain why they made that choice. Though they will not be able to vote in November, they will have some good advice to offer to those who do.

TRUMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Linda Johnson

Book check out is at a very brisk pace at Truman; Accelerated Reader is about to begin so students are eager to get those points! We have also begun checking out periodicals this year; the students seem very excited to get the opportunity to take magazines home for leisure reading. The library wishes to thank Ms. Summers'

art classes for coming in to research the lives and styles of Georgia O'Keeffe, Salvador Dali, Pablo Picasso, and Alexander Calder before beginning a class unit on the elements of art including value, color, form, line and shape. Students used both print and non-prints sources to create a brief written report.

GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Few are too young, and none too old, to make the attempt to learn. --Booker T. Washington

Read Across the Prairie continues to be a wonderful success here at GPHS. We sold many more t-shirts this year to the faculty because our Principal, Mrs. Rose Brenner, agreed to let us wear the shirts with jeans the first Monday of each month.

The English classes again have been our biggest patrons, but; we are working to get other departments to bring their students in as well to check out books for pleasure.

Meet the Teacher night at GPHS was very successful. The halls were full with parents and students all night. We had more parents come in than we have had before. It was very exciting to see all the students bringing their parents in.

National Hispanic Heritage month began on September 15 and goes until October 15 and celebrated the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additional information can be found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov>

Banned Book Week, from September 23 thru September 30th, proved again to be a popular attraction. Some frequently challenged books are: *The Chocolate War*, *Fallen Angels*, *Captain Underpants* series, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*-just to name a few. An excellent site to find more information on banned and challenged books is <http://www.ala.org>

FYI: GALE has a database devoted to helping teachers with lesson plans and projects and also it is geared to help parents with questions they may have regarding lessons.

GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH NINTH GRADE CENTER

Kathy Nichols

We had a great response to our first Library Lunch Bunch and had twenty-six students and five teachers join us. The group is very informal our discussion included books we have enjoyed reading in the past and present. The students in the group will also be recommending books once a week on the school announcements. The *Left Behind* series, *Cirque du Freak* series, *Angela's Ashes*, *Lightening Thief*, *Reef of Death*, and *One Last Wish* were a few of the recommended books. We are looking forward to next month where we will discuss horror books.

The library has begun to sponsor a TAKS word of the week. The word of the week is announced on Monday. Students are to look up the definition and drop the answer in the library basket. Those who locate the correct definition are placed in a drawing for a prize on Friday.

We would like to thank the teachers for being so supportive of the library and research. Research this month included health and science careers, Edgar Allan Poe, various literary authors, Frida Kahlo, Russian Revolution, Harlem Renaissance, and lots of learning about natural disasters.

Last but not least we began our Read Across the Prairie kickoff by signing pledge cards to read for fun. This program is supported by our weekly Read Across the Prairie time where everyone reads. During the kickoff many classes came to the library to learn about banned and challenged books. They learned the importance of being allowed to read whatever they choose. We appreciate Mr. Sosa's support in all the library programs.

SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL

Martha Jordan

"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us how to swim."
Linton Weeks

(Washington Post, 13 January 2001, p. C01)

What a great description that is! Both of our current world, and of a librarian's job – providing floaties in the tsunami!

At SGP, we are working hard to meet these many student / teacher needs.

September emphasized **Banned Books Week** – celebrating the freedom to read. Displays, bookmarks, and scavenger hunts brought up many questions about the details of censored books. Links on our website also gave students new sources of statistics and information. Several English classes carried out fun assignments dealing with this idea of intellectual freedom.

Spanish Heritage Month also was featured in September displays for student perusal.

The **SGP Book Club** chose *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie to discuss in September. October's meeting will be especially fun as the featured titles will come from the mystery/horror genre. The library will be liberally decorated for fall and Halloween with lots of pumpkins, leaves, and of course – great books!

And like all the GPISD libraries, we kicked off the 06-07 *Read Across the Prairie* reading program by selling t-shirts and by passing out the new RAP dog tags to all who pledged to read for fun every day. Why? Because study after study proves that there is no better way to improve a student's overall school performance than with free reading time.

How can we best use this great free educational tool? At SGP we have made some progress. Statistics prove that library circulation is up 49% from last year. Is that enough? NO, because these same statistics prove that not even 1 item per student was checked out.

We must do better than that by:

- ordering newer titles
- providing more time for reading
- providing more access to reading

We have already:

- spent part of the campus budget ordering new materials
- extended the library hours to 6:30 on Mondays
- initiated a monthly, campus-wide FREE TO READ day
- surveyed the student population for input on new titles to purchase
- celebrated Teen Read Week October 15-21

We still need to.... continue improving.

SOUTH GRAND PRAIRIE NINTH GRADE CENTER

Belinda Stanley

SGP9 Library celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a display of interesting books about Hispanic Culture. The 2006 National Hispanic Heritage Month is from September 15 to October 15.

Ninth graders were busy researching in the library during September. Science classes researched food chains and diseases, ESL classes worked with atlases, and geography classes worked on a variety of projects. Communication Application classes used books to create persuasive speeches.

The week of September 11th was a reflective week in the SGP9 Library as we honored the heroes of 9/11 on the 5th Anniversary. We appreciated Dallas Firefighter Lann Pommerening and Grand Prairie SRO Officers

Briggs and Almazan for their contribution of items for our very special 9-11 Remembrance Display. Ms. Buchanan's art class made a banner to hang above the display. Pictures of the display will remain on the SGP9 website until the end of October.

LAMAR AEP

Velma Alexander

First, let me thank the AEP Principal and Staff for the warm welcome, as I am new in the library this year. My hat is off to them for allowing me to be here. This year Lamar AEP is a work in progress - getting the books back on the shelves in alphabetical order and inventoried will take some time, but its all good.

I am confident that together we are bringing lot of wonderful things for the students that will encourage them to use the library. Ms. Potter's class is studying *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, and she checked out the video cassettes to further enhance the learning experience. Last Tuesday, Mr. Stahl brought all periods of his classes to check out books for research projects. I was overjoyed. The efforts are well spent in making the best of the space that we have for the library, and this week we will be getting some of the new decorations up to make the area more cheerful and user friendly. We will see you soon!

BOZE LEARNING CENTER

Velma Alexander

This was a wonderful summer and I hope that it was enjoyed by all. However, it is time to put away the toys, empty the sand out of your sandals, visit your campus library, and pick up a good book. Let's do some quiet reading, relax, and think about our schedule and see how many books we can read before the observance of Columbus Day, October 9.

It is good to see so many new faces around the Boze Campus. We have 90+ new and returning students at this time. It is an honor to extend a hardy welcome to this distinguished group of educators in the personage of Mr. Eric Manor, Mr. Joseph Lloyd, Mr. Lee Manning, Mr. Brian Hale and last but not least, Ms. Kim Caltagiorone, (who has come to assist with the educational process of the student body under the direction of Ms. Jan Heimann), and the counseling of Ms. Diana Fletcher.

I am thankful for this opportunity to do what I do, to be an active part of this campus. I count it all a joy to be in the here, and now each day I spend in the "stacks" at Boze Learning Center, welcoming back the returning students and greeting the new ones. Thanks to Ms. Heimann, Mrs. Fletcher and Boze staff we are already on our way to a great and successful year!



**BOOKMARKS
FOR THE
INTERNET**

By Carmen Galindo

Try these at home with your little ones:

<http://www.whyville.net/smmk/nice>

Whyville

Educational tools sponsored by entities like NASA. This site is designed to engage children in all types of activities that will impact their understanding in real life.

<http://www.uptoten.com/kids/uptoten-home.html>

Up To Ten Kids

A website from Mauritius with educational games and activities for children ages up to ten.

<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/sesamestreet/?scrollerID=games>

Sesame Street Workshop

An interactive website with fun stories, music, games and many other activities. Really fun!

<http://pbskids.org/lions/stories.html>

Between the Lions, Get Wild about Reading

This is a collections of stories, games, and other activities. This site is funded in a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Education and PBS.