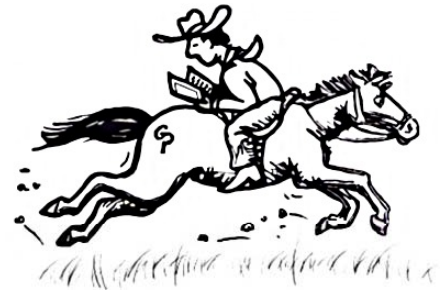


LIBRARY NOTES



Grand Prairie Independent School District V.14, No.1
Grand Prairie, TX 75052 October 1, 2008

Do we make a difference?

Martha Jordan

In this issue:

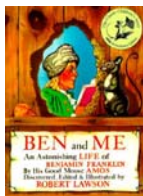
[HMane Attractions.....2H](#)

[HAround Town.....8H](#)

[HRoss the Reader](#)

Do we make a difference in someone's life every day? Have you ever wondered about that? I know I do now as a librarian, just as I did years ago as a classroom teacher. So many of the things we do are rote, chore-like duties that we are easily dulled to the significant things we do that are not routine to our students. We may forget that with a new audience every hour, every day, every year, we potentially influence a different student each time we get to speak to a class.


I was reminded of this twice last month. First, when we all listened to the stories that were published in our new GPISD title, **I Make a Difference in GPISD**. Current and former students were able to express their appreciation for the teachers they will not easily forget; teachers who actually taught them more, influenced them more, than the curriculum demanded. Within the pages of this book, these educators have been given just a little praise and encouragement in writing, for many to read. Such awareness and recognition is a great reward and may inspire them to continue teaching "more than is expected" in order to reach students on this personal level for many more years.



The second reminder came when I was reading book reviews in a professional journal. An interview with numerous authors caught my attention. David McCullough, the widely read historian and author, credited his elementary school librarian and the Robert Lawson picture book, **Ben and Me**, with instilling in him his first curiosity about the past. That timeless children's story led to his lifelong love for history, and his ultimate world wide success as a writer. In that same article, two other successful authors also named that book – a wonderful fantasy about Ben Franklin's pet mouse – as the inspiration for their own early love for history and biography. Wow! What an influence were those librarians who selected and introduced that simple story to elementary readers!

How many librarians have read aloud to a class, maybe a well-known picture book like **Ben and Me**, and wondered how many students even listened, not even considering that a future David McCullough or Stephen Ambrose might be in the group? How many librarians teach, tell stories, give book talks, and make recommendations, never to find out that an individual student was touched? Probably way too many.

I am now trying to make it a habit when suggesting a title to ask students to drop by and let me know what they thought! Yes, I may get my favorites shot down, but that is the only way to find out the reader's true opinion! So we should look for feedback, even demand that our readers express themselves about our collection, about the choices we recommend. That is just one way to keep on track toward making a difference in our students' lives. Then maybe I will have another Senior boy stop me in the hall to tell me how he really liked the book I recommended – the first book he had ever read from cover to cover!

	"Mane" Attractions at a Glance
"Mane" Attractions at a Glance	
Read Across the Prairie Kick-off	
Oct. 6, 2008	

Yellowjackets Buzzing at Bonham

Pat Phipps-Bonham Elementary

Our library was "buzzing" with Bonham Yellowjackets as they got off to a quick start by checking out books the first week of school. Students reviewed book care tips and made book care bookworms to illustrate their rules. Bluebonnet books disappeared off the shelf as third, fourth, and fifth graders came in for booktalks about this year's nominees. We are planning to have a record number of participants in the statewide program this year. Fourth and fifth graders began working in the library after finishing a brief orientation session. They are a huge help in the library and they really enjoy working with the younger students. Book buddies began getting together as we paired older with younger

students to share books. We are looking forward to an exciting book filled year in the library!

Dolphins Hungry for Reading

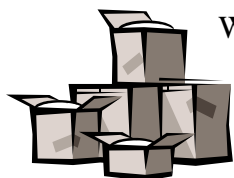
Kelli Sanders-Bush Elementary

The Dolphins at Barbara Bush Elementary were welcomed back to school with a brand new librarian. Before the first week of school was over, students were already begging their teachers for a trip to the library. These students are really hungry for reading. I have presented a challenge to all students who enjoy reading for fun. They will need to read 90 minutes by the end of the first six weeks. Those that choose to accept this challenge will enjoy lunch in the library with me! I can't wait to see how it all turns out. I have truly appreciated the entire

faculty and staff here at Bush. In these last few weeks they have really made me feel right at home. My first year as a librarian will definitely be one I'll never forget! Until next time, happy reading!!

We Moved Out – We Moved In

Mary Hill-Eisenhower Elementary



When May 2008 rolled around rooms, offices, hallways, and yes, even the library had to pack and move out for summer construction. So when August 18 came, all of the Eisenhower staff rolled up their sleeves and burned gallons of midnight oil to be ready for August 25. Mrs. Hill had grade level storytimes during that first week and then followed up with previews for our Meet the Teacher Book Fair. When the book fair moved out, technology moved in with my missing circulation computers and a great sigh of relief filled the library. Now if I could just find my missing flags and briefcase die cut.

Florence Hill Celebrates 110

Karen Sims-Florence Hill

Third Grade dove into the study of communities. The rich history of Florence Hill fascinated Ms. Hance's third grade class. In 1998, we celebrated 100 years of Florence Hill Elementary. At 110 years, Florence Hill aims for a grand slam year! Visit our school history website: <http://campus.gpsid.org/florencehill/OurSchool/History/tabid/1409/Default.aspx> to read more about our school.

When the librarian isn't under a pile of books, she loves playing in the dirt. Ms. Sims and Mrs. Debbi Johnston enjoy creating our habitat with the help of all our students here at Florence Hill. Please stop by and



visit our Florence Hill Nature Habitat located on the southeast corner of Florence Hill. Blooming flowers, sprouting vegetables, a waterfall, and many birds abound in our habitat. Check out the rain gauge and thermometer in our weather center. Do the plants or flowers need a little drink? Or just take a seat and enjoy nature around you! Here's our Florence Hill Nature Habitat website:

<http://campus.gpsid.org/florencehill/OurSchool/FlorenceHillNatureHabitat/tabid/1749/Default.aspx>

Happy reading...and growing!

Library Gets a New Look

Joette Cook -Garner Elementary

Garner All-Stars are "thrilled" with the new look of our library! With the new computers and "new" library furniture we got over the summer, it looks awesome! As one second grader commented, "It looks just like an office!"

Library Leaders are off to a fantastic start this year! Students in third, fourth, and fifth grades are eligible to be Leaders and the only requirement is to love books! Our dedicated Library Leaders are students who are willing to give up their recess one or more days a week to help out in the library! Library Leaders read to and assist younger students, organize and shelve books, and do whatever they can to make the library a friendly, inviting place to be!

Kindergarten students are "busy" this year! They are busy learning their way around our school, busy learning their way around the library, and busy learning how to take care of books. They are almost ready to start checking out books!

Older students are anxiously getting their

hands on the new Bluebonnet books and are looking forward to voting in January. It was awesome to see several students wear their *Read Across the Prairie* shirts the first Friday of the month, without being reminded! All in all, our school year has gotten off to a great start! Happy Reading!

The LBJ Way

Monica Dubiski -Johnson Elementary

A new school year in our library is off to a great beginning - "The LBJ Way" (our new motto). It is wonderful to see the excited, smiling faces of our students and staff. The shelves are organized and neat after a thorough inventory and cleaning up process.

All students visited the library to be introduced to our new Positive Behavior System. Working together, we will help students learn to:

- L - Listen
- B - Be Responsible
- J - Just be Your Best

Students have enjoyed learning through different grade level collaboration. For example, each of Mrs. Worling's third grade students chose a student from Mrs. Tate's first grade class to read to and demonstrated proper library etiquette and procedures. Learning together the LBJ way!

Reading Olympic Games

Elizabeth Williams-Milam Elementary

The Milam Library has had some Olympic sized excitement going on. Pre-K-first grade read We're Going on a Book Hunt by Pat Miller for story-time with their teddy bears. The students played different teddy bear games such as bouncing bears. The students bounce their Teddy Bears on a sheet and the last bear to bounce off wins. Other

activities included musical (bear) chairs, and busy bear relays where the students speed walk thru the fiction, non-fiction, and biography sections of the library.

Second thru fifth grade students started the Reading Olympics. Each student was given a reading log where they will write in the amount of times that they have spent reading. Different prizes will be given to the top 3 Olympic Readers in each grade.

Moseley Students POP!

Elaine Tricoli -Moseley Elementary

Moseley Thunderbirds popped into the library for *How to Be a POP*, a Power Point presentation explaining how to be a **Positively Outstanding Patron!** Now that all of the classes have been through **POP!** training, Ms. Tricoli will give out a **POP! Award** each week at Moseley's weekly pride rally to a student who has gone above and beyond to demonstrate good library citizenship.

Fourth graders are creating dossiers on Native American tribes of Texas for the *Native American Bureau of Investigation*. The purpose of their research is to help identify a Native American who was found wandering around the prairie and is believed to be suffering from amnesia. With the help of fourth grade students, we hope to determine his identity and return him to his tribe.

We are looking forward to participating in this year's [Read for the Record](#) by reading *Corduroy* aloud to all of our Moseley Thunderbirds! In addition, students will be encouraged to participate in a *Bear Hunt* finding the answers to questions about bears using fiction and nonfiction books as well as our online Gale databases.

Happy reading and researching!

Excitement at Rayburn Grows

Diana Lopez - Rayburn Elementary

It has been an interesting year so far! Rayburn is going through major construction this year. It is exciting to think that soon we will have a bigger school and a bigger library. Rayburn Roadrunners are looking forward to seeing progress. We are off to a flying start with the Rayburn's All Star Reader program. Books and magazines are flying off the shelves along with audio books and Reading Rainbow backpacks. Students are more eager than ever to check out audio books. Our first Family library night for the year was Thursday, September 18. Ms. Womack, our music teacher, read The Three Little Pigs in English and Spanish.

We are going to have an exciting and extraordinary year at Rayburn!!!

Travis Calendar is Full!

Susie Hall-Travis Elementary

Travis Lions began the 2008-2009 school year by '*roarin*' into the library with excitement and they are ready to read. We've hit the ground running with lots of opportunities for teachers and students to come to the library for resources and fun. Our first six weeks include lots of busy days; Library Orientations, Constitution Day (Sept. 17), National Talk Like a Pirate Day (Sept. 19), First Day of Autumn (Sept. 22) and Native American Day (Sept. 27). You can bet Mrs. Hall will have lots of activities and entertainment planned for these days at the Travis Library!

New School! New Library!

Michael Broussard-Williams Elementary

Wow! This year has started off fantastic! We have the absolute best administration, staff, students, and parents here at Hobbs

Williams Elementary! The library at Hobbs Williams is new, huge, and beautiful! The Hobbs Williams Wolves howled into the library and started checking out the wonderful new books! This library has impressed all that have seen it. One student said it was as big as a high school library. Another student commented that in a few minutes I should look for him because he would be lost since the library is so big. The 2008-2009 school year will be one to remember here at Hobbs Williams! Keep on reading!

Get on your mark, Get set, Go!

Linda Laib-Zavala Elementary



We're off to the races! There is so much to teach students about what the library offers. Book care, check in and check out procedures, the Horizon catalog, databases, research, book contests, authors and illustrators, and all those great books to read. WHEW! I thought it would be fun to take a moment to find out what the kids are looking forward to this year. Here is what they had to say...

Colton in first grade would like to "read with my friends in the library," and Angel in first would like to have people come and read in the library.

Second grade students had several ideas. Ryan would like to "read with flashlights," and Kristina wants "people all over the world to come and read a book." Darien wants to help the librarian, and Mallory is interested in learning to find books she wants to read without any help.

Third grader, Louis, would like "another lizard" to go along with our library gecko, Spike. Ubaldo is looking forward to the Scholastic Book Fair.

Fourth grader, Karen, likes Lunch Bunch and karaoke in the library, and her friend Nereyda loves games in the library.

Last but not least, our fifth grade students had this to say...Darius thinks there should be another Ross the Reader book and a new video, starring kids from the school. Ashley loves “reading in the dark” and Lauren would like me to put ‘glow in the dark’ stars on the library ceiling for our ‘flashlight reading.’ Looks like I have my work cut out for me!

Library Items in Demand

Kyla Schooling-Arnold Elementary

Not even a vandal can keep Arnold students from reading! After a weekend break-in at the Arnold library, district personnel jumped into action to put things back in order. Special thanks go to Mr. Palermo for all his efforts at getting things back in shape!

6th graders were thrilled to finally get through the doors and have a chance to explore the Arnold collection. The first day that they came they checked out every Playaway in the library. Playaways are a neat alternative to regular audio books and 6th graders could be seen bobbing down the halls listening to great books!



Students were also very excited to get their hands on the newest book in the *Twilight* series by Stephenie Meyer, Breaking Dawn. In fact, even a few teachers are fighting over copies of the book. Adding fuel to all of the excitement is the fact that the movie is coming out in November. If you like vampires, you might just like this series.

Kennedy Students Know Importance of Reading

Marjory McCowen Kennedy Middle School

It is so good to be back at Kennedy after being gone for an entire semester and the summer. New books came in while I was gone and I really am looking forward to reading them. They certainly look intriguing.

We are nearly finished with database training and our students are happily checking out lots of books. Our STAR testing was completed the third week of school. Orientation this year began with the question of “Why do we need to be able to read?” Answers ranged from you have to read to pay bills, to make sure you are not cheated in a contract, to have fun, to follow directions to put Christmas presents together, to get game tips on computer games, etc. There are many reasons to read and I think the students at Kennedy have thought of them all.

Reagan Library Ready to Serve Customers

Linda Clearman-Reagan Middle

As usual, the Reagan library is off to a good start. Sixth graders are, as always, surprised at how large the library is and are anxious to begin checking out as many books as they can, and former Reagan students seem happy to be back in “the swing” of reading for enjoyment again. There is, however, one very noticeable difference in our library this year. That difference comes in the form of a first period library helper. His excitement about all that goes on in the library is quite obvious and contagious. His remarks and enthusiasm just put a smile on the face of everyone around him. Would the following comments not get you excited about working? As he checked the schedule the first day classes were coming in for check-

out I heard, “Yes! We have customers today! Yippee...our first customers! Mrs. Clearman, we have customers today!” And, daily, as he checks the bookdrop I hear, “Wow! We have books! Oh boy, we have books to do! Look, there are books!” With this very capable helper starting us off every day in such a positive manner, I am sure there are great things in store for the Reagan library this year.

A Quest for the Library

by Kathy Nichols - Grand Prairie High 9th

The year roared in with classes filling the library schedule every day! Ms. Nichols in collaboration with the English department head, Mrs. Roden, created a web quest to give students hands on experience on the Gale databases and encyclopedias, the library catalog and books. You may access this page at:

<http://campus.gpisd.org/gphs9/Library/Librarywebquest/tabid/3012/Default.aspx>.

Every student had a successful quest in the library and actually learned the staff's name. Using the web quest has given students success in locating resources for other subjects such as IPC and Spanish.

The web quest also taught students where to locate books in the library. Our most checked out books this month have been the Twilight series and graphic novels. We are looking forward to a successful year for all students.



Something for Everyone

Martha Jordan-South Grand Prairie H. S.

The 2008-2009 year is well underway in the **SGP Library**. **Faculty training** with online databases and research tools was a

great refresher of the terrific databases to which GPISD subscribes. A variety of classes have already incorporated these into their research, particularly the **Gale Health and Wellness and the Opposing Viewpoints databases**.

Pleasure reading will be an emphasis again this year, with more news coming next month from our **WRAD Committee**. First Fridays will be the meeting date of the new **Fantasy Friday's Book Club** sponsored by English teacher Angela Marx. She and interested students will meet on first Fridays each month, during 3rd lunch shift, to discuss favorite fantasy reads – the first featured novel, **Artemis Fowl**. The **Tuesday SGP Book Club** will be discussing **Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes**, by Chris Crutcher, as their October title.

Like many GPISD librarians, my number one goal is to ‘hook’ students into a lifelong love of reading and learning. The evidence supporting this connection is too obvious to ignore– strong, supportive libraries are an essential part of all successful schools. **Just this month, an article in the Fort Worth Star Telegram speaks to the power of allowing students to read books that acknowledge their individual tastes –** <http://www.star-telegram.com/242/story/871764.html>.

The article stressed the need to freshen up our students’ reading -- not to just exclusively assign our favorites, and then dissect them like lab specimens. With hours spent reading reviews, stretching budgets, and making personal recommendations, the SGP library staff strives to get appealing new titles not just on the shelves, but into the hands of our 2,600 students.

Great news!! New materials were already

processed in September, thanks to a generous gift from Drug Prevention Resources. Numerous new DVD's will be available to our health teachers, and students will have over 120 new books relating to issues of substance abuse, addiction, and other struggles they face on a daily basis.

Celebrate the freedom to read!

Don't forget to check out displays during **Banned Books Week** (September 27-October 4)– on your campus, or at any local bookstore. This is a great way to interest students in the First Amendment freedoms – discussing why Charlotte's Web would be challenged or Harry Potter books would be burned. More info here - <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm>.

Coming in October ---

**BOOKS
WITH
BITE.**

@ your library

Teen Read Week @ SGP Library

Don't miss the

Joint "Twilight" event – with SGP9



Coming to the Dallas Children's Theater

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

Sept. 19, 2008 – October 26, 2008

For more information go to:

<http://www.dct.org/Performances/4thGradeNothing/tabid/201/Default.aspx>

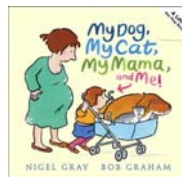
ROSS THE READER RECOMMENDS



MY DOG, MY CAT, MY MAMA AND ME!

By Nigel Gray

Audience: Pre-K thru K



What a cute little book! It gently introduces young readers to the topic of having babies. The little girl begins to notice that her dog is getting fatter and fatter until SURPRISE--little pups are born! She then notices that her cat is getting fatter and then her mom. With colorful illustrations, young readers will be intrigued and delighted!

Reviewed by Ms. Albritton, Daniels Elementary

ONE MORE EGG

By Sarah Emmanuelle Burg

Audience: K thru First



In *One More Egg*, a young chicken takes up the task of helping a bunny find one more egg. The young chicken is sure he can't lay the egg so he and the bunny begin a quest to find an animal that can help the bunny. One thing is for certain though - big wolves with sharp teeth definitely don't lay eggs.

Using humor and engaging illustrations, Burg takes readers on a delightful, unforgettable trip! Young children will definitely get into this fun story as they meet many animals and guess whether or not these animals can help the bunny in his search. This book is a fun, fast read that will have you laughing out loud at the innocent chicken.

Reviewed by Ms. Albritton, Daniels Elementary