

News from the Library

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No. 1

Message from the Librarian

If you have not journeyed up to the Library yet this year, please come on up to check out what is new in our collection or just to say hello. Also, don't forget about the Faculty Resource room in the back of the Library. This room provides a quiet place to work, as well as a growing collection of professional resources.

Please bring your classes to the Library to work on research projects. Keep in mind that I am always happy to collaborate with you on assignments. If your students need a refresher on the research process or MLA format, I can revise my standard PowerPoint presentations to reflect the research topic of your choice. If you would like to bring your classes to the Library to look for information, please talk to me a day or two ahead and provide me with a copy of your assignment. We have a wealth of print and electronic resources to help your students with all of their research needs.

I hope to see you all here. Read, imagine, discover and learn at the MSJA Library!

Linda L. Walkins, MSJA Librarian

Book Club Update

The book club has had two successful meetings. In September, we talked about Anita Diamant's The Red Tent, our book club summer selection. The author retells the stories from Genesis about Jacob and his four wives from the perspective of the women. Jacob's sole daughter, Dinah is the narrator. Diamant vividly recreates the ancient, nomadic world in which her characters, all strong women, live. Everyone in the club enjoyed the novel and we had an interesting discussion about the characters, the social customs and the themes of the novel.

For our October meeting we each chose a different multicultural novel. Each member read a book representing a culture different from her own. We talked about a variety of social customs from around the world and throughout history. We read the following novels:

- Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden (Japanese)
- Tara Road by Maeve Binchy (Irish)
- Knute Rockne: Idol of American Football (Norwegian / American)
- Dream When You're Feeling Blue by Elizabeth Berg (American WWII era)
- Casting Off by Nicole R. Dickson (Irish)
- Rachel's Secret by B.J. Hoff (Amish pre-Civil War era)

We decided we would like to read a mystery for our November meeting. After talking about a number of possible novels, including Sue Grafton's alphabet mysteries, the suspense novels of Michael Crichton, James Patterson or Dan Brown and Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett, in a moment of nostalgia, we chose the Nancy Drew mysteries as our November selection. If you are a fan of the iconic girl sleuth, please join us in the back of the Library on Wednesday, November 18. All are welcome.

New Acquisitions

Please come up to the Library to peruse some of our new materials, including some new additions to our multimedia collection:

Pay it Forward
Kramer vs. Kramer
Ordinary People
Catch Me if You Can
Mr. Mom
The Breakfast Club
The Pursuit of Happyness
Finding Forrester

Morrie: Lessons on Living
Human Machine: Body Zone
Dead Poets Society
How to Conduct an Experiment
Planet Earth
Becoming Jane
Westside Story

This year I plan to focus on the sports and recreation, music and religion areas of the collection. However, if you would like to request any materials in your discipline for the Library collection, please let me know and I will be happy to look into obtaining the requested items.

Virtual High School

The Virtual High School program is full enrolled. Our ten VHS students just completed the first term of their fall semester. This year, seven of the girls chose Advanced Placement courses. They are taking *AP Calculus*, *AP Art History*, *AP European History*, *AP Physics*, and *AP English Language and Composition*, as well as *Sociology* and *Psychology*. Virtual High School allows the students to take a subject of particular interest and gives them the opportunity to work independently in a technology-rich learning environment.

If one of our teachers offers an online course through Virtual High School, we will receive 15 additional seats each semester, so we would be able to enroll 25 of our girls in VHS classes. If you are interested in learning more about teaching a VHS class, please let me know.

Book Review for September-October

Five Quarters of the Orange by Joanne Harris

Joanne Harris writes about small French villages. Her novels are amazingly atmospheric, overflowing with the sounds, scents, colors and emotions of French country life. In Five Quarters of the Orange, nine-year-old Framboise is overwhelmed by a series of events leading inexorably to a wartime tragedy that changes the course of her life. Still dealing with the repercussions of those fateful events, the now an old woman, she looks back on her childhood during World War II. As the story moves back and forth in time, she eventually comes to terms with the long-ago secrets that tore apart her family.

Read, Imagine, Discover and Learn @ the Library!!