

Literacy News



Washington School for the Deaf

Library News

The library is hopping as usual. We have had 4712 books checked out since the beginning of the year. I am always looking for parent volunteers to help keep the stacks organized, check in and out books, and updating our current Accelerated reading labels. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Sharon Caton at extension 4361 to start the volunteer paperwork.

This month a boy scout troupe from Camas donated four large boxes of books to the library. I am still working on entering them into the system but we are always excited to get current books. They focused on boys books, which we are very low on.

I was able to purchase 48 new accelerated reader comic books from a company called Perma Bound. They have been a

hit with students. The boys really enjoy having new comics that we can encourage them to read because they have a test that goes with them. Done are the days of saying, those are for enjoyment reading, please pick an AR book.

This Month I have applied for the "Read With Me" Grant through IQ Credit union. We will find the results of this in December. I also applied for and received the "First Book" grant. In the past we qualified for free books but this year we are able to purchase books at very reduced rates. These books are to be given to students, not kept on campus or in the library. Supporting literacy through programs such as these are an important part of the WSD

literacy community.

At this time I want to thank my hard working helpers. I have one work study student Yara Oleta who comes for an hour every day. She works hard to keep things cleaned up which is no easy task in a library like ours where we service Kindergarten to High School. I am also proud to say I have one Parent Helper. LeAnn Lasco comes in for a whopping 3 hours on Wednesday's. She has been helping to set up displays and of course the endless job of re-shelving. I could not keep this place clean without them both. Please take time to thank Yara and LeAnn for their volunteer service and hard work.

As always, if you have questions or concerns or just want to pitch in at the library, please contact me.

—Ginger Speranza

Boys and Reading

An international study of 15 year-olds in 2000 showed male readers finishing significantly behind the female peers in *all* thirty-two nations. (Trelease, The Read-Aloud

Handbook, 2006). Even with all of the emphasis on "raising the bar", and educational reform happening across the nation, boys still struggle with reading.

There are several theories that could explain this national trend: we are a sports-crazed nation, and boys routinely see their male role models not worshipping the written word,



but instead the TV and Monday Night Football. This has negatively influenced our young boys' attitudes towards reading.



What can we do? The obvious thing: encourage them to read. Don't worry so much about WHAT they read, but that they **READ!** When a Pulitzer Prize winning author, Leonard Pitts Jr., was asked what prep courses he took to become such a well-rounded literate man, he replied that his mother would use her loose change (which wasn't very much) to buy the latest Spider-Man and Fantastic Four comic books when he was a kid—that hooked him on reading and from there, he read everything he could

get his hands on.

We need to foster reading in whatever form we can, be it comic books, graphic novels, or joke books. Our librarian knows this and she is very wisely expanding our library to include literature that will appeal to all audiences.

Reading is at the heart of education, and we need to support that activity in whatever genre so that kids (both boys and girls) learn to love it and excel in all educational endeavors.

-Shauna Bilyeu

"The work of childhood is really learning to read, which affects everything that happens to a child. And up until this point, we really haven't taken this as seriously as we might."

-Sally Shaywitz

National Reading Panel, Yale University

Family Support for Beginning Readers

- ⇒ Read (sign) aloud daily. Your child might be ready for you to read a chapter book aloud, a chapter or two each night.
- ⇒ Read poems, magazines, cartoons, recipes, maps, and nonfiction, as well as fiction.
- ⇒ Give books as gifts.
- ⇒ Provide time each night for your child to read on his or her own (10-15 minutes).
- ⇒ Visit bookstores and libraries regularly. Talk about books you enjoyed when you were little.
- ⇒ Help your child find books at the right reading level.
- ⇒ Hunt for good books by topic at www.arbookfind.com
- ⇒ Ask your child's teacher what books have been read in class. Young children like repeated tellings of the same book.
- ⇒ Have a "print-rich" home, one in which there's lots of print everywhere (newspapers, magazines, comics, journals, and books)!



You may have tangible wealth untold:
Caskets of jewels and coffer of gold.
Richer than I you can never be—
I had a mother who read to me.

-Strickland Gillilan, "The Reading Mother," Best-Loved Poems of the American People