

BRITTANY WOODS

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

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Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to the first of many Brittany Woods Library Newsletters. My name is Kelly Werthmuller and I am the new librarian at BW. This is my 6th year at Brittany Woods (I previously taught Communication Arts and Social Studies) but this is my first year in the library. After a little over four months, I can say I LOVE IT.

Old Book Fair

We started off the year with a book fair during open house. Despite the rain, we raised a lot of money to purchase new books. Because of the success of the fall fair we will have another fair later in the year. I recently went to the Scholastic Warehouse and spent the money earned from our first book fair. We earned over 150 new books. I tried to focus on additional copies of books that students had on hold. I also gave some books to Ms. Ragsdale for the Secret Santa program.

New Book Fair

Our next book fair will be at Parent Teacher Conferences on March 17th and 19th. I am always looking for help. I would love student and parent help. I will need students to help by advertising, setting up, cleaning up, and helping during conferences. I could use a parent coordinator to help with organizing parents to help supervise the students and let me eat lunch. Here is the address for the book fair website.

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/brittanywoods>

U.C. us Read program

The district has a new reading program called U.C. Us Read. BW has participated enthusiastically. After a student reads a book, s/he fills out a book recommendation form. First quarter was a little rough, but second quarter the students stepped it up. First quarter there were 80 book recommendation forms turned in. So far in second quarter, the students have given me over 300 forms! Second quarter was the start of a team versus team competition. The second quarter movie party will be January 17th. The reward for third quarter will be a Guitar Hero party (it is a video game).

Besides the team parties, the program has a number of prizes. For each form turned in, the student can pick a prize from my prize box. At the end of the year, if the student has read a book each quarter (1st = realistic fiction, 2nd =mystery, 3rd =fantasy, and 4th =poetry book), s/he will get a poster of themselves with a favorite book.

Also third quarter, anyone who turns in 3 or more forms will be placed into a drawing for a larger prize. So far, the prizes include gift certificates to Borders, cologne, cool books and posters.

Writing Center and Blog

Two new things to the library this year are the Writing Center and the Library Blog. The writing center is a place for students to come with a pass and have a quiet place to read or write. We have a recliner, two rocking chairs, a bean bag chair, and a few other comfy chairs in an alcove covered with fun posters.

The Library Blog is brand new as of right now. This is the first time I have even talked about it. The web address is <http://brittanywoodslibrary.blogspot.com/>. To join in the discussion, email me and I will register you. kwerthmuller@u-city.k12.mo.us or brittanywoodslibrary@hotmail.com The first discussion will be about cyber bullying. If you have any topics, please email them to me as well.

Donating books, cool chairs, and items for the prize box

Students and parents have told me that they have books just sitting on the shelves at home they do not know what to do with. As long as they are in good condition, the library would love them. If the books are for younger students, I will make sure they get a good home. I'm especially looking for recent travel books, but all donations will be greatly appreciated.

I am always looking for cool chairs to go into the writing center and small prizes for the prize box. The prize box was mainly filled with school supplies and other trinkets I found around my house or that were on sale. Also, a few of the PTO parents donated some very nice prizes.

Library Procedures

Just in case you forgot.

- 2 books for 2 weeks- check out time
- No fines, unless you lost or destroyed your book. I want the book, not your money. ☺ So turn it in.
- Act appropriately in the library.
- You must have a pass at all times, even lunch.
- The library is open after school most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays until 4.
- Computer time is limited to 20 minutes.
- No food or gum in the library.
- Wear your ID at all times.

Student Recommendations

Students, if you want to recommend a book, email me your recommendation and I will put it in the next newsletter.

Some books I recommend:

Tears of Tiger by Sharon Draper

Twilight by Stephanie Meyers

Catalyst by Laurie Halse Anderson

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Uglies By Scott Westerfield

Looking Glass Wars by Frank Beddor

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Code Orange by Caroline B. Conney

Sticks and Stones by Beth Goowin

Golden Compass by Philip Pullman

Charlie Bone by Jenny Nimmo

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

Face on a Milk Carton by Caroline B. Cooney

The Bar Code Tattoo by Suzanna Weyn

Book Reviews

Sebco Books has a program where you can read books before they are published. The process is pretty simple. First, they send you a book. Then, you have 2 weeks to read it and write a review. You keep the book and I get a copy for the library. Your review goes on their website for librarians and students to use to find good books. I have attached the application. If this is something that you would like to do, email it back to me completed.

An Interview about I AM LEGEND

Over the winter break I went to see the new Will Smith movie- I AM LEGEND, which is based on a book that we have in the library with the same title. After the movie, I was wondering if the book was close to the movie at all, since I have not read it yet. Usually I read the book before seeing the movie, but this time, it just didn't happen. Then I remembered that a student, Luke Babich, had read it and I came up with some questions for him.

Will Smith's character, Robert Neville, is a scientist. What is the main point to the book and does it have a lot of scientific jargon in it?

The driving idea is to find a scientific answer to vampirism. You can understand the jargon. Sometimes the terminology is hard to understand, but he simplifies it.

Is it a book that you would recommend?

Yes, it is a very original book. There is nothing really comparable to it. I think Richard Matheson will always surprise the reader- you can never out guess him.

In the book, does Richard Matheson better explain why the character is the last man on Earth and does he explain why the infected vampire is the leader?

The book does not give you the scientific explanation, but it does give an explanation to his immunity. Basically he was unwittingly given a vaccination in the form of a bite from a vampire bat. He was infected by the vampire disease. And There was no leader in the book.

In the book, the vampires can talk. There are two forms of the vampires- reanimated bodies and non-dead people with the disease.

Those are two problems that I had with the movie. Did you have any other problems with it?

I thought the ending of the movie was very disappointing in many ways. There was also of technical problems with the ending. For example, Neville ends up in the holding room where he puts the vampires. Why is there a handle, an escape hatch, and a grenade? There is more, but nothing I can say without giving away the ending of the book.

Thank you Luke. I can't wait until I finish the book. There are many differences; and I am only in the first ten pages.

Thank you to all who are reading this and see you soon. KEEP READING! ☺

-KJW-