

**Barre City Elementary and Middle School
Library/Media Center Newsletter
November 2011**



Kindergarten Library Class



Jan Trepanier/Heather Bellavance-K/Stephanie McMahan

Kindergarteners are learning how to select books and how to take care of their library books. Students are becoming familiar with parts of the book, including end papers, title, author, illustrator, and publisher. They are learning the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. They are learning how to make predictions, inferences, and connections within a story and between different books. Students interact with the stories, look for deeper meanings and participate in group discussions. They interact with literature and media using good listening skills. An activity related to the book helps comprehension and adds meaning for the students. At the end of class, students check out their library books and learn about library citizenship.



1st -2nd Grade Library/Media Class



Stephanie McMahan

We are reading Vt. State recommended and award winning books. Students are learning how to make predictions, inferences, as well as connections within the story and between different books. They identify evidence to support the theme or focus statement. They are thinking about and learning new vocabulary. Students are using dramatic narrative, movement, art, music, puppets and props to interact with the stories. They are learning the difference between fiction and non-fiction, parts of a book, author, illustrator, characters, beginning, middle, end, and how to interact with the text and illustrations. Students do an activity related to the book to increase comprehension. Students are learning library citizenship, how to pick out a "just right book" at their reading level and how to take care of their library books. We did an author study on Margie Palatini reading four of her books and using a comparison chart. They created original art work illustrating their favorite Margie Palatini story using Kidspix in computer class. We are also starting our Red Clover Program. They will vote on their favorite Red Clover Book and all K-4 votes will be sent in to the Vermont State Library along with votes from public schools across the state. The winner will be announced in the May. Throughout the year we will be reading many classic fairy tales and students are putting together a Fairy Tale book with a literature response sentence about each traditional folktale. They will be able to take this book home in the spring and use to help them remember many wonderful stories.

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1st-2nd Grade Computer Class



Charlotte Ausmann/Stephanie McMahan

In 1st and 2nd grade we have been busy learning about computers! Students have learned the different parts of the computer (monitor, CPU, mouse, keyboard). We started off the year by going over the rules of the computer lab and how to safely use the computers in our school. Next, students started typing using Type to Learn Jr. They have learned how to sit when typing and have started to use their home row keys. Students are beginning to learn other keys, such as: shift, space bar, enters and the arrow keys. We have also learned about internet safety and students are learning the importance of being safe on the internet and what that looks like. They have been able to explore educational websites, including PBS kids and Net Smartz Kids. They have really enjoyed these websites! Students are making projects in computer class. So far they have made: overlapping shape pictures, a book cover, an acrostic poem, a clip art picture, and most recently masks. We are starting our first big assignment, "My Rain Forest Book" this week, which they will bring home once completed. It has been a busy and exciting first two months of school and the students are going to continue to learn more about computers and how to use them in their everyday lives.

3rd Grade Library Class

Stephanie McMahan

3rd Graders are learning library skills and how to pick out a "just right" book that interests them. They are becoming familiar with how library books are organized on the shelf using the Promethean board. They are learning how to use our new Destiny Electronic Card Catalog to locate books. The students have enjoyed book talks related to fiction and non-fiction books including mystery, fantasy, classics and folk tales. They have made a concept map identifying the elements of the mystery including problem, solution, characters, villain, and clues to use as a resource when making their concept maps in computer class. Our reference unit included looking at book encyclopedias and online encyclopedias. Students used the promethean board to interact with interesting topics in Grolier's Online Encyclopedia. Students learned the reasons to use a dictionary and practiced with our dictionary relay race. Third Graders started a standards based research unit. They are learning about painted essays, introductions (hooks), focus statements, sorting facts, transition words and conclusions. We are reading folk tales from China, Russia, Mexico and Africa. They are comparing and contrasting the cultural influences of the Chinese Dragon in Tikki Tikki Tembo by Arlene Mosel with the Russian Baba Yaga and the Wise Doll by Hiawyn Oram. Students will strengthen their ability to take notes, synthesize information, put facts in their own words, and write sentences using their research. They will put their sentences

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together in group report that will be included in their PowerPoint Slide Show on Russia or China that will be produced in computer class.

3rd Computer Class

Heather Bellavance/Charlotte Ausmann/Stephanie McMahan

We have been very busy in 3rd grade computer class this year! We have reviewed the parts of the computer and students are becoming proficient at using and saving their work in nested folders. Students practiced their word processing skills to make posters showing the importance safety on the internet. They were very thoughtful and creative in completing this project. The students have also learned about using the computerized library catalog and used a book from library class to make a postcard using a template. Additionally, they have been practicing their typing skills and is currently working on making story concept maps using a mystery that they read during library class.



4th Grade Library/Media Class



Stephanie McMahan

This year we have one Library/Media Class instead of a separate Library and Computer Class special. This class is now forty-five minutes long. Fourth Graders are learning library skills and how to pick out a "just right" book that interests them. They are becoming familiar with how library books are organized on the shelf using the Promethean Board and they are learning how to use our new Destiny Electronic Card Catalog to locate books. The students have enjoyed DCF (Dorothy Canfield Fisher 4th-8th Grade Vermont State Program) book talks related to fiction and non-fiction books including mystery, fantasy, historical fiction, myths and folk tales. They have participated in a DCF Blog. They have made a Wordle (fun web 2.0 tool for vocabulary posters) using Mystery vocabulary words. They have made a concept map identifying the elements of the mystery including problem, solution, characters, villain, and clues using a Kidspiration template on the computer. They have learned about the three types of biographies in the library. They have made Biography trading cards on the computer using a template, Fact Monster and Wikipedia. Students continue to participate in discussions about being safe and respectful on the internet, All Internet use is project based and bookmarked. Fourth graders are starting their Red Clover Unit. They will vote on their favorite Red Clover Book and all K-4 votes will be sent in to the Vermont State Library along with votes from public schools across the state. The winner will be announced in the spring.

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*BCEMS K-8 library/media and computer class curriculum is designed by the
Library/Media Specialist: Stephanie McMahan.*