

# Franklin Sherman ES Library

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## Falling into Good Books

As we finish our 2<sup>nd</sup> month of school I am happy to report that students are borrowing books in “record numbers.” In September 2008 the students borrowed a total of 288 items. In September 2009, that number leaped to 647. Why this dramatic jump in circulation? I have my ideas but the best sources for the answer to this question are your children.

There is a definite buzz in the library this year. Students seem more enthusiastic about new titles and recommendations. I often see and hear the students offering suggestions to classmates either through conversations, recommendation sheets or on the library’s Best Books Blog. I have asked for volunteers to preview new books and give me their opinions. I always have more volunteers than books. Titles already have holds/reserves and the smile and excitement that accompany a The-Book-You-Placed-on-Hold-has-Arrived-Slip are pure joy to see.

Expansions or improvements to the collection this year include the following sections:

- Graphic Novels – stories told this graphic art and text
- Young Adult - for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Japanese and Korean books – *Harry Potter* series and various picture books and fairy tales
- Early Chapter Books – shorter chapter books for the growing reading
- Easy/Early Nonfiction

The energy in the library may be related to the above list. No matter what the cause, I am excited to be a part of it.



## Ask Your Child About...

September and October are the foundation building months for the library. The students and I review library organization, parts of a book, the online catalog, online databases and accessing library resources through each student’s Blackboard 24/7 account. Here are some library questions you can add to your conversations with your child.

- Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> graders
  - What does “all letters” mean for a library book? Answer – Fiction
  - What do “numbers” mean for a library book? Answer – Nonfiction
- 2<sup>nd</sup> graders
  - Where is a call number for a library book? Answer – on the spine
  - How do you know when a book was made (hint – birthday)? Answer – Copyright date or ©.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders
  - What are some different ways to search the online catalog? Answer – title, author, everything, subject
  - How is nonfiction divided? Answer – numbers (extra credit if the word Dewey is mentioned)
- 4<sup>th</sup> graders
  - What are some reference materials you talked about? Answer – Atlas, Almanac, Thesaurus
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders
  - What online resource can you use to create a bibliography? Answer – Noodle Tools or World Book Online
  - How can you access the online databases? Answer - Blackboard 24/7 – Franklin Sherman ES Library Course

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of  
Libraries