

## ***Forbes Family Library Media Center – 2011-2012 School Year***

By Shannon Betts, LMS and Sue Lubomski, Principal

Looking back, we want to share the progress that has happened in the Family Library Media Center this year. In May of 2011, the staff gave input into a reorganization plan to maximize the library's role in supporting teaching and learning. In particular, teachers requested a bright, multipurpose space with areas for independent reading, research using sources in a variety of formats as well as upgrades to technology.

At the same time, The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut provided a grant of \$10,000 to partially fund this vision. The grant goals were to provide a greatly expanded collection of books and electronic materials to all parents in addition to the K-5 students and staff.

Considering these needs, the following reorganization was begun to accommodate new technology, new work spaces and serve the learning needs of an expanded Forbes School community:

### **Collection Functionality & Use of Space**

**The overall goal in redesigning the use of space and in evaluating the print collection is to create a multi-purpose space that better serves the needs of our school community. This reorganization allows us to provide more opportunities to students to gain research skills through the curriculum, read independently and encourage the use of technology.**

#### **Some changes that occurred:**

- Grades 3-5 fiction were relocated to the corner area, which previously shelved easy picture books, to create space for new instructional whiteboard, projector and Mimio Board. Titles which were perceived to be aged or in poor condition as identified by *Textbook, Library Resource, Software and Other Instructional Material Selection* policy were put on carts for review by the library media specialist to be hired over the summer.
- Easy picture books were relocated to the area near new Family Literacy Center to be grouped in close proximity with materials of similar developmental levels. Titles which were perceived to be aged or in poor condition were put on carts for review by the library media specialist to be hired during the summer.
- A new space-saving elementary book return purchased with Community Foundation of Northwest CT funds
- Also purchased as part of the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut grant: Hundreds of professional development titles for teachers, parenting books and electronic media as well as a matching collection which was donated to Torrington Public Library. This "mirror collection" is intended to both provide continuity of

resources between the Family Literacy Center and the Torrington Public Library and strengthen the partnership between Forbes School and the Public Library.

- To accomplish the goal of creating space while still keeping books in the school for classroom use, teachers were invited to review all books on carts and to choose titles that are developmentally appropriate and support student interests. Teachers chose books to expand their classroom libraries.
- Once a library media specialist was hired, the books identified for review on library carts were evaluated for weeding by the CREW framework, a widely used system by school, public and academic libraries:

**C** Continuous – ideally, weeding is done continuously, a small area at a time.

**R** Review - books/materials are identified by librarian, library staff – possibly by volunteers – to be evaluated by a librarian.

**E** Evaluation - Books which are identified are reviewed by librarian for condition, appeal, content, circulation etc (see \*MUSTIE).

**W** Weeding–books/materials are taken out of the collection, to be replaced if needed by a work within the same content area or an identical work replaced with a clean, updated copy.

In general, the library media specialist reviewed the books and made weeding decisions based on the following criteria:

1. **Books and materials of poor content** – outdated information, written at reading levels inaccessible to students
2. **Books and materials of poor appearance** – not appealing to readers, ripped pages, pages crumbling
3. **Unused materials**– have not been checked out for years; too many of these obscure the “gems” in the collection from student discovery.
4. **Topics no longer within the priorities of the collection**- material no longer of popular interest.

\*MUSTIE = Misleading, Ugly, Superseded by new editions or better books, Trivial, Irrelevant to school community

Continuous weeding is essential to a school library. The quantity of the books does not establish the quality of the library collection. Over the last seven years, the library collection on the average has been 16,679 with a current collection of 16,955.

#### **Collection Development and Beautification Efforts:**

- Over 100 updated books added to print collection from Scholastic Book Fairs.

- Community Foundation of NW CT – Hundreds of professional development titles for teachers, parenting books and electronic media and a matching collection which was donated to Torrington Public Library
- Murals painted by local artist Trish McTeague

## Technology

**The overall goal of providing new technology in the Family Library Media Center is to provide opportunities for learners to interact with information in a variety of formats (to locate, evaluate, and synthesize information) and encourage creative and ethical use of technology to communicate.**

### Additions:

- A permanently mounted projector and a Mimio Interactive Board to be used by the library media specialist to teach K-5 classes, for professional development training of teachers, by classroom teachers with their own classes and by community groups.
- 4 iPads with installed educational applications to travel among classrooms on a checkout basis
- Redesign FLMC website at <http://familylibrarymediacenter.weebly.com/> to communicate useful resources, house links to databases, library policies, current FLMC events and projects.
- Redistribution of aged Dell computers to classrooms for student use
- Creation of a new wireless zone in the library to support iPads and wireless workstations
- Addition of 6 iMac workstations to be used for researching class or independent learning topics, using the online catalog to search for materials to support learning, creating/synthesizing information into a learning product using MS Word Powerpoint or Excel, etc
- 4 HP workstations for same purpose
- New document camera bought with October book fair Scholastic dollars. An additional document camera to be purchased for Computer lab in June with book fair Scholastic dollars.

### Future Goals

**The overall goals of the physical and virtual FLMC is to expand access to quality information in all print and electronic formats.**

- Add 6 additional workstations for a total of 16 computers
- Complete online catalog conversion from Athena to Destiny, which will result in dramatically improved patron access to print collection in all Torrington Public Schools through the Internet.

- Apply for grant to fund expansion of shelving systems in Family Literacy Center, professional development area and reference. Continue to expand these collections in print and electronic formats.
- Continue to develop print collection by adding current reviewed titles and continuous prudent weeding outdated nonfiction titles.
- Create program as a district to offer e-books to school communities.
- FLMC Open House featuring parent materials available for circulation – all community members welcome: October 2012