**YMA Library Newsletter – April 2022**

I am in the process of teaching our Primary students how to add NY Reads to their SORA account. Students can now search three catalogs simultaneously for the perfect Audiobooks, eBook(s) and Read-Alongs to borrow by selecting Yonkers Public Schools and entering their student ID#, which then adds the selected item(s) to their shelf. Students are motivated to read with the addition of more collections and this has increased circulation.

Seventy-six Primary students demonstrated a Love of Reading and submitted their Reading Log for our Reading Initiative “100 Books, 100 Days.” We had forty-five students who met or exceeded our Reading Challenge. Ms. Governali and I were ecstatic to report altogether, students read over 4,000 Print books and eBooks, which made a huge impact on our Reading data. Ultimately, Ms. Jacob’s class read over 1,000 books to become the winners of our 1st Annual Reading Challenge. On March 25, 2022, our Primary students and Pre-Teaching Magnet students gathered for a Reading Celebration Luncheon in the Library Media Center to celebrate their achievement. Students enjoyed pizza and ice cream. Students received accolades from Ms. Westphal, Ms. Governali and Ms. Wong for reaching this achievement and Kory Skipper-Miller, Journer Rezk, Amber Calvello, Lucas Bojaj and Lilleigh McIntyre received high honors for surpassing our “100 Book Challenge.” All students received the following Awards: a Certificate, Reading Challenge Pendant, a Bookmark, a Pin, a Sticker and a Super Reader Pencil. In honor of this event, Ms. Westphal surprised students when she unveiled 100 NEW books she cataloged for circulation.

Our Digital and eContent Reading Data Reports shows a steady growth in the number of eBooks students are accessing and reading. Our eBook Usage Report for the months of February and March 2022 shows our Primary students have read 390 Lightbox Interactive eBooks and 259 Abdo eBooks. When students visit the library, many are happy to share how much they are enjoying reading our eBooks. As a School Library Media Specialist, it is very rewarding to hear students give positive feedback about the resources I have taught them to access and use.

For Women’s History Month Primary and Intermediate students borrowed books/read eBooks to learn about women’s contributions in American history. Throughout the month, students viewed animated movies on BrainPOP Jr. and BrainPOP. Students continued their research using Britannica School, Gale in Context: Elementary and Pebble Go. They produced creative projects, which were on display in the LMC and throughout the school.

Ms. Hoxhaj’s Primary students read several eBooks, from our Lightbox Interactive Sea Life collection, which includes videos, weblinks and quizzes. Next, I introduced the students to Britannica School and PebbleGo for their research project on a sea animal. Immediately after the lesson student’s login to a computer and began listening/reading, taking notes and citing their sources. They completed a “Show What You Know” fact worksheet and a drawing of their animal. The students did fin-tastic work, which is on display in the Library Media Center.

I introduced Ms. Arno’s 7th grade classes to several databases to begin their research on their assigned body organ. Directly after the lesson student’s login to a computer and began gathering information and taking notes to answer a series of questions. Students completed a “Wanted” poster with all their research and sources.

Mr. Lotto’s 9th grade Humanities classes are learning to use Tinkercad to design their own 3D digital creations. They are making decisions by combining simple objects together to create complex models. Students will select either our MakerBot or Glowforge 3D Laser Printer to print their 3D models in the libraries Makerspace.

Our Intermediate Creation Innovators led by Janice Darkwa used our Glowforge 3D Laser Printer to print forty-five pendants for our Primary students who met or exceeded our “100 Books, 100 Days” Reading Challenge. Janice had the privilege of helping Ms. Westphal award the medals. The students proudly showed off their medals and posed for photos. Special thanks to Ms. Jacobs who took all the pictures. Our Intermediate students were studying the circulatory system and asked the team to print a 3D Heart for their display using the MakerBot.

On April 7, 2022, approximately 200 students in grades 6th-8th attended an Earring Making Workshop led by Joan Lloyd. She showed the students how to make beautiful beaded earrings using a few items, a few steps and a couple of tools. Each student designed and made two pairs of dazzling earrings (one to keep and one to donate). Students enjoyed designing, assembling, producing and sharing with Joan as a way to give back to the community.