**YMA Library Newsletter – February 2022**

I have taught all 3rd graders and Intermediate students how to add the Yonkers Public Library to their SORA account. Students are searching this extensive catalog for the perfect eBook(s) to borrow. As a patron, they are borrowing eBook(s) by selecting Yonkers Public Schools and entering their student ID#, which then adds the eBook to their shelf. They also learned how to return/renew materials. Students are excited about the collections.

Our Primary students are continuing to read and fill out their Reading Log for our Reading Initiative “100 Books, 100 Days.” I am constantly increasing their reading choices on our Follett Destiny Catalog. I have introduced all Primary 1st and 2nd graders to our Abdo eBooks and Lightbox Interactive eBooks. During lessons, I call students to the SmartBoard to practice how to use each resource. Students then login to their Clever account and click the Follett Destiny Catalog icon to reinforce and select an eBook to listen/read on their own. This activity reinforces 21st Century Skills and nurtures student choice while supporting reading, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

 Our Lightbox Interactive eBook Usage Report for the month of January 2022 shows our Primary students have read 246 Lightbox Interactive eBooks. When our Primary students visit the library, many are happy to share how much they enjoyed the story and videos available with each eBook. As a School Library Media Specialist, it is very rewarding to hear students give positive feedback about the resources I have taught them to search and use.

 Our Primary students continue to choose BookFlix to read eBooks and complete the puzzlers related to each story. Between January and February, we celebrated many holidays and have read about Martin Luther King Jr., Chinese New Year, Valentine’s Day, 100th Day of School, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. We also listened to eBooks on One More Story about winter: *The Snowy Day*, *Winter Trees* and *Waiting for Winter*.

For Black History Month many Primary and Intermediate students have borrowed a book(s) to read about prominent figures that are part of our country’s history. I also taught the students how to search and use several databases to support their research, how to take notes and cite their sources. Students wrote about the personal life, achievements and contributions. They produced creative projects, which are on display throughout the school.

In Benchmark Ms. Jacobs Primary students read about animal habitats and how animals adapt to their environment, consequently she decided to have each grade level study a different habitat. Students selected an animal to research from their assigned habitat. For this research project, I introduced her students to Britannica School and PebbleGo.com. Immediately after each lesson student’s login to a computer and began listening/reading, taking notes and citing their sources. I also introduced Mr. Doyle’s Intermediate students to the same databases. Each group will write a report, produce an artifact and share their findings with their classmates.

Ms. Wiggins 7th Grade AIS class completed their P.S.A.’s (Public Service Announcement) for a variety of Social Topics. Students selected what was of importance to them and created Posters, Podcasts and PowerPoints to express their concerns. The topics ranged from Asian-Hate, to a cleaner environment, to food in the cafeteria. Our guest speakers for the podcasts were Ms. Wong, Ms. Tiplady and Ms. Loftin, all provided their insights on a number of social issues. We thank all the speakers for being part of this project and a special thank-you to Mr. Ramos for the use of his equipment, generosity and time. Listen to our Podcasts posted on the YMA Homepage.

Ms. Wray’s middle school students used the Glowforge Laser Printer to print Martin Luther King Jr. quotes to display in her classroom. Our Middle School students watched videos to learn how to cut and score shapes. Using the Glowforge Laser Printer in our Makerspace, they succeeded and printed their first cut project. They will decorate and display their Valentine hearts in our Library Media Center. They look forward to creating more.

Ms. Governali (Pre-Teaching Magnet Teacher) and the High School students in this magnet continue to visit the Library Media Center with the Primary Students. The younger students are enjoying this partnership and eagerly look forward to meeting, reading and speaking with our High School students. This interaction is priceless!