**YMA Library Newsletter – October 2022**

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. Throughout the months of September and October, we received 131 applications. Emily Power at the Riverfront Library processed all our submissions. When we received the cards, I personally distributed them and took photos of students in all grade levels. They were enthusiastic and couldn’t wait to use it the next time they visit their local Yonkers Public Library. Ms. Governali distributed the cards to her High School students in the Pre-Teaching Magnet Program.

Throughout the month of October, our Primary and Intermediate students have been involved in researching a country for Cultural Day. For this project, I taught our Primary and Intermediate classes how to do research using Britannica School and Country Watch. Daily students have used the Library Media Center computers. Also, as part of our Worked-Based Learning Program, Ms. Bernardone’s Pre-Teaching Magnet students have been working with the Intermediate students to take notes, organize their research, cite their resources, as well as print photos to complete their Country Research booklet. The YMA community will celebrate Cultural Day on October 31, 2022, with a production by our Intermediate students, Pre-Primary and Primary classroom presentations and a parade of countries.

As part of our Worked-Based Learning Program, I taught Ms. Bernardone’s Pre-Teaching Magnet students and Ms. Jacob’s Primary student’s how to search Pebblego for Canada’s landforms, history and wildlife. The High School students helped the younger student’s login to a computer and Pebblego.com. They supported the students as they navigated the various tabs, used the resource tools and took notes on their “Share What You Know” worksheet. This collaboration supported the younger students as they finished their assigned task. Our Primary students will present their research to the YMA community.

Each week as part of our Worked-Based Learning Program, I am teaching Ms. Governali’s ’s Pre-Teaching Magnet students and a Middle School class from the Center for Learning students how to open and read/listen to eBooks or Audiobooks available on YMA’s Follett Destiny Library Catalog. This month the students were introduced to SORA. Students were taught how to browse collections from: Yonkers Public Schools, Westchester Library System and NY Reads. Students learned how to search the catalog for a specific title or author and how to borrow the title. They learned how to view items on their shelf and how to renew/return items. They also learned how to view their Reading Stats and Achievements.

Weekly our Pre-Primary classes visit the Library Media Center to borrow books and have a lesson on a topic reinforced using an eBook. I have introduced and explored with the students the following eBooks resources on Clever: Bookflix, Follett Lightboxes and One More Story. Students select, view and listen to a story before they are asked to respond to questions and interact with the different activities each resource offers using the SmartBoard. These activities promote reading fluency, vocabulary, critical thinking and a love of reading, while allowing me to check for student understanding.

Students in Mr. Lotto’s 9th grade Humanities classes are tinkering and collaborating in our Makerspace. Students are programming our Sphero to change colors and are controlling its movements using different apps. With our Little Bits Kit students are learning about circuitry and electronics. Students are using their creativity to generate objects with 3D pens. They are creating artifacts for our Cultural Day celebration using the Glowforge 3D printer. A group of students is leaning how to use our sewing machine. All these activities have fostered student engagement in the Library Media Center.