**YMA Library Newsletter – February 2023**

One eBook resource I reinforce with our Pre-Primary classes is BookFlix. Students love going to the Smartboard and selecting an eBook which helps foster collaboration, independence and student choice. After reading the eBook students participate in completing the Puzzlers: Word Match, Fact or Fiction and Which Came First. These activities strengthen their vocabulary, help them distinguish between fact and fiction and sequencing.

Using the reading app SORA, I taught our Primary students how to explore Nonfiction books using the Who Would Win? book series. This collection features reptiles, mammals, sea creatures, dinosaurs, and more as they go head to head in battle. This series has become very popular as students try to predict who would win the battle before they read the book. After they read we discuss their prediction and the actual outcome of the battle.

During December and January, our Primary students continue to read and fill out their Reading Log for our **“100 Books, 100 Days” Reading Challenge.** One hundred thirty-nine students have read **4,597** print books. Students also continue to login to their Clever account and click the Follett Destiny Catalog icon to select one of the eBook resources on YMA’s Follett Discover webpage. From December 14, 2022 – January 31, 2023 our eContent Data Reports show that **514** eBooks have been read during this time period. This activity supports 21st Century Skills and nurtures student choice while supporting reading, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

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.

Ms. Ryan’s CFL High School class are continuing to job shadow Ms. Westphal. They have learned how books are shelved in libraries. Each week they visit the library and practice by returning books to our bookshelves.

Ms. Bernardone’s Pre-Teaching Magnet students work with our 4th graders and also support our Primary students as book buddy partners. The younger students enjoy this partnership and eagerly look forward to meeting and reading with the HS students. Ms. Governali’s Pre-Teaching Magnet Students work with our CFL Middle School students. Both groups of High School students are teaching students how to use the features in Sway. Pre-Teaching Magnet Students are learning to use the Promethean Board to share their own Sways. Jose Polanco shared his Sway on Cognitive Biases with Ms. Dolce’s CFL MS class. Afterwards, some of Ms. Dolce’s students decided to create a Sway for Black History Month. Pre-Teaching Magnet Student Pedro Cruz taught Mr. Ramos’s CFL MS students and Endrin Prelvukaj used his Digital Portfolio on Sway to teach 4th graders Sway.

 Middle and High School students continue to collaborate, create and build in our Makerspace. Students in Mr. DeGrazio’s CFL High School class are printing hearts on the Glowforge 3D printer for Valentine’s Day. Third grade students in Ms. Kyff’s class are learning how to print an original art piece they drew. Jacob Romero was the first student to print his art work on the Glowforge 3D printer, which is proudly on display in the LMC. Mr. Lotto’s 9th grade students have decided to 3D print board games and pieces using the MakerBot 3D printer. Larry Moccia printed a Tic-Tac-Toe board and X’s and O’s. We will add his game to our game zone for all students to use.

With the New Year came two new areas in the Library Media Center. During lunch periods students use the Game Zone to play board games, build with Lego’s or complete jigsaw puzzles. Students are developing social skills as they collaborate and cooperate with each other while having fun. The other new space supports gardening using hydroponics. Ms. Clement’s 9th grade Earth Science students are growing leafy greens in our Hydroponics Garden Tower. Weekly they check the garden and PH level. This garden has sparked curiosity and many discussions with our younger students. They have so many questions and are observing and documenting the growth of our thriving seedlings. We are all waiting for the day when our greens will be ready to eat. All of these project-based STEAM activities promote hands-on learning, creativity, teamwork, sharing of ideas and student engagement.