

# **Palisades High School Library Media Center**

## **Annual End of Year Report**

**June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

# Palisades High School Library Media Center Annual End of Year Report June, 2008

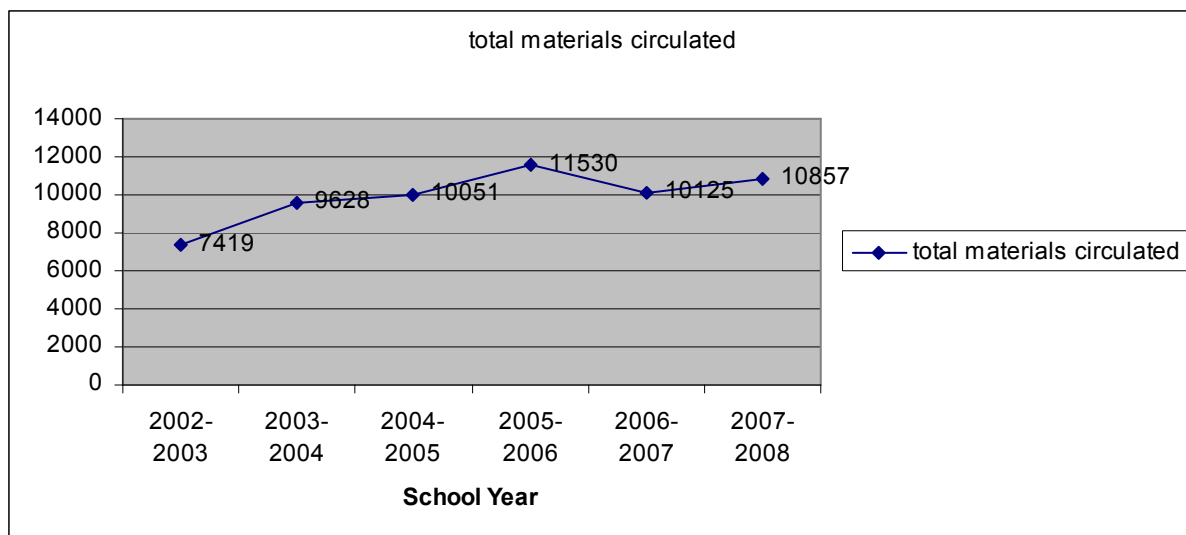
Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## Purpose of Report:

Our sixth annual report has been compiled in order to educate readers on the state of the library media program at Palisades High School located in Kintnersville, PA. Included is information about our library program and the services that we provide to 748 students and approximately 65 faculty members.

## Our Collection:

- This year our holdings increased from 27,330 materials to 27,494 materials. This statistic reflects not only the addition of new materials, but also the removal of damaged or obsolete materials. We took the time earlier this year to weed materials which either had outdated information or had not circulated for approximately 20 years or longer. Weeding allows a collection to be more attractive to library patrons, making it not only a collection which patrons want to use and enjoy browsing, but also one with reliable, up to date information.
- Focal areas for new acquisitions were:
  - materials to update our fiction section
  - materials for a new community section
- By June 4, circulation for this school year totaled 10,857 materials. This is a slight increase from last year when end of year circulation totaled 10,125 materials, We are proud to say our circulation statistics are also highly impressive for a high school of our size! These statistics do not reflect the 389 e-books accessed this year, the use of the subscription databases, or the circulation of graphing calculators.

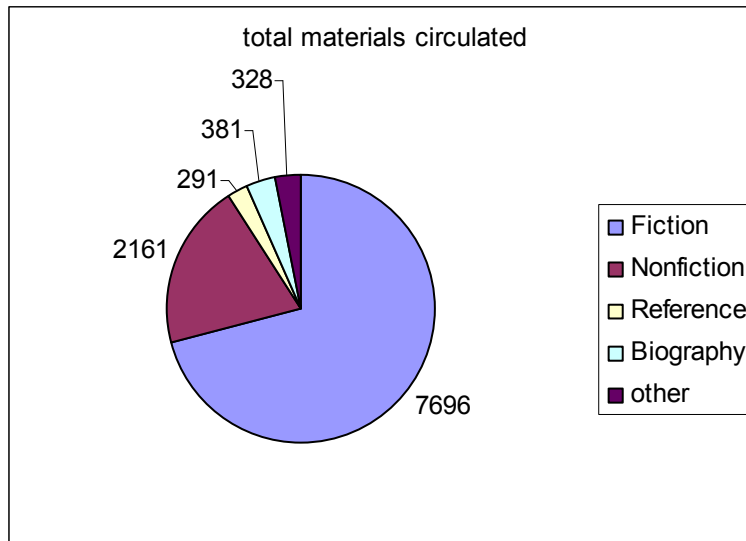


# Palisades High School Library Media Center Annual End of Year Report June, 2008

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## Our Collection, continued:

- The highest circulation month was February, when we circulated 1,627 materials. This is an increase from last year, when our top circulation was 1,363, taking place in September.
- Our average monthly circulation totaled 1,206 materials per month.
- Fiction was our most heavily used section, with a total of 7,696 fiction materials circulated. See chart below:



- This year we requested 263 materials from other libraries throughout Pennsylvania. This is a decrease from last school year, when we requested a total of 320 materials from outside sources. Our total is significantly greater than average for a public school library. I believe that this statistic is understandable, given limited access to public community libraries within district boundaries. We received a total of 90 requests from other statewide libraries for our materials.

## Our Collection, accomplishments and goals:

- We purchased a new video camera this year that has a recordable hard drive. It has been an extremely popular video camera that receives a lot of use. Due to its popularity, we have plans to purchase an additional video camera during the 2008-2009 school year.



**Palisades High School Library Media Center  
Annual End of Year Report  
June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## **Our Collection, accomplishments and goals, cont.:**

- Tincum Civic Association graciously donated \$1,000.00 to our library this year. The funds were used to purchase additional fiction selections, as circulation of fiction titles account for approximately 70 percent of our circulation (see page 3). In order to keep students interested in reading, we take care to ensure that they have new and interesting titles continuously available. With limited budgets, this is often a difficult task to achieve; donations such as this one from Tincum Civic Association allow us to achieve such a goal and the result is that students are genuinely excited to read. The Tincum Civic Association raises monies through community based events with the purpose of supporting local non-profit organizations that contribute to the general welfare or enhance the quality of life in our area. Please consider helping the association by volunteering at or attending the upcoming Tincum Arts Festival, July 12-13, 2008 in Tincum Park or by visiting Stover Mill Art Gallery located on River Road in Erwinna.
- This year we switched library catalog/circulation software to *Destiny*. *Destiny* is an online tool which allows us to perform all functions “in house” or remotely. We initially made the switch due to the fact that our old software had become obsolete and the software company was no longer making upgrades to the program. The addition of *Destiny* has allowed us to take advantage of many exciting features. Students and staff can place materials on hold for themselves and make personal lists of materials and view their own circulation history. Staff can make public lists of materials. Library staff has also been able to add educator selected websites that appear when individuals search for materials.

Visit our catalog by going to [destiny.palisadesd.org](http://destiny.palisadesd.org) !

- During the first week of school, I divided my time between being trained in our new circulation/catalog software, launching the software, and writing a Library Services and Technology Act Collection Development Grant. Through the application of the grant, I asked the state to award our library with money to build our mathematics collection with the vision of adding materials to help all teachers incorporate mathematical standards into their lessons and to provide materials which will help tutors and peer mentors to successfully teach math concepts and skills. I found out during late February that I was awarded the grant; this spring I have collaborated with teachers in order to build a list of materials that they feel best match these needs. Part of my Professional Growth Objective (PGO) this year was to meet with our mathematics department to discuss library resources and elicit suggested purchases for the future and develop and maintain a wish list of materials to order with the following year’s budget. Through this grant, we will be able to purchase the materials that we have carefully selected and are looking forward to providing these titles to our teachers and students.

New purchases for our collection during the next school year will be:

- Support for our new digital music course via the purchase of print and electronic materials
- Materials to support our LSTA Math grant
- Nonfiction and fiction titles that will enhance our curriculum and interest students

**Palisades High School Library Media Center  
Annual End of Year Report  
June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

**Our Collection, accomplishments and goals, cont.:**

- This year we added the database *SIRS Researcher* to our list of subscription databases that are available to our students for research purposes. *SIRS Researcher* offers editorial selected articles from over 1,600 sources on leading social, scientific, health, historic, economic, political, and global issues. In addition to *SIRS Researcher*, we also subscribe to *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* and we receive *EBSCOhost* and other Power Library Databases from our state; each provide a multitude of editorial selected articles ideal for research. The students are able to access our subscription databases from school and from home and can readily state the benefits of using such databases during the research process. Listed below are the usage statistics through the month of May for most of our databases. In addition to the databases listed below, our school also subscribes to *NoodleTools*, an online citation and note card generator. *NoodleTools* is very popular with the students and staff.

Database Name	Total Searches through May
EBSCOhost	888 searches (through April)
Study Island (Math, Reading, Writing, Science)	27799 questions answered
Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center	3800 searches
Noodletools	851 Bibliographies created
American History (ABC-CLIO)	4436 searches
SIRS Researcher	2858 searches
Net Library	389 books

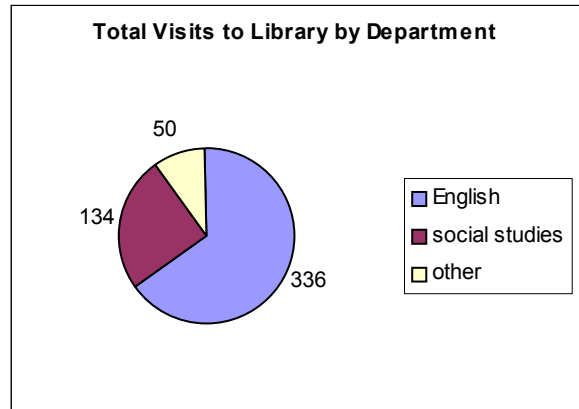
- We plan to continue to purchase Study Island, Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, SIRS Researcher, and NoodleTools. We will continue to receive EBSCOhost and NetLibrary resources free of charge from our state. American History will now be purchased by our social studies department as the content is specific solely to their department.

# Palisades High School Library Media Center Annual End of Year Report June, 2008

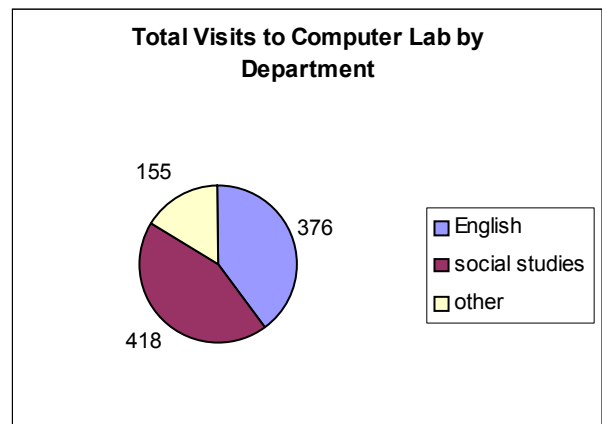
Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

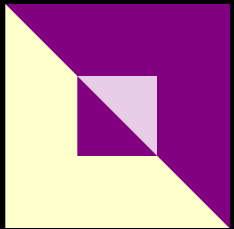
## Usage of Library and Computer Lab:

- As of late May, 2008, a total of 520 classes visited the library.
- An average of 58 classes visited the library per month.
- An average of 30 students visited the library daily separate from their classes, totaling an average of 5,400 individual student visits per year.
- Visits to the library range from book selection, research, test taking, literature circles (small group reading), math experiments, and presentations.
- English classes are the highest users of the library, more than doubling Social Studies classes and significantly exceeding the remaining departments.



- As of late May, 2008, a total of 949 classes visited the computer lab.
- An average of 20 students visited the computer lab separate from their classes, totaling an average of 3,600 individual student visits per year. More students would love to visit the lab separately from their class, unfortunately the space availability in the lab often inhibits their ability to do so.
- Visits to the computer lab range from research, word processing, utilization of other *Microsoft Office* programs and library subscription databases, and the electronic portfolio program. Often times, the learning environment is differentiated, allowing students from one class to utilize both the library and computer lab at the same time.
- Social Studies classes are the highest users of the computer lab, slightly exceeding English classes and significantly exceeding the remaining departments.



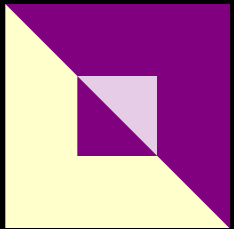


**Palisades High School Library Media Center**  
**Annual End of Year Report**  
**June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## **Information Literacy/Curriculum Connections:**

- Our library hosted three book fairs this year. The first was an “out of house” book fair held at a local Barnes and Noble. The goal of the event was to bring our community into the store, as the school receives a percentage of the proceeds from the sales on the day of the fair. We planned Football Player Story Hour, a Pirate Santa along with elf cheerleaders, holiday songs from our Madrigal singers, gift wrapping by each class, and the very popular “How well do you know your...” game with categories: best friend, boyfriend/girlfriend, sibling, and twin. The event was a great success, bringing in \$670 in new books for our library. The second book fair was an “in house” book fair hosted by Moravian Book Shop. We hosted the fair in the spring, which proved to be a slower time than the pre-holiday time frame. Even so, this book fair allowed students to become excited about literacy and reading. The third “book fair” is actually an order form for a local book store to provide required summer reads. We are really excited to offer this service to our students. The students are able to order the books at a discounted rate with delivery direct to the school. Moravian Book Shop is offering students a 10 percent discount and a 15% coupon for a future purchase while our school library also receives 10% of the proceeds.
- One new lesson that I created this year was Gathering Statistics for Research (posted on our high school library website under *Lesson Plans*). I developed this lesson after years of watching students “happen upon” statistics versus intentionally seeking out statistics. Part of my PGO this school year was to incorporate mathematics instruction into research project education. I took the opportunity to respond to prior observations and design a lesson which would help students become comfortable actively seeking out statistics to enhance their research. The lesson received strong response from the students who appreciated the guidance in this area.
- Cyber Safety (responsible use of today’s technology) is another lesson that I developed this year. I was inspired to create this lesson after conversing with a concerned parent, who also happened to volunteer for our library and is a current student of library science. Cyber safety is a rapidly growing issue; as teachers, we are charged with the task of presenting this issue in an effective way in which students will listen to our message and hopefully be moved by the message to behave in ways which will keep them safe. After talking to students and hearing that they feel that they are hearing warnings on television, from their parents, from their teachers all of the time, I realized that the “block out” effect is happening. I knew I would have to find a way around that, yet still approach the subject. I designed my lesson with the input of students and professionals. The lesson is also posted on our high school library website under *Lesson Plans* and also received a strong response from students who were presented with the lesson.
- Some of the best professional development experiences that I have are via online resources. I am part of Joyce Valenza’s (Library Media Specialist at Springfield Township High School in Erdenheim, PA) Teacher Librarian Network and, through this, I am able to share my experiences and help others with their questions. I also visit professional edublogs, Joyce Valenza’s blog, Mary Schwander’s (library media specialist at New Hope Solebury High School in New Hope, PA), and Doug Johnson’s website to read regularly for ideas and inspiration. As a library media specialist in a one library media specialist school, I cannot express enough how helpful it is to look outside for inspiration and development. It has greatly improved my professional skills.



**Palisades High School Library Media Center  
Annual End of Year Report  
June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## **Community Connections:**

- The Library Program is currently in year 3 of our 5 year review. For this school - year, we had planned to ask for the installation of a permanent set of presentation technology. Our library is not only used during the school day for classes, but is also heavily used for teacher training during staff development days and throughout the year for school board meetings. The district purchased the equipment allowing us to set up a presentation friendly environment which includes a large screen mounted to the ceiling, a ceiling mounted projector, and a sound system. The equipment is newly installed and has received much positive feedback. We anticipate that it will be utilized heavily throughout the years.
- Adult volunteers—our district offers a tax rebate to senior citizens who volunteer for a certain number of hours. This year we were thrilled to have the services of Luther Kemmerer and Elsie McHale.

Luther came in to shelve books and help in any other way that we needed him. When Luther came in on Monday mornings, we knew that he was ready to be given a full morning of duties. Luther was not only very willing, but he was extremely capable of quality work and is a wonderful and inspiring man to speak with.

Elsie helped us by volunteering during our evening program. Like Luther, Elsie enjoyed projects and supporting our program in order to make it a success. Elsie is a very dedicated and active community member. We were very lucky to have Elsie join us this spring.

We hope Luther and Elsie choose to return to our Library Media Center in 2009!

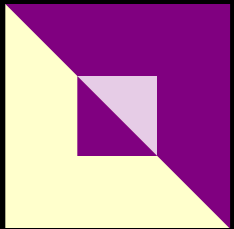
- Two years ago, my husband and I welcomed twins into our family; as a result, I had not been able to be on the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Media Selection and Review Committee since the spring of 2005. This year, I jumped aboard once again and really enjoyed serving with the wonderful ladies on the committee. This year, for our “Top 40 book reviews”, I submitted 27 reviews of materials to recommend to other librarians for purchase. Our committee culminates our reviews with a presentation at our annual conference. This year, our presentation revolved around the theme *Dancing with the Books*. In addition to verbally reviewing our top favorites, there were some dance competitions and some quiz questions relating to dancing, with winners taking home free books! Our library received numerous free books provided to us through the Top 40 committee.

Link here to see the reviews:

<http://www.psla.org/association/committee/mediaselectionandreview/topforty.php4>

- **Community evening hours:**

85% of Palisades’ residents do not have children attending our school district. Our district is very community oriented and we care about embracing our community and considering their needs. Prior to this school year, we provided an evening school program and opened our fitness center during evening hours to our residents. Opening the library and its resources was a natural fit. Our Community Connections Committee and Strategic Planning Committee were the groups who presented the idea and the evening program was funded by the Strategic Planning Committee. In addition to this funding, we received a \$700 grant from Tincum Civic Association to purchase materials which were circulated to



**Palisades High School Library Media Center  
Annual End of Year Report  
June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## **Community Connections, cont.:**

community patrons. The program was one which we piloted through the end of May. Hours were from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday evenings

Riegelsville (located in Easton School District) and Quakertown (located in Quakertown School District) Libraries typically are the public libraries that serve our community. Riegelsville is not open on Monday nights and Quakertown is not open on Thursday nights, making Monday and Thursday nights the perfect fit for our program. Through our program, our library further developed a positive relationship with these local libraries allowing us to better understand each other's programs and help each other publicize events.

Programs included during community evening hours were:

Community Cart - materials purchased solely for evening hour circulation to residents.

Bring One/Take One Cart - bring a book that you are done with and exchange it for another.

Interlibrary Loans - borrow a book from within the state and use it within our library.

Math Tutors - individuals of all ages who are struggling with math may come in to receive assistance free of charge. No appointments necessary.

PHS Library Resources - utilize all library print resources within the library.

Computers - use our computers and print free of charge.

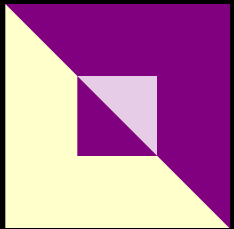
Monthly Activity Nights

### Results of the Pilot:

We found that the community responded well to the monthly activity nights but not as well to the other events provided during our evening hours. During regular evening hours, we typically had one to two residents utilizing library and math tutoring services each evening. We feel that the program planned was a quality program but cannot rationalize the funding of the twice weekly library openings.

Our February Snow Event brought in approximately 30 children and their families. During this event, we made fake blizzards, had a "snowball" relay race, played "find the snowman" and had teddy bear story hour. In March, we hosted a Gardening Night and brought in local experts on spring planters and compost. In addition to the presenters, our junior class held a fundraiser inviting local children to decorate a flower pot and plant seeds and the local public libraries also came out to discuss their services. Attendance at the Gardening Event, an event mainly for adults, and that children were charged a fee, was much lower than attendance at our other events which was sad because our presenters were top notch. Our April Math Event brought in approximately 25 children and their families. In April, we ate Pi (pie) and hosted a local artist who incorporates mathematical ideas, we had an interactive presentation from a professional at our local Intermediate Unit, and we played "Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader Math Competition" complete with trophies and door prizes. We will continue monthly events every other month for our community during the 2008-2009 school - year with mainly focusing on children's events which are free of charge.

We are extremely grateful to Elsie McHale, Patricia Stangil, Darlene Costantini, and Todd Kellman, who each helped to staff our evening program during the regular library evening hours. They were extremely dedicated, sacrificing many evenings to support the program. We are also extremely grateful to Donna Holmes, Tincum Civic Association, the Community Connections Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee, for supporting the program in every possible way by publicizing events, funding events, and brainstorming for the monthly events. I look forward to continuing to work with Donna and these committees to provide bi-monthly activity nights again next year.



**Palisades High School Library Media Center  
Annual End of Year Report  
June, 2008**

Composed and Compiled by  
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

## **Library Staff:**

- I, Karen Hornberger, am the Library Media Specialist. I facilitate library and school events and programs wherever possible.

Committees that I serve on are:

- Scheduling Committee Member
- Career Portfolio Committee Member
- Professional Development Committee Member
- Department Head Committee Member
- Evening Library Hours Coordinator
- Summer Reading Committee Chairperson
- Scholars Bowl Co-Advisor
- Reading Olympics Co-Advisor
- Reading Olympics Executive Committee Member
- Palisades School District Instructional Strategies Committee Member
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit Instructional Materials and Research Services Advisory Council Member
- PSLA Media and Selection Review Committee Member

- This fall I welcomed a new student teacher! Nancy Antonuccio from Kutztown University served her second placement of student teaching with us and while doing so filled the role of library assistant. Nancy was a pleasure to have as a student teacher. Nancy prepared and delivered lessons with great skill, communicating with teachers efficiently, carefully considered the delivery of lessons during the planning stages, delivered lessons of quality content with respect to each student, and reviewed each lesson with great accuracy. As Nancy was student teaching, she was offered a position with a school district and started with them in January of 2008. We wish Nancy the best in her new placement and in her future!
- At the beginning of the school year (as Nancy performed her role as student teacher in her first placement) and then in January, after we lost Nancy to her new position as Library Media Specialist, we have had Darlene Costantini filling the position of Library Assistant. Darlene has tackled our intense interlibrary loan program with a passion, has created beautiful displays for our library, has stepped up to staff the library during evening library hours for the community, plus much more. Darlene has been a dedicated sub in our library for years and has continued to demonstrate that dedication this year. We are happy to say she will become a part of our permanent staff in the 2008-2009 school year.
- Patricia Stangil is our computer lab assistant. Mrs. Stangil is the “Expert” of the computer lab. She keeps the computer lab scheduled, makes certain the computers are running smoothly and kept clean, and troubleshoots when necessary. Mrs. Stangil is a full-time employee who also runs overdue reports for the library, processes new library materials and also serves to collect homework for students absent from our school. We are really grateful to have Patricia as part of our library “family”.

This school year has truly been a great year. We have been energized, supported and inspired. We are looking forward to next year with excitement and many plans!

**Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual End of Year Report!**