

Palisades High School Library Media Center

Annual End of Year Report

June, 2009

Compiled and Composed by
Karen Hornberger, Library Media Specialist

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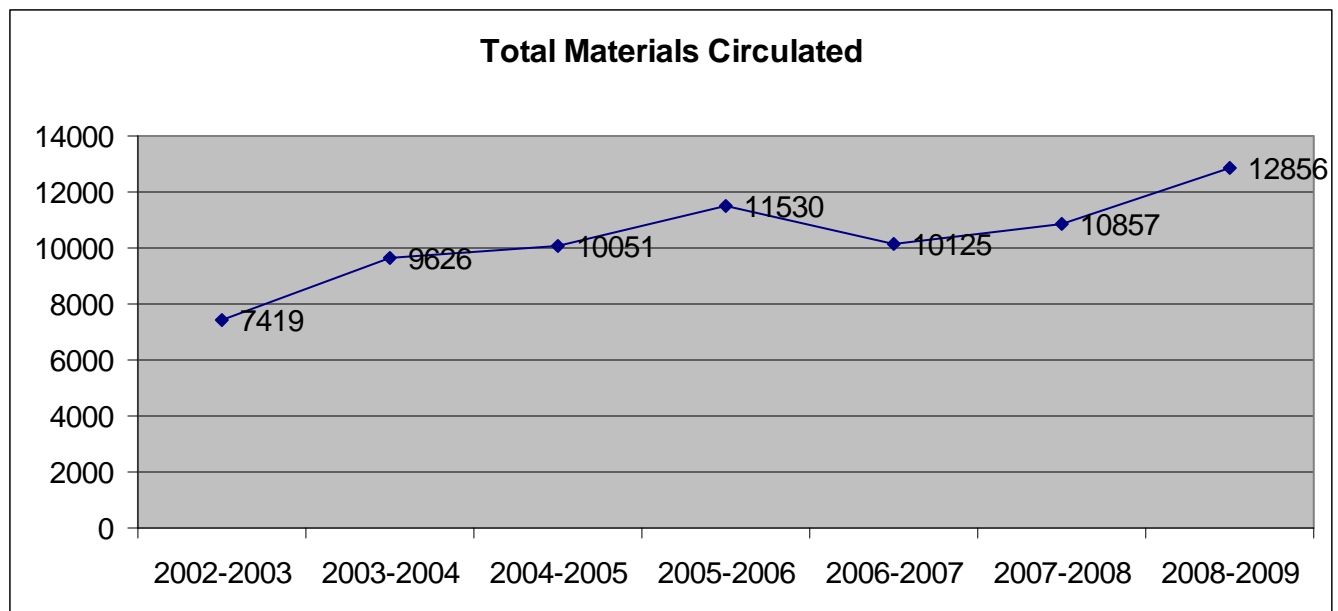
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Purpose of Report:

Our seventh 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 approximately 750 students and approximately 65 faculty members.

Our Collection:

- This year our collection has grown from 27,494 to 27,939 copies in the library. This statistic reflects not only the addition of new materials, but also the removal of damaged or obsolete materials.
- We are proud that, by the end of May, we achieved an all time high circulation of materials this year, circulating 12,856 materials total with our average monthly circulation totaling 1,428 materials per month. We are proud to say our circulation statistics are highly impressive for a high school of our size! These statistics do not reflect the 349 e-books accessed this year, the use of the subscription databases, or the circulation of graphing calculators.

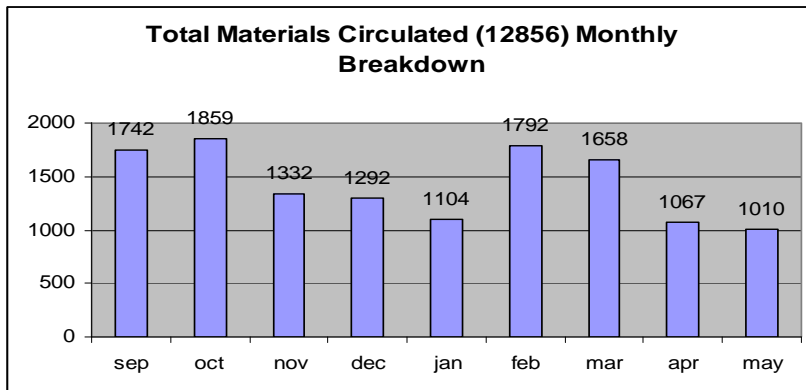


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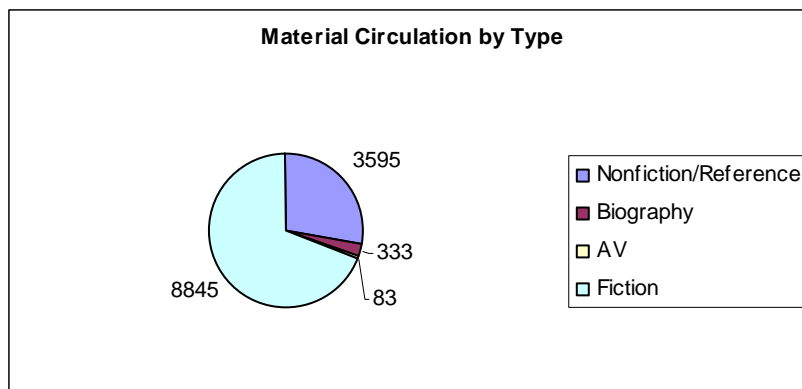
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Our Collection, continued:

- October was our month with the highest volume of materials circulated.



- Fiction was our most heavily used section, with a total of 8,845 fiction materials circulated.



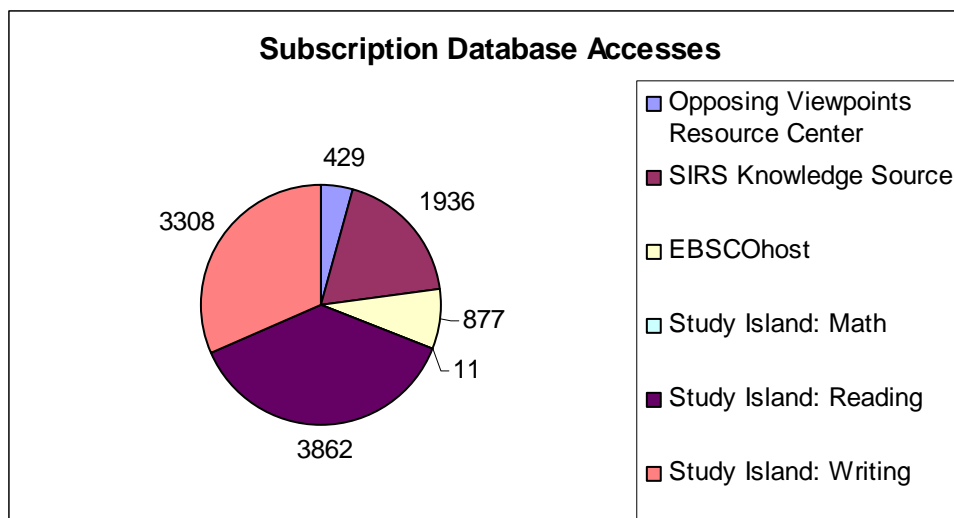
- This year we requested 234 materials from other libraries throughout Pennsylvania. This is a decrease from last school year, when we requested a total of 263 materials from outside sources. Our total is significantly greater than average for a public school library. I believe that this statistic is understandable, given limited access to public community libraries within district boundaries.

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Our Collection, accomplishments and goals:

- Focal areas for new acquisitions were mathematics books for students and teachers (professional development), books to support our new digital music course, and we purchased a second 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 two flip videos for next year.
- Next year we also plan to:
 - place special focus on improving our resources for lower level readers
 - order books to support our new SAT course
 - Purchase additional ebooks at a discounted rate made available to us
- Tincum Civic Association has, yet again, graciously donated \$1,000.00 to our library this year. I cannot express how their continued donations help to improve our collection. Through donations such as this, we are able to update our collection mid-year, generating new excitement with our students. I believe, through supplemental sources such as this, we have achieved the impressive circulation numbers we are seeing and, in turn, are promoting literacy. 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 11-12, 2009 in Tincum Park or by visiting Stover Mill Art Gallery located on River Road in Erwinna.
- Below is a chart which shows total accesses for our subscription databases.





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Our Collection, accomplishments and goals, cont.:

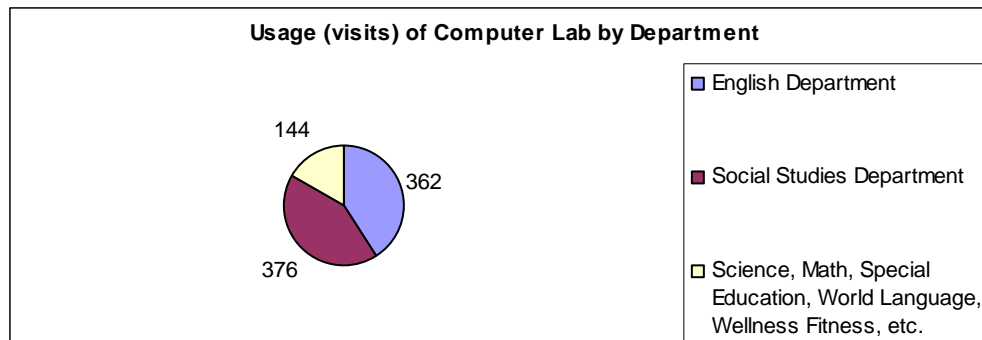
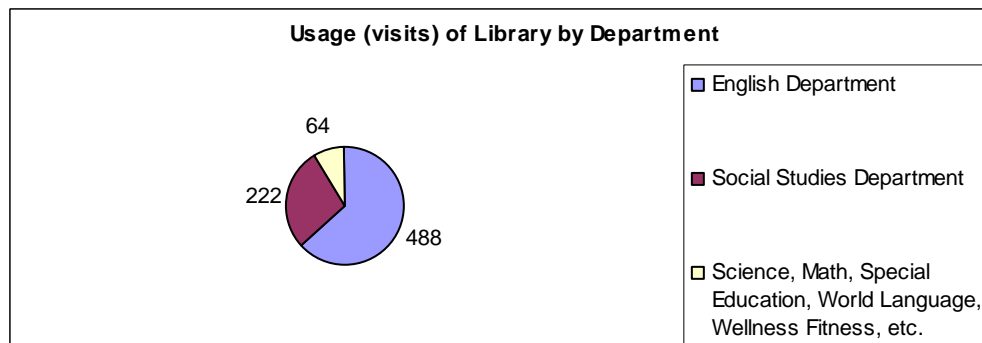
- Study Island is a web based program which is aligned with PSSA testing and allows students to interact with rigorous academic content, helping students master the academic standards specific to their grade level. Students have the option of interacting with this program in test taking mode or in game mode. Our subscription to the reading, writing, and math sections was purchased via a grant obtained by our assistant superintendent. This year, usage was high in reading and writing, however, it lowered significantly in math. It was reported to us that another program, Compass Learning, has become the preferred program in mathematics due to similar features and user friendliness.
- EBSCOhost is a program which indexes articles from local, national, and international news sources, magazines, and professional journals. This database is mainly used by students in senior project or attending college courses and by faculty for professional development. Faculty usage prompted me to create and link a form for faculty to request articles specific to their research needs. EBSCOhost has traditionally been provided to us via state funding. We are closely watching the status this year in order to determine whether this will continue during the 2009-2010 school year.
- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center and SIRS Knowledge Source are two databases that we subscribe to that are more user friendly than EBSCOhost. Each database provides magazine articles, sources from authors on staff, images, and more. These two databases are favorites with students for research projects.
- We added Culture Grams mid-year as a result of a free trial we ran and advertised to our faculty. After receiving positive response from our World Language and Social Studies departments, we chose to purchase the database. Culture Grams offers an up-to-date cultural view of countries throughout the world through primary and secondary resources. Our goal for next year is to track the usage on our purchase and attempt to authentically integrate the database into lessons throughout the curriculum.
- Noodletools is a database that we subscribe to that offers students both a citation and a note card generator. This year, 758 bibliographies were created using this program. I am looking forward to watching for the graphic organizer addition expected this summer and incorporating that new tool into lessons on Noodletools. Noodletools usage has not been included in the chart on the previous page due to the different nature of the service provided. It would be a case of comparing apples to oranges.
- NetLibrary is another database which is not included in the chart on the previous page. This is a database that houses the 12,000 ebooks we access as a result of state funding. We have uploaded the ebook records into our catalog, allowing our students access to the electronic books as they keyword search. The book is electronically provided in full text. Our students have accessed 349 ebooks during this school year.
- We plan to continue to purchase SIRS Knowledge Source, CultureGrams, and NoodleTools. The continuation of Study Island is being decided upon at the district level, however, we have conversed with regards to usage statistics. We may or may not continue to receive EBSCOhost and NetLibrary resources free of charge from our state. Dependent on state funding, we may choose to purchase EBSCOhost and discontinue the subscription to Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. While it is nice to provide multiple databases which provide user friendly access to academic articles of trustworthy nature, we may need to eliminate one dependent upon where funding will originate.

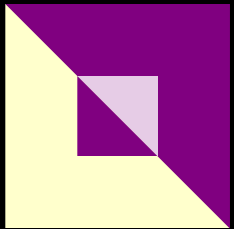
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Usage of Library and Computer Lab:

- As of late May, 2009, a total of 774 classes visited the library with an average of 86 classes visiting the library per month. Visits to the library range from book selection, research, test taking, literature circles (small group reading), math experiments, presentations, and movie viewings.
- An average of 30 students visited the library daily separate from their classes, totaling an average of 5,400 individual student visits per year.
- English classes are the highest users of the library, significantly exceeding the remaining departments.
- As of late May, 2000, a total of 882 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.





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Information Literacy/Curriculum Connections:

- This year my professional growth objective was to work collaboratively with ten high school faculty members to prepare or enhance lessons using Daniel Pink's elements of creativity along with reading, writing, math, and/or problem solving strategies. This relationship served to provide a foundation for further collaborations and services that can be provided in order to benefit our learning community.

Some of my favorite lessons were:

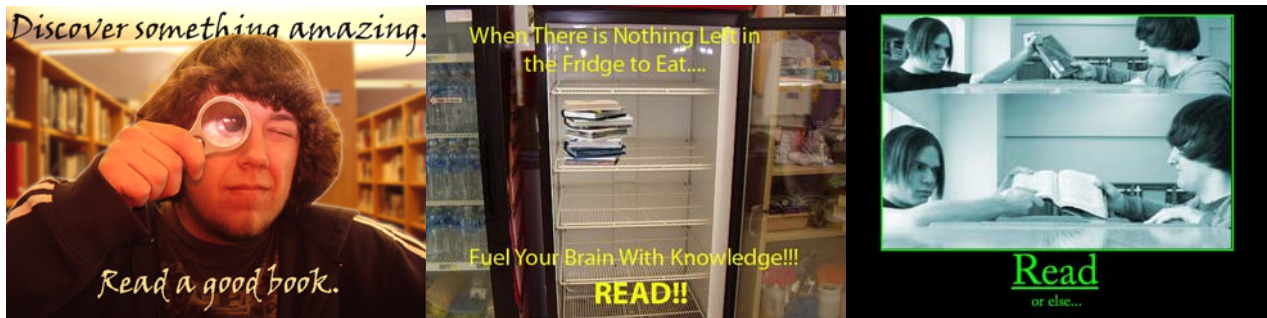
- **Book Trailers:** this was the first year we had students create book trailers. Book trailers are similar to movie trailers in that they use multimedia to excite a person to want to experience the product – in this case it is meant to excite other students to read versus watch a movie. Students were able to use the program of their choice to create a movie to serve to suggest the title to other students. Students not only gained new skills related to technology (a focus on appropriate transitions and use of media) but they were able to express their creativity while promoting literacy to others. We are now using book trailers to excite students to read required summer readings!
- **Personal Odyssey:** Our Personal Odyssey lesson was similar to the book trailers in technical expectations but it incorporated literary metaphor and literary devices found within Homer's *Odyssey* as elements within the presentation and relate these metaphors and literary devices to areas of their own life.
- **Presenting Misleading Statistics as Truth:** Inspired by the election, I felt it was important to discuss statistical fallacies with our students. I worked with one of our statistics teachers to design a lesson to approach this. As consumers of information and of products, we are often misinformed. At times, this is intentional practice in order to manipulate the consumer's thought process in order to benefit the individual or group who has chosen to intentionally manipulate information. At other times, manipulation happens purely by accident, possibly due to improper execution of a study or survey. Either way, misinformation can greatly impact our society. In order to think analytically and avoid persuasion, it is important that we learn to identify misinformation. During this assignment, the students analyzed the nine types of statistical misuse and applied them by creating a research plan. Students then researched statistics and synthesized two statistics with two types of misuse through the creation of a product.
- **Literary Glogs:** glogster.com is a website that allows users to develop visually appealing portals which allows you to link audio, video, web pages, and text to the visual poster which is called a "glog". This is a nice opportunity for teachers to be able to create a home for all projects related to a particular unit. This year we used glogs as portals for literary analysis. Students analyzed various literary elements (plot, setting, character, theme, etc.) within one literary work and synthesized projects based upon one literary work using glogster. We often asked students to include some projects that are required to be on the glog while some projects remained a la carte (such as pick 4 of the following 10 choices).

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Information Literacy/Curriculum Connections, cont.:

- Read Posters: Our students came up with some really cute READ posters (see a few below) when given the following parameters: must be visually exciting, must have legible text (top quality resolution), must promote reading and/or literacy, each poster must have a catchy slogan: try to fully develop a theme (not just football players reading – football player can be catching a book that flies through the air and the slogan can say something like “Catch a good book” or “mystery reader” – show only a little of face), submit both print and a digital file – both must be top quality.



- 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 read professional edublogs, Joyce Valenza’s blog, Mary Schwander’s (library media specialist at New Hope Solebury High School in New Hope, PA) 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.
- One big push in the library field this year was to educate librarians on fair use of resources and a term called transformative use. After learning more about transformative use of copyrighted materials, I returned to school to educate our staff on the guidelines. As a result, I posted a transformative use tool to our library website for educators to use as a reference.
- During this school year, I rewrote district selection policy utilizing notes from a state conference session, our district mission statement, state selection policy models, and other district policies to update our selection policy (board policy 109) to reflect 21st Century Resources, adding a removal policy, and a reconsideration policy. Our new policy has officially been adopted by our district
- My Information Literacy/Curriculum Connections goals for next year will be to assist non-English teachers with reading and writing across the curriculum by enhancing or developing at least ten different lessons in coordination with classroom teachers.. As I figure out which 2.0 tools most enhance the library program, I would like to expand the 2.0 benefits from curriculum deepening and professional growth to also encompass student outreach. As a result, I am working hard to pilot a thesis development team which utilizes web 2.0 programs to help students develop and refine thesis statements to guide their research.



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Community Connections:

- 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 . 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. We hope Luther returns to our Library during the 2009-2010 school year!
- Barnes and Noble (via their top-notch Community Relations Manager, Eve) provides our library with many services throughout the year. In the fall, Eve helps us coordinate a book fair at our local store which serves as our largest fundraiser of the year. We coordinate events and generate excitement about our “Barnes and Noble Night” bringing students, staff, and families out to the store. This year, the activities we hosted were the Madrigal Singers, a baseball cap scavenger hunt, a card tower contest, a marshmallow launch contest, a blues jam, featuring Chris Marks, Phil Szymanowski, and Gary Adams, a cranberry sauce eating contest, and a How well do you know your... (best friend, boyfriend/girlfriend, sibling)? Contest. The goal of the night is to bring as many people out as possible and the library raises a percentage of the proceeds from all purchases including café items.
- In addition to the book fair at Barnes and Noble, we also have coordinated with Eve and our middle school librarian, Ellie Scheitrum to provide required summer required reading sales to students at a discounted rate.
- We hosted two events for community members during the year. The first was Spooky Foods Night, which was sponsored by our Community Relations Office. On this night, elementary students attended to make bloodshot eyeballs, funny bugs, graveyard dirt cups, monster munch, and take a tour in the scariest haunted library ever (facilitated by the class of 2012).
- The second event that we hosted for the community was an “Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?” competition. We, luckily, had the help of Karen McDermott, a teacher at one of our elementary schools, who took the time not only to construct all of the questions but also to emcee the event with great enthusiasm. Again, we had the support of our Community Relations Office who sponsored the financing for the trophies and prizes. Our community events are a great way to bring together an already close community.
- This year, as part of the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Media Selection and Review Committee, I submitted reviews of materials to recommend to other librarians for purchase for our “Top 40 Books” presentation at our state school library conference. This year, our verbal presentation revolved around the theme *Top Chef*. In addition to verbally reviewing our top favorites, there were some competitions and some quiz questions relating to cooking, 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>



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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:

- Classrooms for the Future Steering Committee Member
- Career Portfolio Committee Member
- Department Head Committee Member
- Coordinator of Evening Community Events
- Professional Development Co-Chairperson
- Summer Reading Committee Chairperson
- Scholars' Bowl Co-Advisor
- Reading Olympics Co-Advisor
- Reading Olympics Executive Committee Member
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit Instructional Materials and Research Services Advisory Council Member
- PSLA Media and Selection Review Committee Member

- Darlene Costantini completed a full year fulfilling the position of Library Assistant. Darlene has tackled our intense interlibrary loan program with a passion and has created beautiful displays for our library. Darlene is a wonderful person who we are glad to have with us.
- While Darlene was out on leave for a few months, we had Kim Lindley in to help us out. Kim has been truly enjoyable to work with and has a wonderful work ethic.
- 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 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!