



# News from the IMC

Back to School Issue

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## 21st Century Skills - Are We There?

Are students ready to meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive and global world? Recent studies by ETS, ACT and the National Association of Manufacturers indicate that high schools are not preparing students for the 21st century workplace.

Nearly 40% of high school graduates feel inadequately prepared for college or work.

About one-third of students do not graduate after four years of high school.

Up to 55% of college freshmen are enrolled in remedial courses.

84% of employers say schools are not doing a good job preparing students for the workplace.

So, what's answer? In a report "*Results That Matter: 21st Cen-*

*ture Learning and High School Reform*" emphasis is placed on making students critical thinkers, problem solvers and effective communicators who excel in core content areas and the new 21st century



skills. These skills include the following:

First, in addition to the traditional 3R's, content areas should emphasize

global awareness, financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy and civil literacy.

Second, emphasis should be placed on learning and thinking skills critical to life long learning including problem solving, communication and collaboration skills and information and media literacy skills.

Third, life skills such as ethics, personal productivity, social responsibility, self-direction and leadership should be directly and deliberately covered in the curriculum.

Fourth, technology's purpose is to promote critical thinking and problem solving.

Finally, assessment should be authentic and measure all areas of 21st century skills.

A 21st century education is one that is rigorous and includes proficiency in core academic areas and 21st century skills designed to prepare students for success both at work and in college in the 21st century.

### Next Month:

### 21st Century Assignment

## F.Y.I.

Study hall and lunch moderators, please check your IMC handouts as to the number of students that can be sent to the IMC each period.

Please remind your subs that they cannot send students from your classes to the IMC

Is there a music CD or entertainment or educational DVD that you would like us to order? Please send us your requests.

9th grade orientation will take place from September 12th through the 28th.

Have a great year!

# The Reader's Nook

## Encouraging WTHS to Read

In this ever-increasingly technological world it is important that we continue to encourage the students of WTHS to read both academically and for pleasure. There have been numerous studies that have shown that students who read have a better chance of increasing their test scores and most show that it does not matter what the students are reading, just that they are.

This is why one of the major goals of the IMC staff during the 2005-2006 school year was to make a more concerted effort to actively promote reading. This goal was accomplished through a series of activities and programs that were conducted throughout the year including re-arranging the IMC to showcase popular titles, airing commercials that encouraged reading, designing a round robin lesson for the selection of

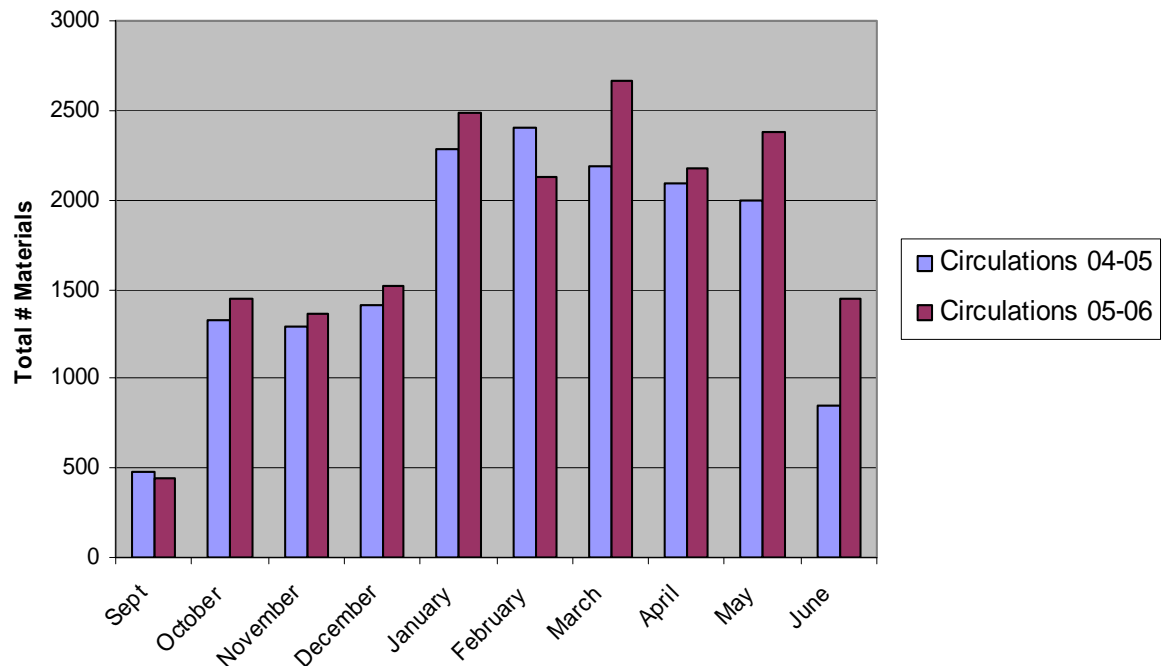
free reading titles, and arranging the visit of a local young adult author.

As you can see by the chart below, the fiction circulation totals show that our efforts paid off, but we need your help to continue the trend. Please participate and encourage your students to participate in the activities and contests throughout the year. You can start now by sending in your Staff Pick for the best book you read over the summer (see attached).



**Celebrate Your Freedom to Read September 23-30**

Circulation Totals 2004-05 & 2005-06



**NextReads**  
a service of *NovelList*

**Coming Soon!**

Never worry about what to read next again. A reader's newsletter that is sent directly to your email account.