

Washington Township High School IMC

Monthly Report

December 2008

Teaching and Learning

Statistics

Classes	207
English	140
Sciences	27
Social Studies	38
World Languages	2
Total number of students	5,735
Students with classes	3,898
Students with passes	1,488
Students after school	349

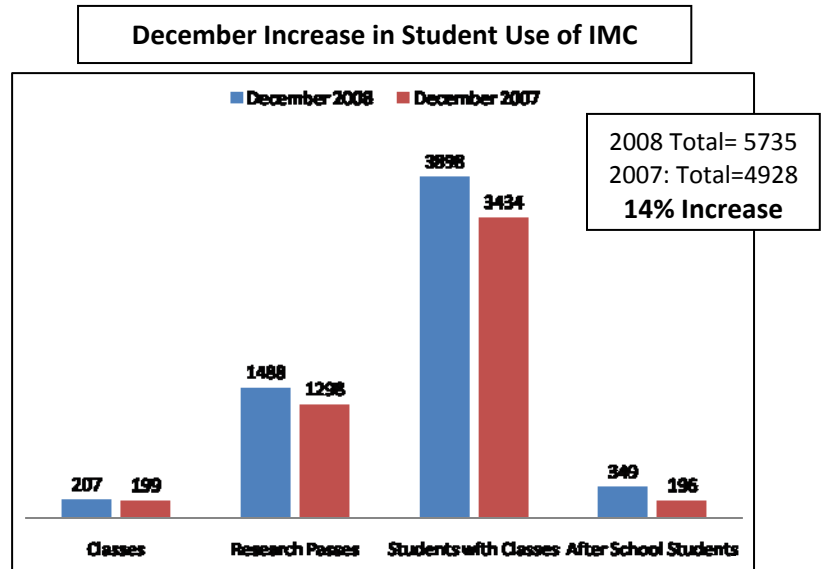
December Highlights

The month of December was a busy month for collaboration between the librarians and the Science teachers. Because of the new Science curriculum, the classes visited the library to research information for a wide variety of projects which the teachers created and the librarians brought to life. More information follows under "Science."

Information Literacy Lessons

English

- The second marking period brought a new group of freshmen to the IMC for their Writing Lab class. In collaboration with the English teachers, the librarians redesigned the project this year to have the students research a controversial issue. Judging by the success of the first marking period students, the new project is working well, and the classes again spent 5 days in the library where the librarians taught them how to use the IMC resources, including databases and Ebooks to locate, select, and retrieve information.
- The librarians showed Mr. Evangelisti's classes how to use the databases, as well as Web Collection Plus, to locate a book of personal interest.
- Mrs. Thomas's English 10 classes researched themes in art and literature to compare to themes in *The Crucible*. The librarians showed them how to search the numerous databases, how to use MLA format in citing their research, and how to create a brochure for their findings.
- The librarians collaborated with Ms. Leskie in helping her students choose a young adult novel for independent reading. The next step of the project was showing the students how to



research a controversial issue to compare it to that novel. The librarians then instructed in using MLA format for their final product, a research paper.

- Mrs. Lopresti's Honors English 10 classes researched the historical aspects of the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* to write a paper. The librarians showed them how to use the databases and how to cite their research using MLA format.

Science

- Mr. Napolsky's Chemistry classes engaged in formal debates over which alternative source of energy is the best. The librarians created a Pathfinder to help them to find support for their "side" by directing them to the best resources for gathering information.
- The Geo Science classes taught by Ms. Carpinelli, Ms. Shukla, and Ms. Duym came to the IMC to find information for a campaign to decide "the most interesting eruption of all time." The librarians showed the students how to search the databases for magazine articles, archived newspapers, and pictures to support their argument. They also guided them to books and Ebooks for information.
- Ms. Carpinelli's Astronomy classes created an infomercial to sell a time-share somewhere in the solar system other than earth. The librarians created a Pathfinder to facilitate their finding information about their chosen destination. The librarians also showed them how to create a video slide to incorporate into their PowerPoint and guided them to video-on-demand programs they could access from the IMC.

Social Studies

- Mr. Kirkwood's US History I classes worked in teams to create a PowerPoint about an assigned movement in American History. The librarians showed them how to find information in the databases and catalogs.
- Mr. Callaway's AP classes are researching information for their term papers. The librarians are assisting them with citing correctly using MLA format.

World Languages

- Ms. Furman's Spanish classes created a brochure demonstrating how Spanish-speaking countries celebrate Christmas. Besides showing the students how to use Publisher, the librarians created an electronic Pathfinder which was accessible from the IMC home page. The Pathfinder guided them to databases from which they could search the different countries' traditions, culture, music, food, and decorations.

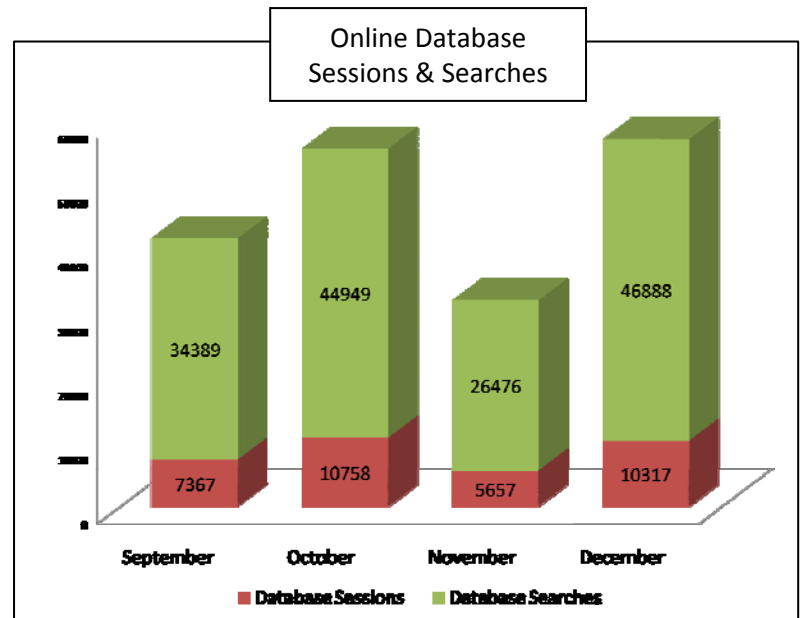
Information Access and Delivery

Statistics

Books/audio-visual checked out	1,596
Magazines/articles requested	93
Interlibrary loans requested	23
Interlibrary loans returned	34

Technology Update

- An eBook sub collection of our literary criticism eBooks was created and posted to the webpage to assist the many English classes as they research American authors for the 11th grade research paper.
- The Audacity program was uploaded to all computers in the IMC. This program will be used to create and edit podcasts. A list of research assignments that can incorporate a podcast was distributed to the faculty as part of the December newsletter.



Reading Promotion/IMC Displays

- The Core bulletin board for December featured the theme “Reading is Always in Season.” Covers for books from each of the four seasons were highlighted. The bulletin board inside the library spotlighted “Stories of Old Retold” –fairy tales updated with a “twist.” One of the glass cases displayed historical books under the title “History Comes Alive At Your IMC,” while another glass case with the theme “Deck the Halls with Books and Holly” promoted books and DVDs about Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa, and other holidays.

Student Book Club

- The Student Book Club met on Wednesday, December 17, to discuss *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray. This novel is the first in a popular trilogy that mixes historical fiction with supernatural elements. The students discussed qualities of a historical fiction novel that they feel are important, and many enjoyed the book enough to check out the second in the series.
- A Web page, complete with links and summaries for a number Historical Fiction novels intended for Young Adults, was posted to the “Reading Corner “ section of the IMC Homepage.
- Ms. Gaughan nominated the active members of the Student Book Club for the Enthusiastic Reader Award that is presented by the NJ Reading Association and the NJ Association of School Librarians. Each of the students is now eligible to win books and a U. S. Savings Bond.

Program Administration

- Ms. Gaughan attended the fall membership meeting of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative, where guest speaker Peggy Barber gave a presentation on the importance of Word of Mouth Marketing. A number of her suggestions and practical examples will be used as

the librarians continue to reach out to WTHS students and teachers about the value of the IMC and the many resources and programs that are available to them.

- A list of suggested books was distributed to the WTHS faculty in a Holiday Book List in addition to an updated list of Entertainment Movies. Staff members were encouraged to check out books and movies to enjoy over the holiday break.
- The theme of the IMC newsletter for this month was Differentiated Instruction, which is the focus of Professional Development in the high school this year.
- Ann Hill, at the invitation of Mrs. Farrow, attended a Rotary breakfast to address them about the activities and resources in our library. She also spoke about the New Jersey Hall of Fame curriculum that she wrote with Marie Blistan.
- Stephanie Gaughan and Denise Skow attended a district In-service to learn how IDE Portal uses technology to provide differentiated instruction for all students.
- The IMC staff continued to work with the Student Book Club to collect new and gently used books for an upcoming used book sale. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the Book Club's Literacy Outreach Program.