

Washington Township High School IMC  
 Monthly Report  
 February 2009

The IMC is proud to announce the selection of our very own Ann Hill as one of Washington Township's Teachers of the Year. Ms. Hill has been instrumental in the success of our library through her expertise with technology, her willingness to help students both during and after school, and her mentoring of other WTHS staff.

**CONGRATULATIONS, MS. HILL! ENJOY THE REWARDS OF YOUR HARD WORK.**



**Teaching and Learning**

**Statistics**

**Classes**

Consumer & Family Science	2
Visual & Performing Arts	4
English	201
Science	6
Social Studies	44
World Language	6
<b>Total Number of Classes</b>	<b>263</b>

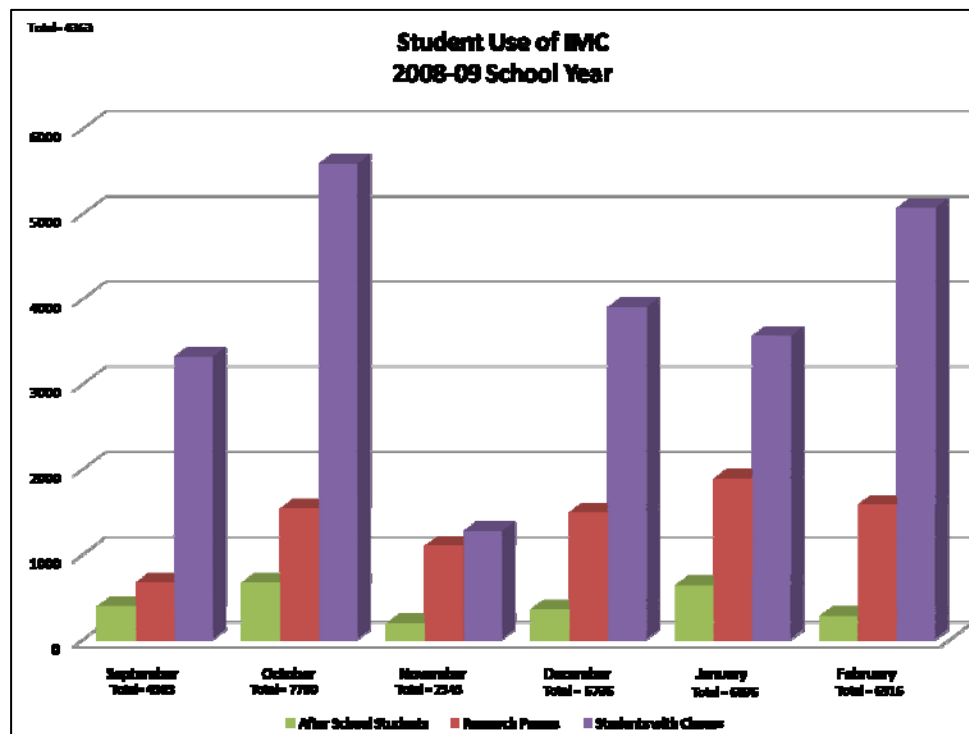
<b>Total number of students</b>	<b>6,916</b>
Students with classes	5,065
Students with passes	1,581
Students after school	270

**Information Skills**

**February Highlights**

The IMC was the place to be in the month of February. Although February was a short month, the library was jam-packed with classes each day as students and teachers utilized the IMC's databases and other resources to complete their research papers and projects. In keeping with our goal of working alongside the teachers to meet curriculum standards and improving literacy throughout the school, we are pleased to see so many teachers, staff, and students feeling at home in our library.

**Information Literacy Lessons**



## **Family and Consumer Science**

- The librarians showed Mrs. Molle's Culinary classes how to research recipes using the IMC resources. The students then created their own cookbooks in the IMC.

## **English**

- Each marking period, a new class of Freshman Writing Lab students taught by Ms. Calvani, Ms. Bolam, Ms. Sanchirico, and Ms. Mroz come down to the library to learn research skills as they complete their paper about a controversial issue which affects society. The librarians welcomed a new crop of freshmen for the third marking period as they team taught the paper with the English teachers.
- Mrs. Sandusky's English 12 classes began research on their paper about a contemporary artist or performer. The librarians showed them how to navigate the "Famous and Fictitious" Pathfinder to find information.
- Mrs. Skow's 11<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English classes and Ms. Hayes College Prep English 11 classes continued their research for the paper in which they develop a thesis about the work of a 20<sup>th</sup> century American author and trace that theme through two (for CP classes) or three (for Honors classes) of the author's works. With the students having completed most of the research, the librarians are showing them how to format the paper using MLA rules and how to avoid plagiarism by citing correctly.
- Ms. Leskie's, and Mr. Hart's 11<sup>th</sup> grade CPA English classes are also completing the research on their author/theme research paper, which is team-taught with the librarians.
- Mrs. Muscelli's 9<sup>th</sup> grade English classes researched life during the Elizabethan age using the Pathfinder developed by the librarians. The students used the IMC databases and other resources to research their specific topic and create an oral presentation which could include a Powerpoint, slide show, talk show, film, board game, or other product.
- Mrs. Molotsky's Honors English 12 classes completed the research on their paper in which the librarians showed them how to explore a motif, find its element, and trace its development through the arts.
- Mrs. Molotsky's and Mrs. Natanni's College Prep English 12 classes used the Archetype Pathfinder which the librarians created to research both classic and modern archetypes found in literature and compare/contrast them in their research paper.
- Students in Mrs. Salvatore's 9<sup>th</sup> grade CPB English classes selected a contemporary young adult novel to read on their own. The librarians engaged the students in a round robin activity to select a book that interested them.
- Mrs. Kopas's College Prep English 12 classes researched the day they were born for the research paper they were writing. Using the information on the Pathfinder, which the librarians created, they accessed news of the day from books, magazines, and newspapers.
- The librarians showed Mrs. Thomas's 10<sup>th</sup> grade English classes how to find epigrams. Their assignment was to paraphrase and analyze the witty poems. Then they had to write and illustrate one of their own.

## **Social Studies**

- Mrs. Meares's US History I classes used the Civil War Pathfinder which the librarians created to research Civil War topics and create trading cards.
- Mr. Barnshaw's US History I and II classes researched their second marking period essay with the assistance of the librarians.
- Mrs. Carchidi's Honor US History II classes used IMC resources to create their own study guides.

- The librarians guided Ms. Monaco’s Honors History classes in how to use the IMC resources to create a Civil War portfolio.
- Ms. Mason’s Sociology classes worked in pairs to complete their research on the he topic of crime in society. The librarians guided them in using the Pathfinder which they had created to find information on the various types of crime, as well as the statistics for these crimes. The librarians then showed the students how to use PowerPoint to create charts tracking the statistics which they found.
- Mr. Eppolite’s U.S. History I classes began research on their term papers about famous people in history. The librarians instructed them in exploring the IMC’s collection and in using MLA format.
- The librarians showed Mr. Taraska’s World History classes how to find information about the Crusades which the students then used to create a news broadcast.

**Science**

- Mrs. Wiles’s Marine Biology classes learned how to create a Wiki to publish the information they found about topics in marine science.
- Mr. Holmes’s Chemistry classes used the Environmental Studies Pathfinder which the librarians created to research alternate forms of energy, such as solar, geothermal, nuclear, etc. They will be debating their fellow classmates about the benefits of the energy which they researched

**Special Education**

- Mrs. Brodzinski’s and Mrs. Johnson’s classes are regular patrons of the library. During this visit, they were choosing books that were made into movies to compare and contrast the two media.

**World Language**

- The librarians showed Mr. Anderson’s German classes how to use the IMC resources to research famous Germans. They also showed them how to create a pamphlet to publish their findings.
- Mrs. Smyth’s Spanish classes created a travelogue of Oaxaca, Mexico. The librarians showed them how to use the Worldwide Tourism Pathfinder to conduct their research.

**Information Access and Delivery**

Statistics

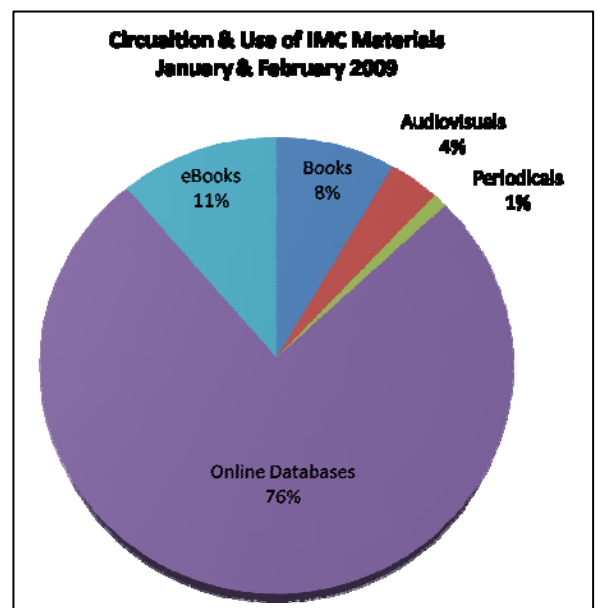
Books/audio-visual checked out	1,828
Magazines/articles requested	87
Interlibrary loans requested	35
Interlibrary loans returned	53

**Technology Update**

The library staff were pleased to have their outdated computers replaced with new Dells. The increased speed and larger memory will greatly assist the staff with their responsibilities.

**Reading Promotion**

The library assistants decorated the IMC’s bulletin boards and



display cases to spotlight February events. This month's front bulletin board invited patrons to "LOL at Your Library." Covers of books sure to elicit a chuckle were featured. Celebrating the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, our book case featured books about his life under the banner "Happy Birthday, President Lincoln." Also in keeping with February holidays, the books displayed in our glass case under the title "Isn't it Romantic?" were by and about Jane Austen and the ever-popular Bronte sisters.

### **Student Book Club**

- The Book Club met twice during the month of February to discuss *Does My Head Look Big in This* by Randa Abdel-Fattah and *Acceptance* by Susan Coll.
  - *Does My Head Look Big in This* is the story of a young Muslim girl who decides to wear the hijab full time to the dismay of her private school teachers and classmates. The book discussion brought new students and faculty members who were interested in discussing the main characters courage and poise as she expressed her religious beliefs.
  - *Acceptance* is a satirical novel that takes a look at the college application process through the eyes of hyper-motivated students and college advisors. The topics discussed are pertinent to a number of our book club members, so again it led to an interesting discussion.
- The collection of books for the used book sale is getting larger and larger. The book club is continuing to promote and collect books for a used book sale that they are planning. Donations of new and gently used books are being dropped off in the IMC. Proceeds from the sale will support the club's literacy outreach program.
- The Book Club is also selling "Eat. Sleep. Read." t-shirts that were designed by a former WTHS student.

### **Program Administration**

- Stephanie and Ann attended a workshop sponsored by the SJRLC titled Library Mashups: Exploring New Ways to Deliver Library Data. This workshop provided numerous ideas on how to combine and customize information from the web to add value to our website and catalog.
- Stephanie and Ann also attended a workshop to learn the many uses of Podcasting in the classroom and library. They will be teaching students how to incorporate podcasts into their presentations.
- Stephanie attended What's New in Young Adult Literature sponsored by the Bureau of Education & Research. This workshop allows librarians to preview the best new young adult books and learn strategies for incorporating them into the library curriculum.
- Faculty, staff, and students are continuing to check out the new books, CDs, and DVDs, which have recently been catalogued and placed on the shelves.