

May, 2009

Hello! I'm Deb Newell, the librarian at Thomas Paine School and the District #116 Library Program Coordinator. I'd like to share a few things about our school library program this evening.

First I would like to introduce the other school librarians here tonight: Kerrie Huizinga (Leal School), Melinda Lundberg (new this year at Yankee Ridge School), Hope Morrison (King School), Patti Murray (Prairie School), Linda Patterson (Wiley School), Martha Rinne (UMS), and Matt Murrey (UHS).

This report is required as part of the process of qualifying for the State School Library Per Capita Grant program. We use the grant funds on a rotating basis in District #116. The funding is calculated using our district housing report and amounted to \$.728 per pupil for a total of \$2,812.99. This year the high school received the monies and Matt Murrey has used them to purchase library books to augment the high school collection. The grant is based upon our implementation of the Illinois School Library Media Program Guidelines in a document called "Linking For Learning" that is published by The Illinois School Library Media Association. These guidelines outline essential library media program components for teaching and learning, information access, and program administration and contain rubrics to measure program performance. Its vision states that "the school library media program is a critical component of every school's total education program. Through the instructional activities, resources, facilities and technologies provided in the program, students and staff become effective and efficient users and creators of ideas and information. In collaboration with other teachers, educators and parents, the library media specialist teaches information literacy through the content areas, enhances learning opportunities using technology, builds reading literacy, designs and delivers instruction, and provides intellectual and physical access to an organized system of ideas, information and resources."

This document is based upon a 2005 Illinois study called "Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners".

As part of the Per Capita Grant process, school librarians are charged to come before their School Boards to access their library program using the Essential Program Components found on the tan sheet in your packet. We librarians are teachers first, and we enthusiastically adhere to the guidelines under the "Learning and Teaching Components" in order to provide programs that contribute to student achievement. Based upon the guidelines for "Information Access" and within the restrictions of our limited funding, our collections include appropriate resources to support all learners. Under the "Program Administration Components", we have established effective library programs based upon both the Illinois Learning Standards prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education and the "Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning" prepared by the American Association of School Librarians. In your packet is a draft of the newly created I-SAIL Standards or the Illinois Standards Aligned Instruction for Libraries which was presented to the Illinois School Library Media Association in October, 2008 for adoption as a statewide model. These information literacy standards have been updated to reflect our changing information world and to prepare our students for an information fluent

society. Next school year our librarians will examine these standards to better align our lessons and curriculum with them. As always we direct your attention to component #11-19. With the elimination of library clerks, each building librarian is totally responsible for both professional and clerical duties, essentially two full-time jobs. There are times we cannot assume both roles and the libraries must be closed during our teaching times. We have worked very hard to focus our time and energy in an efficient manner, but we ask that you seriously consider re-instituting the library clerk positions.

This has been a year of some changes. We have Melinda as our new colleague, and we appreciate the smooth transition she has made, the professionalism that she exhibits, and how nicely she has fit onto our team. She is a real asset to our library program. We are limited by the constraints of our lack of support staff, our funding, and our fixed scheduling, but we have a continued commitment to providing quality service and resources to all our students and staff.

Two of our libraries (King School and Prairie School) have undergone major renovations and Thomas Paine and Wiley Schools will have an overhaul to their libraries over this summer. This has certainly helped to create wonderful facilities of which we can all be proud. We thank you for this.

We come before you this evening to say thank you for your support of our district library program. Urbana District #116 has a long history of exemplary library programs that are one of the essential and effective components in the teaching and learning of our students. We invite you to visit our libraries at any time. Thank you.

Now I would like to introduce Urbana Middle School librarian, Martha Rinne, who has put together an Animoto presentation to showcase all our school libraries.