

# @ Our PMS Library

November & December, 2010

## Cooperative Learning

Cooperative learning teaches effective collaboration, the value of collective knowledge, & the importance of individual responsibility.



Sixth graders used books, print and online encyclopedias, databases, & websites to research biomes.

Student groups focused on a particular biome: chaparral, grasslands, temperate forest, tropical forest, rainforest, taiga, and tundra. They read, thought, and then wrote a note and added it to their group's chart. Groups researched abiotic and biotic factors including the role of water; they learned about the adaptations plants and animals made to survive the challenges of their biome. Finally, they gathered food web notes and read about things that threaten their biome.

Creative presentations acquainted all students with the diverse biomes. Ultimately students learned how they can help preserve biomes for the future.

### ASK YOUR 6TH GRADER:

What does ACOR stand for? Name some ways plants adapt to the challenges of their biome?

### ASK YOUR 7TH GRADER:

What is the function of guar gum in foods?

### ASK YOUR 8TH GRADER:

What were the benefits & risks of your element?  
Did the benefits outweigh the risks?

## What's Going On?

Sixth graders enjoyed book talks on mystery, fantasy, humor, science fiction, historical fiction and classics. Core classes completed their research of ancient cultures. They investigated and looked for evidence of civilizations using books, databases, and other online resources. Science classes studied biomes in cooperative groups.

Seventh graders enjoyed book talks as well as exploring contributions of the Islamic Empire to modern civilization. Students found innovations in medicine, mathematics, art, architecture, and literature, and then competed within their class in a game to test their knowledge. In science students researched food additives for their nutrition unit.

Eighth graders checked out *Night* by Elie Wiesel; their artistic response to the writing is on display in the reference room now! In science students researched elements of the periodic table. Each group collaborated to become experts on an elemental category.

## What are they saying?

"I need to reserve a copy of *The Last Hero*; I can't wait to read it!" "I'm trying to convince him to read this!"

"Is it too late to give you art for the planner?"

"We wrote a reference room song; wanna hear it?"

"I loved that book!"

"You should get the Vladimir books for our library!"



The library participated in the PMS Visual Art Show Dec. 15. Work displayed was created thanks to time spent in the library!