



@ Our PMS Library

January & February, 2011

Life Skills for the Future

Eighth graders learn information literacy skills that will help them in high school and beyond.



Students start by immersing themselves in a variety of U.S. History topics. Once a topic is selected, they begin with a good research question, read an overview article on that topic and collect "keywords." In eighth grade students are learning to create a path finder for themselves; they are becoming independent researchers. Students will use the keywords they collected to find more information in the indexes of books, and as search terms in databases and websites. Teachers and teacher librarians help them develop an outline for their papers; the research folder envelopes (pictured above) mirror the outline's organization. Students collected information, quotations, statistics, and citations for their term paper as well as learning to cite resources in MLA format. This project helps eighth graders prepare to become freshman at PHS.



What's Going On?



6th Graders enjoyed book talks and lots of individual reader's advisory. Many core classes researched topics for the Speech Festival which is just around the corner, and one more class came in for civilization reports. Five classes worked on science inquiry which involves an exciting investigation they get to choose. Other classes come at the end of March.

7th Graders also came in for book talks (picture bottom right) as well as finishing their African Art research for Core. The library prepared a cart of research materials that travels room to room during the study of medieval Japan. Science classes researched drugs to learn the dangers of drug abuse.

8th Graders enjoy their time in the library at lunch doing homework and hanging out with friends, as well as coming by for individual reader's advisory. Four history classes started research for their term papers.



What are they saying?

"That's mine!" (re: the artwork on our new bulletin boards)

"Thanks for recommending *Among the Hidden*; it was really good!"

"I loved *Leviathan*; is it a series?"

"I'm going to read every Freddy book that you have in this library!"



ASK YOUR 6TH GRADER:

Tell me about your speech or what you will investigate for your science inquiry project.

ASK YOUR 7TH GRADER:

How are you studying about medieval Japan in Core, and what "warlords" projects have you done so far?

ASK YOUR 8TH GRADER:

What books that you have read for independent reading would you recommend to me?



Students show off their choices after a book talk with their Core class. Now, it is time for March Madness in 6th grade!!