



MEDIA NEWS

Saint John Neumann Regional Academy
High School Campus

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Learning: Powered by Your School Library

Meditative Thought

To know our gifts is to know our role in life. Without you and me and our little gift, the world will never be filled up. "We either add to the darkness of indifference," Madeline L'Engle wrote, "or we light a candle to see by."
-- Joan Chittister, OSB 9/29/07

Dear Teachers:

I wish all of you a Holy and Happy Holiday Season! We are challenged by the spirit of Thanksgiving and Christmas to appreciate, serve, and love each other from our hearts through Christ Jesus. May we be blessed in our journey toward this goal!

Sincerely,
Sharon

PS A special welcome to Karen Strong as our new music teacher !

Circulation and Service

	Aug/Sep	Oct, 2007
<u>Books and Media:</u>	174	246
<u>Service:</u>		
Students	843	1063
Teachers	78	91



Inter Library Loans:

Requester: 1 ----- Responder: 3

Although I am delighted to see our totals for check out and service up this year, most of the service increase is do to scheduled study halls and the online French classes. I am not seeing whole classes visit the library for research. Please know that I will come in early for periods A, B, & C if you let me know ahead of time that you would like to use the library. As school librarian, I want to be of service to you and the students in this capacity. Keeping the books in order and processing new materials are important, but helping students and teachers find the information they need is the real satisfaction and purpose of being a school librarian.

BITS AND PIECES

Book Fair: The Library Book Fair was a successful event this year. Although we didn't receive any monetary reward (need to make over \$1500), we did get to choose books from the fair that valued \$267. The thirty-three

titles selected include mysteries, fantasy, cooking, and biography. I am sorry that none of you were able to make it to the teacher's "Sneak Preview" on the Friday before the fair, but I am glad that many of you stopped in when you could during the week. Special thanks to Christy Litchfield for taking time out of her classes to bring the 7th & 8th graders in to browse. It was a fun week and I am grateful for your interest and support.

POWER Library Updates: Oxford Reference Online, a reference database in POWER Library, has included some new titles in it Premium Collection. Three of the dictionaries that might prove helpful to use here at the high school are:

The Oxford Dictionary of American Art and Artists - 945 entries offer an "insightful and informative view of America's artistic heritage from colonial times to contemporary post modernism."

The Dictionary of Law Enforcement - 3,400 entries on law, commerce & trade, pathology and forensic medicine to name a few.

A Dictionary of Environment & Conservation - contains over 8,500 entries on all aspects of environmental science and conservation. Ten appendices cover subjects such as international environmental treaties and the Beaufort and Richter scale.

Every teacher can access POWER Library in their classroom through the SJNRA Library Web page. Just bring up the page and click on the words "POWER Library". It is a whole collection of information databases at your fingertips. And while you are at it, make the Library page one of your FAVORITES!



Wikis and Blogs: I promised you more information on these two Internet tools in the last newsletter. Attached is an article from the September issue of *Cable in the Classroom* on how you can put these “writing revolutions” to work in your courses.

I find *Cable* to contain many interesting and helpful articles. November’s issue included a list of online tools to improve student writing. I thought you might find it beneficial so I included a copy of this article, also.

ASK Here PA: (www.askhere.org) The Bureau of Library Development Office of Commonwealth Libraries asked all librarians in September to remind students and teachers about the benefits of using this 24/7 reference service. A professional librarian is ready to help you search for any piece of information that you might need around the clock! Use the SJNRA Library web page to reach this site, too.



Professional Refresher: Need a little help with your professional growth, technically speaking? A recent article in *Learning & Media*, the professional journal for the Pa School Librarians Association, gave a list of some web sites that offer instructional modules for learning technical skills. One of those mentioned was Lynda.com (<http://www.lynda.com>) where you can purchase unlimited use during a specified time period. A one month pass is \$25. The training modules include Microsoft Office, web design, graphic and digital video software. The author also mentioned a number of free web sites that offer tutorials for Power Point, Excel, Word, Agent and Flash.

“Brainy Betty” (<http://www.brainybetty.com>)

“The Consortium of School Networking” (<http://cosn.org>)

“Microsoft Tutorials”

(<http://microsoft.com/Education/tutorials.msp>)

New Titles at SJNRA Library

Below is some new historical fiction titles that have been added to the library collection.

F DRA Copper Sun A powerful and heart breaking story about what it was like for an African to be kidnapped from their native land and sold as a slave in a strange country. The only freedom Amari, the main character, could experience was in her mind and heart. If you saw the movie “Amazing Grace” you will want to read Sharon Drapers’ compelling novel, Copper Sun.

F BRU (both titles by) Joseph Bruchard
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two

Geronimo –The story of this memorable Apache Chief is told as a fictional narrative diary by his grandson Will. A reviewer, Rita Fontinka, writes that this book is an “unflinching look at the plight of the Chiricahuas, and the ill-thought-out plans of the government in dealing with them.” The author’s extensive research shows in his bibliography of almost fifty sources.

F PAT Thin Wood Walls by David Patneude is another highly recommended book about the Japanese Americans’ internment plight after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. As in Weedflower (Kadohato) reviewed in the Sept. *Media News*, this title focuses on the high lights of this historic event as well as the human experiences which this Americans faced.

