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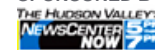
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Library a hub for East Ramapo's Grandview Elementary School

BY RANDI WEINER
THE JOURNAL NEWS • APRIL 18, 2008

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MONSEY - When Sarah Chauncey walked into the Grandview Elementary School library her first day of work four years ago, she sat down at the huge desk in the middle and shook her head.

The walls were dingy, the books old and battered and record-keeping included hand-written information on index cards she kept in plastic bags labeled with each class name.

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three times a week, sometimes more. This is authentic learning."

Chauncey spent 20 years in the business world as a systems analyst before returning to public education.

"I had been working 80, 90 hours a week in the city. It was great - it was fun - but after a while you think there must be more than working," she said. "I see a lot here I could do with my skills for education. When I went to school as a library media consultant, the dean saw it as managing information, not just managing books."

Students see no difference between reading books, scanning computer databases or seeking out entertainment Web sites to get information, Chauncey said. She devised search programs, information organizers and the books in the school library as a single package to help children learn.

Wednesday, students in Greenbaum's class were seated at laptops writing dragon stories as part of a unit on fairy tales and myths. Chauncey had read the students several fairy tales and then turned the youngsters loose to write.

Erikah Adderley, 8, was writing a story about a dragon and a princess named Victoria.

"She bumped into a dragon, and the dragon asked why she was out here without her guards," Erikah said. "And the dragon asked if she would like him to be a guard while she was on her journey."

Classmate Zahra Bassam, 9, said she liked being able to search her for educational Web sites. Her dragon



Erikah Adderley, left, and Zarah Bassam, third-grade students, use laptops Wednesday to create stories they will illustrate and narrate with their classmates in the Grandview Elementary School library. School librarian Sarah Chauncey has revolutionized the Monsey school's technology program.

(Kathy Gardner/The Journal News)

WHAT'S NEXT

A visit to North Rockland's Thiells Elementary School.

ON LOHUD

Read previous installments of this series at www.lohud.com/schooldays
See a special gallery of photos with this report online at LoHud.com

FAST FACTS

District: East Ramapo
Interim Principal: Jacqueline Polanco
Enrollment: 416 students in kindergarten through third grade
Building: Built in 1962.
Of interest: A time capsule buried in the school's courtyard garden when the building was erected was opened 25 years later part of the school's quarter-century celebration. Grandview also created the Family Reading Night in 1996; parents and students come to school on a specific evening to celebrate literacy. The program now is available to many of the district's elementary schools. Hard work on standardized test scores is paying off, Polanco said, with three quarters of the schools students now testing at or above standards on both English and math state exams.

ABOUT THE SERIES

This is the latest in a series offering readers a glimpse inside Rockland's public and private elementary and middle schools.

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story was about a girl who loved a prince, even though the prince only thought about himself. After the dragon kidnapped the prince, the girl went to rescue him and talked the dragon into letting him go, especially after the prince agreed he wouldn't think only of himself any more.

This spring cleaning expects to draw thousands

Chauncey said corporate executives didn't do their own systems analysis or programming, concentrating on larger issues and a company vision. She invited Grandview's teachers to treat her as a CEO did a systems analyst: bring their vision and let her create a solution.

Joshua Laidlaw, 8, said using the technology is one of the best things about being a student at Grandview.

"And I like to go to library and play in the gym," he said. "I also like going in the art room because I'm working on being an artist."

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