



Barry Warner's Corner

Library Technology Advances at Grandview Elementary School

Helping students to be information literate at Grandview Elementary School is the main concern in the student-centered library media program.

Some of the goals include assisting the students to be curious, think critically, use technology and acquire information to solve problems through research and reading experiences. Library Media Specialist Sarah Chauncey is leading the way with innovative programming, new resources and creative instruction.

The East Ramapo Central School District has been awarded \$290,350 under the "Improving Literacy Through School Libraries" grant.

The goal of the program is to provide a supplemental tool to help students read, resulting in improved academic achievement. The funds will be used to create state-of-the-art library media centers in each of the five primary school buildings.



Story time!

Library Media Specialist Sarah Chauncey reads a story to students at Grandview Elementary School.

Photos by Barry Warner

Each K-3 library will receive a substantial number of new library books and other print resources, computer hardware, instructional software and other multimedia equipment. The program also incorporates extended hours for use by students and parents and includes a comprehensive training program for the District Library Media Specialists

and classroom teachers.

"Project Literacy" (Libraries Improve Teacher Effectiveness and Reading Achievement in Children and Youth) will directly impact 2,370 students in five K-3 schools. The District objective is to raise academic achievement by improving student literacy skills through modern Library Media Centers which incorporate print resources and technology, that support and engage students in reading, writing, speaking and listening based on New York State standards.

Sarah Chauncey is not only a teacher, but an information specialist. She provides expertise in acquiring and evaluating information in all formats.

She is working in an environment that has been changed by technology and must master sophisticated electronic resources, such as Podcasting, Blogging and Webcasting, in order to transmit this knowledge.

When teachers are more at ease with technology, they will fit it into their teaching; they will run with it! I am grateful for the support of the District and my Principal Patricia Smith, for providing me with the necessary resources to improve literacy."

Weblogs or blogs are new ways for students to express themselves online. They can be an important addition to educational technology because they promote literacy, encourage storytelling, allow for collaborative learning and can be accessed anywhere and anytime.

Students must read and write as though they were writing on paper and at the same time increase their familiarity with the computer and internet.

The Rockland County Times also witnessed a Webcast of a student giving a weather report. The equipment used was a computer and a camera mounted at eye-level. The term is derived from web and broadcast and involves sending audio and video over internet networks.

Principal Patricia Smith commented, "The library is the hub of the school. We are engaging children in learning by slowly introducing them to the state-of-the-art technology available through Project Literacy. We also hold PTA meetings at the Finkelstein Library so that parents can be aware of resources that exist outside

shared and heard.

This new format may be a key to 'ignite' student interest. While creating podcasts using a computer and iPod, students learn to research, write, develop vocabulary and speak effectively.

According to Sarah Chauncey, "Podcasting is well-suited to keeping parents in touch with their children's schoolwork. All the parents have to do is to program their home desktop computers to capture the broadcast and listen to the podcast or download to a personal player. When students create content for a larger audience, they seem to be more motivated and work harder."

The Library Media Specialist works with teachers to identify links with curricular content, New York State Standards, learning outcomes, student information needs and information resources.

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the school, to enable children to improve their literacy."

With care, creativity and encouragement, Library Media

Specialists who embrace the new emerging technologies such as podcasting, blogging and webcasts, can promote en-

hanced student learning, teacher participation and collaboration with members of the educational community.



Library technology advancing

Library Media Specialist Sarah Chauncey prepares for an incoming first grade class and uses technology on the notebook computer.



Overseeing a class

Library Media Specialist Sarah Chauncey oversees first grade class working in the library at Grandview Elementary School.