

## **The Way It Was...**

### **The St. Bartholomew School Library 2016-2017**

The library opened the school year with a collection of 4,128 items, 127 titles having been added over the summer. A total of 674 books were added to the collection throughout the year.

We had a slow start with classes for the year. We were unable to open the library until October while our technology administrator corrected the student database. Library staff, though, spent the time processing new books and preparing the collection for circulation.

The school library opened officially on October 18, 2016 and closed on May 25, 2017. During the months the school library operated, students checked out 5,832 items. The slight decline from the 2015-2016 school year can be attributed to the late start of library class visits. (See the three-year statistical chart appended to this report.)

An additional computer terminal was added to the library for student searching. In total, students and staff conducted more than 2,000 searches for specific titles or subjects using the library computer system. The top search term was 'Pokemon.' (P.S. Based on a student request, we had added a Pokemon graphic novel series to the collection in November!) Minecraft was also a hot search topic.

214 reserves were placed by students on titles in the library collection, and 278 items were renewed during the year.

The library was open every Tuesday and Thursday. Students in kindergarten through grade 5 and grade 7 visited the library each week. Sixth and eighth grade students visited every other week and the pre-k students visited once a month.

In June 2016, we once again issued a challenge to students to read for 20 minutes a day for 40 days over the summer while they were "Reading for the Win." 130 students participated in the program, a nice increase over the previous year's 106 participants. I received a lovely note from a pre-k parent in September,

recounting how well this encouragement worked for her son who started to read on his own!

In February, the East Brunswick Public Library gave students an opportunity to express their sentiments about their school library and librarian in a special campaign sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association and the New Jersey Association of School Librarians, UNLOCK STUDENT POTENTIAL. The public library reported that St. Bart's had more responses from students than any other school! Our students mentioned how much they enjoyed hearing stories in the library and having books available to them at school.

In May, we hosted another successful bookfair at Barnes and Noble. Students sang, musicians played, teachers read stories, directed traffic, and fun was had by all. This year's profit was \$800! The money will be put toward a subscription to the Junior Library Guild for 6 categories of new books in non-fiction, science and craft subject areas to better round our collection.

A generous donation of \$1,000 by a local parishioner will also help supplement other subject areas in the collection, including animals, aviation, drawing, magic, and scary stories, popular subjects with the students.

During the year, I continued to work professionally with the New Jersey Library Association, the American Library Association/ the Association for Library Service to Children and the New Jersey Association of School Librarians. I was selected to serve on the 2017 Mildred L. Batchelder Award Committee. Our charge was to choose the most outstanding translated book for children published in the preceding year. The committee completed its task in June.

I would like to thank our principal, Mrs. Ann Wierzbicki, for her continuing support of the library program, Patty Whipkey, Kathleen Palmer, Meg Brautigan, and Jen and Sarah Hartong, for their help in the library and, of course, the students for their interest and excitement in reading!

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Phillips, MLS, Rutgers University  
July 2017

P.S. Funny story. We added a middle grade graphic novel series last year, **Hikaru No Go**, based on the game Go. One of our sixth grade students discovered it toward the end of the school year and was determined to read the whole series of 23 volumes even though we had closed the library to classes. How could I say no when he asked to check out more books?? Well, I am happy to report that he completed the series (maybe doing some reading during science class....) but it was great to see one of our sixth graders so engaged!!!

XX

***St. Bartholomew School Library  
Three Year Review 2014-2017***

	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>Holdings</b>	3281 items	4001 items	4675 items
<b>Circulation of Items</b>	3936 circs.	6065 circs.	5832 circs.
<b>Reading Incentive Participation</b>	119 students	106 students	130 students