

January News

Bluebonnet Program

Third and fourth grade students will vote January 28 and 29 for their favorite Bluebonnet book. Have you started reading to your students yet? They only need to have 5 books read to them to be qualified to vote. Let's show our **Magrill Pride** and be one of the schools with 100% of our students qualified to vote. I'll be keeping track of our progress here and in the hall on a poster. Email the names of the books you have read so your homeroom can be counted! Don't forget to check the [Everything Bluebonnet](#) page for the tracking chart, booklist and booktalk links.

Current Research Regarding Comic Books

Experts and research agree – comic books and graphic novels are a powerful motivator for getting kids to build skills and enjoy personal reading in schools today. They have become the most requested books in our library.

Studies & findings on comic books from leading authors & publications

“Comic books are a frequent choice of people who grow up to become fluent readers.”

—*Voices of Readers: How We Come to Love Books*, Carlson & Sherrill. National Council of Teachers of English, 1998

“I would go so far as to say if you have a child who is struggling with reading, connect him or her with comics.” - *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, 6th ed. Trelease. Penguin, 2006

“...the children talked at length about the way they shared stories with friends, swapped comics on a regular basis, and debated the merits of different characters.”

—“The motivating power of comic books: Insights from Archie comic readers.” *The Reading Teacher*, International Reading Association, 2003

“...there are multiple studies to suggest that students who read comics go on to read more, and to read more varied literature.”

—James “Bucky” Carter, Asst. Professor of English education, University of TX, El Paso. Keynote speaker, 2009 “Graphica in Education” Conference. Quoted in *Education Week*, Vol. 28 No. 21. 2009

“...educators are using the medium [comic books] for a variety of purposes, including as a bridge to full literacy for English-language learners and struggling readers; a tool for discussing sensitive social issues; a subject for lessons on visual literacy; a vehicle for ethics discussion in classes with gifted students; and a means for nurturing creativity in after-school programs.”

—*Education Week*, “Eye on Research: Scholars See Comics as No Laughing Matter,” 2/2009

“[Study comparing 7th grade boys in a middle class school to 7th grade boys in a low-income Title I school with 82% Title I students, and 28% classified as Limited English Proficient]

For both groups, those who read more comic books did more pleasure reading, liked to read more, and tended to read more books. These results show that comic book reading certainly does not inhibit other kinds of reading, and is consistent with the hypothesis that

comic book reading facilitates heavier reading.”

—*Comic Book Reading, Reading Enjoyment, and Pleasure Reading Among Middle Class and Chapter (Title) 1 Middle School Students*, Joanne Ujiie and Stephen D. Krashen, 1996

*this information was provided by ABDO, A Publisher of Children's Books

Golden Shelf Elf Award Winner

Congratulations go out to MR. Toscano's 1st grade class for their excellent library manners as they were presented the trophy for the Third 6 weeks. Check out their picture in the window.

AR FLASH

Our statistics are going up! Students are reading more books and taking tests so they can get an invitation to the Cotton Candy Party. Remember you can send students to the library to test and select new books anytime during the day.

AR BOOK CHECK OUT TIP - please make the students' folders available during the day. Their folder should be brought with them to the library, because it's their pass and their library card.

THUMBS UP!!

Mrs. Schneider, Mrs. Wagner, and Ms. Barnes for bringing their class in for an extra book check out between rotation time!

LIBRARY STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER

NUMBER OF DAYS OPEN -- 14
STUDENTS PER DAY -- 127
STUDENTS ON PASSES -- 203
BOOKS CHECKED OUT -- 2,095

Libraries Impact Student Achievement