

Spring 2009

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Available in the CHS library for summer loan are books chosen by Mrs. Morrissey in fiction and non-fiction, including, biography, sports, fantasy, adventure, a graphic novel, science and of course young adult.

Library Links

What We Are Reading:

We thought it would interest you to find out what some of us just read or are reading now.

Dr. Dias– OUTLIERS:THE STORY OF SUCCESS by Malcolm Gladwell

Mr. Farrell– AGINCOURT by Bernard Cornwell

Ms. Conneely–THE SUM OF OUR DAYS by Isabel Allende

Mrs. Morrissey- A MERCY by Toni Morrison

Mr. Elgar– THE CITY OF FALLING ANGELS by John Berendt

Mr. Goff- AMERICAN LION by Jon Meacham

Featured Database: World and I Online

In each issue we like to introduce you to one of the databases we purchase or obtain through the Massachusetts Library consortium. In this issue we are featuring **WORLD AND I ONLINE**. This database gives access to excellent articles on a variety of subjects dealing with the world's art, literature, culture and politics. Many of the resources are not available in any other forum. Magazine articles are returned by subject relevance and categories include Social Studies, The Arts, Language Arts, The Sciences and Special Collections, including the American Civil War and Islam. **WORLD AND I ONLINE** is highly recommended for **Spanish** language learners and their teachers. It offers similar articles in an easy and a more advanced level of Spanish.

The Canton High School Library homepage has the username and password and **WORLD AND I** is available at the Canton HS Library home page at www.cantonma.org/chs/library under the "Databases" tab.

Picturing America

The National Endowment for the Humanities in conjunction with the American Library Association awarded a grant to the Canton High School Library of forty posters featuring reproductions of great American artistic masterpieces.

A few are on display in the library now and in a few classrooms. All will be displayed next year in the library.

Teachers and others are invited to borrow the prints for teaching aids or to build a unit around these beautiful visuals. They are thickly laminated and are pretty impervious to wear. There is a hand book of teaching ideas that accompanies the posters.

Our nation is not bound by common ties of blood, race, or religion; instead we are united by our devotion to shared ideals. Great American art can help us ensure these ideals are studied, passed on, and remembered.”

Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment for the

Signage and Handouts

The Canton High School Library has begun a new policy to assist students to find books in the library and become more independent researchers. Handouts are placed in strategic locations to facilitate the understanding of the library shelving system. The 4 desktop computers in the front of the library are set up with the OPAC (Online Patron Catalog), placed next to them are step by step directions and diagrams to locate books. This new system is proving to be very successful.

The walls of the library will be adorned next year with an excellent schematic very generously and expertly produced by Mr. Mansour's Cad class. Now visitor's to the library will have visual aids to help them find resources.

Students will not need as much instruction on the C H S online catalog in the future therefore, teacher's who collaborate with the librarian for information literacy skills instruction can count on more time devoted to the many features of the databases they want taught.

English Department Summer Required Reading

In the area of the library that used to feature the **New Books** a display of the books for all levels in Grades 9-12 of the English Language Arts Department is now available. The display is labeled **Required Summer Reading Books**. The CHS library does not own or all these titles are not returned to date but hurry in best for the best selection. The reading lists are posted, as well.

Next Year in the Library

Graphic Novels

In keeping with the library's mission to create life long readers and encourage empathy by exposing students to literature that reflects their interests, lives and universal themes, I decided to extend the Young Adult offerings in a new and exciting direction.

Graphic novels are a huge new genre and extremely popular with young adults. They appeal on many levels and research shows that the whole brain is more engaged because of the graphic aspect. Many good lists have been published by accredited reviewing sources (American Library Association and School Library Journal) and I will use these to help make my choices.

Mr. Kirk Pantos, the art teacher at CHS, has studied the genre and has become another valuable source in advising me and donating his resources to the library. He recommends ***Bone*** by Jeff Smith.

Two excellent graphic novels, ***American Born Chinese*** and ***Persepolis*** were both award winning books that were on the library suggested reading list in past years and are listed in the CHS OPAC.

Downloadable Audio Books

If you have a Digital media player (iPod or MP3 Player) you can listen **free** to audio books that are available from your public library with your library card. The requirements and directions are on the public library web sites.

Next year I will have a workshop and /or handouts to teach anyone interested in this new technology. You may be like me and are addicted to audio books because you commute, or English is not your first language, or you are learning another language, or reading is hard for you: there are many reasons to want an audio version.

I am planning on purchasing one MP3 player for use in the **library only** on an experimental basis for audio books only. This technology is not something that should be overlooked for patrons who can perceive a need for it. Like graphic novels people who listen to books utilize another aspect of their brain and for oral learners and the visually impaired they are invaluable. Many reading strategies suggest listening and following along in print at the same time. It is also a great vocabulary builder.

2009 CHS Library Summer Reading

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FORGED BY FIRE by Sharon Draper; Coretta Scott King Award, Simon Pulse, \$6..99 Teen-age Gerald, who has spent years protecting his fragile half-sister from their abusive father , faces the prospect of one final confrontation before the problem can be solved. Number 2 in the Hazelwood High trilogy.

HOMELESS BIRD by Gloria Whelan; National Book Award, Harper Collins, \$5.99. When 13-year-old Koly enters into an ill-fated arranged marriage, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition's or find the courage to oppose it. This novel is particularly interesting after seeing Academy Award Winner, *Slumdog Millionaire*.

THE WHITE DARKNESS by Geraldine McCaughrean; Printz Award, Harper Teen, \$8.99 Fourteen- year-old Symone's vacation to Antarctica turns into a dangerous adventure when her uncle's obsession with seeking an opening to the center of the Earth turns deadly.

NIGHTWALKER: THE WARLOCKS OF TALVERDIN BOOK I, K.V. JOHANSEN, ORCA, \$9.99 . In this otherworld fantasy Maurey receives hints of his true ancestry and must flee for the land of the Nightwalkers or burn in the philosopher's fire. The novel has echoes of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

NINETEEN MINUTES by Jodi Picault, Washington Square Press, \$10.19 Story of bullying and teen cliques ending in a horrific school shooting in a dramatic portrayal of a town and families coming to grips with truth and tragedy.

A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS by Kahlid Hosseini, Riverhead Trade \$10.40 A disturbing look at the fate of women in Afghanistan before and after the Russian Invasion and under the Taliban. By the author of *The Kite Runner* the story concerns the heartbreaking stories of two women whose lives become entwined and their devotion to each other is unbreakable.

A MERCY by Toni Morrison, Vintage \$10.20 Nobel Laureate Morrison writes with her elegant distilled prose the story of four women in colonial New York at the mercy of men, other women, society and prejudice. She revisits her themes from *Beloved* and examines a mothers loss and the horror of slavery.

PHYSICS FOR FUTURE PRESIDENTS: THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE HEADLINES by Richard A. Muller; W.W. Norton & Co. \$26.95 Science and society, the state and in the mass media.

TOMORROW, WHEN THE WAR BEGAN by Thomas Marsden, Scholastic, \$8.99. First in the Tomorrow series tells the story of Ellie and her friends when they return from a trip to the outback to find their country, Australia, invaded and their family and friends all in camps. They decide to fight a guerilla war against the occupiers. A sensitive coming of age story combined with thrilling action and suspense.

The Stuff of Life: A Graphic Guide to DNA by Mark Schulz; Illustrators, Zander and Kevin Cannon, Hill and Wang, \$15.95 The first in a series of Graphic novels that will deal with science topics in a format for the lay person of all ages.

The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis, W.W. Norton & Co., \$10.94. The story of Michael Oher saved from the ghetto by a wealthy family, who adopts him and he goes on to become a phenomenal left tackle.