

Community Connections



**News for the Schools
from the Monson Free Library**

January 2010

New Teacher Resources for the New Year!

So what is your resolution for the 2010? Here at the Library our resolution remains the same. Our newly revised mission statement reads, "The Monson Free Library is dedicated to serving the residents of Monson as a continually evolving and vital community resource center for all ages focusing on community priorities, culture and education through diversity of collections, services, technology and programming." This mission includes you, the Monson School System.

Since we know it is never too late to start compiling those required summer reading lists or simply look for some inspiring reads for your students, we have purchased three volumes in ***The Children's and Young Adult Literature Reference Series*** to help you select or suggest titles.

- **Best Books for Middle School and Junior High Readers** (grades 6-9) Second Edition by Catherine Barr and John T. Gillespie. (ISBN: 978-1-59158-573-2) 15,000 titles reflect the best fiction and non-fiction published between 2004 –2008 ,for middle-school readers. Entries contain reviews, book length, suggested grade level and other features.
- **Popular Series Fiction for Middle School and Teen Readers: A Reading and Selection Guide** , Second Edition, by Rebecca L. Thomas and Catherine Barr (ISBN: 978-1-59158-660-9) Series fiction is all the rage among young adult readers but it can be confusing even to us librarians! The 700+ entries include why a series is appealing, outline of main characters and how many titles are in a series as well as the standard reviews and suggested grade-level appropriateness. This resource is vital to keeping current with the latest trends!
- **Best Books for High School Readers** (grades 9-12) Second Edition by Catherine Barr and John T. Gillespie (ISBN:978-1-59158-576-3) This book is similar to the first title listed with 15,000 entries targeting the high-school reader.

These books are located in our reference section but can be circulated to Monson teachers only. Please ask staff for help locating these titles. For more title suggestions be sure to read our "Database of the Month" highlight on the following page.

Lastly, getting back to those resolutions...the MFL has worked hard to incorporate the schools into our mission and long range planning. To view our goals and objectives for the next five years, go to our website, www.monsonlibrary.com and click on "Mission Statement". From there you can read our Long Range Plan for 2010-2015.

Databases of the Month

This month we are featuring **NoveList –Your Guide to Fiction**

NoveList is a great tool for teacher and student. It is an on-line reader's advisory service. Whether you are looking for something to read similar to a book you just finished or can't remember the series that you are enjoying, or maybe you want some suggestions on detective novels set in New York...this resource is for you! Type in what information you have and NoveList will help you narrow down the selections. With over 150,000 titles, this service assists reader's of all ages. Some features include recommended reads, author biographies, book discussion guide and award-winners.

I do have a few anecdotes to share with you. When I first started working at the library many years ago (11 actually...yikes!) I was not familiar with Janet Evanovich, believe it or not. A woman was reading through the series and couldn't remember the titles or author. She briefly described the plot involving a woman detective and there was a hamster somehow involved in the series. In NoveList, I typed in the description she gave me and immediately was matched up with Janet Evanovich.

Another example may interest teachers and parents alike. My best friend has a son who is a very reluctant reader. She has done a great job encouraging him and finally he got interested in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. But what to read next? She told me why he liked the books and armed with all that information I visited NoveList and was able to email a list of similar books for his reading level and interest. This can be a valuable tool once you give it a try!

NoveList is easy to access. Go to www.Monsonlibrary.com and click on "On-line Databases" on the menu to the left. The second one listed is NoveList. Click on it and type in your library card number. Now you are good to go...happy searching!

Character Education

The library is helping to promote Quarry Hill's "Character Education" initiative by creating a display of related books and materials highlighting the character trait being studied each month.

Through February 12, we have a display in the Children's Room exploring "Acceptance". Teachers are welcomed and encouraged to use our resources to supplement lesson plans!

Visit our "New and Improved" Website!

We have been making great progress lately. The website is now current!

Visit www.monsonlibrary.com for listing of events, links, new items and much more! Thanks to M-Pact for helping with YouTube.

Be sure to check out the Open Mic Coffee House sponsored by the Arts Council and keep up to date with the Monson 250th celebration! Links are on our homepage now!

Current Library Hours and Contact Information:

Monday Closed

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00—8:00

Wednesday 10:00-6:00

Friday 10:00—2:00

Saturday 10:00—2:00

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