

Elementary Library by Jeanine Carthey, Librarian



K-2nd grade students participated in the "Kick Off" for the Super Bowl Reading Incentive Program. After reading a total of 5 books from selected categories, each student was able to take a trip to the library Treasure Chest. **Third graders** are helping to decorate the library with a hand-made quilt depicting one of their favorite books.



When they return their book form, they are given a square of fabric to take home and decorate. Any quilters out there?

Book Buddies: Thanks to second grade teachers Annie Haydock and Kelly Wall for implementing the book buddy program for their students and children in the kindergarten classes. Each second grader enjoys reading to their buddy twice a month. Way to go, readers!

Later in the semester we will be visited by a representative from the **Houston Grand Opera's Storybook Opera**. It will be exciting to see how an opera combines a good story with beautiful music. In addition, a **book fair** is in the planning stages for mid-April. Watch for more information.

Parents: Please plan to visit the elementary library very soon to check out all the **new "parent resources" that are** available thanks to a generous donation from Alumni Parent, Mr. Dan Gibbs. Our library is a memorial to his late wife, Julie, who taught third grade for CCS and loved teaching children to read. Mr. Gibbs has been very faithful to continue this wonderful world of discovery for our students with his blessings of in-kind and financial gifts over the years. [Please see page 6 for a list of these new donations.](#)

The spring semester for the elementary library started with the inauguration of the **Accelerated Reader Program**. **Fifth graders** have been reading like never before – earning "reading points" for each book that they read and then passing a comprehension test over the material. The first session of Accelerated Reader has ended, and we celebrated with an ice-cream sundae party for those who had accumulated at least 5 points. Our **fourth graders** are now also enjoying the AR challenge!

What Is "Accelerated Reader?"

Accelerated Reader ([Advantage Learning Systems, 1993](#)), or AR (as it is referred to) is a reading management system used to get students excited about books,

while allowing teachers and librarians to assess their progress. This three-step program challenges students to read books for pleasure, based on their reading ability, take a computer quiz on the book they read, and receive immediate feedback on their comprehension skills. It facilitates

- more frequent and more detailed assessment in less time and with greater consistency
- formative feedback for the student
- student development of metacognitive awareness
- increased student motivation to read more, longer, and harder books
- formative feedback for the teacher

Thanks to Mrs. Stumbaugh, CCS Curriculum Director, who attended workshops on AR, to Mrs. Laura Hicks and other parents who have helped gather information and implement this program, to the generous private donors that helped bring this program to CCS, and to Jody Pollos for pursuing and obtaining a grant from St. Thomas University to help fund the Accelerated Reader Program.

I am excited about this new reading program. Our students are not only passing their AR tests but passing them with high scores. Pleasure reading is a powerful way to improve comprehension and vocabulary development. The AR program encourages the student to read for details. This skill will greatly benefit them throughout their lifetime.

