



Brien McMahon Library Media Center Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

Open for Business 1

Trivia Question 1

The Catalog 1

Hail to the Chief 2

Book of the
Month 2

Book Club 2

Nutmeg HS
Award 2

Open for Business

Much thanks to the members of the Library Committee for thinking long and hard about best practices for student use of the library media center, in particular with our reduced staffing. With the new pass procedure, we hope that the students who come to the library are those who will use their time the most wisely and efficiently. Less time spent monitoring the small (but vocal and distracting!) number who visit for a purpose other than learning will mean more time for the library staff to give genuine, undivided, individual attention to students conducting research, writing papers, creating presentations, or looking for the perfect book. It will also allow Ms. Andronik to work more closely with classes—especially those discovering new presentation tools or resources for research. Of course the library still opens its doors daily at 7:15 for quick computer use or book exchange, and we make every effort to stay open until 3 to give students some extra work time. And classes are always welcome during the day—call, email, or stop by, check the schedule, and let Ms. A. know what you need!

Trivia

Question!



Who is this Norwalk woman and why is (was) she in jail?

No, it's not a member of the staff or faculty. The answer will be posted in the next newsletter. If you can't wait that long, here's a hint: The state sends it to every school, every year.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did you know that you can access the BMHS library's catalog from any computer in the school? Yes, from the comfort of your classroom you can see how many books we own on Greek mythology—and how many are actually available (i.e., not checked out). You can browse our DVD and videotape collections for the perfect documentary (or feature film) to enhance your lesson. Does a student have reading difficulties? Maybe we own a recorded version of a book (CD, tape, or MP3) that would help. Need a database? Here's the shortcut. While I'm happy to answer questions like these on the phone or

through email, we all enjoy that "I did it myself!" feeling sometimes.

To get to the catalog, from any computer IN THE SCHOOL,

*start from the BMHS website

*from the horizontal menu bar, choose "Library/Media Center"

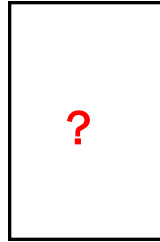
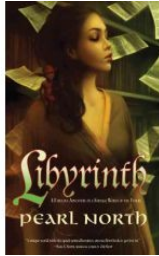
*from the menu on the left-hand side of the library's page, choose "Catalog—Internal Only"

*choose the tab you want—HOME for a link to databases and websites, CATALOG for the library's holdings.

Unfortunately, at this time you cannot access the catalogs of the libraries at Norwalk's schools from home. It's something Dr. Polselli at Central Office is aware that we need and want. But in the meantime, access from anywhere in the school is a good thing!

THE BOOK CLUB IS BACK!

The Lunch Bunch Book Club is back for another great year of reading. This year our 20+ members, many returning for the second or third year, will be reading *Cheater* by Michael Laser, *Libyrrinth* by Pearl North, and one other book whose identity is being kept under wraps until the 2013 Nutmeg Teen Book Award nominees are announced in February. Great reading, great discussion—and great food!



A NEW NUTMEG BOOK AWARD!

For years, there has been a Nutmeg Children's Book Award (grades 4-6). For about ten years, there has been a Teen Nutmeg (grades 7-9) Award. Finally, with the first voting to take place in 2014, there will be a High School Nutmeg—and Cathy Andronik is on the selection committee!

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Where does Mitt Romney stand on stem cell research? What would Herman Cain do about illegal immigrants? Are your views closer to President Obama's—or to one of the Republican wannabes? As the election approaches, keep an eye on this site to make the critical comparisons that are the mark of a smart electorate.



<http://2012election.procon.org/>

BOOK OF THE MONTH

They're saying that zombies are the new vampires. And at the top of the list of young adult titles featuring the brain-and-flesh-eating undead is *Rot and Ruin* by John Maberry.

Teenage Benny barely remembers the world before the dead wouldn't remain dead—just a fleeting memory of his mother, in a white and red dress, passing him out the window to older brother Tom as the zom that used to be his dad shambles towards her. Tom may be an idol to everyone else—after all, Tom is now a famous zombie hunter, with a collector's card of his own, wielding a Japanese katana like a samurai. But Benny can't help wondering why his brother didn't save two people

that night—both Benny, and their mother.

Then Tom takes Benny into the Rot and Ruin—the world beyond the protective fences of the town, the world ruled by the zoms—to show him what he does. And Benny begins to realize that the true evil in the world may not be the zombies. A greater evil may lie in what's left of humanity.

The story begun in *Rot and Ruin* continues in *Dust and Decay*. The BMHS library owns *Rot and Ruin* in both print and audiobook formats, and *Dust and Decay* as an audiobook.

Fans of AMC's *The Walking Dead* will CRAVE this series!

"If I'd known the world was going to end, I'd have packed better books."—*The Walking Dead*, November 13, 2011

