

Brien McMahon Library Media Center Teacher Edition

2009-2010 Library Goals & NEASC

We are glad to say that we have accomplished about 90% of our short term goals associated with the NEASC report last school term. Our targeted goals included the following:

- **Communication:** newsletters, emails, orientations, surveys, personal contact, involvement with school functions, etc
- **Consolidating collections and make locating materials easier:** The collection is divided into sections and large signs have been added to identify areas clearly. A library brochure with a map of the library layout also assists with students' independent use.
- **Assistant's responsibilities:** We have enhanced our assistant's responsibilities by making her more empowered, by giving her a voice and more meaningful work experience that will allow her the ability to strengthen and grow in her position. She is being exposed to more technology.
- **Expanding the collection with a full range of media:** Our computers in the library and the lab have been upgraded to 2007. We have acquired mini video recorders, DVDs players, and Insight instructional managing software. We are looking to install a Smartboard and an LCD projector, media cart and possibly a scanner this year. This effort is dependent on budget.
- **Integrating ITL Skills into the curriculum:** We have been addressing this with

each collaboration, cooperation, or coordination. We are hoping to develop a committee to assist us with creating a customized curriculum.

- **Setting high expectations for library use by classes and students:** We have been very aggressive with getting students and teachers to use the library media center from a new book gathering, book clubs, newsletters, conferencing individually or collectively with students and teachers, collaborations, encouraging teachers to hold their classes in the media center so they can be closer to the resources, etc. This year we have been included in three PD days and we are looking to customize workshops to meet the needs to each department. We have attended various library related workshops and seminars to stay current in the profession.
- **Collaborations!:** We are making ongoing efforts of targeting teachers to do collaborations, but in most cases lessons last school term were more on the cooperation or coordination side of the fence. We are looking to increase the numbers of collaborations drastically this year!
- **Training Staff:** We have begun training staff in technology, through NEF, after school, in Publisher and Word 2007. This year we will be offering courses in Smartboard and Web 2.0 Technologies.

- **Community:** We made connections with the public library. We have established open lines of communication with the library staff at Norwalk H.S. We have reached out to the parent committee to assist us with fundraising. We took trips to other exemplary media centers (Simsbury & Glastonbury) to broaden our ideas and goals. This effort is ongoing!
- **Handbook:** We have collected the necessary information to form the basis of an effective library media program.

Our library goals for this school term is to continue nurturing the previous goals and to embrace new targets. This year we are strongly encouraging teachers to collaborate with us. The benefits of working with the library media specialists are great. Students will develop the skills that will equip them with the ability to locate and access an array of resources, examine and evaluate their resources, synthesize among various print and nonprint resources, understand ethical use of information, and create final products using technology or Web 2.0 applications.

This year we want to establish some consistency across all disciplines in the following areas.

- Goal 1: Using Databases: OPAC and Iconn
- Goal 2: Citing Sources & Plagiarism
- Goal 3: Evaluating web resources-RADCAB

Message to 10th grade teachers. Carrying the Torch!

Last school term our 9th grade students had some great exposure to the library media center. They all had an orientation and were engaged in an intense collaborative science project filled with research and information literacy skills. We are challenging you to keep these students on that blazed path. Continue exposing them to the library media center, by collaborating with us, assigning projects and/or monthly readings that will encourage them to use the library. We know you will do your students proud!

Special points of interest:

- **Library Update**
- **Iconn & Lost Library Budget**
- **9th Grade Orientation**
- **Free Online Audio Book Downloads**

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9th Grade Library Orientation:

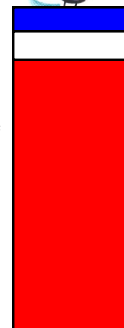
Attention all 9th grade Social Studies teachers, we are recruiting your classes for orientation. The orientations have been well received by our students last school term. Many students in the library who witnessed the 9th grade orientation, often made comments like "we didn't have an orientation." We heard this response on many occasions, which is indicative of a want and, definitely from our perspective, a need.

We have altered the way we will be conducting orientation this year. Instead

of the students doing a tour of the library media center, we decided to do it as a scavenger hunt.

We will need your continuing help with strengthening the connection with the library by making sure all of your classes participate. Maybe your students will be able to earn extra credit for completing the tasks associated with the orientation.

***Special thanks to **Mr. Meli** for being the first Social Studies teacher to complete library orientations for his 9th grade students!



Saving Iconn.org Saves Us!

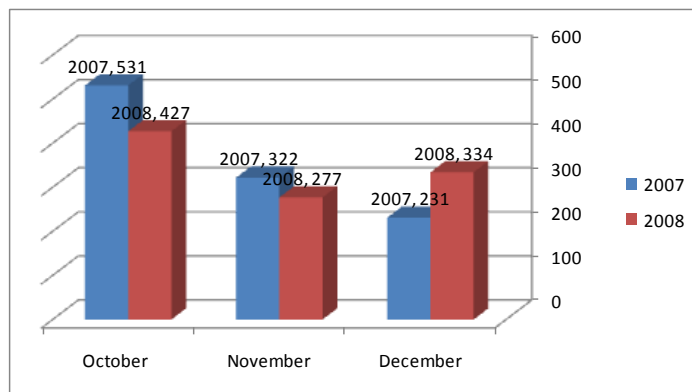
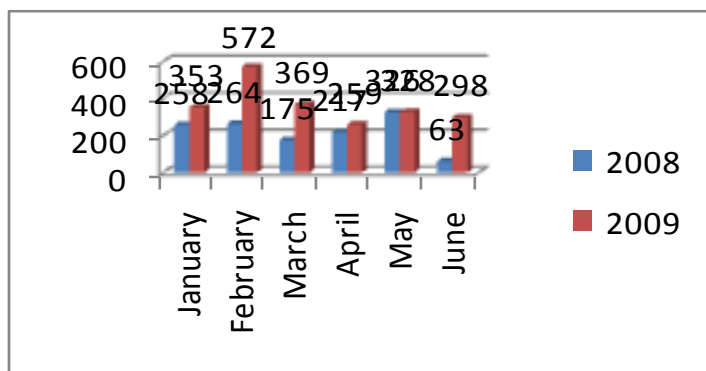
The Iconn resource research database was under fire, when Governor Jodi Rell proposed a \$5.4 million cut in library funding. Iconn was among the many services being targeted. Responses in support of this widely used database poured out from

librarians, teachers, administrators, and students alike, in efforts to save Iconn. Iconn is of great need today more than ever, with our hemorrhaging economic downfall. Many schools, including BMHS, are suffering from tremendous cuts. The library budget has become nonexistent. We are unable to renew our magazine subscriptions. Our databases are quickly reaching their expiration dates, and the ordering of new books to support curriculum

will not occur this year. Losing Iconn would have been devastating with all the other losses we have endured this year. You can support this resource by just using it and encouraging your students to use this great database! Database usage was up last year-Yeah!

I am glad to say that at this time, Iconn continues to be an available resource.

Stats from the Past!



Circulation is steadily on the rise from 2007 to 2008 and from 2008 to 2009. Big increases have been felt in the second half of the year where circulation more than doubled in the months of February, March, and June. This increase is due to your input, of helping us promote the library media program. Many of you who required multiple print and online resources for projects assisted by getting your students to use the library.

The initiatives that we engaged in last school term which we felt were conducive in connecting students to books included book talks, movie night, student survey, attractive displays, announcements, contests, number 1 book vote, lunch bunch

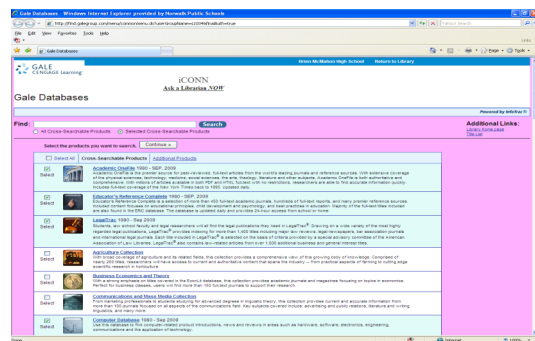
reading club, book of the month, author sightings, and more! Some teachers brought their classes down to the media center to check out books. High school students do still get a thrill out of coming to the library and checking out books.

Research supports the fact that students developing the ability to read is dependent on their reading. The more they read, the better readers they will become. Our role is to get the product into their hands.

We are challenging you to think of ways to get your students reading! Getting our students to read is the responsibility of each and every one of us. I hope you will take us up on this challenge!

The library media center is starting a crusade! We have heard stu-

dents say that they have never checked out a book for pleasure or in relationship to school or have never been to our library media center, way too often. No senior should graduate without having this experience. A great deal of their collegial years will be spent in the library, so let's prepare them.



Access Iconn.org from home using your CT Public Library Card!

Harlem Bookfest



Free Downloadable Audio Books on Iconn supports curriculum!

Ms. Payton had the pleasure of attending the Harlem Bookfest in July! She met many African American authors and illustrators like Bryan Collier who illustrated *Martin's Big Words* and *Soar* a beautiful children's book about Barack Obama. She also met Olive Pearl, a local self published author who has written a book entitled *Linked*. We are hoping to get her to visit our school to talk

about cultural diversity and examine how alike we all really are. Ms. Payton also met an 18 year old aspiring producer who created a documentary about African American males. She was entertained by poets and storytellers. Vendors covered the area with an assortment of ethnic paraphernalia. The aroma of cultural cuisines filled the area and was a great way for her to end the day!

Iconn has made audio books available to us for free! This database holds over 1300 fiction and nonfiction titles that can be accessed via a PC or downloaded to an MP3 player. Access these audio books by going to the Iconn website and clicking on *Downloadable Audio Books*. You will need your CT public library card number to borrow the audio books for 14 days. Titles include: *Lord of the Flies*, *Speak*, *Fahrenheit 451*, *Don Quixote de la Mancha*, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *Tales of Two Cities*, and many Shakespeare plays!

American Library Association Conference

THE LIBRARIANS THAT OVERRAN CHICAGO
For a week in July, everywhere you went in Chicago, you saw men and women carrying book-filled canvas bags blazoned with logos like "LOVE TO READ," wearing bright orange lanyards around their necks attached to nametags bristling with neon-colored "YALSA ROCK STA," "AASL MEMBER," and "LLAMA!" ribbons. It was the annual conference of the American Library Association, and Ms. Andronik was there with her nametag and three canvas bags over each shoulder, too. Of course she enjoyed Chicago's multiethnic bistros, power walks along Lake Michigan, the Art Institute, and the comedy of Second City, but she also attended a variety of informative panels and presentations on aspects of li-

brary services. (The book cart drill team competition fell closer to Second City's comedy than to anything even remotely informative!) By far the best activities were those that featured authors who write for young adults. One morning was taken up by a "speed dating" session in which authors circulated among tables of librarians, talking about their works past and present and subjecting themselves to a barrage of questions, fifteen minutes per table. Among the authors Ms. Andronik had the pleasure of meeting Libba Bray, Margo Lanagan, and Christopher Myers (Walter Dean Myers' son). Another evening was devoted to the Michael J. Printz Awards, with short

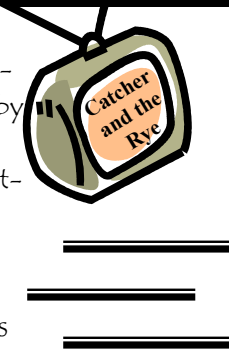
speeches by runners-up Terry Pratchett (via video), Margo Lanagan, M. T. Anderson, and E. Lockhart; and top winner Melina Marchetta. M. T. Anderson's talk, with some pointed comments about the accomplishments and shortcomings of contemporary American education, set off a standing ovation. Ms. Andronik had the following authors autograph her books: Walter Dean Myers, Kimberly Pauley, Elizabeth Bunce, and Margarita Engle; she hoped to meet Neil Gaiman, but the signing line for him wound three times around the exhibitors' hall!



Koroshetz's Suggested Professional Reading Corner:

Mrs. Koroshetz suggested two books that she encouraged our staff to read over the summer, "Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" by Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, and *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Our library own these books if you are interested in reading them. The sequel to this book is also available "Stones into Schools"

A BOOK IS THE OTHER CHANNEL..(Demco Poster)



September:

- Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Library Sign-Up Day
- Banned Book Week

October:

- Native American Month
- Italian Heritage Month
- Polish Heritage Month
- Teen Read Week

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Banned Book Week!
I Dare You to Read One, Go Ahead, I Dare YOU!
Celebrate your intellectual freedom to READ!



American Library Association celebrates our freedom to read books like those mentioned above during Banned Book Week, which will be observed in 2009 from September 26 through October 3. Check out the displays in the BMHS Library Media Center.

A complete list of the books most frequently challenged or banned in the United States in the year 2008-2009 can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/ideasandresources/>

Student Highlights!

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Senior Fabienne Tassy shared a wonderful experience with our staff. She spent her time wisely



this summer as she hung out with a few great authors. No, not personally! She read 65 books this summer. Wow! what a great way to explore! If you see her in your passing, congratulate her or acknowledge her in some way for this huge accomplishment!

Accused...and guilty!
Are *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Lovely Bones* part of your curriculum? Do you (or your students) carry around the latest Harry Potter adventure, or novels by Stephanie Meyers, Philip Pullman, Jodi Picoult, and Jonathan Stroud? Then you, and they, are guilty of reading books that have been challenged and/or banned in some community in the United States in the past year for reasons ranging from objectionable language to occult themes. The most frequently challenged book of the year is *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin

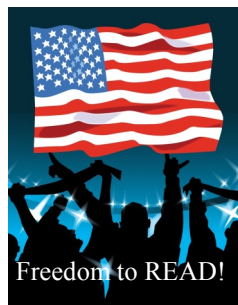
Richardson and Peter Parnell. A work of nonfiction in picture book format, *Tango* tells the story of two male penguins at New York City's Central Park Zoo; they adopt an egg and raise a chick together. Parents have complained that the book is inappropriate for its elementary school audience because it seems to promote a homosexual agenda. This past summer Ms. Andronik had the opportunity to hear a panel discussion including the authors, plus a group of editors and librarians, discussing the uproar over the book and the fine line between parental guidance and censorship.

Each year, the



Twilight Banned in an Australian School!

The *Twilight* Series has been challenged by a Catholic k-8 school in Australia! Parents believe that *Twilight* is way too racy. Teachers discourage parents from letting their children bring these books to school. Many claim that this series would blur reality for primary and secondary school students.



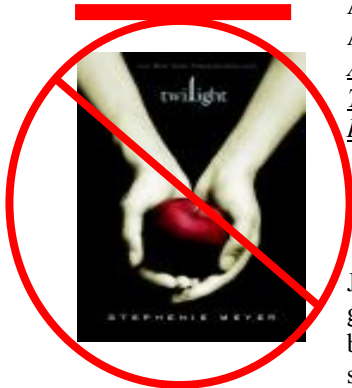
Catholic educators and librarians have said that the books defy religion and are too sexual in nature. Some educators feel that the discretion should be exercised by the parents. Learn more about this challenge at:

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,26062002-421,00.html>

What do you think? Submit your responses to <http://bmhsbannedbooks.blogspot.com/>
Hartford Courant, July 28, 2009

Student Edition Student Edition

Celebrating Your Intellectual Freedom to Read!



The *Twilight* Craze Continues!

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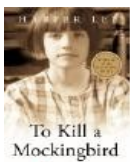
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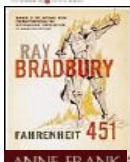
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Forbidden Books! I Dare You to Read!



To Kill a Mockingbird: Challenged in Eden Valley, MN (1977), Warren, IN (1981) and Lindale, TX (1996). Challenges were due to racial themes.



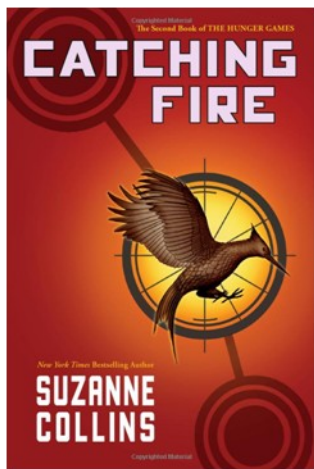
Song of Solomon: Challenged in Columbus, OH (1993) and Georgia

School District (1944). It was challenged because it degraded African Americans and contains sexually explicit narratives.

Fahrenheit 451: Banned in Irvine, CA (1992). It was banned because it contains words like "hell" and "damn"
The Color Purple:

Challenged or banned in Oakland, CA (1984), Souderton, PA (1992), and Jackson County, VA (1997). This book was referred to as "smut." It also contains troubling ideas about relationships with God, African history and human sexuality.
I know Why the Caged Bird Sings: This book was challenged

because of the description of a young girl being raped.
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl: Challenged in Wise County, VA (1982) and Alabama (1983). This book was considered to be a "real downer." Passages were criticized as sexual in nature and offensive.



BOOK OF THE MONTH:

September 2009

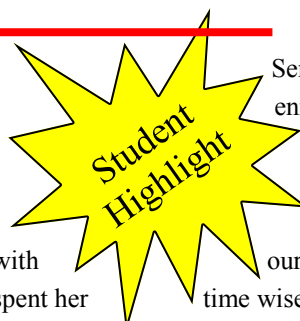
Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

In this eagerly awaited sequel to *The Hunger Games*, Katniss and Peeta travel in triumph through the districts of Panem as the nation again prepares for the Games. But the country's leaders are not the teens' friends, and rebellion is in the air. Suzanne Collins, a Connecticut resident, is at work on the third installment in the series, as well as the screenplay for a film based on *The Hunger Games*.

Tech Tip!

Students, purchasing a flash drive is a great and convenient way to store information. These portable drives will give you the freedom to save work you do at home and access it here at school. We have witnessed many problems students faced trying to send their homework or assignments to their

personal emails. Also, we encourage all students to save your work using the 97 to 2007 save command under the save option, if you are operating under the Windows 2007. This will allow students to open up files saved in different versions of Word: 97, 03, and 07.



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Saving Iconn.org

Saving Iconn.org Saves Us!

The Iconn resource research database was under fire, when Governor Jodi Rell proposed a \$5.4 million cut in library funding. Iconn was among the many services being targeted. Responses in support of this widely used database poured out from librarians, teachers, administrators, and students alike in efforts to save

Iconn.

Iconn is of great need today more than ever, with our hemorrhaging economic downfall. Many schools, including BMHS, are suffering from tremendous cuts. The library budget has become non-existent.

Losing Iconn would have been devastating with all the other losses, we have endured this year.

I am glad to say that at this time, Iconn continues to be an available resource. You want to help in this crusade to save icon? You can do something to support this cause, by simply just using it. Iconn can also be accessed from home using a public library card. Use it or Lose it!

Hartford Courant, July Courant, July 28, 2009



Use this database or we will be at risk of losing it!

Parent Edition

Research Supports the Benefits of an Effective Library Program

Library Staff:
Ms. Andronik, LMS
Ms. Payton, LMS
Ms. Chavez, ASST

Library Hours: 7:15-3:00
Ext. 11175

Special points of interest:

- **Library Research**
- **Iconn & Lost Library Budget**
- **9th Grade Orientation**

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The way we communicate is quite different from yesteryear! Resources were not quite as extensive. Today information is accessed through hundreds of databases, thousands of print resources and an infinite number of websites. How do we plow through it all? How do we determine if the information is accurate or appropriate? What ethics are associated with online and print resources?

These resources do not come with warning labels and there are no cyber police to examine information we access on the internet. Library Media Specialist link information literacy and technology to curriculum through staff development and collaborative research projects with teachers. Students are learning how to locate and access information; how to use information ethically, synthesizing information from an array of resources; and examine, evaluate and reflect on the research

process and final product.

In *School Libraries Work!* 2008, 19 schools provided results, from their research, which proved that an effective library media program is highly instrumental in education and improved academic performance in students. Some of the findings included the following: The more often students received information literacy instruction from a LMS the more their test scores increased (Alaska); ACT scores were highest when there was a high degree of collaboration with the LMS (Illinois); Indiana students performed better on state test, where principals enforced teacher-LMS collaborations; Missouri's statistical data reported a 10.6% impact on student achievement with an effective library program; Wisconsin findings state that a full-time certified LMS at all school levels exerted a greater impact on student academic performance; and reading enjoyment is positively and strongly linked to student achievement (Ontario, Canada).

The American Association for School Librarians (AASL) has set standards along with the CT State Department of Education. These educational organizations have provided a framework of standards that should be met by all students. *Information Power* outlines nine standards that hone in on information literacy, independent learning, and social responsibility. It states "All students will become effective users of information and ideas."

All of this research reported by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) supports how critical and beneficial an effective library media program is to academic success.

Our library media center is continuing to strive to stay in compliance with national, state, and local regulations. We have come a long way, but we still have a steep hill to climb. Ask how you can help or support the library. Become friends of the library to help us think of creative ways to bring our library media center into the 21st century. Our media center is in need of support!

Saving Iconn Database!:

Free database you can access from home using your public library card!

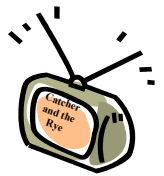
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Hartford Courant, July 28, 2009



9th Grade Library Orientations

All 9th grade Social Studies teachers have been targeted for library orientations for their students. We had a great deal of success with student orientation last school term. Students were informed about the goals and expectations of the library media center and its use. Students were really honing in on using information literacy skills, with the support of their teachers. The orientations have been well received by our students.

We have altered the way we will be conducting orientation this year. Instead of the students doing a tour of

the library, we decided to conduct a scavenger hunt where each student will acquire specific information from different sections of the library media center. What better way to get students actively engaged with learning the library than by exposing them to a hands-on and visual experience? We continue to elicit the continued support from classroom teachers, who's growing support is helping us build and strengthen the connection with the library.

***Special thanks to Mr. Meli for being the first Social Studies teacher to complete library orientations for his 9th grade students!

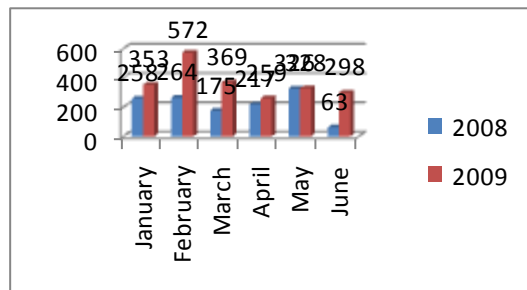
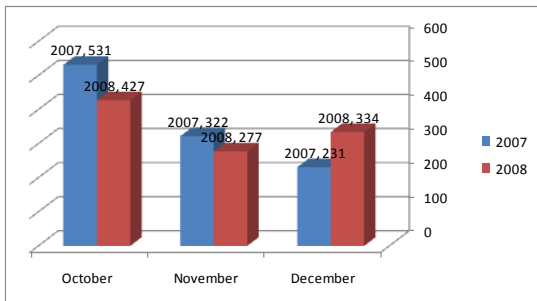
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Find out why these two books have been banned from schools!

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We're moving on up!



Student Highlights!

Senior Fabienne Tassy

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Accused...and guilty!

Are *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Lovely Bones* part of your curriculum? Do you or your child(ren) carry around the latest Harry Potter adventure, or novels by Stephanie Meyers, Philip Pullman, Jodi Picoult, and Jonathan Stroud? Then you, and they, are guilty of reading books that have been challenged and/or banned in some community in the United States in the past year for reasons ranging from objectionable language to occult themes.

The most frequently challenged book of the year is *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. A work of nonfiction in picture book format, *Tango* tells the story of two male penguins at New York City's Central Park Zoo; they adopt an egg and raise a chick together. Parents have

complained that the book is inappropriate for its elementary school audience because it seems to promote a homosexual agenda. This past summer Ms. Andronik had the opportunity to hear a panel discussion including the authors, plus a group of editors and librarians, discussing the uproar over the book and the fine line between parental guidance and censorship. Each year, the American Library Association celebrates our freedom to read books like those mentioned above during Banned Book Week, which will be observed in 2009 from September 26 through October 3. Watch for displays and activities in the BMHS Library Media Center. A complete list of the books most frequently challenged or banned in the United States in the year 2008-2009 can be found at http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbookweek/ideasandresources/free_downloads/2009banned.pdf

Twilight Banned in an Australian School!

The *Twilight* Series has been challenged by a Catholic k-8 school in Australia! Parents believe that *Twilight* is way too racy. Teachers discourage parents from letting their children bring these books to school. Many claim that this series would blur reality for primary and middle school students. Librarians believed that the books defies religion and are too sexual in nature. Some educators feel that the discretion should be determined by the parents. Learn more about this challenged at: <http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,26062002-421,00.html>

What do you think? Submit your responses to <http://bmhsbannedbooks.blogspot.com/>