

# Cooper Library Media Center

---



January 2006  
By Judy Bowling

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful vacation! It was music to my ears to hear that so many of our students finished reading their books over break and were enthusiastically borrowing more books to read! The new year is off to a great start in Cooper's Library Media Center where there is never a dull moment or an empty library. Throughout each day, there are students bustling around the library gathering information and doing research, browsing and borrowing books, or using the computers in the mini-lab.

In a world where there is a glut of information, students need to learn how to locate the information they need from multiple sources (books, magazines, newspapers, CD-ROMS, the Internet, etc.). They also must learn how to evaluate and use the information. Information literacy is a life skill that will grow with the students and can be applied to any subject area. Information decisions being made by a fifth or sixth grader outside of school may include trying to decide which video game to purchase and how much to pay for it or knowing how to locate the weekend forecast so they'll know what to pack for a camping trip. As they grow older, they will need to make information decisions on what car to buy, what college to attend, what political candidates to vote for, etc. Because information changes daily, it is imperative that today's youth have the necessary skills to locate, evaluate, and use information. To help achieve that goal, our library media center is much more than a place to simply check out books.

The Library Media Center Curriculum for the 2006-2007 school remains unchanged from last year. The only thing that has changed is the schedule in which classes come down to receive their instruction. Some of the LMC Curriculum can be taught in isolation, but the information literacy skills are much more meaningful and useful if taught in the context of the curriculum. For example, all of the fifth grade classes have received two days of instruction on citing sources. Sixth grade classes are currently being scheduled. Classes that are working on projects are scheduled into the library where information literacy skills are being integrated into the project. Records are being kept to insure that all classes throughout the year are taught the complete LMC Curriculum.

## It's a Football Frenzy!

The sixth grade Superbowl Reading Challenge is off to a great start. Eight classes have already competed against one another to see whose class could read the most minutes in one week. The students in Mrs. King, Ms. Dodge, Mrs. Fox, and Mr. Smith's classes won the first round and will advance to round two. There are eight classes remaining to play round one this month. Happy Reading!



## Moodle in the News



Some of you may have noticed the Moodle image above located on the home page of Cooper's web site and wondered what it was. Moodle is an open source content management software that has most of the features of the commercial product: Blackboard. It is where teachers can more effectively communicate with students and parents about things such as newsletters, announcements, assignments, lesson plans, etc. Some of our staff are beginning to use Moodle, but please note that we are in the early stages of using this tool and that it is a work in progress. To access Moodle, simply click on the Moodle image from the Cooper web site and then select the appropriate teacher.

## **Volunteer Thank You Luncheon**

Prior to going on break, we celebrated and thanked the many wonderful volunteers that have helped make our library media center such a success at a festive luncheon in our library. The food was delicious and the company was fabulous! Thank you once again for the many hours of time and talent that have been generously donated.



Visit the Cooper Library Media Center web site at <http://www.literacylounge.com>.

## **Web Sites of the Month**

### *AAA Math*

<http://www.aaamath.com>

All math topics accessed by grade level K-6.

### *A+ Math*

<http://www.aplusmath.com>

This web site was developed to help students improve their math skills interactively. It includes interactive games and activities, flash cards, and printable worksheets.

### *CoolMath4Kids*

<http://coolmath4kids.com>

An amusement park of math and more - especially designed for FUN, FUN, FUN!