

Atherton Library - Partnerships and Services to Schools

Supporting a child's educational success is a crucial role for the Library. For this reason, the San Mateo County Library collaborates extensively with schools in our service areas in a number of ways. For example:

Class visits – Librarians go to schools to demonstrate online library resources and databases, teach research skills, register students for library cards and read and promote books at schools. Atherton Library staff serves Selby Lane, because its students come from Atherton and Redwood City, they often coordinate programs with the Redwood City Library. Visiting schools at least twice a year at the beginning and end of the school year is one of our standards.

Programming – Library staff often take special programs directly out to schools. Last year and author visited Selby Lane as part of the library's author festival. The Atherton Library specifically targets all the 1st grades and 6th grades, at Selby Lane and other local schools we serve, with a library card campaign. Libraries also offer summer and school year reading games. Librarians from both Atherton and Redwood City visited Selby Lane this year to promote the current Summer Reading Program.

Programs for parents and teachers and "Teacher Cards" - Librarians attend back to school nights and Parent-Teacher Organization meetings to demonstrate library resources, teach homework help skills, and provide literacy promoting tips. Libraries also offer library orientation programs specifically to teachers. The library offers a special library card for teachers that eliminates fines and hold fees on San Mateo County Library materials and offers longer loans on material used in the classroom.

Assignment Help and On-site material check-out - When teachers notify staff of particular assignments, librarians will request materials from other libraries, display specific assignment materials, and place topic materials aside for pick-up. Some libraries have taken books to class rooms for check out on-site and often the bookmobile will visit schools.

These are just a few of the ways we partner with our local schools. Teachers and children also benefit from the many traditional library services offered including access to collections (books, periodicals, movies and music), computers and the Internet, online databases, and educational information and research. The eBranch provides access to a wealth of information and is accessible in each branch library or from a patron's personal computer at home, work or school.

Recent Atherton Library School Activity Highlights

Preschools/Daycare

- *Playschool (Holbrook Palmer Park Preschool)*
Visited all classes for Read for the Record, October 2010. The playschool's young 5's class comes to the library for story times throughout the school-year each year.
- *Our Place Daycare*
We provide annual story times in October.
- *Robert's Preschool*
We provide story times annually.
- *Redwood City Headstart*
We provided story times during the school-year, 2010-2011

Elementary Schools

- *Selby Lane School*
First grade library card visits to promote the importance of every child having a library card every September and October. We visited Selby Lane for four lunch periods for International Literacy Day in September 2010 and collected postcards from hundreds of kids as part of the program. In May we brought Jennifer Holm for the Author Festival to the fourth grades and encouraged them to participate in the Summer Reading Club. We have brought other authors/illustrators to Selby Lane in previous years.
- *Laurel Elementary*
Visited first grade classes: Fall 2009, 2010 for library card campaign; visited all 21 classes for summer reading program publicity: May 2009, 2010. Read to class for Day of the Reader at the school, April 2009.
- *Encinal Elementary*
Visited the first grade classes in Fall 2010 for library card campaign; visited classes for summer reading program, May 2010.
- *St. Joseph's Elementary School (Sacred Heart)*
Arranged Ying Chang Compestine author event for the 8th graders as part on One Book One Community. The classes had all read *A Revolution is not a Dinner Party* as an assigned book in advance; the visit was a huge success and enriched class assignments.

High Schools

- *Menlo School*
We work with students of Kumiko Sakamoto's Japanese class to teach children origami at Atherton Library throughout the year, usually in October, December, February, and May.
- *Menlo-Atherton High School*
We provide library incentives to 9th graders each Fall. We provided opportunities for students to engage in community service by assisting with story times in Fall 2009, and acting as summer reading assistants in May 2011.
- *Sacred Heart School*
We hosted faculty and campus chickens as part of our "Chicken Education Day" in winter 2011. We partner with the school art department to feature and show student art work in the library to stimulate broader community discussions.
- *Sequoia High School*
We collaborated with and brought in the robotics team to provide library programming for National Robotics Week.