A Short Month!

A short, busy month! 7,280 student visits, 27 classes and booktalks, and 68 new items added to the collection. Rebecca facilitated the Battle of the Books at St. Thomas (photos), the MS Writer’s Symposium with graphic novelist Kazu Kibuishi (photos) thanks to Susan Messier), worked with 7th grade on the Geography of Disease, gave 5th grade booktalks, ran Hoot meetings, and attended the NWAIS Librarians conference about new school library standards. Ann worked with 12th grade on identifying reliable news sources and with the 8th grade Constitutional Debate projects, continued with 9th grade film criticism, and presented a panel at the NWAIS Librarians Conference with Mollie Page, about the Technology-Library connection. Andrea finished the MS March Literary Madness with Hermione as the students’ top literary choice. She also gave 6th grade booktalks, mounted displays on Ebooks, From Book to Screen, Magic Schools, Teen Activism, and Creativity, and researched maker material for the Library. We also continued to bring books to the 6th grade twice a cycle during DEAR.

Battle of the Books
The ten top students from the Fall Battle of the Books competed at St. Thomas with teams from St. Thomas and Open Window. Overlake Team Two tied for the championship with a team from Open Window, and a great time was had by all!

MS Writers’ Symposium
Middle School students enjoyed a visit from popular graphic novelist Kazu Kibuishi, author of the Amulet series. Kibuishi talked to students about the roundabout path he had to take to get to his dream job. He also presented workshops to all the 7th grade English classes.

Media Bias Chart
Ann and Megan V. are helping students identify media bias, using this chart that plots major news sources from liberal to conservative, low to high quality. Chart by Vanessa Otero. See her charts & ongoing news analysis here. Creative Commons license.

The Educator’s Edition of Explora highlights content relevant to teachers, including lesson plans, curriculum standards, and other professional development resources. Featured this month: articles on Computational Thinking, SEL, Project–Based Learning, The Achievement Gap.

April Book Recommendations
- The Prince and the Dressmaker, by Jen Wang
- When They Call You a Terrorist, by Patrisse Khan-Cullors
- Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser