

## Washington Township High School IMC

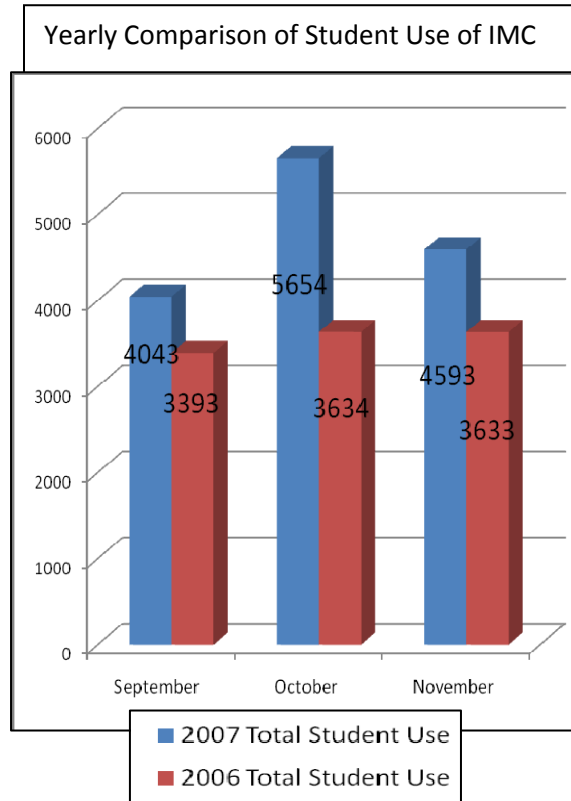
### Monthly Report

November 2007

#### Teaching and Learning

##### Statistics

|                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Classes</b>                  | <b>140</b>   |
| Art                             | 3            |
| Family/Consumer Science         | 2            |
| English                         | 40           |
| Physical Education              | 9            |
| Science                         | 24           |
| Social Studies                  | 49           |
| Special Education               | 13           |
| <b>Total number of students</b> | <b>4,358</b> |
| Students with classes           | 3,023        |
| Students with passes            | 1,057        |
| Students after school           | 278          |



During November, there was a 17% increase of total student use of the IMC and a 32% increase in the number of classes that received information literacy skills instruction over November 2006.

#### **November Highlights**

On November 27<sup>th</sup>, the IMC staff hosted a book discussion that featured members of the Student Book Club, Faculty Book Club and members of Mrs. Larosa and Mrs. Scardino-Welch's Sociology classes. The group of about 30 staff and students discussed life in Afghanistan as they examined *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Housseini and the memoir *My Forbidden Face* by Latifa. It was rewarding to see how reading sparked a pertinent and enlightening discussion on contemporary world events. The librarians hope to have an even better turnout on January 29<sup>th</sup> when the clubs will combine their discussions of *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult.

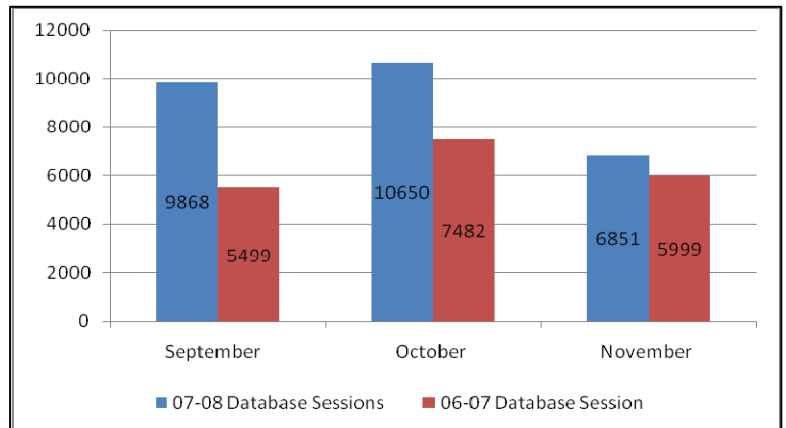
## Information Skills

During November, the teacher-librarians

continued to abide by their mission statement by collaborating with the teachers and students in promoting academic achievement. The librarians incorporate the necessary research skills into information literacy lessons based on each teacher's assignment. Focus is placed on using quality resources including online databases (see chart) that contain reliable

information from books, periodicals, academic journals, and other reputable sources yet are available via the Internet. Worksheets and brochures are developed to aid in the research, and presentations are given on how to research as well as the MLA format for source cards, note cards, works cited, and citations. Throughout the research process academic integrity is also discussed. Students are taught proper research methods to avoid unintentional plagiarism. By the time students are seniors, they are able to research and write papers with minimal review by the librarians.

Yearly comparison of Monthly Database Usage



## Information Literacy Lessons

### Art

- Students were shown how to use Web Collection Plus and Grove Art Online to select a painting that could be reproduced as a tapestry.

### Consumer/Family Science

- Cooking classes used the IMC resources to type recipes for a cookbook.

### English

- Advanced English 10 classes began the collaborative research paper unit for a paper on Peru in conjunction with The Bridge of San Luis Rey.
- College Prep English 10 students were taught a lesson on the appropriate databases and useful search terms to find articles for a persuasive essay.

- The collaborative English 11 papers have begun. The librarians and classroom teachers team taught the unit based on either twentieth century American authors or controversial issues.
- English 12 students began work on a world author research paper.

**Science**

- Biology classes were taught how to research the IMC databases for information on environmental issues and the systems of the human body. They were then given instruction on the use of Microsoft PowerPoint as a presentation tool for these topics.

**Social Studies**

- U. S. History II and World History classes were involved with the research paper unit.
- U. S. History II students also began the marking period two essay.

**Special Education**

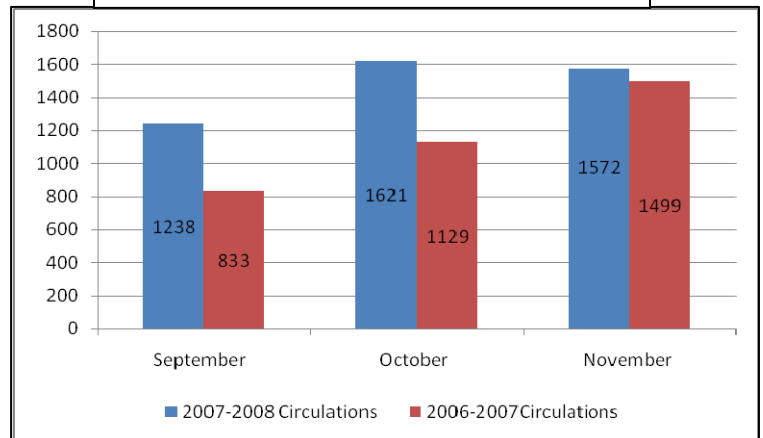
- English 10 students took part in a Round Robin to select books for independent reading.
- English 12 classes completed work on their wikis. They then began researching information on an environmental issue for a paper. The librarians gave presentations and provided handouts to aid in the process.

**Information Access and Delivery**

**Statistics**

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Books/audio-visual checked out | 1,572 |
| Magazines/articles requested   | 79    |
| Interlibrary loans requested   | 24    |
| Interlibrary loans returned    | 21    |

Yearly Comparison of Monthly Circulations



**Technology Update**

- The librarians assumed the responsibility of the SAT question of the day eboard which includes the posting of the daily question in addition to communicating with those responsible for the morning announcements. Students respond to the question using the eboard. Daily winners

are chosen from correct responses and are added to students who are eligible for a grand prize at the end of the year.

- The IMC Homepage was updated to promote the student book club selection for December and the t-shirts they are selling.
- Ms. Gaughan filmed a segment on how to access, search, and use the new online audio books database.

### **Reading Promotion**

- Staff Pick Selections were added to the IMC homepage and emailed to WTHS faculty members
- End cap displays that resemble bookstore displays were strategically designed to highlight nonfiction books that students would find interesting.

### **Student Book Club**

- Met with the faculty book club and sociology students on November 27<sup>th</sup> for a joint discussion of *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and *My Forbidden Face*.
- Organized a t-shirt sale to help raise travel money for an author visit with award winning author Carolyn Mackler that is planned for May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed the possibility of collecting used eye glasses for this year's service project which they hope to begin in January.

### **Program Administration**

- Ann Hill and Stephanie Gaughan attended the New Jersey Association of School Librarian's state conference. This yearly conference is a great opportunity for Ann & Stephanie to attend a variety of workshops that focus on the latest strategies in the field of librarianship. This year's focus included reading promotion and the development of research assignments that promote higher order thinking skills.
  - Ms Hill was honored at the conference with the Jean E. Harris Progressive School Library Media Program Award. This honor is bestowed upon the librarian who is most innovative in developing ideas to promote life long learning skills.

- Ms Hill also gave a presentation on “Trading Spaces,” a new approach to remodeling libraries based on the marketing and promotion strategies of successful bookstores.
- Ms Hill and Ms Gaughan attended the Gloucester County Library in-service day.
- Kathleen McNally attended a workshop on Picks of the Decade for High School, which discussed the best young adult novels from 1997-2007.
- Distributed the monthly newsletter which included an updated Bloom’s Taxonomy, information on Wikis, the faculty book selection for January, and information on supporting the student book club by ordering a t-shirt.