



# Dolphin Den Digest

September 2007: The Library Newsletter

## New and Improved

As many of you know, the district purchased a new library circulation system, called Destiny, at the end of the last school year. With this new system, there are a few changes that I think will be beneficial. The first is a change I have made for our school. Magazines may now be checked out for a whole week instead of just for one day. This should allow your child the opportunity to really read all the interesting articles. We also have some new subscriptions that will begin this month, so watch for some exciting new titles.

The second change from the end of the year is that student's may now log in to the circulation system in order to check their accounts and create their own personal list of books they'd like to read. The user name for each student is his or her library card number and the password is the student's last name. Over the next couple of weeks, each student in first through fifth grade will record his or her library card number into a planner. Kindergarten parents who are interested in learning their child's number may see me in the library.

After logging in, the student's account information will be available under a tab called "My Info." This information will include the titles and due dates of all items checked out from the library, as well as any holds or fines (for lost or damaged books, no overdue fees are charged at the elementary schools). Students may also create a list of items they would like to read. While searching in the catalog, there is an "Add to this list" button with a green check on the right-hand side of the screen. Clicking on this button will add that particular item to the child's personal. The list can be accessed by clicking on the menu bar item on the left that says "Resource Lists."

The last big improvement for the library is the addition of many new audiobooks and books with tapes. These additions were made possible with a \$2,500.00 grant from the Education Foundation. Many of the new titles are beginning chapter books and nonfiction books. Students are encouraged to try out these new resources.

# Need some info.? Check out our Databases.

Do you need to find an answer to some homework question or some information for a report? Would an educational video help you understand a topic better? Do you want to see an interview with your favorite author? The following databases, sponsored by the school or the district, are the solution!

- **World Book Online:** <http://www.worldbookonline.com>
- **Facts On File:** <http://www.factsonfile.com>
- **UnitedStreaming** (educational video clips and photos): <http://esc11.unitedstreaming.com>
- **Power Media Plus** (similar to United Streaming): <http://www.powermediaplus.com>
- **Teaching Books** (author interviews and book studies): <http://teachingbooks.net/home/>

Dove students, parents and teachers may access these sites directly or through the “Databases” link off the Dove Library site (<https://destiny.gcisd.net/> or <http://www.gcisd-k12.org/schools/dov/index.htm> and click on the “Library” link). To receive the username and password for each of these sites, please contact Ms. Henry. Please use these sites to improve your education and satisfy your curiosity.

## “Celebrate with Reading” Book Club

Got a special occasion you’d like to commemorate? Donate a book or audiobook to the library in honor of that special someone or special day. He or she will have a picture taken with the book to be displayed in the library, be given a membership card and a copy of the photo, and a bookplate with the name and date will be placed inside the book. A complete list of desired titles is available in the library; however, library bound or hardcover copies of some of our most popular series, such as Magic Tree House or Geronimo Stilton would also be acceptable. Please contact Ms. Henry if you are interested in participating.

## Spare time on your hands?

Volunteers are needed to help re-shelve library books, assist students in selecting and checking out books, and various other tasks. If you are interested in assisting in the library, please return the bottom portion of this newsletter to your child’s teacher or the librarian. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

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\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to be a library volunteer.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unable to volunteer at the school, but would like to help with special projects that can be completed at home.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Days I am available (circle) : Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday

Times I am available: \_\_\_\_\_

Student’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_