

NEIGHBORHOOD ^{THE} SCHOOL

February 11, 2019

Re: The school Library

HISTORY: The library at the school was built with the hard work and dedication of many parties. The newly improved Library was funded through Carnegie Corporation which is an arm of Bloomberg. The money came through sometime after 9/11. They wanted to build 3 libraries on the LES. P.S. 188 and Children's Workshop School (that shares with 2 other schools in their building) were the other two. It was designed by a TNS parent. Furniture was selected by a TNS committee. Many officials from the city were involved. The founding principal of TNS said the superintendent was very behind both Star and TNS sharing. There were fundraisers and events. Consultants helped to make a flexible schedule for collaborations and negotiations between the librarian and teachers. It was seen as an extension of the classroom. The expectations were that both schools would contribute to the salary of the librarian. Our librarian Cheryl was hired in 2004 shortly after the completion of the library construction. Ongoing funding has come in throughout the years under the expectation that the library would be shared between the schools and that the salary of the library media specialist would be supported by both schools.

PURPOSE: The school has been very fortunate to have a library and full-time librarian. Due to lack of funding many public schools around NYC do not have this valuable resource on a full time basis or at all. With Cheryl's experience and vision the programs in the library have expanded and evolved over the years. The library is much more than a space to check out and return books.

Instructional Program

Our library curriculum is aligned with the [Empire State Information Fluency Continuum standards](#), and the [standards of the American Association of School Librarians \(AASL\)](#). The instructional program emphasizes love of reading; research skills; digital citizenship, and media literacy throughout the grades. The librarian is a teaching partner with classroom teachers, and library lessons are integrated with the class content. In addition to being a resource for materials, it is also a space for student creation, be it sewing, weaving, bookmaking, or digital

projects. Our integrated makerspace, funded by a grant from the NYCDOE, contains sewing machines, looms, and other supplies.

Family Programs

Little Siblings Story Time

Family Library Time

Family borrowing privileges

Family Makerspace

New Library Books showcases

Literacy Workshops

Resources

15,000+ diverse books in our collection, including a robust all-ages graphic novel collection, and NYC's premiere collection of books related to food and cooking (through the Cooperative Collection Development (CCD) Program of New York, funded by the New York State Education Department). A well-curated selection of research databases, including encyclopedias and indexed articles, designed for K-5 students.

Partnerships

MyLibraryNYC . The program, only available to schools with a librarian on staff, provides participating schools with:

1. enhanced library privileges including fine-free student and educator library cards*;
2. school delivery and the exclusive use of 6,000+ Teacher Sets designed for educator use in the classroom; and
3. student and educator access to the unparalleled digital resources of New York City's public library systems as well as instructional support and professional development opportunities.

Events

Author/illustrator visits (Jules Feiffer, George O'Connor, Fiona Robinson, Ilyasa Shabazz, Raina Telgemeier, etc.)

Student Book Clubs

Graphic Novel Fair

Cookbook Celebration

Earth Day craft playdate

CURRENT SITUATION: We're in a position to attempt to find sustainable funding for 50% of Cheryl's salary plus a nominal amount for supplies. Without these funds we risk losing Cheryl completely or alternately only have her on a part-time basis. The PTA and school administration are looking at creative ways to find funding whether through grants, the DOE, the city and/or through our own fundraising. The latter is a major challenge given how difficult it is to just meet our current budgetary goals on a yearly basis.