

It has been such an amazing experience building a reading community at Sunrise Elementary School this year!

This year truly began even before the students arrived. 11 pallets of boxes that contained our core collection of just over 11,000 books came at the beginning of August. Putting the library together could never have been done without the support of all the BPS library media specialists and the new Sunrise staff. Together we organized the shelves, ordered books that were both enjoyable for students and helped to support BPS curriculum and created a warm and inviting space for all.



Sunrise students and teachers meet with our guest author, Kyle Mewburn

From a technology rich sixth grade social studies research project to a fourth grade email/technology project. From a beginning reference unit with second grade to a third and fifth grade research organization project using the Big 6, collaboration has been an essential part of building our educator community. Through emails, meetings, and collaborative projects between the library and classroom, I believe we have built a solid bridge to provide a continuous flow of knowledge for students.

Our first school wide library event was held in the fall of the year with a scholastic book fair. We transformed our classroom area of the library into a fun place to shop for books! Contests were held and prizes given, it was a great fundraiser for our library.

February was the true test of our readers here at Sunrise. To celebrate North Dakota Reading Month, I challenged our students to read 2011 books/chapters before the end of the month. Our theme was "Be a Roaring Reader" to incorporate the Sunrise lion – our mascot. The students not only met my challenge but surpassed it! We celebrated with a huge family fun night at the school with close to 300 people in attendance. Games, prizes, face painting and the fifth grade Sail America expo were just a few of the fun events that night. Both kindergarten and sixth grade were recognized for their outstanding reading efforts during the month. Way to go!

As spring rolled through our school we held our second big library/PTO event with a Bingo for Books night. The evening was also our first annual book swap. It was a wonderful event for readers as new books were given as prizes for bingo and a separate area was filled with gently used books to swap and enjoy.

As the school year comes to a close, the library is preparing to present it's first ever Bookworm awards to the top library patron in each class, 3rd thru 6th grade. They will be handed out during the school award ceremony on May 24th.



Here are some library facts from our first year...

- Our collection contains over 12,000 titles.
- Our student and staff circulation this year was 31,297!
- The most popular book (based on number of check-outs) in our easy section this year was "Shoo, Fly Guy", the most popular fiction book was "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days" and the most popular non-fiction book was "Star Wars: The Complete Visual Dictionary"