

TWO FAVORITE PLACES

• *LIBRARIES PROVIDE STUDENTS PLACE TO EXPLORE, LEARN AND DISCOVER*

Everyone has a favorite place.

Those in schools have an opportunity to go to any number of favorite places within each building and one of them for many, including students, happens to be the library. Even though they have taken on new looks in the technology/electronic age, hard and soft cover books are still the mainstay of what we call the library.

A place where you are allowed to explore, learn, and discover because of books.

Peggy Hanzlik, Dori Krenke and Regina Dunn operate the two libraries in the Chamberlain School District. They are passionate about reading, helping students discover their interests and building a foundation for them to become lifelong readers.

Together, the two district libraries boast over 35,000 book titles. Library grants in previous years have helped the district purchase Nooks and Kindles and electronically catalog all materials in the libraries, including books, magazines, and other periodicals.

In the Chamberlain Elementary School Library, Hanzlik holds a Library Skills Class for kindergarten through fourth grade students.

Classes are 50 minutes in length and divided into thirds: 1/3-spent listening to a book read to them, 1/3-skills, and 1/3-checking out books. During the skills portion of the class students learn how to take care of a book, turn pages properly, find a book and use the on-line card catalog and data-base.

Students also learn the “elements of a story” such as character, setting, conflict, plot, and theme.

Book displays can be found in the library hallway showing off



award winning books from the Prairie Bud & Pasque Children's Book Awards or are centered around a theme or holiday.

Thirty-five book fairs have been held since Hanzlik began working in the library.

“Parents and community members have been very supportive of this event and this year's sales were some of the highest with over \$5,300 worth of books were sold,” Superintendent Deb Johnson said.

Each year, Dunn, the Middle and High School Librarian, attends the “What's New in Young Adult Literature” conference. This conference helps her choose books that are of high interest for middle and high school students. Many of the books she purchases have received a National Book Award or are Pulitzer Prize winners.

“We have so many students who enjoy reading; they read for pleasure not just something for class,” Dunn said, adding she has noticed an increase in students reading realistic fiction and Classic American Literature.

Students also enjoy reading series books or reading all of the books written by a favorite author.

Overall, students read a wide variety of different types of literature and the selection of books for middle and high school students will continue to expand each year.

“With the continued focus on reading and what the CSD libraries have to offer, students will always have a chance to explore, learn and discover,” Johnson said.

