

Wonder Wall

AASL EXPLORATORIUM

November 5, 2009



Knights, space ships and dinosaurs inspire wonder in curious children. Sixth grade students questioned young children and created multimedia projects introducing our library “Wonder Wall.”

When students enter their school library they often require encouragement to reflect on topics that promote wonder, curiosity and excitement for learning. Library media specialists train children to access library resources to build a foundation for independent and lifelong learning. Before they use an index to a book or enter a search term into an electronic database or search engine, we coach them to identify their personal learning needs.

Classroom teachers at Maureen M. Welch Elementary School collaborated with the librarian to spend time discussing questioning and curiosity with their students. Each class submitted a list of “wonders” and the librarian forwarded the list to a mural artist. Now we have a mural painted on our library “**Wonder Wall**” representing the suggestions from our students in grades K to 6. Pictures include: a knight, a sailing ship, a space ship, whales and a dinosaur.

Sixth graders worked collaboratively in groups writing scripts and interviewing younger children creating questions reflecting their curiosity. The sixth graders, armed with laptops, cameras and microphones, recorded the interviews. Multimedia projects with images, narration and original music were created. Completed projects are posted on our school web page and were introduced at the “*Grand Opening Celebration*” for the “**Wonder Wall**.”

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Create a Wonder Wall in your library!

1. This is a visual reminder for students that the library is a place where they pursue their own interests and questions and develop skills and desire for lifelong learning.
2. Promote AASL Standards: 4.2 Dispositions in Action
 - a. 4.2.1 Display curiosity by pursuing interests through multiple resources.
 - b. 4.2.2 Demonstrate motivation by seeking information to answer personal questions and interests, trying a variety of formats and genres, and displaying a willingness to go beyond academic requirements.
3. Student drawings or written statements posted on a wall or door of your library could be the beginnings of your focus on student wonder and questioning.

Resources

AASL Learning Standards for the 21st Century Learner. Chicago, Ill.: American Library Association, 2007. Print

McKenzie, Jamieson A. *Learning to Question, to Wonder, to Learn*. Bellingham, WA: FNO Press, 2005. Print

Bush, Gail. "Delicious Ambiguity and the Library Media Center." *School Library Media Activities Monthly*.

June 2009. Vol. 25. Iss. 10; pg. 47. Print.

Visit the Maureen M. Welch Elementary School website to view the following:

- Student sample of an interview with and an Animoto™ movie showcasing pictures of the Wonder Wall

<http://www.crsd.org/5034298164240/site/default.asp>

- Wonder Wall Blog - description of implementation of the project

<http://www.crsd.org/5034298164240/Blog/browse.asp?a=398&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=79022>

- Wonder Wall Lesson Plan

<http://www.crsd.org/5034298164240/blank/browse.asp?a=383&BMDRN=2000&BCOB=0&c=78063>

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