

The Groton-Dunstable School District Libraries, 2009-2010

Due to severe budget cuts, the district's library staffing configuration has been modified. Fortunately, the High School Library will continue to have a professional library media specialist and a library specialist, who will continue the excellent service to which the staff and students are accustomed.

At the Middle Schools, Ms. Cindy Iannacci will continue to work in the South Library, and Ms. Gretchen Murray will be in the North Library. Both are excellent library workers with long and admirable track records of helping students and teachers find materials and conduct research. Ms. Kim Cochrane, Coordinator of Curriculum, Libraries and Instructional Technology, will oversee all library operations.

Florence Roche and Swallow Union will have a new library program, run entirely by volunteers. Ms. Cochrane will provide training and support to the volunteers regularly. The volunteers will be responsible for checking library books in and out, for re-shelving materials, for straightening shelves, and for assisting students in book selection and with research. Whenever there is a volunteer staffing the library, the library will be open to students and teachers. Teachers will schedule their classes for regular book checkout times each week, lasting approximately 15-20 minutes. The teachers will accompany their students to the library each time they visit as a group. Of course, students will be allowed to come to the library at any time on a pass, if the library is open, but no students will be allowed into the library on their own unless a volunteer is present.

Library will no longer be a 'special' for the elementary students; grades K-4 will now receive weekly lessons in the computer lab from the computer specialists. This change will not only provide the students with the 21st Century technology skills they will require, but the specialists will also be able to work closely with the students in online research. Ms. Cochrane will oversee the operations of the computer labs, as well.

As this is a new program in the elementary schools, no books will be checked out to students for the first two weeks or so of school. Then we will allow 1 to 2 books to be checked out per student, depending on the grade level. A policy we must strictly observe this year will be that **no books may be checked out by any student who already has an overdue book**. We will have to be particularly careful about keeping track, especially at the beginning of the year. We truly appreciate everyone's patience as we undertake this significant transition.