

School library year plans

A way of implementing school strategy and meeting curriculum requirements

In Denmark there is a growing trend of school libraries and school librarians taking the lead and making year plans for school library activities, which include all grades and takes into account the curriculum of the different grades.

In Hillerødsholmskolen the school librarians issue a catalog of activities at the beginning of each school year. For the school year of 2008/2009 the catalog consisted of 29 pages and included 23 different activities.

Some of the activities are carried out by the school library alone, some by the school library and the class room teachers in cooperation and some by the class room teachers alone after instructions by the school librarians. In this presentation, we will look at examples from all three categories.

School library activity:

All 2nd grade classes at the school are invited to participate in a “Star race” organized by the school library. In the “Star race” all students are divided into groups of four to five and together they have to find their way around the school and solve different tasks. Each task is situated at a post, where the participators are met by one or more

older students. The older student(s) present the task to the group of 2nd graders. The task is to guess a children's book or a fairytale from a clue given in the form of a picture, a paragraph read aloud or something similar.

Cooperation activity:

"Picture novels" is a project invented by the school librarians and it is carried out in cooperation between the school librarians and the class room teachers. The project runs over four weeks and is offered as a voluntary activity to all 5th grade classes. At the beginning of the project, the school librarians give an introduction to the genre of picture novels. Then each class spends about three weeks reading and working with a variety of picture novels. While this work goes on, the school librarians introduce the school intranet as a tool of communication. They create a blog, where teachers and students communicate about the novels and the work they do with them. At the end of week three, each student chooses a picture novel to work with on the school intranet. Here the students work with different tasks such as questionnaires, multiple choice quizzes and making websites.

Class room activity:

Each year a national competition of writing a newspaper is carried out. The school library has decided that this activity should be mandatory for all 7th graders. The school library works as a contact between the national planners and the classes. The class and the class room teacher must however do all planning and teaching themselves but the school librarians prepare both teachers and students for the project. The students are introduced to the layout

program Publisher and the teachers are invited to a meeting where they are prepared for the project.

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