

Hull Elementary School Students Compete in Summer Reading Book Challenge

HULL — Principal Christine Cappadona is pleased to announce that Lillian M. Jacobs Elementary School students completed a book talk last week with their peers after they were challenged to read 20 books over the summer.



Fourth grade teacher Rick Martin, center, talks to fourth grade student Connor Walsh, right, while fourth grade student Brendan Julian, left, listens, along with others in the group.(Courtesy Photo Hull Public Schools)

On Aug. 30 and Aug. 31 — the second and third days of classes — students gathered in small groups to chat about literature during their reading period.

The activity was part of Lillian M. Jacobs Elementary School's annual summer reading challenge that tasks students with reading 20 different types of books prior to the start of the new school year. School officials first implemented the assignment last summer, and after a successful response, continued it into this year.

For the friendly competition, students garnered prizes for the number of books they read. Five or more books earned them five pieces of pirate gold, which can be traded in once they reach 10 pieces for goodies held in a treasure chest in the school's main office or a t-shirt highlighting the school's core values. Ten books or more translated to a free recess, and those who read 15 or more books will get to have lunch with Principal Cappadona and Assistant Principal Kyle Shaw.

“Our goal with book talks is to motivate students to explore various genres and authors so they can share their experiences with their peers at the start of the school year,” Principal Cappadona said. “We’re happy to say that students really got into this challenge and devoted some of their break to reading.”

Discussions were facilitated by staff in the building, including Principal Cappadona, Assistant Principal Shaw, Assistant Superintendent Judy Kuehn, reading specialists, classroom teachers and the school psychologist. Students delved into their choices, sharing their thoughts on nonfiction books, fantasies, graphic novels, magazines, realistic fiction books and more. The overall favorite was Jeff Kinney’s “Diary of a Wimpy Kid.”