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## **BOOK TALKS**

### **Washington Junior High School Naperville, Illinois**

Washington Junior High School established Book Talks to increase students' interest in books available to them in the school media center and to show them that many adults enjoy reading. The school sent a letter to each family through the school newsletter inviting volunteers to attend an informational meeting. At that meeting, volunteers learned about the program and chose books to read from the large selection provided by the Learning Resource Center (LRC) Director and the Reading Specialist. After reading the books, volunteers prepared 5-10 minute presentations to share with students.

Teachers learned about the program at a faculty meeting and signed up for presentations that would best fit their lessons plans. Presenters' schedules were then matched with teachers' schedules. Many volunteers were able to give two to four presentations on a book to different classrooms in one day.

The program was extremely successful. Presenters enjoyed the book talks, and many signed up for the second round of talks that were advertised in the school newsletter. A larger number of teachers signed up to have the presentations during the second round as well. The LRC Director and Reading Specialist noted that many students were signing out the books presented. Book Talks is one way that Washington Junior High School can collaborate with the community to develop quality work for students.

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