

Margaret Hamilton, Chair  
Woodbridge School District  
Board of Education  
sent via e mail

Dec. 12, 2017

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

I wanted to share with you some good news about a cooperative effort between Beecher Road School and the Woodbridge Town Library.

Last year we launched new reading opportunities for our Beecher students. This year, after our first event, it became one of the most popular outreach activities at the library, with over 50 children from 3rd through 6th grades participating in grade-appropriate activities.

My staff and I collaborate with Beecher Library Media Specialist Larissa Crocco to offer graphic novel book discussions to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and special “Sneak Peek” new release programs for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Larissa imparts valuable critical thinking and communication skills to the students while they are too busy to notice. She sparks a passion for learning in a non-school setting. As one student commented at our last program, “This is the best night of my life!”

Together we are strengthening community connections between our school and public library. We provide free opportunities for children during school breaks and after-school time. Larissa’s efforts bring value to the school, its students, and our community. She’s able to tap into peer relationships outside of the classroom and help students make connections as they participate in the book discussions. Parents have a chance to sneak in and enjoy watching their children. One parent, new to the library, commented, “Can you do this every week?”

For those of us in town agencies, budget season sometimes dictates that we try to do more with less. Working together is a win-win for our community. My department has offered many programs over the years, but few provide the opportunities Larissa Crocco brings.

Sincerely,

Judy Rabin, Head of Children’s Services  
Woodbridge Town Library