



the BookMark

Secondary Library Newsletter

Librarian's Message:

Happy New Year 2025!

I hope that the Christmas holiday provided you and your children with many opportunities to cozy up with a good book, and I wish your family a fulfilling year 2025.

As we return to school, I am pleased to report that the library renovation project is well underway with the school management, development office, facilities department and myself working closely together to produce the best possible outcome. We were recently in communication with our library space design specialist who reviewed our wish list and sketches and who will submit 3D plans of the renovated space shortly.

This term, I will continue to support the English Department with the spelling bee competition and the newly introduced readers' circles, which were very well received by students last term. After the traditional Year 12 library research sessions, I remain available to students who wish to book one-on-one consultations with me for assistance with their extended essays.

Finally, I am pleased to resume our Young Philosophers Club next week and take the Senior Chess Club to new heights with support from the Bermuda Chess Association and Department of Education.

Mrs. Wolffe School Librarian

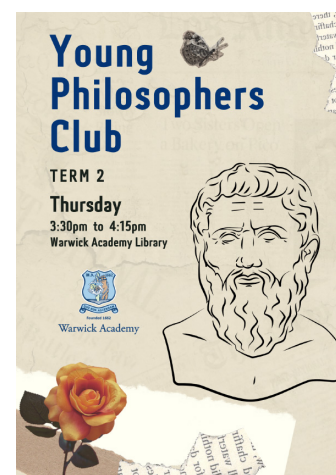
Readers' Circles Report

"Relaxing", "peaceful", "interesting", "out of the box" or "intellectual" were some of the recurring descriptors used by Year 7 and 8 students when asked to comment on their participation in the readers' circles last term. After introducing the principles of restorative listening circles and the value of the talking stick, students were invited to share their individual experiences with reading, through a reading attitude survey conducted orally. The session concluded with the "unboxing" of my latest book order which was a pretext for discussing how one selects a book.

LIBRARY EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Young Philosophers Club

I am pleased to report that our Young Philosophers Club, open to Year 9 through Year 13 students, will resume this term, on Thursdays, from 3:30pm to 4:15pm. I would like to express my gratitude to Year 10 student Ava Dosanjh-Simons for agreeing to be our student facilitator this year. This club provides students with an opportunity to dive into the world of big ideas



and thought-provoking questions, think critically and discover new perspectives alongside their peers. This year our programme is adapted from The Royal Institute of Philosophy's "Philosophy 4 Children" curriculum.



Seven Book Trends to watch for in 2025

Food for thought:



As we welcome 2025, the literary landscape presents exciting emerging trends which will certainly appeal to teenagers. One notable development is the rise of “Cli-Fi” (climate fiction), which creatively addresses environmental issues through imaginative storytelling, allowing young readers to engage with real-world challenges. While the focus on diversity in literature continues to grow, with more stories from underrepresented voices that explore various cultural and gender identities, the “mood book” movement is becoming increasingly popular and offers reads tailored to specific emotional needs. Artificial intelligence begins to play a role in writing, assisting authors and sparking discussions about creativity, and interactive and immersive reading experiences are on the rise thanks to digital storytelling innovations like augmented reality.

Finally, social media platforms like TikTok are revolutionizing how readers discover books, leading to a new wave of titles designed to capture online audiences. With these dynamic trends, 2025 promises to be an exciting year for young readers!

Seven book trends to watch for in 2025 [read here](#)



Senior Chess Club

Our Chess Club members enjoyed the visit of local chess experts Mark and Yasmin Flanagan and Commissioner of Education Kalmar Richards in December. Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan are the parents of Odin, Dylan and Bjorn, chess champions themselves. Their visit coincided with the launch by the Bermuda Chess Association and the Ministry of Education of an exciting Island-wide “Chess in Education” programme. Their objectives are to support established school chess clubs like ours, foster the creation of new ones and promote the integration of chess into the school curriculum through teachers’ training.



Just for Fun:

Did you know that reading is a deeply personal experience, varying greatly among individuals and cultures?

Not all readers visualize images while reading, and even those who do can have vastly different experiences. Some people imagine characters and scenes, while others experience spontaneous visualizations similar to live performances. There are numerous ways to engage with storytelling, yet it is common for people to think their own approach is the only or best one. For more information on the phenomenology of reading consider reading **Peter Mendelsund’s *What We See When We Read* (2014)**

