

Parent Library Media Survey (243) : March 2012

1. I have students at the (check all that apply):

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Early Childhood Center		10.7%	26
Elementary Schools		63.2%	153
Middle School		37.6%	91
High School		31.4%	76
		answered question	242
		skipped question	1

2. My child checks books out of the school library.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		0.4%	1
Regularly		66.3%	161
Seldom		22.2%	54
Never		7.4%	18
Not Sure		4.5%	11
		answered question	243
		skipped question	0

3. My child uses electronic databases, research guides, library catalog or library website from home.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		6.3%	15
Regularly		32.1%	77
Seldom		31.3%	75
Never		22.9%	55
Not Sure		7.5%	18
		answered question	240
		skipped question	3

4. My child has enough time to visit the library during the school day.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		0.8%	2
Agree		37.1%	89
Disagree		30.8%	74
Strongly Disagree		6.3%	15
Not Sure		25.0%	60
		answered question	240
		skipped question	3

5. My child has enough time to use the technology.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		4.2%	10
Agree		40.0%	96
Disagree		18.8%	45
Strongly Disagree		6.3%	15
Not Sure		30.8%	74
		answered question	240
		skipped question	3

6. My child uses the library before/after school.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		0.4%	1
Regularly		12.4%	30
Seldom		33.9%	82
Never		50.0%	121
Not Sure		3.3%	8
		answered question	242
		skipped question	1

7. My child would use library if it were open in the evening.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		6.3%	15
Agree		34.2%	82
Disagree		32.1%	77
Strongly Disagree		4.6%	11
Not Sure		22.9%	55
		answered question	240
		skipped question	3

8. The library staff is approachable and helpful.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		19.9%	48
Agree		44.0%	106
Disagree		5.0%	12
Strongly Disagree		1.7%	4
Not Sure		29.5%	71
		answered question	241
		skipped question	2

9. I understand the role of the library media specialist.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree		13.0%	31
Agree		46.9%	112
Disagree		15.9%	38
Strongly Disagree		3.8%	9
Not Sure		20.5%	49
		answered question	239
		skipped question	4

10. I read for pleasure.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		51.0%	122
Regularly		36.8%	88
Seldom		11.7%	28
Never		0.4%	1
		answered question	239
		skipped question	4

11. I use the Dedham Public Library.

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Daily		0.8%	2
Regularly		60.3%	144
Seldom		32.6%	78
Never		6.3%	15
		answered question	239
		skipped question	4

12. If there were a "Friends of Dedham School Libraries," would you join?

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.9%	164
No		31.1%	74
		answered question	238
		skipped question	5

13. Are you aware of the Dedham Reads initiative?

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		54.1%	131
No		45.9%	111
		answered question	242
		skipped question	1

14. Are you aware of the Dedham Library Innovation Team?

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		37.0%	88
No		63.0%	150
		answered question	238
		skipped question	5

15. Are you aware of the activities at the Dedham Public Library?

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		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.7%	154
No		35.3%	84
		answered question	238
		skipped question	5

16. I learn about library programs and services through

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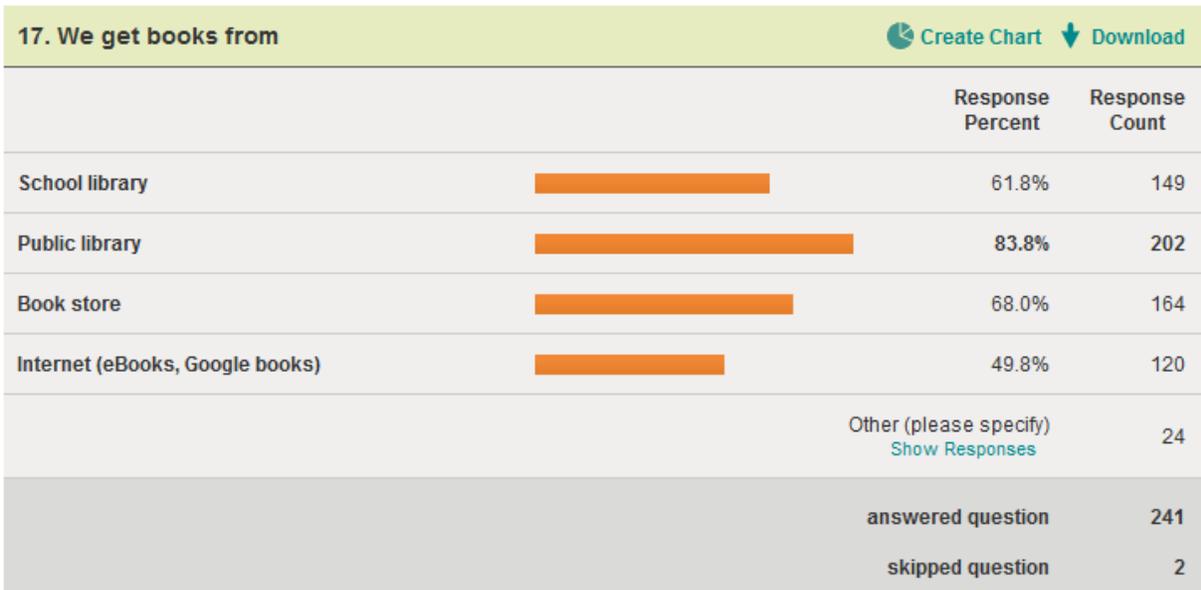
		Response Percent	Response Count
Newsletters		53.0%	80
Orientation		4.6%	7
Library website		42.4%	64
		Other (please specify) Show Responses	89
		answered question	151
		skipped question	92

16. I learn about library programs and services through (OTHER):

- do not know
- the dedham times
- word of mouth
- staff
- I learn about the Public Library programs by visiting the library.
- or newspaper
- friends
- dedham times, postings at the library
- Not aware of any programs or services
- Dedham Times
- on site
- Dedham Times
- local newspaper
- email, local newspaper (Dedham Times)
- Dedham Times newspaper
- the dedham times
- Dedham Times
- flyers around town or at the library, in local papers
- Newspapers & Info posted at the Libraries
- word of mouth
- dedham times
- word of mouth
- visits to library
- local newspapers
- visiting library on occasion
- Dedham Library Innovation Team
- I work at Dedham Public Library
- Dedham Times
- Dedham Times

- newspaper
- physically going to the library, friends involved in library initiatives
- I volunteer at the Oakdale School Library
- Local Newspapers
- Visits
- Email
- friends, local newspaper
- Visits to the library.
- Dedham Newspaper and word of mouth
- Dedham Times, Library visits
- local newspaper
- kids
- by going to the library
- Newspapers, blogs
- word of mouth
- Dedham Times
- Friends
- Facebook
- E-mails
- Not aware of them
- Facebook
- Visiting the Library
- newspaper
- kids and information hanging in the library
- Newspaper and DLIT friends
- school notices
- Dedham Times
- We don't.
- Local papers
- Dedham Times
- Dedham Times
- word of mouth
- dedham times and notices posted around town.
- Dedham Times
- visits to library
- in person visits to library
- newspapers
- dedham patch
- newspapers
- paper
- newspaper
- social media
- news paper
- other parents/word of mouth
- social media
- Dedham times

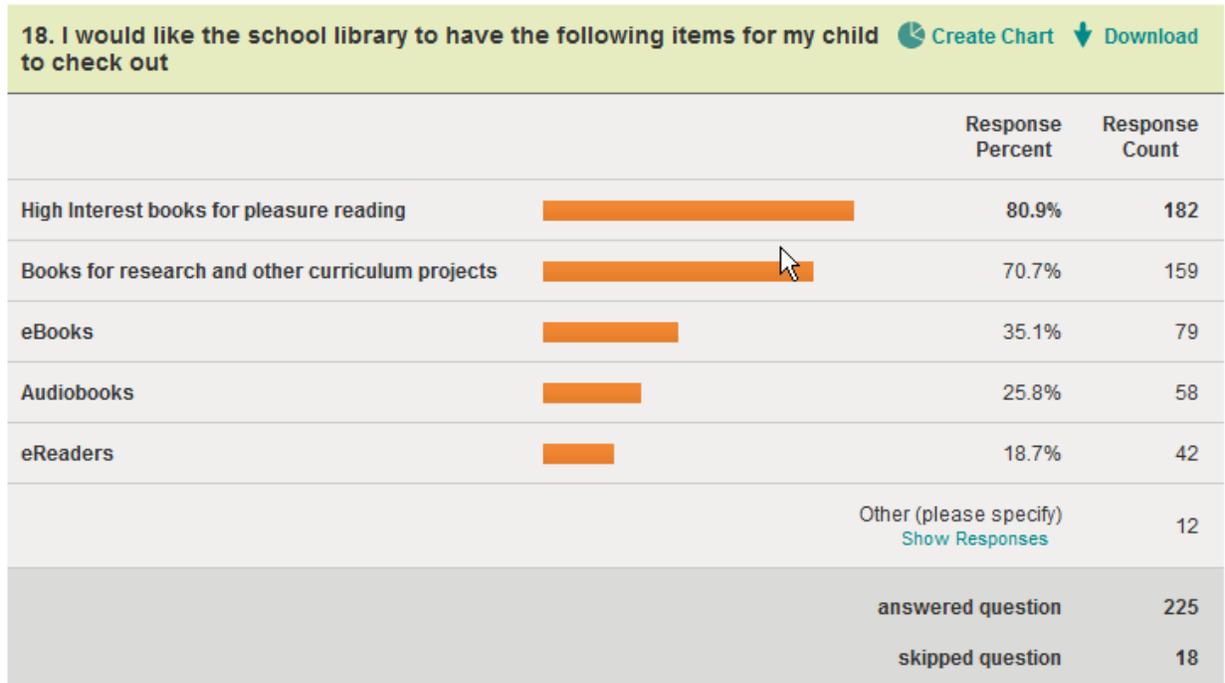
- newspaper
- emails, book groups, word of mouth
- bulletin boards around town
- Facebook and Dedham Patch
- going there
- Dedham Times and email-bookgroup
- newspapers (after the fact, unfortunately)
- School communication
- newspaper
- library visits



17. We get books from (Other:)

- friends
- costco, bj's
- Barns n Noble Nook
- Amazon.com
- friends & family
- Borrowed from friends & family
- other town libraries
- Book sales in schools
- Thrift stores
- gifts
- Internet books from Ebay and Amazon.
- borrowed
- passed among friends
- hand me downs from relatives/friends
- digital downloads from library
- Work libraries
- friends

- Boston Public Library and Milton Library Old colony network
- as a 1st grader she is allowed 1 book per wk at school
- Kobo
- Gifts from family, friends, book swaps
- audible.com
- store
- second hand from friends and family



18. I would like the school library to have the following items for my child to check out (OTHER:)

- access all public librariys as well as school libraries
- dyslexic children
- LGBT reading material
- none
- Videos
- large print books
- books for summer
- Music and videos
- specialized research databases and other technologies as well as training in how to use them and the expectation that they will be used instead of copy/paste from Wikipedia
- The books selection is limited and dated. I have had my elementary children come home with books from the 60 and70s. Variety is needed. Graphic novels and other books of high interests. For boys.
- specifically NOT electronic books or readers. We prefer to monitor this type of "screen time" at home
- hmmm, would need to think about

19. What I like about our school library is

- not sure
- alot of computers
- staff, the students like it, it's fairly new, the librarian tries to stock the shelves with students' interests, and I get to volunteer
- It has a variety of books and we can use Internet for a research and lot more.
- Librarian is very nice and kids like her.
- has computers to print out homework on
- "It has lots of interesting books, fiction and nonfiction."
- There are a large amount of books that can be used for research and pleasure reading.
- Every time my child could not Print their paper at home the could print in school library
- dont know newsletters home
- There is a variety of books for every reading level.
- These is good staff to support my student
- There are a wide variety of book choices for the children to read.
- numerous avail computers
- convenience
- full time working mother...wouldn't know.
- how nice and well-kept it is.
- after school home work club
- The fabulous media center. The space and how it is configured. The amount of light it gets.
- They can always find a book, and can get help when needed. Good resource.
- The staff is friendly, engaging, creative and welcoming.
- The very helpful media specialist
- My child likes to go there and the books are accessible, staff is very helpful.
- I know very little about the school library. I understand that students with studies now go to the library. I believe the media centers in the library are very good.
- available
- recently renovated
- The new librarian is wonderful and that ties in all the other great things.
- I don't know anything about the school library
- I like that the library has computers for my daughter to use.
- We have one and it has real books in it.
- My child visits every week and can take books out weekly
- My child brings home books every week.
- The Librarian is very pleasant and helpful to the children.
- Engaging atmosphere, experienced staff
- The children go weekly.
- the ease of finding a book
- staff physical layout
- The variety of material that is available.
- it engages my kids in trying new books
- Staff and weekly schedule library time
- media specialist, variety, seasonal selections, education about library science
- The staff is very helpful

- The layout of it is nice.
- homework club
- They have a lot of interested books fro the kids.
- the librarian, the lessons, children selecting books together.
- the staff is helpful and friendly. The library is emphasized as a good place for students to learn.
- The librarian is trying to update the library with new high interest books.
- I like the room.
- It is well organized and well staffed
- It is a welcoming environment and regularly gets new books.
- The media specialist helping my daughter find books that engage her interests
- fiction collection
- Librarian is helpful and kind, lots of new books , ked friendly
- DMS - nice space, new technology, open before/after school. Riverdale - computers, smart board, books, libarrian is great, happy that it's staffed every day now
- the staff
- it encourages them to read.
- My kids always bring home a book they enjoy.
- my daughter loves checking out a book each week, and normally checks out two at a time. We are in the process of reading the Harry Potter series together, and the librarian was very understanding about us having to "reborrow" it for a few weeks! Thank you!
- the kids get to take out more than one book
- That the librarian no longer has to go between two schools. I have seen such a difference since last year. I volunteer every week in our school library during my daughters class.
- Avery - librarian is very helpful and knowledgeable. Library is friendly and open.
- Elementary librarians are encouraging reading regularly and plan fun relative activities during and after school. Middle school librarian - according to my son - is "scary" and "strict". He rarely checks out books any more. His classroom libraries seem to be more than adequate and he regularly brings home books from those.
- that my child can get books before or after school and also during lunch and homeroom.
- Wendy Garland is an awesome librarian at the Avery school. She is helpful,thorough and dedicated to making her library run smoothly. She has made it fun to volunteer there.
- They are teaching my children to use the online resources.
- Ms. Nels at Oakdale is fantastic! She gets the kids motivated to learn about great literary topics, like Caldecott Awards.
- My kids love library day and they are excited to take different books home every week.
- Not familiar with the school library
- It's available to the students and is state of thd art.
- Don't know enough about it. Didn't think parents were welcome.
- not sure
- Staff & location
- I think it's great that the library (Avery) is open befor school on select days.
- Mrs. Garland is a wonderful librarian. She is very approachable and loves the kids. We're so lucky to have her at Avery School.
- Both are new and great spaces. The middle school library looks empty.
- Nice facility, helpful staff

- Our Librarian, Mrs. Wendy Garland. She is AMAZING and a true professional. Parents and students alike a lucky to have her.
- the books are really good
- Children enjoy their time there
- large selection of books
- It is available for children to take out books each week.
- There is a wide variety of books covering many different subjects. It is kept clean and neat. The school librarian is knowledgeable and helpful.
- try their best
- 3/18/2012 12:42 AM [View Responses](#)
- The fact that it exists
- accessibility for children during school hours reading incentive programs
- The librarian suggests books to my child.
- Helpful staff
- The librarian at the Avery school has renewed my daughter's interest and love of reading. She has improved the quality, organization, and atmosphere of the library.
- My son is comfortable in the library and with the library staff. He knows where things are and is comfortable asking for help and suggestions.
- There are many comuters for a class to work on research
- The ease of use of technology (plenty of computers)
- School library is meeting my first grader's needs in terms of orienting him to the library, exposing him to different genres and giving him the chance to select and be responsible for books on loan.
- Has good books
- We get to go once a week every week
- Very little.
- Parent's volunteer role in elementary schools-as a parent I love this opportunity to help out and have more firsthand knowledge of the library.
- online catalog makes it easy
- My kids goes there to have a good time
- Location& size
- plenty of books that are of interest to my child
- Oakdale has a fantastic librarian, who really has a vision for the library.
- It's about to be new (Avery) and we LOVE the new librarian Wendy Garland
- my kids can use the computers if they needed to for school.
- Wonderful librarian, Mrs. Garland. My children are excited about the library at the new Avery School, we are expecting great things!
- Convenient location, new, beautiful
- Not sure.
- The librarians are so freidnly and helpful at the Dedham Public Libraries
- Elementary library opened before school hours, three days per week. My son won't miss a day.
- it is a media room

20. Our school library could be improved by:

- not sure
- more computers to use while classes are in use there
- longer hours
- Ensuring library personnel and volunteers monitor books checked out are age appropriate. Several times, my daughter brought home books that were meant for older children and were very frightening. Maybe books could be segmented by age group?
- School Library is the best Library and it doesn't need improvement.
- decorating could be more inviting for young children. More space, maybe a cozy nook for reading books.
- having more recent books
- Having the ability to use appropriate research data bases to be accessed from home computer.
- Don't like the graffiti on some of the tables.
- having newer books that are in better condition
- Longer access hrs to students and their parents. We pay so much money in our taxes for our schools in Dedham we all should have access to the tools our school system has to offer, even neighbors who don't have kids should have access to our school libraries, because they still have to pay taxes for our schools. What a great thought that the place our children spend most of there day is the place parents/adults can also have access to materials and technology.
- My son has taken home books that are not age appropriate. ie. scary books. I would like to see the books that he checks out be looked at closer to make sure they are appropriate.
- Adding more books and making it spacious.
- longer hours
- Having more library time for the children to both complete technology projects and search for books. Also by getting a color printer for the library for the children to complete their projects on.
- more pleasure reading books and current magazines
- making staff friendlier - both my kids are a little afraid of the librarian
- inegrating with the town library.
- longer hours before and after school.
- A deeper collection of books. In all subjects. And perhaps media/arts tools like opportunities for learning photoshop and graphic design.
- having also books according to the reading level of the child sorted by A to Z
- Updating and expanding its "research" books (as an alternative/adjunct to on-line research). Provide more training for the 4th/5th graders in doing research, how to write a research paper.
- Make it more of a resource for students. Librarians could serve as greater resources for students - assisting with research, technology and summer/pleasure reading suggestions.
- My daughter struggles with reading comprehension and as a result, doesn't like to read. I've always wished that audiobooks were more utilized by teachers & librarians for struggling readers as they provide a bridge to the wonderful world of reading.
- more storytimes for children that are not in school yet
- friendly
- more access
- Better books, more books and space.

- tying library materials to class projects to further encourage and support research skills
- helping the younger children select age appropriate books. My 1st grader continually comes home with books beyond her reading level. Very frustrating for her when she struggles with a book that's too advanced - counterproductive really.
- making it larger.
- I didn't know the library was open before and after school. If it is, that should be publicized. I would like to see regular author visits.
- more books!
- better selection of books
- May need a bigger space, it appears cluttered.
- none
- having more time to go there
- joining minuteman system
- if my son used it. He has always loved the Dedham libraries but does not use the school library.
- better organization. There is too much stacking of piles everywhere.
- increased accessibility for the kids during the school day
- Technology
- Having more high interest pleasure books
- Required visits / classes about books which are soon to be phased out (unfortunately).
- more books
- Figure out how to collaborate with the public library. It seems like that would help stretch limited resources.
- having more resources - physical books and Internet resources.
- Having longer hours for students to use before/after school
- More books, more fiction/non-fiction and less fantasy and graphic novels. A separate time to learn computers rather than using library time to choose books and do computer time.
- Better hours
- Increasing the shelving areas for easy reader books and series books
- Collaborating with the public library system
- promoting reading
- having more time to use it
- DMS - no library study/research skills class offered. Library frequently closed without warning. Students not allowed to arrive late after school activity and/or to leave or come back. Would be great if students could stay at library later after school - til 4:30 or 5:00 to do homework or finish projects with other students. Riverdale - it's a very small space and since the class sizes seem to be getting larger each year, it seems like a tight squeeze.
- we like it
- I don't really have enough knowledge about the library to make any suggestions. Maybe the Librarian could send home a newsletter like the music and health teachers do, to tell us more what is going on there. If we knew more, maybe then we could make suggestions.
- having a birthday book that is when it is a child's birthday that a parent could buy a book and have a photo placed in it of their child that way the kids can remember the name and author of the book and the library gets a new book
- weeding out the older volumes that are not used and having more time to highlight what we do have.

- Avery - the opening of the new school will solve most of the library issues. DMS - Being more involved/open to students. My child tells me that they never use the library in school.
- Allowing more use after school - encouraging social discussion, book clubs, etc. Use the library during the summer months.
- having more space somehow because sometimes it gets crowded after school. so my son doesn't bother to stay and do homework because several times there was no where to sit.
- Since the Avery is moving in a month I am hoping that there is nothing to change about the new library. All it really needed was a better space.
- Having more to read and opening up for kids to go to the library instead of indoor recess in their classrooms.
- more books!
- Better selection
- My children go into the library during there schedule times and that is it. Do not know how the program can be improved, do not know enough about it.
- More communication. Other than the library day there is not other information about what the purpose is other than the obvious to check out books.
- becoming the main library for the town: incorporate the schools into the total function of town government.
- I would love to see the town and school library programs more closely linked. Also, a strong initiative to teach students how to conduct true academic research using appropriate technological (and old school paper) tools is crucial.
- Longer hours
- Being open 8am-3:30 for befor school and after school. But I can understand the school not wanting to be responsible for students whereabouts. Extended hours in the winter would be nice.
- being a part of an everyday/weekly schedule
- Not sure-once the move takes place then I'd probably have suggestions.
- Making it open for free time more
- best books in dedham public school
- Adding time during the day to enjoy it and adding more books
- Build in more time for students, especially on IEPs, during the school day to visit the library.
- more help - 24 kids in class
- More books, more room,
- -improve the collection for boys' reading choices -availability to check out e-readers, i-pads -Do not have toys, games, posters available through the Scholastic book orders and book fairs
- I think the books should be more prominent than the computers.
- Providing specific classes available to students on research and how to use resources. This is a necessary skill for college students.
- More books!!!!
- Amount of fiction books that are not JUST the popular books. More variety and awareness of different genres such as myths, folktales, Caldecott, mass book award winners, etc. Prove more access to higher level non fiction books.
- More books, available later in the afternoon
- There should be more time for kids to gain access to the library, Because my daughter is in band and chorus, she rarely has time to use it.

- A greater variety of books available for all reading levels. Purchasing some newer books. (Some that my kids have checked out are pretty old and torn. They should probably be discarded)
- Having more physical space
- Having audio books! More books , more computer time
- encouraging library use as more than just a computer lab
- A better understanding of the role the librarian plays in my child's education. A librarian that is more helpful and understanding with my child.
- possibly adding more open library time for children to use it during before/after school hours (as in the middle school).
- more biographies about athletes for the boys
- more computers in the library
- By directing students to the book they need to read
- Ore time to use computers
- constantly updating the selection of books and technology
- ECEC has far too few books in its collection and many are of very poor physical condition. Our family has had children there and will in the future, and we'd like to see improvements in both the collection as well as the activities during library time. As a volunteer, I enjoyed reading, but the read alouds did not encourage discussion, didn't seem to have any extension on that day, and never connected to future library visits. The time was very passive and didn't seem to offer much beyond an enjoyable story.
- We are by no means anti-technology, but given potential health risks for younger children, we feel very strongly that computers and electronics in the elementary schools should be 'wired' as opposed to 'wireless/wi-fi", whether it's in the library or classroom.
- Already has, see above
- new books
- Bigger selection of books. Most of library consists of tables & chairs
- Not sure.
- more staff, including volunteers
- More library time during school hours.

21. A question I have about the school library program is

- none
- not question at this time.
- Does the library media specialist also teach technology.
- No questions at this time
- I realize I know little about it. I am a fan of libraries however and am willing to support Dedham in improving their school libraries. Noreen Troccoli
- SRF
- We need more imformation about what is avail.
- Could children go there before/after school to do homework, research, etc. in a supervised setting?
- What does it have to offer students and how do our students use its services?
- Is our school librarian full time? I know a few years ago we were sharing one with other elementary schools.
- Please continue to contact parents if you need volunteers

- If the schools get eBooks, etc., will there be training for the students?
- none
- Do the children have time to read a book during Library time or are they just picking out a book and leaving?
- none
- What is offered?
- Do they have DVD's?
- I think someone who specializes in computer technology and a library would be most beneficial.
- How much time should my child spend on technology in the library at school?
- Why does it seem like it is just a place to use the computers?
- Could we use the computers more for the students?
- none
- What time is allotted during the school day for independent use of the library?
- Who is the Librarian? I'm sure I could look it up or ask my kids. I hear about all the other "Specials" teachers. I don't know anything about the Librarian.
- How can we donate books?
- Very difficult to get the children on the computers and done while also checking out books during the same period. Is there a better way of doing this?
- How should the DMS library be used by students?
- Nothing at this time
- Why don't they stay open on weekends? And does the middle school library have the capacity to become the main library for the town since the Town library are so old and out of date physically and intellectually The Town Libraries are a place for mother to bring their baby to get out of the house and for old folks to chat. Kids from the middle school and high school would spend time in a library if it is vibrant: have you ever gone to the Quincy, Milton, Wellesley or Brookline libraries? Every body is there kids, grownups and something is always going on.
- Why do I never hear a peep about it?
- None
- how many books are in the library
- How do you use the library technology from home
- n/a
- Is the librarian full time?
- Could you send home a list of what is in the collection at my son's elementary school? We would like to choose books together before he has library special
- having distinct reading levels listed by alphabet level assigned by their teacher. ie, if the reading level is T, then list the books at that level.
- How does a child know about hours and availability?
- Do you have access to research databases such as kids info bits or any of the gale databases?
- Didn't know they had any programs
- Why do we not have reading classes going to the library every week or two?
- If a grade has a research project, is the library willing to have extended hours (either before or after school) for the students to work on it?
- FYI I take my kids to the public library about every 2 weeks we usually go to the Wellesley or Needham library the selection is better , I was much more involved in the

programs at the library when my children were younger , because we go to other libraries I don't know what's going on at Dedham, maybe they could set up an electronic newsletter you could subscribe to. my children are in grades 3 and 5, the one book they check out of the school library does not last them a week, I think now that RIVERDALE has a full time media specialist they can go more often but we have books at home.

- Why, after elementary school, is actual library (book) importance not stressed -
- What are the educational objectives of my child going to library once per week?
- We are by no means anti-technology, but given potential health risks for younger children, we feel strongly that computers and electronics in the elementary schools should be 'wired' as opposed to 'wireless/wi-fi", whether it's in the library or classroom.
- I feel very comfortable asking Wendy if I have questions
- Comment: the library is difficult to use for 2 working parent family w/ student in band. Evening hrs for few nights that coincide w/ research projects would be great. Or, if not evening, an extra hour until 5pm would help. More books that coincide with the school projects would be helpful so that students can use school library instead of town library.
- TBD
- how much communication is there between the librarian and the teachers, in regards to school projects, current classroom topics, assignments, lessons, etc