

Book Swap Back at Brookfield

By Lauren Michelson

This will be the third year the Brookfield Book Swap will be held, with books collected April 29th through May 1 and books available for children to select on May 6th and 7th.

The event, which allows students to bring in books they have tired of and exchange them for books brought in by others, is being renamed. For the past two years, it has been called the Brookfield Book Fair but it will now be known as the Book Swap to avoid confusion between it and the Scholastic Book Fair. The Scholastic Book Fair took place this past fall and is expected to be another annual event.

For the Book Swap, students bring in as many books as they can. In return, they

get one point for each book, minus one, which is donated to charity. Parent volunteers sort the books that are brought in onto tables in the Social Hall. Children then can select the books they want, up to the amount of points they have earned. Any extra "points" – books – are given to charity. Students also get a free dress day for participating.

The extra books that are not exchanged go to the Sacramento Children's Home. A spokeswoman for the home said they appreciated receiving the books last year. They used them at the Home in a new library and, in addition, there were so many that they gave them to families, therapists, and a program called Birth and Beyond. Out of the 3,700 books students

brought in last year, 1,500 went to the Home.

Kathleen Beasley, mother of 6th and 7th graders, created the book exchange for Brookfield when she moved her two daughters here from another school. Ms. Beasley said she thought the Book Exchange at her children's old school was a great success so she decided to start one at Brookfield. She said the school adapted to the Book Swap well even though they had not had a book fair before. The school has been very supportive of the event each year, as demonstrated by the large number of books brought in.

Ms. Beasley said the swap not only encourages students to read but also gives them a chance to share with those less fortunate.

By participating in the Book Swap, students earn a free dress day.

Science Fair: From Mice to Satellites and More

By Kate Johnson

Trying to squeeze their science project topics out of the 6th and 7th graders before the Science Fair came could have become a science project on its own. But on the 20th of March, there were no secrets. The Multi-Purpose Room was packed with colorful display boards and many eager scientists yearning to explain their new theories.

Some students decided to be in groups, while others decided to work alone. Some people believe that there were certain disadvantages and advantages to being in a group.

One of the 6th grade groups consisted of Katie Jelechich and Katie Rose Menemeier. Their project was The Temperature in Which

Nasturtiums (a type of flower) Grow Best. They chose this topic because it interested them and they are still happy that they chose it. They used eight pots, with three seeds in each pot. Two pots were watered with 100-degree water, two with 120-degree water, two with 64-degree water, and two with 40-degree water. Both Katie and Katie Rose were happy that they chose to work as a group.

Alex Darwish, Jonathan Wong, and Kevin Crawford, all 6th graders, were in a group also and they did Food Preferences in a Mouse Maze and Mouse Speed. They picked their topic because they felt it wasn't that hard of a concept and it interested them. To test their hypothesis, they built a maze, placed

food at the end of it, and placed mice in the maze to see which type of food they liked the most.

They are happy that they picked that topic. Alex, one of the group members, said that he decided to be in a group with his friends "so that they could all share the great experience" of participating in a science fair.

Seventh grader Arima Claypool picked her project because she was interested in how pressure affects objects. Her project was The Correlation Between Air Pressure and Water Compression. Arima worked alone. She said she doesn't like working with other people because "you're never in control." She pumped air pressure into a sealed glass tube to compress the water and observed

how much air was pumped in and what happened to the water. She said that her experiment was really interesting and that she's glad that she picked that topic.

The topics selected by students really varied. Christine Nishite, a 7th grader, picked the topic of How Satellites Stay in Orbit. Sadie Barnard and Natalie Allen, two 6th graders, did an experiment on what diet system worked the best. Two other 6th graders, Taylor Chang and Britta Swanson, did an experiment on how the color of test paper affects the results.

Mr. Wong said that he thought that the first Brookfield Science Fair was a huge hit and that all of the students were very creative with their projects.