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Librarian makes changes to meet needs of new age generation



Photo by Clio Roker

Bogan poses in front of one of several posters decorated by students who spend their free period in the library. Bogan outlines all of the posters herself and lays them on the tables for students to color.

By Lauren Cianci

Anyone who has walked into the high school library in the past few months has seen the bright posters colored by numerous students, others laughing over board games, and some who are merely enjoying the stress-free period by decorating book marks or pictures.

The start of Great Valley's

first "Brain Break Day" revolutionized the changes in the library, such as a board game station, coloring sheets accompanied by an assortment of markers, and other stress-relief activities that include blackout poetry, and a bookmark station. In reaction to Brain Break, Kelsey Bogan, the school librarian, decided to keep the fun activities out for

the rest of the school year.

"Students are stressed out more than once a year, so why not keep the activities that help students rejuvenate?" said Bogan.

The most notable change in the library has been the subtle pops of color, sprouting out each week along the walls of the book shelves. Not only do these large sheets of color set the tone of the welcoming, stress-free environment, they express the interworking of students collaborating together, as the coloring pages were decorated by none other than the students who find themselves sitting around the tables and socializing in the library during their free period.

"Very rarely will I see a student sitting along on his/her phone. Students are getting more face to face connection time and having more productive conversations than I have ever seen before. And they are also enjoying a nice break from the high pressures and stress of their rigorous courses," said Bogan.

The face of the modern library is changing. As the en-

tire way of living has changed through technology, the library must adapt to meet the needs of its residents.

"The library at its core is a help center, so we evolve as the needs evolve. Today, students would rather socialize while working or listen to music while studying instead of working in a completely quiet space. We opened the computer lab last year up as a quiet space for students to study and work, but no one used it. They would rather work in groups and collaborate," said Bogan.

The library is on its way to becoming a dynamic space that meets both academic and mental health needs. Especially in a high pressure school, the library is morphing into a place where students can not only work on homework if they need to, but also decompress and rejuvenate.

In the coming months, Bogan wants to create more useable space. As more paperback books are going out of style, and database sites are increasing in popularity, there needs to be less shelf space and more research centers. Unused books

are going to waste when students can use the library as a place to both connect and research topics for their next class

"As a room that is central in the high school building, my ultimate goal for the library is for it to become the heart of the school," said Bogan.

Students in all grades maintain positive reactions to the bright and colorful changes in the library.

"I love coming to work every day and hearing the positive feedback from the students. I have had numerous students come up to me and thank me for putting out the board games or the puzzles. The period that they would normally spend stressed for a test is now a period where they can clear their mind and walk into the class relaxed and calm," said Bogan.

Putting the phone down and connecting with the others isn't hard for us to do. Something so innocent as coloring around a table has the power to unify so many students and build friendships.