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**Joie Tyrrell**

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## • **Hunger Games**

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Twilight Saga, move over! Students and teachers at Amityville Memorial High School have latched on to another popular series by Suzanne Collins. Approximately seventy fans and thirty-five teachers collected in the school library over lunch to discuss how they would survive in the nation of Panem, a fictional country in the best-selling author's book *The Hunger Games*.

Hosted by the district's Literacy Team, the book club included a cross-section of students who read the first story in a trilogy about teenager Katniss Everdeen, who lives in a post-apocalyptic world and who chooses to take her sister's place in a televised game of survival.

"One of the benefits of *The Hunger Games* is that it appeals to both boys and girls," English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Suzanne Smith stated. "This series is gaining as much popularity as the *Twilight Saga*."

Over pizza and snacks provided by the teachers, students discussed the book and listened to a presentation by reading teacher Cathy Wells, who discussed how to identify poisonous and non-poisonous berries like the players in the book. She explained that holly berries and bittersweet will ensure the death of a person, while rose hips and junipers have medicinal effects.

Librarian Elaine Gross also explained that the reading club is open to all students who would like to participate, and it is sponsored by the district's Literacy Team to promote reading. The school ordered 100 copies of *The Hunger Games* for its students.