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## School Library System Updates

Brrr! The chilly weather has arrived! With two short holiday months in a row, our latest newsletter is a combined November/December issue—and boy, do we have a lot to share!

In mid-November, **Kathy Starks (OA)** and I attended the American Association of School Librarians conference in Hartford, CT. To read about Kathy's experience, check out page 3. As well, you can read my write-up of key sessions at <http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/2013/11/23/aasl-2013>

**Carrie Randall (ME)** is featured this month in a new newsletter column on page 2—"BTB SLS PLN."

That's a lot of letters that means "Broome-Tioga BOCES School Library System Personal Learning Network." The hope is to facilitate expertise-sharing between librarians in our region—in this first column, Carrie suggests ways to connect. I hope you'll reach out so we can begin building a shared learning space! Stay tuned—and if you have an idea to share, please send me a blurb for a future newsletter!

With PLNs on the brain, check out this issue's Common Core Connection to read about how PLNs and the Common Core relate.

This month's school spotlight features **Melissa Santacrose (CF)** and **Mary**

**Ann Karre (BCSD)**. Melissa held a Hunger Games trivia event, and Mary Ann won a set of top teen books. Great work, ladies!

On November 20, an after-school "ESIFC Reflect and Refresh" session was held. If you were not able to make it, visit <http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/empire-state-information-fluency-continuum> to find the PowerPoint and handouts from the session. We have a few workshops left in 2013—see page 4 for additional information.

Have a lovely, restful vacation—and see you in 2014!

*Nicole Laura*

## Common Core Connection

"Personal Learning Network," or PLN, is buzzword that you may be hearing more and more. A PLN expands on the notion of a Professional Learning Community (PLC), as defined by the DuFours. "PLNs" are typically online using tools like Twitter, blogs, or wikis, and serve to expand your professional connections beyond your school community.

So...what does a PLN have to do with the Common Core? Quite a bit! Did you know that EngageNY is a PLN? This site was built to share information and expertise widely; the Network Team Institutes and related resources are a perfect example of a blended online/face-to-face PLN model. Not to mention, the Common Core is a perfect

PLN topic! Across the country, we are now speaking a semi-**common** language, making this topic ripe for long-distance collaboration and conversation.

To read more about the Common Core and PLNs, including existing Common Core PLN resources, visit <http://www.ascd.org/ascd-express/vol8/809-wisniewski.aspx>

## School Spotlight: Chenango Forks Middle School

In November, to celebrate the theatrical release of *Catching Fire* (Book 2 in the "Hunger Games" series)

Melissa Santacrose held a *Catching Fire* Team Trivia contest. Students were quizzed on their knowledge of the books; winners were awarded *Catching Fire* chocolate bars.

Said Melissa, "The kids had a blast.....as did I! They loved it! We will be doing the same in the High School after Thanksgiving break."

What a great way to celebrate and grow students' love of books!



Students display the book's three-finger salute, signifying admiration and respect.

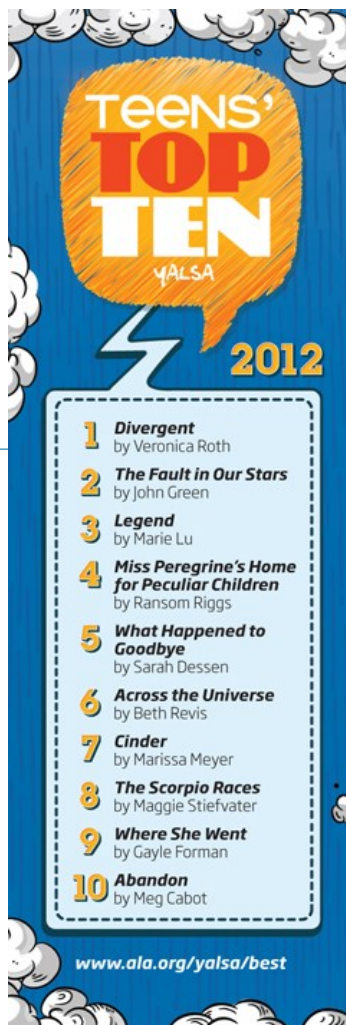
## School Spotlight: West Middle (Binghamton)

Mary Ann Karre was recently named a recipient of the 2013 Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Teens Top Ten Book Giveaway.

As a winner, Mary Anne will receive a set of the 28 titles that were nominated for the 2013 Teen's Top Ten. Amazingly, Mary Ann was the ONLY school librarian who won this giveaway!

From YALSA: "Teens' Top Ten is a 'teen choice' list, where teens nominate and choose their favorite books of the previous year. Nominators are members of teen book groups in sixteen school and public libraries around the country. For more information about the Teens' Top Ten, please visit <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/teens-top-ten>."

Congratulations, Mary Ann!



## BTB SLS PLN—Carrie Randall

From Carrie: Is anyone interested in creating an online group where we could share lesson plans, book reviews, tips and procedures? I don't want to create hundreds of emails or extra information...I was thinking of a professional "support" group where we could overcome isolation, quit re-creating the wheel, and encourage camaraderie. As the sole elementary librarian in my district and after years at the high school level, I would value your professional support! We could share 2-3 sentences about books we have used for great lessons, worksheets from the IFC that were great or needed adapting,

procedural help (e.g. Kindergarten book check out). I have re-created many of the ESIFC sheets; I would be happy to share with others and bounce ideas around the group. All grade levels are welcome. Please let Nicole or I ([crandall@me.stier.org](mailto:crandall@me.stier.org)) know if you are interested and your preferred method of contact (e.g. email group, FB group, etc.) If you are interested in communicating via Twitter, please find me [@CarrieKarlek2](https://twitter.com/CarrieKarlek2). Let's keep some strength in our numbers: keep in touch, ask questions, connect with others and support librarians and libraries every day! Thank you!

## AASL Scholarship Winner Report—Kathy Starks

Getting to attend AASL in CT was an incredibly valuable experience for me.

I met fellow librarians from NY, LA, GA, Canada and New Zealand, and discovered how similar our experiences all are, and how much we share our love of students and our chosen field.

I walked away from every session I attended with a full brain – learning about the incredible variety of collaborative tools used in a one-to-one laptop school, or about an innovative PhD cognate being taught by some of the finest minds in our business, or

***“I walked away from every session with a full brain...***

***[The sessions] left me buzzing with ideas”***



discovering ways to promote the library program with your school board, left me buzzing with ideas for how to bring this information back to my school/district, and to colleagues within the Broome Tioga BOCES.

The size of the vendor exhibit was occasionally overwhelming – my shoulders ached from lugging around tote bags full of books, pamphlets, t-shirts, pens and doodads. Probably my favorite part, though, was hearing from bestselling authors about the writing process and what inspires them. Getting to hear Jon Scieszka banter with Neal Schusterman was priceless, and I learned from David Levithan that he is working on a companion to *Every Day* from Rhiannon’s point of view!

I thank Nicole and the Broome Tioga BOCES SLS department for giving me this opportunity to experience such an important professional gathering.



*Out and About: Harpursville Jr./Sr. High School's beautiful book tree!*

### Visit Us Online:

<http://btboces.org>

<http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com>

 [@nwaskielaura](https://twitter.com/nwaskielaura)



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## Upcoming Events

SLS Council Meeting

December 11, 2013 | ISC-A | 8:00-11:00

Introduction to the NOVEL NY Databases

December 18, 2013 | ISC-A | 8:00-3:00

**REMINDER: You must register on Gale's external site in addition to My Learning Plan.**

**Gale registration is available via this link:**

<http://novelnybinghamton.eventzilla.net>

Click Here or visit <http://goo.gl/1s2ARj>  
for our Professional Development Catalog

**MyLearningPlan**<sup>®</sup>  
PLAN » MANAGE » LEARN » EVALUATE

## Media Library Reminder

Looking for some great media resources to support this month's lessons? Don't forget—we now have Media Library resource lists with items aligned to monthly events. Find them here:

<http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/monthly-media-resources/>

## Conferences, Workshops, and Webinars

Scholastic is hosting customized NOVELNY training sessions to help inform NOVELNY users about Grolier Online's program features. The 12/10 webinar features an overview of the 8 online databases available via NOVELNY, the 12/19 webinar focuses on supporting the Common Core through the use of Grolier databases.

**WHEN:** December 10, 3:00PM

**REGISTER:** <http://goo.gl/7cQiZE>  
Event password: novel

**WHEN:** December 19, 3:00PM  
**REGISTER:** <http://goo.gl/F9kUx5>  
Event password: novel

TeachingBooks is offering a free webinar on how to use TeachingBooks lesson plans and resources to support your curriculum.

**WHEN:** December 18,  
10:00-10:25 AM  
**REGISTER:** <http://goo.gl/Bf0XZY>



The 2014 NYLA-SSL Conference Committee is looking for submissions for workshops, poster sessions, and other multimedia presentations.

To apply, visit  
<http://cnysl.weebly.com/2014-ssl-conference.html>