

Inside this issue:

School Library System Updates	1
Curriculum Connection	1
New Libraries!	2
School Spotlight	2-3
SLS/Media Library Updates	4
SLS Facebook Page	4
NYLA-SSL Scholarship Winners	5

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School Library System Updates

Since our last newsletter, a lot has happened! First, I'm back from maternity leave and my little one is 6 months old already!



In that time, MacArthur and Owego Elementary schools both opened their doors — along with two new beautiful libraries. Check out page 2 to see pictures of the gorgeous new spaces. One of our local librarians, **Lonna Pierce** (Binghamton), was honored locally and nationally for her work

with the Eleanor Hendricks Countywide Poetry Recitation for Children.

Rita Foran (SVMS) implemented a fantastic program using robotics in her library. **Amy Merrill** (Binghamton) has some wonderful interviews with the Charlotte Book Award Winners shared on her blog. More info about our local "movers and shakers" is on pages 2-3.

In SLS News:

The SLS team has recently developed a Facebook page. We've also been busy ordering lots of new items for the Media Library. Read more on page 4. Our five year Plan of Service was recently submitted to the state. To see the updated plan, visit <http://www.btboces.org/SLSCouncil.aspx> and click on **Plan of Service 2016-**

2021. This plan guides the SLS's activities for the next five years. Thank you to our Plan of Service subcommittee (**Kassie Frech, Rick Gridley, Nancy Orr, Phyllis Sanford, and Debbie Sluzar**) and the entire Council for their hard work on this! Once again, we are pleased to announce we will be offering scholarships to the **NYLA-SSL**

conference! See page 5 for excerpts from our 12 recipients' application essays. Check out this issue's **Curriculum Connection** for Social Studies updates. Finally, if you have not already registered for our May 20, 2016 **Sharing the Vision** event, check your email and don't delay! This year's event is shaping up to be great. Looking forward to a busy Spring!

Nicole Laura

Curriculum Connection

At the recent New York State Council for the Social Studies conference, representatives from NYSED provided a first-glance at the new **draft** Global regents. As a part of this presentation, the proposed test format was revealed. The proposed format includes:

- All questions, multiple-

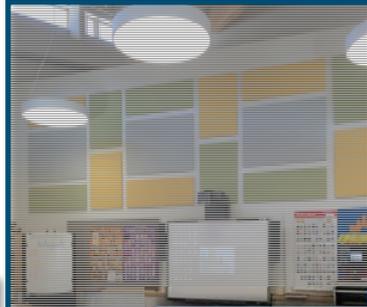
choice and written response, will be "in response to a stimulus" (AKA, a primary/secondary source)

- The short written responses will always include a question regarding "sourcing" - bias/perspective/point-of-view/purpose/reliability

- Part 3 will be an "enduring issues" essay in which the prompt remains the same but the "stimulus" or documents change
 Librarians are poised to be invaluable partners in preparing students for these new exams. This is an exciting time to be a school librarian!

New School Libraries!

I had the privilege of visiting the two new buildings in our region shortly after they opened: MacArthur Elementary (Binghamton) and Owego Elementary. Both spaces are unique, modern, and simply lovely. Check out the pictures here:



Owego Elementary



MacArthur Elementary



Lonna Pierce: American Graduate Champion

After 25 years of running the Eleanor Hendricks Countywide Poetry Recitation for Children—an event she founded—Lonna Pierce was recently recognized as an American Graduate Champion by WSKG and The Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

American Graduate Champions “commit their time, skills, and resources to make sure that young people succeed in school. These individuals, groups, or organizations play an active role in improving educational outcomes for students.”

Lonna’s dedication to literacy, both as a librarian and through her work with the Countywide Poetry Recitation,

earned her the distinction of being named a 2016 American Graduate Champion.

To watch the video highlighting Lonna’s accomplishments, visit <http://wskg.org/education/american-graduate-champion-lonna-pierce/>

Congratulations on this well-deserved award and honor, Lonna!



School Spotlight: Amy Merrill

Did you know that Amy Merrill (Binghamton) serves on the New York State Charlotte Book Award Committee? Did you know that she writes a blog dedicated to celebrating books and reading?

Amy Merrill's blog, *Mrs. Merrill's Book Break*, has been featuring a series of interviews with authors nominated for the New York State Charlotte Award.



Through her work on the award committee, Amy reached out to these

authors to see if they would be willing to share insight about their personal experiences with reading and writing. Amy's questions for each author touch on their personal favorites, their sources of inspiration, new projects, and why readers might enjoy their books. To check out the interviews, visit

<http://mrsmerillsbookbreak.blogspot.com/> to see photos and read interviews with several authors. Featured author interviews include:

- Jason Lefebvre
- Lori Mortensen

- Pamela Tuck
- Jane Yolen
- Tammi Sauer

Thank you, Amy, for sharing your wonderful blog!



School Spotlight: Rita Foran

In honor of March Madness, Rita Foran (Susquehanna Valley), offered 8th graders a chance to pit robots against one another in a game called Capture the Kingdom.



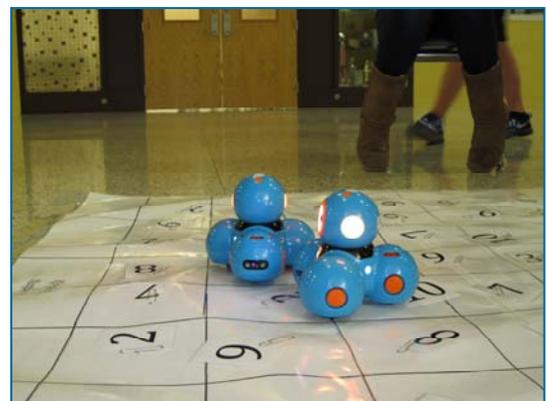
Dash, a mobile robot, was programmed using block coding (think: Hour of Code) to make it to the opposing kingdom, while picking up the greatest



number of points.

To do so, each student had to study the game board and figure out the code (using only 4 blocks of code) that would take their robot to the desired block. A Sweet 16 style bracket was set up, with both boys and girls playing against each other. A good time was had by all!

Districts that belong to the Regional Science and Math service can borrow Dash and Dot through SNAP! Contact Kristina Garcia for details.





Out and About: Makerspace at the NYSCATE ConnectED Conference on March 11, 2016 at SVHS

Visit Us Online:

<http://btboces.org/SchoolLibrarySystem.aspx>

 #btsls #btlibrarians

Broome-Tioga BOCES



Upcoming Events

Sharing the Vision:
Shared Goals for Student Success

May 20, 2016

8:00AM-3:00PM | Doubletree Hotel
Breakfast & Lunch are provided

<http://www.tinyurl.com/STV16>

Click on the image below or visit <http://goo.gl/1s2ARj>
for our Professional Development Catalog



Media Library Updates



The Media Library is ready to support your makerspace initiatives! We've recently added:

- Snap Circuits (Jr. and Pro)
- Roylco Straws and Connectors
- Cool Tool 4-in-1 Workshop (Kid-Friendly Woodworking Tool)
- Little Bits Deluxe Kit
- OSMO iPad Games

Check them out on SNAP!



We're on Facebook!

"Like" us on Facebook to get updates, articles, news and events all about the School Library System! Search "Broome-Tioga BOCES School Library System" or click on this link:
<https://www.facebook.com/Broome-Tioga-BOCES-School-Library-System-974544135916216/>

Be sure to like the page and turn on notifications so you don't miss a post!

2016 NYLA-SSL Scholarship Winners

"I was prepared when my school became a GAFE school because I learned about Google Drive & Docs at this conference. I was not intimidated to try Makerspace activities because presenters showed me that it was easy. I have made inroads with my Social Studies department because of the knowledge I received about the Social Studies framework & DPLA. I am currently working with a teacher to introduce Genius Hour in her class and believe that I will, once again, learn things that will enhance this experience for my students."

Rita Foran, SV

"...That's the thing about these conferences, you never know what you are going to learn or who you are going to meet. And no matter what, I always leave SSL with a brain full of ideas and more importantly, the enthusiasm to carry them through. Last year when I got back from SSL I guided my students through a Tall Tale genre study using Stephen Kellogg's books and we had a Glamour Pet day after reading 'Glamourpuss' by Sarah Weeks (both authors presented at the conference last year)."

Alicia Sherman, OA

"I am especially interested in 3D printing & how other libraries are using it in their curriculum. I look for workshops that I can turnkey & teach my teachers & students."

Debbie Sluzar, Binghamton

Some of the ideas that I learned at past conferences [and implemented]:
 "The Information Literacy Gap Between H.S. & College"
 "LGBT Books in Your Library"
 "Make a Big Impact @ Your School Board Meeting"
 "Cultivating Male Readers Using Narrative Non-fiction"

Pat Westgate, SV

"I am able to come back with new ideas that bring added vitality to my program. I was able to bring back 3 solid activities from last year's conference"

Phyllis Sanford, Deposit

"I would love to gather ideas about implementing a Digital Citizenship week in my building."

Liz Engle, UE

"I feel it's crucial that librarians foster a love of reading for pleasure and lifelong learning, and would like ideas on how to create a formal reading community at my schools."

Lonna Pierce, Binghamton

"This is my first year as a HS library teacher...I [will] use this experience to further my teaching craft and expand my influence."

Patti Sweeney, Vestal

"By having this opportunity, I will be able to increase my personal growth, broaden my horizons and make contacts within my field"

Lisa Besecker, Binghamton

"I am the sole certified librarian in my district. Attending this conference would provide me with an opportunity to learn new ideas [and] network with other professionals."

Chris Ruf, CV

Katie Burke, Binghamton

"I have never attended a library conference and it has been one of my professional goals... I am interested in any sessions about collaboration, as I am just beginning to build relationships with teachers in my new building"

"The speakers and workshops are outstanding every year and have given me so many ideas for improving my program."

Sandy Stiles, OA