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School Library System Updates

Snowy days, freezing temperatures…it's hard to believe Spring is just around the corner!

In January, the School Library System held an Inquiry Text Sets Workshop. Thank you to all who attended—it was a productive day and I can't wait to see the text sets you're all creating.

If you were unable to join us, you can find a brief description in our "Common Core Connection" below. As well, all the resources from this session are on Schoology. Just join the Inquiry Text Sets group using the access code KB8JX-4C3JD. Need help? Check out our video tutorial here:
https://vimeo.com/120483724

In other exciting news, the School Library System has gone mobile! The Broome-Tioga BOCES School Library System app is now available in the Google Play and Apple App Store. Simply search "BT BOCES SLS" to locate our app in the store. It's free to download, and has all of the SLS resources in one mobile-friendly spot.

On Page 2, find lesson/programming ideas from **Phyllis Sanford** (Deposit) and **Stephanie Mika** (CV). On Page 3, join me in congratulating the School Library Media Specialists who will be representing our region at NYLA-SSL as scholarship winners. As well, find more information on the Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core conference and Media Library updates (3D printers! Augmented Reality!) on Page 4.

As a reminder, registration is now open for 2015's Sharing the Vision Event on My Learning Plan, and nominations are open for Administrator of the Year. Additional details have been sent via our list-serv.

Have a great rest of February—and here's looking forward to warmer weather in the coming months!

Nicole Laura

Common Core Connection

Inquiry Text Sets
Text Sets, while certainly not a new concept, have recently gained fresh prominence with the advent of both Common Core ELA and the new Social Studies Framework. Inquiry text sets represent a new way of thinking about a tried-and-true practice.

To create an inquiry text set, begin with your objectives in mind. What do you want students to learn? What key information do you want them to pull from the text?

Next, gather resources that are interesting AND include the information that meets your objectives. Often, it works well to start with a compelling image/multimedia and scaffold the complexity of the text upward as students become more comfortable in the subject matter. Remember—text is not limited to the printed word. If it delivers information, it can be considered text: audio, video, photographs, paintings, infographics, articles, maps, ephemera. The key is matching the text to the objectives—not just gathering an exhaustive pile of resources, but carefully selecting texts that work together to deepen student understanding/drive inquiry.
Want to learn more? Join the *Inquiry Text Set* group on Schoology!

School Spotlight: Deposit Elementary

The following is a guest post by K-12 librarian Phyllis Sanford:

I have been teaching a unit on "Internet Safety" at the sixth grade level for the past 3 years and each year have added more components. I start the unit by using the analogy of driving a car. I tell my students that a car is a great tool but without proper driver training it can be very dangerous. The Internet is the same. We need to learn strategies and skills that can help keep us safe while online.

The main resources for this unit are from the free NetSmartz Workshop (http://www.netsmartz.org), "an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children that provides age appropriate resources to teach children how to be safer on and off-line". This is a high-interest unit that promotes higher-level thinking along with lively and in-depth discussions. I am always pleased when I am able to observe students think and communicate their feelings and thoughts. Each lesson has a different focus and is accompanied by a video; we cover privacy settings, cyberbullies, gossip, revealing too much information, and social media sites.

As a culminating activity, students develop an Internet safety plan using PowerPoint. Students work in pairs or groups of three. Each student contributes and each group presents their plan to the class. So, as well as covering internet safety strategies this unit encompasses the National Technology Standards (ISTE-NETS) 1-6.

On a 6-day cycle, the unit takes about 2 months. I believe it is time well spent. I always walk away learning from my students; I am amazed by their knowledge of all the that is available online. I'm concerned by their lack of personal filters and their oblivion as to how their online activity may affect them. This unit will continue to evolve as our technology changes and it is my hope that through it I can make a difference in how my students view their online citizenship.

Thank you, Phyllis, for sharing your unit and reflection! Phyllis can be reached at psandford@deposit.stier.org

School Spotlight: Chenango Bridge Elementary

The following is a guest post by Chenango Bridge Elementary TA Stephanie Mika:

We've all heard the phrase, "don't judge a book by its cover". The students at Chenango Bridge Elementary school are putting that phrase to the test! During the month of February they have been taking part in the "Take a Chance" book challenge. Students in grades 4 through 6 have the chance to check out a book that they know nothing about. They cannot judge the book by its cover because the books have been carefully wrapped. The only detail revealed about the book is the genre.

So far, the students at CBE have been enthusiastically checking out new books. There have been many smiles and a bunch of "oh yeahs"! Once the students have finished reading the book, they must complete an exit ticket to receive a sweet reward. The "Take a Chance" challenge has the kids excited about reading.

Thank you, Stephanie, for sharing your display and program! Stephanie can be reached at smika@cvcsd.stier.org

Congratulations to our 2015 NYLA-SSL Scholarship winners!

Below, find excerpts from their scholarship application responses:

As the sole librarian in the Deposit Central School District I am always looking for ways to collaborate with other librarians and glean from them ways to improve my practices and teaching. I always come back to school rejuvenated and excited about my profession.

Rita Foran, SV Middle School

Phyllis Sanford, Deposit

This conference is simply the best PD opportunity I will have any chance of being part of all year. It obviously features the latest thinking, trends and scholarship, and there is no doubt that each time I am able to go I bring back ideas that I can put to work immediately. Beyond that, it is the best chance by far to drink the tonic of enthusiasm and general creativity that abounds among the attendees and come back to work with a fresh, uplifted attitude!

Sandy Stiles, Owego Apalachin Middle School

I will be working with our Social Studies department on the new Framework and would like to learn all the possible ways that I can collaborate with them. I am also very interested in promoting more inquiry based research in my

Alicia Sherman Owego and Apalachin Elementaries

I attended my first conference last year and it was one of the most surreal experiences of my life. I got to meet Doreen Cronin (who is now my FB friend, by the way!), left with a bag full of freebies and a ton of wonderful ideas. Being the sole elementary librarian in my district, I enjoy any opportunity to confer and collaborate with my peers. That being said, the sense of camaraderie that surrounds these events is truly refreshing and much needed as we approach 100 days of school this year. I don't really know where Tarrytown is, but I can't wait to get there!

Pat Westgate, SV High School

I am particularly interested in the workshops concerning the new Social Studies framework and new research techniques. Teachers have been asking for my assistance in adapting the existing curricula to fit the NYS Common Core standards.

Lonna Pierce, MacArthur and Thomas Jefferson Elementaries (Binghamton)

Between Dr. Carol Kulthau & Dr. Joette Stefl-Mabry, I am looking to improve my research process at the 2015 SSL Conference. I need to clarify and tighten up the way I teach research to elementary students, so they will be better prepared for middle & high school assignments.

Rick Gridley, BT BOCES

My ability to better serve students will be enhanced through my attendance.

Patti Sweeney, Chenango Forks Elementary

I have used new apps and strategies for teaching my students that I have learned through attending the SSL Conference and have also networked with other great librarians to share ideas with them.

Teena Lauth, Binghamton High School

Getting to go to a state conference is always very important part of networking and staying current. I always look forward to trading ideas that work for collaboration, new usage for technology and ways librarians help students present information in exciting ways.

Debbie Sluzar, Binghamton High School

This conference is always the best opportunity to learn new things, recharge my batteries, and get inspiration! An opportunity to attend this conference will benefit not just me professionally but members of my department who are not able to attend. I have checked out the workshop sessions and found many that are very useful such as increasing our student usage of eBooks [...] and collaboration with Librarians and different departments like Art and Social Studies. It is such a productive couple of days that it makes my head spin!

Out and About: Starr Latronica booktalks some of the best children's literature of 2014 at BT BOCES on 2/13/15

Visit Us Online:

http://btboces.org

http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com

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Upcoming Events

Kathleen Odean: The Best New Books of 2014
March 18, 2015 | BCPL | 9:15AM-3:00PM
*Lunch is provided

Elementary Librarian Roundtable
March 26, 2015 | ISC-C | 4:00-5:00PM

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Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core Conference

The third annual Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core conference will be held at the Cultural Education Center in Albany on August 11 & 12, 2015 . The deadline for interactive lab presentation proposals has been extended until **March 27, 2015**. If you have recently collaborated with a classroom teacher or cultural institution, I highly encourage you to apply! More information can be found at: http://bit.ly/1IHzkaW

Media Library Updates

3D Printers: The School Library System has recently been awarded 4 donated Cube 3D printers! Once the printers arrive, we will be developing professional development and loaning them to pilot schools through the Media Library. Stay tuned for more details!

Augmented Reality: The Media Library now offers a number of Augmented Reality-enabled kits. Pictured are PopAR books, with embedded AR that is accessible through a dedicated, free app. As well, many of our primary source/Jackdaw kits have been updated with AR content.

In the primary source/Jackdaw kits, look for this symbol AURASMA to find images with AR videos attached. The content can be viewed through the free Aurasma app by searching for "BT BOCES" and following the "btmedialib" channel.