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School Library System Updates

The School Library System kicked the 2014-2015 school year off with a bang. In October, we hosted copyright expert Anne Dalton and technology guru Kathy Schrock. Both sessions were fast-paced, action-packed, and full of fantastic information! In November, the School Library System hosted our inaugural elementary librarian roundtable discussion. With topics ranging from scheduling to makerspaces, the collegial conversation was time well-spent. If you missed the first session, we will be gathering again on January 15 from 4-5PM.

As we race toward the winter break, don't forget that we have a few

exciting events coming up in December and January. On December 4, we will host Deborah Caldwell-Stone, deputy director of the American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom, for a presentation on privacy and censorship in the school library. On December 12, we will have our second Council meeting of the year. Be sure to check the School Library System Council page for minutes after the meeting. In January, we have our second elementary librarian roundtable on the 15th, and a session dedicated to creating text sets to support inquiry on the 22nd. See page 4 for links to My Learning Plan.

This issue's School Spotlight features three librarians in our region: **Terri Brandt** (Windsor), **Carrie Randall** (ME) and **Peg Gates** (Binghamton). As well, see page 3 for a write up of November's Book Fest at the Discovery Center; **Amy Merrill** (Binghamton) coordinated the volunteers for this event. Don't forget to check out page 4; this issue's "Out and About" photo is from a Hunger Games: Mockingjay trivia event at Chenango Forks High School, organized by **Melissa Slater**. There are truly dedicated, amazing librarians in our region!

Have a wonderful rest of 2014!

Nicole Laura

Common Core Connection

Collaborative Lesson Planning

One of the primary curricular goals of library media specialists is collaboration. Whether this is asynchronous collaboration by integrating classroom content into a fixed-schedule library lesson or direct collaboration with a subject-area teacher, librarians seek to make the

inquiry and research skills we teach relevant by anchoring them in grade-level content.

Finding the time to collaboratively plan a joint lesson can be challenging. Enter Common Curriculum: www.commoncurriculum.com It requires the creation of a free account; once logged in, you can modify various lesson planning templates, invite colleagues to

view, comment, and edit your lessons, and save/copy/print plans. If you are looking for a web-based platform for organizing your lesson plans with the option share and collaborate with a group of colleagues, Common Curriculum may be your solution.



School Spotlight: Windsor Middle School

Librarian **Terri Brandt** and Social Studies teacher **Stefanie Olbrys** recently collaborated to bring the experience of immigrants arriving at Ellis Island to life for 8th grade students.

To establish background knowledge, Terri and Stefanie used graphs, infographics, pictures and videos, audio clips and newspaper articles.



Students closely read selected texts, created accompanying Prezis, then taught their classmates about what they had learned.

Next, Terri and Stefanie created an immersive experience for their students. Beginning in "steerage", students made their way up the stairs to "Ellis Island" (the library). When they arrived, they assumed the identity of a real immigrant who had the same last name. As students moved through the arrival process they viewed pictures, listened to readings and audio clips, and were asked questions about how they would feel and react. Some students were even detained and subjected to an

interrogation! They wrote journal entries after each experience. To conclude the unit, Terri and Stefanie will guide students through an examination of current immigration news. What an excellent example of powerful library/classroom collaboration!



School Spotlight: Homer Brink/Maine Memorial (ME)

In a recent lesson, librarian **Carrie Randall** led her 5th grade students through an investigation of library types and organization. First, Carrie facilitated a discussion about the difference between public and school libraries. Topics included the definition of "infotainment", users of each library type, and research needs. Next, Carrie guided students through a close read of two pro/con

articles about library re-organization and doing away with Dewey Decimal. After reading, students debated the major points of each, using evidence from the article to support their opinion. Last, students brainstormed other possible ways of organizing the library. This lesson inspired students to think critically about the

purpose of library organization, gain a deeper understanding about the types of information found at a library, and develop a well-supported point-of-view.

Perhaps Carrie's students will create a new and improved library organizational method with their newfound understanding!

School Spotlight: East Middle School (Binghamton)

Students at Binghamton's East Middle recently had the chance to "meet" author Vivian Vande Velde, thanks to a collaboration between librarian **Peg Gates** and guidance counselor **Jennifer Farrell**. This year, Peg and Jennifer established the "East Side Story" book club, which was funded by a Binghamton Alumni Foundation Grant. To join the club, East Middle School students completed a reading interest survey. Club members were each loaned a Kindle loaded with the book *Cloaked in Red* by Vivian Vande Velde. After reading the book, the

group formulated questions for the author, designed name tags to use for the Skype session, and listened to the Author's Note in preparation for discussing the



book. During the Skype chat, Ms. Vande Velde answered questions and shared names of publishers that accept student work. East Side Story members will continue to read books on their Kindles. Possible future events include meeting a Binghamton University basketball player to discuss college recruitment (in conjunction with Feinstein's *Foul Trouble*), Skyping with Susquehanna Valley Middle School's book club to discuss Palacio's *Wonder*, and blogging with author Kate Messner.

Around Our Region: Discovery Center's Bookfest

On Saturday November 22nd, local school librarians hosted a literacy activity at the annual Discovery Center Bookfest.

Amy Merrill
(Binghamton),
coordinated school librarian
volunteers from
several districts:

Pat Westgate
(Susquehanna
Valley),

Mike Koehler
(Maine Endwell),
and **Kathy Starks**
(Owego Apalachin)

These volunteers represented the local school librarian professional organization, School Librarians of the Southern Tier-East (SLST-East).



Children also created bookmarks for Picture Book Month and parents were given a brochure that listed great book suggestions to read aloud.

The Book Fest provided an opportunity for children to engage in fun literacy

activities, see their school librarians in the community, and help families and community members see the impact that librarians have on children.

Visitors to the SLST-East table were invited to participate in making a dragon puppet to celebrate visiting author David Kirk's new picture book, *Oh So Brave Dragon*.

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Out and About:: Mockingjay Trivia at Chenango Forks HS

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Upcoming Events

[Intellectual Freedom, Censorship, and Privacy in the K-12 Library](#)
 December 4, 2014 | 8-11 AM, ISC-B

[SLS Council/Communication Coordinators Meeting](#)
 December 12, 2014 | 8-11 AM, ISC-C

[Elementary Librarian Roundtable](#)
 January 15, 2015 | 4-5PM, ISC-C

[Resources to Support Research: Text Sets](#)
 January 22, 2015 | 8 AM—3 PM, ISC-A

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

MyLearningPlan[®]
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NYLA-SSL Awards

NYLA-SSL offers a number of awards/scholarships to help offset the cost of conference attendance, purchase library materials, assist with the cost of classes, or celebrate a supportive administrator. The deadline to apply for the following awards is **December 15**. Click on the links below to apply.

- [Beatrice E. Griggs Scholarship](#)
- [Beatrice E. Griggs Elementary Administrator's Award](#)
- [NYLA SSL Secondary Administrator's Award](#)
- [NYLA/SSL Scholarship Award Sponsored by Follett](#)
- [Robert E. Barron Cultural Media Award](#)
- [NYLA/SSL Conference Awards Sponsored by Gale](#)
- [Laura Wedge Conference Award](#)

Media Library Updates

Did you know that the Media Library has a music collection? From famous composers, to musicals, to Billboard top hits by year, we have your musical needs covered!

Log in to SNAP and search by clicking "I Want It All", then narrow by "Audio Compact Disc" under "Resource Type" on the right to see our entire collection — we have over 200 CDs for you to borrow!



Media Library Music Collection