

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009



Pat's Desk Talk

The Power of the Communication Coordinators Meetings

One of the things I enjoy most about Communication Coordinators Meetings, formerly Liaison Meetings, is the collective energy in the room. It is so powerful to have that many creative, dedicated educators in one place. If administrators could see the true depth of caring the SLMS at these meetings demonstrate, they would never dream of cutting a position or splitting their duties.

During the brainstorming session for advocacy ideas, I observed the passion, excitement, frustration, and anxiety evident on the faces in each group. It was more than obvious that everyone wanted to get their ideas out. They wanted to take part in the give-and-take of ideas for reaching their patrons more efficiently and consistently. You could see the palpable energy in the room...the desire to be heard...the desire to share their belief in what they do day-in-and-day-out. This was a room full of people who believe in the value of what they are doing.

The lists that were generated are being used to create a master list of advocacy

ideas to be shared with all of our SLMS and Teachers-on-Assignment in the library. Pick and choose from the list and try to do at least one a month. Now more than ever, patrons need to know who you are, what you do, and how it will help them achieve their own goals. Start small and grow from there but never take it for granted that people know what you do.

We will be emailing the compilation of lists to you soon. We hope this list will continue to grow. Please send new ideas to Mary McCormick or Patricia Skelly and we will add them to the list. Ideas that have worked for you may work for others. We don't need to create from scratch when we have so many great minds to borrow from right here in our area. We consider this a work in progress. We will periodically update the list and post it on the SLS webpage.

Usually after a day long meeting, I leave work exhausted. But the January 2009 Communication Coordinators Meeting left me energized and more determined than ever to fight for what all of our patrons deserve...the best school library ever!



Contact us:

Patricia Skelly	(315)793-8504	pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick	(315)793-8505	mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger	(315)793-8506	krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar	(315)223-4707	anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009

Notes from Kenn:

HAPPY 2009!

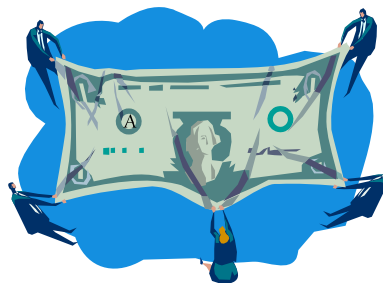
Welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable holiday break for you and happy New Year! Winter continues its assault on us, but it's nice to have those rare days of sunshine and no snow; it does my heart and spirit good when those happen. Any day I don't have to snow blow or drive to work or home in a snow storm is a good day for me.

ENLISTING YOUR HELP

Every now and then I receive a direct request from a teacher or other staff member looking to borrow something through EILL. I have always accepted this type of request and sent the item directly to the requesting person to avoid getting the librarian involved in a request they didn't place. While I'd like to see the requester go to their librarian to make the request, it has worked out well for the most part. However, when the item is overdue, not having a "voice" in the school to contact the borrower presents a problem. While I do send overdue notices to the person who borrowed it (rather than the library), I have no way of knowing they actually received the notice or the status of the item. From this point forward I will be asking you to be my voice to help obtain overdue items, should the need arise. This doesn't happen often, but having someone I can ask to contact the borrower would be most helpful and greatly appreciated. Therefore, in the future when an item is borrowed in this manner, I will send an email to the librarian stating what has been borrowed

and by whom. In the event I need your assistance retrieving an overdue item you will at least be aware of the loan and can act on my behalf. Again, this rarely happens, but in the event that it does I will be appreciative of your help.

As much as I'd like to think winter is almost over, I know we've still got a couple months to go – darn it! In the mean time, keep warm, stay safe and THINK SPRING!



Mary's Notes:

Budget time is here again, and I know that this can be a stressful time for all of us. Whether you are a seasoned LMS or a "newbie" there may be questions about products, services, or the budget process itself. If you have any questions about the SLS portion of your budget planning, please give me a call. I will do my best to answer your questions, or to get the answers for you.

We have some new database products available this year, and we can offer other databases you would like for your program. I am also happy to request trials from vendors; it is always best to "test drive" a product before you purchase it for your library. Do let us know what you think of the products you

Contact us:

Patricia Skelly	(315)793-8504	pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick	(315)793-8505	mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger	(315)793-8506	krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar	(315)223-4707	anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009

are using and the trials for new products. It is always interesting to get feedback on these.

Budgets are likely to be tighter than ever before, which means we will all need to make smart, well informed choices. It is more important than ever to understand what you are paying for, and how best to maximize your funds. Do give us a call if you have any questions or concerns about budgeting: 793-8505 or mmccormick@oneida-boces.org.



Anne's Notes:

I have been working at the Utica Public library and I am frequently asked about series. No one ever seems to know the individual titles in a series, they just know the series title, and they invariably want to read every book in the series, in order. If you experience the same thing at your library, you'll want to make sure your catalog records have accurate 440's.

If your library is a high school library, you probably have the "Twilight" series by Stephenie Meyer. Each book in the series has an individual title, which belongs in the 245.

245 a| New moon /

Each book in the series has a number. Your 440 should have this information in subfield v.

440 a| The Twilight Saga; v| book 2.

Some series make it difficult for librarians by putting the series title in front of the actual title on the front cover. One such offender is "Cirque du freak". Looking at the covers of these books, you'd think that they're all called "Cirque du freak." But when you look at the title page, you see that that is not the case. To be accurate, your 245 must reflect the actual title:

245 a| Lake of souls /

You'll need a 246 to reflect what's on the cover:

246 a| Cirque du freak : b| lake of souls /

And then you'll need a 440 :

440 a| Cirque du freak, the saga of Darren Shan; v| bk. 10

Now, the book will come up whether the student searches for Darren Shan, Cirque du freak, or Lake of souls.

If you have any questions about series, feel free to call (315) 223-4707 or e-mail me.



Contact us:

Patricia Skelly	(315)793-8504	pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick	(315)793-8505	mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger	(315)793-8506	krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar	(315)223-4707	anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009

From Tina Toglia:

Confidentiality in the School Library Media Center

What exactly is confidentiality in a library context? As soon as circulation became automated the threat to privacy was in jeopardy on a large scale. Libraries amass a mountain of statistics about inventory, circulation, computer usage, etc. To throw away all of this potentially very valuable information would be folly; but to ignore the cries of privacy advocates would be equally reckless. The original U.S.A. Patriot Act gave FBI authorities the right to confiscate library records without a search warrant. The revised law, which was passed in 2006 states that law enforcement must clearly state which records they want before they start looking, rather than conducting a random search. The ALA believes that this revision, called the "library clause" is only a token improvement (Weiss). "The right to read without government interference is certainly a basic American right" says Congressman Bernard Sanders (I-VT) who is afraid that students will be afraid to research such controversial topics as Osama Bin Laden and nuclear terrorism (Whelan).

The American Library Association's (ALA) stance on privacy is written in "Policy 52-.4 Confidentiality of Library Records". It states that confidentiality extends to "information sought or received, and materials consulted, borrowed, acquired." This includes such things as circulation records, reference

interviews, ILL records, and database search records (Wools). Furthermore, the ALA urges librarians to insist on a court order before releasing records to law enforcement authorities (Wools).

How can this affect us as school library media specialists? Privacy is a necessary component for free inquiry to take place, especially with teens and pre-teens. But do we assist a student in finding information on bomb building? Nuclear terrorism? What if we discover a student has been reading materials on anorexia or suicide? Especially in the teen years students are exploring many difficult topics, and some of them may be personally relevant. Not every student has an adult family member to whom they can go for frank discussion on sensitive topics. Sometimes the anonymity of the library is their only refuge.

How do we balance students' need for information with concern for their safety and well being, and in some cases, concern for the safety of others? The library media specialist may want to seek the advice of the school counselor or psychologist if they feel that the safety of the student or others is at risk. The school counselor would be experienced in the practice of confidentiality, and would also have more expertise to judge whether a situation was truly alarming. The principal would also be a possibility, especially if the situation involved safety of the building. And, of course, teachers are bound by law to report suspected cases of child abuse (Adams).

4

Contact us:

<i>Patricia Skelly</i>	(315)793-8504	pskelly@oneida-boces.org
<i>Mary McCormick</i>	(315)793-8505	mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
<i>Kenn Runninger</i>	(315)793-8506	krunninger@oneida-boces.org
<i>Anne Nassar</i>	(315)223-4707	anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009

Even more mundane situations, however, can threaten privacy, and although situations such as these may not be life threatening, they may cause a student unnecessary embarrassment if they are not handled with discretion. For example, if a student has a grossly overdue book or books, the most respectful action on the part of the LMS would be to send a note home to the parent, rather than calling the student's name out loud in front of other students. In another scenario, the LMS can offer to put a requested book on hold rather than reveal the name of the student that has possession of the book. This could even be utilized as a "teachable moment" to demonstrate the value of privacy.

Privacy can also be an issue if there are sign up sheets for computer use, if students use school computers to send e-mails or instant messages, or if the browser history is not erased routinely. Additionally, the LMS should keep circulation statistics for as little time as necessary, at which point the records should be destroyed or at least expunged of any personal identification.

Regarding computer use, the library's privacy policy and/or warnings should be clearly posted. If your library does not have a privacy policy, you should draft one. If you have input into the decision, be prudent when purchasing an Internet filtering product, as some will sell the database of users to third parties (Maqi). When purchasing system software, make sure you have the option of deleting temporary files. In general it is not necessary to retain personal

circulation records once the borrowed item has been returned. If you are in charge of the computer terminals, set them to delete any cookies, downloads, browser caches, browsing histories, or identifying information every night (Maqi). Set security cameras only on areas that are out of the line of sight, for safety reasons, rather than on computer monitors, for example.

Finally, it is always prudent to act with discretion and seek legal advice if necessary.

Works Cited

- Adams, Helen R. "The Age of the Patron and Privacy." March 2007. School Library Media Activities Monthly. 28 July 2008
<<http://www.schoollibrarymedia.com/articles/Adams2007v23n7.html>>.
- "The Troubled Student and Privacy." School Library Media Activities Monthly 24.4 (2007): 34.
- American Library Association. "Position Statement on the Confidentiality of Library Records." American Library Association. 28 July 2008
<<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/positionstatements/aaslpositionstatementconfidentiality.cfm>>.
- Maqi, Trina J. "Protecting Library Patrons' Confidentiality: Checklist of Best Practices." Illinois Library Association Reporter 25.6 (2007): 14-16.
- Minow, Mary, J.D., A.M.L.S. LibraryLog Blog: Are student records

Contact us:

Patricia Skelly	(315)793-8504	pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick	(315)793-8505	mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger	(315)793-8506	krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar	(315)223-4707	anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

January 2009

protected by federal law (FERPA)? A surprising analysis. 5 July 2005. 29 July 2008

<http://www.blog.librarylaw.com/librarylaw/2005/07/are_student_lib.html>.

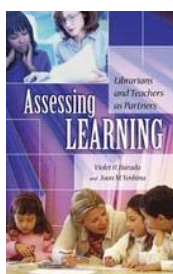
Romero, Anthony, and Temple-Raston, Dina. "'Strangely Patriotic' Civil Liberties." Voice of Youth Advocates 30.3 (2007): 197.

Weiss, Laura B. "Patriot Act Reauthorized with a Few Changes." School Library Journal 52.4 (2006).

Whelan, Debra Lau. "New Legislation to Oppose Patriot Act." School Library Journal 49.2 (2003).

Woolls, Blanche. The School Library Media Manager. 3rd. Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2004.

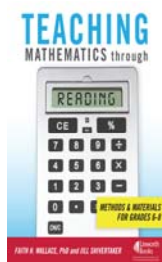
NEW! NEW! NEW! JANUARY 2009 SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION ADDITIONS



**Assessing Learning:
Librarians and Teachers
as Partners**
Authors: Violet H. Harada
and Joan M. Yoshina
Publisher: Libraries
Unlimited, 2005

The book addresses the following topics as they relate to school library instructional programs: purpose of assessment, essential

elements, what to assess, multiple methods and management /communication of results.



**Teaching Mathematics
Through Reading:
Methods & Materials for
Grades 6-8**
Authors: Faith Wallace, Jill
Shivertaker **Publisher:**
Linworth, 2009

This is a research-based book for teaching mathematical literacy. It encourages teachers and librarians to use all types of texts to teach mathematical concepts and standards to young people; shows how to use informational trade books, literature, and environmental text to infuse mathematics into lessons. Subjects taught and illustrated with text and activities include: number and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis.



**Looking Forward to
Monday Morning: Ideas
for Recognition and
Appreciation Activities
and Fun Things to Do at
Work for Educators**
Author: Diane Hodges
Publisher: Corwin Press,
2005

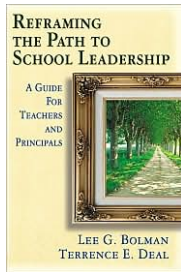
Low-cost, fun ideas that will provide a fresh slate of team-building strategies offers activities to use during special school events, staff development meetings, and throughout the workday to easily acknowledge staff members when they do a good job.

Contact us:

Patricia Skelly (315)793-8504 pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick (315)793-8505 mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger (315)793-8506 krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar (315)223-4707 anassar@oneida-boces.org

The School Library System Newsletter

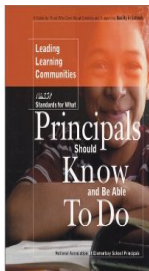
January 2009



Reframing the Path to School Leadership: a Guide for Teachers and Principals

Authors: Lee G. Bolman and Terrence E. Deal
Publisher: Corwin Press, 2002

Leaders use multiple frames or lenses to view common challenges and to solve problems. This book discusses how to reframe issues/situations to reduce anxiety and ensure success in dealing with them. Four frames are: political frame, human resource frame, structural frame, and the symbolic frame.



Leading Learning Communities: Standards for What Principals Should Know and Be Able to Do.

Created by: National Association of Elementary School Principals

Leading Learning Communities identifies six standards that NAWEASP believes together characterize instructional leadership in schools. They include: balance management and leadership roles, set high expectations and standards, demand content and instruction that ensure student achievement, create a culture of adult learning, use multiple sources of data as diagnostic tools, and actively engage the community.



Back to Rock: an Introduction to Famous Composers and their Music
Author: Rosemary Kennedy

This title comes in three formats: a book, a CD, and a DVD. The content focuses on composers of different historical periods. It also includes information about the era, the composers' lives, and their works.

Contact us:

Patricia Skelly (315)793-8504 pskelly@oneida-boces.org
Mary McCormick (315)793-8505 mmccormick@oneida-boces.org
Kenn Runninger (315)793-8506 krunninger@oneida-boces.org
Anne Nassar (315)223-4707 anassar@oneida-boces.org