

The School Library System Newsletter

October 2008

Pat's Desk Talk

Four and counting!! Leatherstocking is a little like Christmas for me: all the planning and excitement leading up to the big day; the big day itself with a whole new level of excitement and tension; seeing friends, meeting presenters, delicious food, lots of talking and even more laughter. And then it's over and we start planning for the next year, slightly exhausted but hugely optimistic for another great event.

This year we have prepared a nice smorgasbord of information for you. With Math as our focus, it has been a wonderful challenge to find a good blend of Math, literature, technology resources, and connections between classrooms and libraries. We hope that you will all find something of interest to make this day worthwhile for you.

Of all the curriculum links for librarians, Math is often the hardest. People usually see math as numbers and libraries as words. But there are many ways the two blend together, overlap, and run parallel paths. We hope this year's conference opens your eyes to these connections and helps librarians reach out to math teachers and math teachers to turn to librarians for assistance.

Allison Zmuda, our keynote presenter, has many books to her credit and is an invaluable resource on curriculum, assessment, classrooms and libraries. I think all attendees will find something of value in her presentation. Her sectionals

are actually linked this year. Session A & B go together. This will allow her to go much more in-depth with her topic. The last of her sectionals will be a discussion with librarians on her latest book, *Librarians as Learning Specialists: Meeting the Learning Imperative for the 21st Century.* All of the librarians in the O/H SLS will be receiving a copy of her book (as soon as it comes into our office) so that you can be prepared for the discussion. I know I will be in that one for sure!

Our featured author, Amy Axelrod, is a delightful person who has created the Math series "*Pigs Will Be Pigs*" She will share her experiences and insights in two sectionals. The content will be the same in both sections and she will have a book signing at the registration table after her sessions. Books will be available at the book store in the vendor area.

The other sectionals are full of wonderfully useful technology resources, literature links, and fish! We are sorry to say that the **Digital Storytelling sectional is cancelled** but we are working on a replacement even as I type.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference. It should be another great day for Leatherstocking 2008.



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October/November Staff Development & Meetings

Library Support Staff Workshop

October 7, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Court St. Building, Training Lab
Pat Skelly

Teachers in Libraries Workshop

October 16, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Court St. Building, Training Lab
Pat Skelly

Leatherstocking Conference

October 29, 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
Radisson Hotel, Utica

Liaison Committee Meeting

November 13, 8:45 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Herkimer BOCES

Advisory Council Meeting

November 20, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Court St. Building, Training Lab

AASL Institute: Reading and the Elementary Librarian

March 4, 2009, Hart's Hill Inn, 8 a.m.–3
p.m.



Teachers on Special Assignment in School Libraries

To all of the teachers on special assignment in the library, I put out a special message encouraging you to attend the meeting on Oct. 16 here at BOCES on Court St. You are serving your districts in a very unique situation. Without any special training in library work, you are expected to run a library and meet the information needs of staff and students. This cannot be an easy situation for you.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together all those in the same situation, discuss librarianship as it REALISTICALLY applies to you, and to build a network of colleagues with whom you can share ideas and issues. I will be hosting the event and have an agenda of ideas although I hope to have the discussion session driven by your actual needs not my perception of your needs.

Please join us. I look forward to working with all of you.

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Notes from Kenn:

FALL IS IN THE AIR!

Ah, yes... the colorful leaves, their crisp crunch under your feet and the smell that is undeniably fall! It really is a pretty time of year... if only it didn't mean that winter is just around the corner!

As everyone is settling in to their routines, here's a reminder of the simple steps for submitting an Expanded ILL (EILL) request. Remember to submit a *separate* request for each title. To make an EILL request, please follow these steps:

- 1) Go to www.oneida-boces.org/sls
- 2) Click the icon of a computer that reads "Interlibrary Loan Email Request Form" under it.
- 3) Select "Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES SLS Expanded ILL" in the grid of lenders
- 4) Fill out the form completely, making sure to enter your complete email address
- 5) Click "Submit" when done
- 6) Print the Confirmation page
- 7) Give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done!!

By following these simple steps, your request will be sent to an EILL specific email account. I will then send you a reply of "Request received – being processed." If you do not receive this email, I did not receive your request.

When the material arrives, I will send an email letting you know when it will be delivered to you.

Please refrain from sending EILL requests to my personal email as it is much harder to track and reply to requests that come to this email. As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Be sure to get out and enjoy the fall! Take a walk, eat a crisp fall apple or take a scenic drive. Most importantly, listen to your inner kid and play in the leaves! Come on – you know you want to!



Mary's Notes:

We are well into the swing of the school year – some days it feels like something is swinging back at us! I hope all of you are off to a good start, and back in the groove of school.

There are a few items to share with you regarding the SLS Newsletter. This year we will be doing an issue every month, with the exception of January and February. That will be a combined issue; January is a busy month with testing, and February has that lovely week-long break for all of you. With the exception of the January/February issue, you can expect the Newsletter the first Friday of every month.

This month we are fortunate to have an article by Tina Togliola, who worked this

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summer as an intern at School Library System. We would love to include articles by our librarians in the Newsletter. If you have articles or lesson plans that you would like to contribute, please be in touch. We are always looking for ways to foster communication between librarians, and this will be one more way to share.

Do you have areas of interest to you that you would like to see addressed in the Newsletter? Are there topics you might need more information on? If you have a particular need for information on a subject (plagiarism, weeding, collection development – I don't know – you tell me!), let us know. We will do our best to do a focused article on your area of interest.

As always, if there is anything we can do to help you, please be in touch.



Notes from Anne:

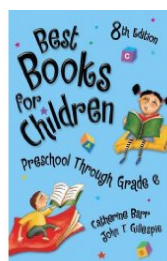
Do you have a box or a shelf or maybe a closet full of “weirdos” – items that you just never get around to cataloging? Do they just sit there, month after month, year after year, collecting dust?

Shouldn't you do something with them? Of course you should! Either have a bonfire, or else send them to me, and I'll catalog them for you.

Box them up and send them – just make sure that you include a sheet of barcode labels.



**NEW! NEW! NEW! OCTOBER
2008
SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM
PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION
ADDITIONS**



**Best Books for
Children Preschool
through Grade 6,
Eighth Edition:
(Children's and Young
Adult Literature
Reference)**

Authors: Catherine

Barr and John T. Gillespie

Publisher: Libraries Unlimited, 2005

Lists over 26,900 in-print titles, more than one-third of them new. Thematic arrangement with each entry providing bibliographic information and a brief annotation. Many also contain award information and citations to reviews.

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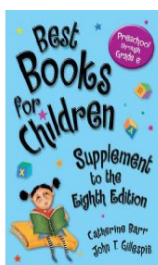
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Indexes provide access by author and illustrator, title, subject and grade level..



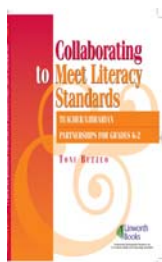
Best Books for Children, Supplement to the Eighth Edition: Preschool through Grade 6 (Children's and Young Adult Literature Reference)

Authors: Catherine Barr

and John T. Gillespie

Publisher: Libraries Unlimited, 2007

This supplement to the 8th edition guide to children's books includes nearly 4,500 new in-print titles. Thematic organization, annotations, complete bibliographic data, and reviews make this volume useful for reader's advisory, research, and collection development. Notes series and award winners.

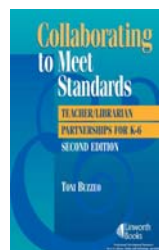


Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for Grades K-2

Author: Toni Buzzeo

Publisher: Linworth, 2007

Standards-based collaborative lessons that build a strong bridge between the school library and the classroom. Written for elementary school library media specialists and their K-2 teaching partners, this book coaches readers on methods to meet student literacy standards. In this “balanced literacy” age, collaboration is a means to address national, state, and local literacy standards.



Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for Grades K-6 (Second Edition)

Author: Toni Buzzeo

Publisher: Linworth,

2008

This revised edition of the popular Collaborating to Meet Standards series provides information on envisioning, planning, teaching, and assessing in partnership with colleagues to positively impact student learning. Includes 16 fully collaborative units that have been tested nationwide.



Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Partnerships for Grades 7-12

Author: Toni Buzzeo

Publisher: Linworth,

2002

Provides practical suggestions for implementing collaborative planning and teaching with classroom teachers through a variety of units, useful ideas for overcoming common roadblocks to collaboration, and a simple, easy-to-adapt template that enhances any unit planning

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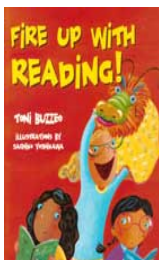


The Competent Classroom : Aligning High School Curriculum, Standards and Assessment - A Creative Teaching Guide
Authors: Allison Zmuda and Mary Tomaino **Publisher:** Teachers College Press, 2001

Allison Zmuda is the keynote speaker for Leatherstocking 2008.

Written by teachers for teachers, this book describes the cross-disciplinary journey of two high school teachers trying to align curriculum, assessment, and performance standards in their classrooms.

Covers creative teaching and ways of helping students take ownership of their learning - provides insight into what it takes for teachers to learn about, work with, and benefit from standards work - gives teachers practical advice for achieving greater success in the classroom - targets the connections between essential questions, content, assessments, and performance standards



Fire Up With Reading!
Author: Toni Buzzeo
Publisher: Upstart Books, 2007

The entire school is in a reading frenzy thanks to Mrs. Skorupski the librarian, and her reading challenge. The students are competing for a spot as part of the Chinese Dragon that will be featured at the Read Across America celebration. Antagonist Carmen Rosa Pena returns and turns up the heat for Patty Lee, an avid reader with a soft spot

for kindergarteners. Who will win a coveted spot as part of the Chinese Dragon?



Librarians as Learning Specialists: Meeting the Learning Imperative for the 21st Century
Author: Allison Zmuda and Violet H. Harada
Publisher: Libraries Unlimited, 2008

Allison Zmuda is the keynote speaker for Leatherstocking 2008.

Contents include information on: Closing the learning gap : reframing our mission; The learning specialist : clarifying the role of library media specialists; Designing instruction to fit the nature of the learning and the learner; Providing robust assessment and feedback.



“R” is for Research
Author: Toni Buzzeo
Publisher: Upstart Books, 2008
Cal D. Cat returns to the library, and this

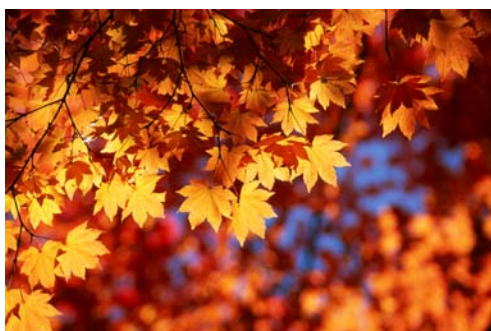
time he and his friends are working on a research assignment! The cute kitty from L is for Library shadows students around the media center as they follow a recommended research strategy through the alphabet. The corresponding library lessons contain instructions and reproducibles, as well as a resource list and the content standards covered in the lesson. **(Small stuffed Cal D. Cat included)**

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From Tina Toglia:

Principles of Universal Design

Consider the following statistics: over 13 million Americans have a visual impairment; 22 million Americans are hearing impaired; 40 million Americans have dyslexia. The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law which protects the rights of students with disabilities to receive, among other things, a “free and appropriate public education” in the “least restrictive environment.” With the number of special needs students in public school increasing every year, how can we make our libraries more welcoming to students with disabilities of all types? We need to keep in mind that making information more accessible to students with special needs benefits all students, in the same way that sidewalk ramps benefit not only people in wheelchairs, but bicyclists and parents pushing strollers as well. The principles of Universal Design (UD) are important ideas to consider when rearranging the physical space in the library media

center, and even when planning lessons and activities. UD is “the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design”. The Center for Universal Design has established the following guidelines, and I have added some basic examples that are relevant to a school LMC, although there are many more possible applications.

1. **Equitable use** – When designing computer work, check the font size and the screen contrast for readability. You can easily add audio sounds to play when something happens on screen. If you can, add text-to-speech software. Use supplies that are comfortable for left and right handed students.
2. **Flexibility in use** – Provide options for students when designing lessons, so that they can choose the activity that best suits their abilities and their individual learning styles. Keep flexibility of instruction in mind when arranging furniture and shelving.
3. **Simple and intuitive use** – Make sure that instructions are written in a clear and concise manner and they are provided in a variety of formats: written, oral, icons, demonstration. Ensure that everything is labeled clearly.
4. **Perceptible information** –We need to carefully consider the ambient conditions in the library. For example, by providing

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captions on videos, we make it easier for students who are easily distracted to stay tuned in. When arranging seating in the library, sit in the students' vantage points to ensure that the lighting is indeed optimal, that there is no glare from the windows, and that noise from an adjacent area will not disturb concentration.

5. **Tolerance for error** – Make sure to include a “help” page when designing computer activities. For long term projects, include check points for midway evaluation, to minimize the possibility of students going astray.
6. **Low physical effort** - Have a trackball available for those students who prefer it over a mouse.
7. **Size and space for approach and use** - Arrange the physical space so that all areas and all features of the library are accessible to all students. Don't overlook the simple things, such as making sure that Smart Boards and other wall mounted items are at an appropriate height. Make sure that a story time area is open enough to be wheelchair accessible. Put supplies within easy reach.

As librarians one of our primary missions is to create a warm and welcoming environment for all of our users. After all, we can't foster a love of books or teach information skills to students who can't comfortably use the

facility, or who are struggling with using the resources.

Leatherstocking Reminder:

If you have not registered for the Leatherstocking Conference, it is not too late! Please send your paperwork as soon as possible. Everyone registering will receive an email confirmation of that registration. If you have not gotten your confirmation, please be in touch with Mary McCormick, 793-8505 or mmccormick@oneida-boces.org. We hope to see you at the conference!

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