

The School Library System Newsletter

May 2009

Pat's Desk Talk:

Essential Practices - Sending in Records

At every conference I attend, someone is talking about "Essential Practices." Every curriculum area has them. Every organization has them. Every teaching organization promotes them. Since I just returned from the SLMS Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs and Essential Practices are ringing clearly in my mind, I decided to roll out SLS's Essential Practices for our devoted readers.

For this issue I am going to focus on the...**first and foremost**...the most Essential of the Essential Practices...**SEND IN YOUR RECORDS**. Not only is this a SLS Essential Practice it is a State Requirement. As part of the SLS your current records are supposed to be in the Regional Union Catalog.

Yes, there has been a history of problems. But we have been working diligently to fix those problems. We have made great progress. The problems aren't all gone but we are getting closer by the month. Our cataloger is excellent. CIDER is soon to have a major overhaul that I think everyone will find a vast improvement. Can't say more on that yet but June should bring good news if all goes as planned.

But you still need to send your records!!! If it has been a long time since you sent records, then have Library Automation

Services pull your whole collection and we will replace your old files with the new files so you will be current. If it has just been a few months, dig out those records and send them in to us. It is extremely important for us to be able to report to the state, and believe me they do check, that we are all in compliance as we should be.

Together, we have an amazing collection of resources at our disposal. We must not let the past's frustrations keep us from losing sight of the long range goal. We want our staff and students to have access to the most relevant, current collection of materials in the timeliest manner possible. We are working on the problems at our end. Please work on this most Essential SLS Practice and get all of your records in to us so that we can get files updated over the summer. If you have any questions, please call Anne Nassar 223-4707 or Mary McCormick 793-8505 and they will be glad to help you in any way possible.

Thank you and as always it is great working with you all!

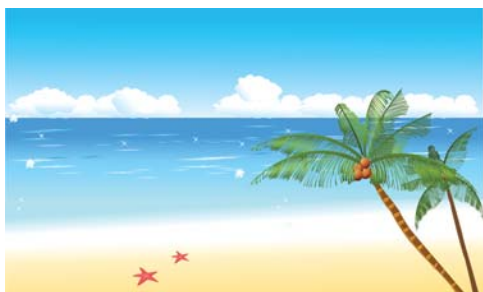


Contact us:

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

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Notes from Kenn:

End of the Year Wrap-Up

As hard as it is to believe, the end of the school year is fast approaching and there are a couple of things I'd like to remind you of before the end of the year craziness hits.

Reporting your ILL statistics - Please print and send me your ILL report for the entire school year. Your report should cover September through June (or whenever your library closes for ILL). This report should reflect only the items you *loaned* to other schools. If you have lost your directions, let me know and I will email you the directions. If you need help running the report, please contact Library Automation at 361-2715.

Returning borrowed items before school's out – Please make sure that all items borrowed through EILL have been returned to the SLS before school is out. I will send you weekly overdue notices to help identify items that need to be returned. Hopefully this will eliminate my feelings of panic and worry that something will be outstanding through the summer. ☺

Items borrowed from Media Services - When returning items borrowed from the BOCES Media Services Dept., please remember to place those items in a manila envelope addressed to Media Services. Several times this year, items for Media Services were received in the SLS colored folders, which should only be used for SLS items. Items for Media that are received in our colored folders are forwarded to Media Services, but they would prefer their items are returned directly to them from the school. Thank you for helping to honor their request.

CUT-OFF FOR EILL IS FRIDAY, MAY 15!!

This will be the last day you can send an **EILL** request for books or A/V materials borrowed through the SLS. This includes requests to Jefferson-Lewis BOCES schools, due to the time required to receive materials from them. Requests for articles will continue to be accepted until the end of the school year.

Borrowing / lending between schools will continue as usual.

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Mary's Notes:

The Annual Survey of library media specialists and teachers on special assignment in the library has been sent to you via email, and we are looking forward to getting your responses. This marks the third year that the survey has been done using Survey Monkey, and the third year of what is essentially the same survey. Using the same survey for this length of time is significant because it permits us to analyze and compare results in a consistent fashion, over a time period that is both substantial and verifiable. The data will give us a good picture of where our districts stand and where we stand in our services to your schools. If you have not completed the survey, please do – it is essential to us. We encourage you also to add any comments or concerns that you might have about your program, our services, the state of education in general, or anything else that might be of interest. We do read the surveys closely, and we do rely on them to help us tailor our program to fit your needs.

This is the time of year when your districts are returning their budget agreements to our business office, and I am wading into the ordering process for

databases. Thank you all for your patience as we sort things out this year; the NOVELny changes have had a big impact on all of us, and thrown some mud into the waters that I have worked so hard to clear! As always, please give me a call if you have any questions.

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Retirements

**Laura Bader,
Sauquoit Valley Central School**

**Pat DiTata,
West Canada Valley Central
School**

**Penney Davies,
Utica City School District**

**Vera Furmanski,
Holland Patent Central School**

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Anne's Notes:

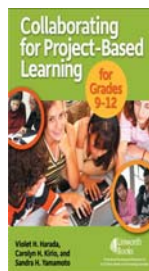
In years past, Kenn kept track of the periodical holdings of all of our member libraries. This year, I'm taking over this responsibility. You will be receiving a form in the mail that asks you to write down the names of the magazines that you subscribe to, and how long you keep them. Please take the time to fill out this form. This information will help you and others to place Interlibrary Loan requests. Once I'm done, you will be able to search CIDER for magazine holdings. This information will also be used to update the Union List of Serials. Thank you!



New Professional Books



Check Out a Bunch for Great Summer/Beach Reading

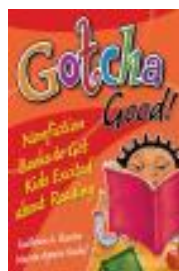


Collaborating for Project-Based Learning in Grades 9-12

Authors: Violet H. Harada, Carolyn H. Kirio, Sandra H. Yamamoto

Publisher: Linworth, 2008

A project-based approach to student learning in high school with the SLMS in a leadership role. Includes how to directions for project-based learning for high school students, scientifically-based research incorporated into actual practice, active collaboration in authentic examples, plus rubrics and plans you can use with your students and teachers.



Gotcha Good! Nonfiction Books to Get Kids Excited About Reading

Authors: Kathleen A. Baxter, Marcia Agnes Kochel

Publisher: Libraries

Unlimited, 2008 (Gr. 3-8)

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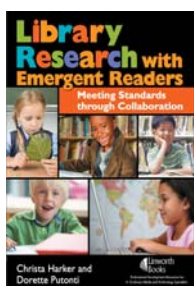
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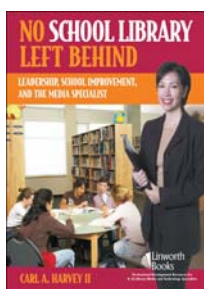
This fifth Gotcha! book, aimed at school librarians, as well as elementary and middle school teachers, discusses well-reviewed and kid-tested nonfiction titles for third through eighth grade readers published in 2005-2007 with a few extra oldies but goodies added in. Features include numerous booklists that can be copied and saved as well as profiles and interviews of some innovative nonfiction authors.



Library Research with Emergent Readers: Meeting Standards Through Collaboration
Authors: Christa Harker, Dorette Putonti
Publisher: Linworth,

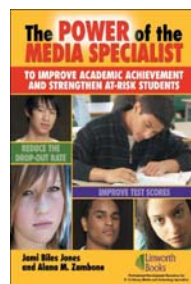
2008

Guide emergent readers through the library research process with this hands-on manual specially targeted to SLMS and K-1 classroom teachers. Book presents standards-based, step-by-step approach to research featuring the AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner. Focus is on collaboration between the library media specialist and the classroom teacher.



No School Library Left Behind: Leadership, School Improvement, and the Media Specialist
Author: Carl A. Harvey II
Publisher: Linworth, 2008

Collaborate with teachers, administrators, students, and parents to become an active part in your school's improvement plan. This book is a tool for SLMS who want to prove the direct correlation between effective library media programs and student achievement. Library media specialists can learn to become leaders in the school by creating dynamic programs that students need, administrator's support, and teachers rely upon. Learn how to align the library media program with the school improvement process so that stakeholders will fight to maintain the program and the media specialist.



The Power of the Media Specialist to Improve Academic Achievement and Strengthen at-Risk Students
Authors: Jami Biles Jones, Alana M

Zambone Publisher: Linworth, 2008
Learn research-based methods to address the needs of at-risk students in the library media center. Help improve test scores and decrease drop out rates by being part of the team who builds skills in needy students. Use the strategies in this guide to assist at-risk students to improve academic achievement and make adequate yearly progress. This resource also focuses on the librarian's role as leader in promoting resiliency in adolescents by highlighting the research on resiliency and its impact on student achievement. It includes a section on

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best practices that the librarian can adopt to build resiliency in students.



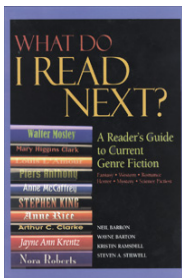
Redefining LIT*ER*A*CY 2.0

Author: David Warlick

Publisher: Linworth,
2009

The purpose of this book is not to replace the three Rs, but to expand them to a model for literacy that applies to classrooms which are shape-shifting under the pressures of converging conditions in an electronic age: expose meaning from global interactive, multimedia, electronic cybraries; employ information for solving challenges and constructing information; express ideas compellingly and fluently through technology to a diverse audience. **This resource features an associated Wiki web page where readers can access presentation slides, links to blog entries about redefining literacy from the edublogosphere, online handouts for conference presentations and workshops, various files associated with this book, and regularly updated web links that have started with Redefining Literacy for the 21st Century.**

selection guide helps readers to independently choose titles of interest published in the last year. Each entry describes a separate book, listing everything readers need to know to make selections. Arranged by author within six genre sections, detailed entries provide: author, title, series, character name, character description, time period, and geographic setting. Genre/sub-genre indexes are included to facilitate research.



What Do I Read Next?: A Reader's Guide to Current Genre Fiction Vol. I & II * 2008

Publisher: Gale, 2008

By identifying similarities in various books, this annual

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