

The School Library System Newsletter

June 2007

Pat's Desk Talk

Buzz Words Deflate Our Message

One of the biggest buzz words in the world of education today is COLLABORATION. If you want to sell a resource book to a librarian, put the word collaboration in the title. If you want to draw people to a workshop, put collaboration as the focus. If you want the-powers-that-be to be impressed with your working style, throw the word collaboration into your discussions. If you want to see teachers roll their eyes and mumble "Oh no, more work!" ask them to talk about collaboration with you.

The problem with buzz words is that people get sick of hearing them. They lose their true power by being misused, overused, and worn out. This is very unfortunate for school library media specialists because it is a dynamic, powerful format for infusing libraries and library skills into the classroom curriculum and vice versa. It is a vehicle for making library work meaningful for students not just another tedious assignment added to their overly full schedules. It is a chance for LMSs to build working relationships with colleagues. And it is a way to show the world that libraries are alive and necessary places in schools not just places to check out books and read quietly.

It falls to us to educate our colleagues and administrators in the value and importance of collaborations with the

LMS and through the LMC. As we struggle to increase funding for school libraries and add certified librarians to the staff, it is imperative for us to constantly prove our worth. Collaboration may be a tired word but it is NOT a tired process. We know the value of what we do but does the public at large? We know how much we could enrich a unit of study through collaboration on resources and assessment but do the teachers and building principals? We cannot get this message across by sitting on our laurels and complaining that no one appreciates or understands our role in the school. How many times have you heard someone say, "You need a master's degree to be a LIBRARIAN????!!!!" Or "I didn't know you taught classes. I thought all you did was check out books." It's time to quit talking and start showing.

One of the main focuses of the SLS for the 2007-2008 school year will be collaboration. We will be promoting it at Leatherstocking, through workshops, newsletters, and presentations at your schools. We will offer assistance to all of you in "selling" the idea in your district. Do you need examples? Do you want someone to do a presentation on the value of collaborative units? Do you want your staff to learn what they "get" when they collaborate with you? If we pool our collective ideas, talent, and resources we can do an amazing job of educating the staff and administration on the value and advantages of collaboration between classrooms and school libraries. We will be joining

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voices to dispel the myth of the Shushing Librarian and enhancing our image as the Library Resource Specialist.

Calendar for Summer/Fall 2007:

June 28 – July 13

Pat to MCLA (school!)

July 18 & 19

Collaborating to Meet
Standards: workshop with
Toni Buzzeo at Hart's Hill



Kenn's ILL Notes:

REPORTING YOUR SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL ILL'S TO THE SLS

As soon as you have finished interlibrary loaning to other schools for the year, please print your statistics report for the entire school year and send the report to Kenn at the SLS. Many of you sent a report at the time the software was installed by Cathy Kahler from Library Automation, but it only covered loans up to the time the software was installed. Rather than trying to keep track of who sent reports for what months, I felt it would be easier (and good practice) if everyone ran one report covering the entire school year. You should have received directions from Cathy at the time she installed the software. If you didn't, or have misplaced them, please contact either Cathy Kahler at 361-2715 or Kenn at 793-8506, or the directions will be emailed to you. Thank you for

reporting your stats – it's very important for our state report!

RETURN THOSE OVERDUE BOOKS!

As the year is winding down, there are several books that are overdue. I have been and will continue sending overdue notices on a weekly basis. I don't do this to be a pain in your side, but rather as a reminder for you as I know that chasing down overdue books for me is far from all you have to do. It is important that the SLS maintain a good reputation as a responsible borrower with the lenders so they will continue to loan materials to us. I appreciate your diligence in tracking down and returning these materials.

UPDATING THE SLS DIRECTORY FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

You will soon be receiving a Data Information sheet that is used to update the SLS Directory. Please fill out all the information and return it to the SLS as soon as possible. If things are "up in the air" in your library (as far as staffing), please hang on to the sheet and send it in as soon as things are settled. The information you provide allows the directory to be as accurate as possible. The new directory will be sent to you within the first two weeks of school starting if possible.

Anne's Notes:

I know that many of you plan to do some "house-cleaning" in the coming weeks. Remember to send me your deletes. If you are working on your OPAC and

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are unable to determine a book's ISBN, I may be able to help. Photocopy the title and verso pages and send them to me. If possible, I will find the ISBN for you.

One of the sources that I regularly use for this purpose is the Lewis and Clark Library System website.

<http://webcat.lcls.org/search/x>

A particularly nice feature of this catalog is the "material type" search. Whereas most catalogs lump DVD's in with VHS tapes, audio cassettes in with CD's, L&CLS separates these formats into their own categories. My hours during the summer will be 8am-1pm weekdays. Please feel free to call me at (315) 223-4707 or e-mail me at anassar@oneida-boces.org

Mary's Wellness Notes:

June is the start of vacation season for most of us, a time to relax and enjoy ourselves with family and friends, a time to see new places, and a time to boost ourselves out of our ruts. As we head off for our break from the routine of our regular lives, there are several things to keep in mind so that we will enjoy vacation and return healthy and happy.

The key to a vacation that will leave you feeling renewed and refreshed is good planning. However you intend to reach your destination, create a strategy for healthy eating and exercise that will fit your schedule and your needs. If you are traveling by car, pack a small cooler with healthy snacks. Load up on fresh veggies and fruits, bottled water, low fat yogurt, pretzels and popcorn. Avoid highly salted snacks; most nuts and popcorn are available in lightly salted

and unsalted varieties that won't leave you feeling thirsty and bloated. Plan on short exercise breaks while driving to stretch and move your body. Doctors recommend stopping every two hours; it really does not have a big impact on the overall duration of the trip. If you are traveling with children, take along a soccer ball. You and the kids will feel more alert and energetic after just a few minutes of exercise.

Traveling by air has its own set of challenges. Sitting through a long flight can leave you feeling groggy and tired, and no one wants to waste vacation time feeling worn or cranky. Eat a sensible meal before you get to the airport. It will help you avoid the over priced, over salted snacks that are just waiting to throw themselves into your path. If you are having a meal in flight, be aware that you can pre-order food to fit your special needs and preferences, including diabetic, vegetarian, gluten free and meals that fit religious diet guidelines. If you order wine or alcohol to go with your on board meal, counter each drink with a glass of water to avoid dehydration. Some experts recommend one glass of water per hour while flying. Sure, it will mean more trips to the bathroom, but that will give you an excuse to walk up and down the aisle a few more times! Take every opportunity to move that you can – you will feel better for it. Also, use your time in the airport to walk and stretch as much as possible.

However you travel, and wherever you go, make the most of your vacation.

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Pack (or download) a good book, or pick up a magazine that you wouldn't ordinarily buy. Summer is a good time to take a vacation from your regular literature genre, and maybe indulge in something you would consider frivolous during the rest of the year. **DO NOT TAKE WORK ON VACATION!** We all need and deserve time for recreation, literally time to re-create ourselves and see the world from a fresh vantage point. We hope that you will share some of your summer stories with us, either while you are on break or when you return in September. So – pack your sunscreen, your carrot sticks, and maybe a book with a racy picture on the cover, and have a wonderful summer!



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Annual Survey

Yahoo! We topped our record. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Annual Survey. We had 56 responses. We appreciate your responses, and we will try to use the survey results to improve our service.



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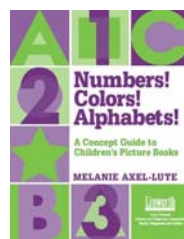
Retirements:

Congratulations to our retirees!

- Bobbi Kloven, Our Lady of Lourdes Elementary School
- Pat Meszler, Herkimer High School



New Books in the SLS Professional Collection – June 2007



Axel-Lute, Melanie. *Numbers! Colors! Alphabets!: a Concept Guide to Children's Picture Books*. Linworth Publishing, 2003.

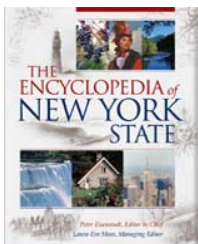
Focuses on picture books that deal with the following elementary school concepts: color, shapes and position, numbers-counting-math-money, time, measurement and perspective, letters-language-words, and senses-growth-emotions.

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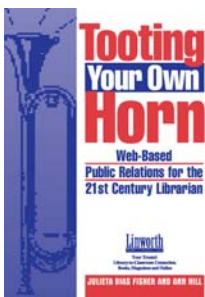


The Encyclopedia of New York State.

Syracuse University Press, 2005

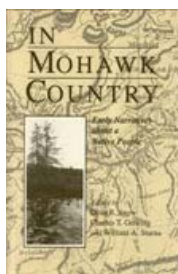
The first complete study of the Empire State to be published in a half-century. In 1,500

pages and over 4,000 signed entries, this single volume captures the impressive complexity of New York State. Entries by experts chronicle New York's varied areas, politics, and persuasions with a cornucopia of subjects from environmentalism to higher education to railroads weaving the states diverse regions and peoples into one idea of New York State.



Hill, Ann and Julieta Dias Fisher. *Tooting Your Own Horn: Web-based Public Relations for the 21st Century Librarian.* Linworth Publishing, 2002.

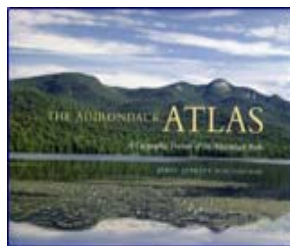
Includes information on teacher outreach, service to students, community outreach, promotional strategies, special events, and reading.



In Mohawk Country: Early Narratives about a Native People. Syracuse University Press, 1996

This collection comprises first-hand accounts of European visitors to the Mohawk Valley, from

early Dutch contacts down to the early nineteenth century. The collection is especially valuable because it includes some works that have never before been published, some that appear here for the first time in English, and many that are out of print and difficult to obtain.



Jenkins, Jerry and Andy Keal. *The Adirondack Atlas: a Geographic Portrait of the Adirondack Park.* Syracuse University Press, 2004.

University Press, 2004.

The Adirondack Atlas provides a portal to the past, a mirror of the present, and a window to the future for a remarkable land and its people. It brings to life the rich mix of history, culture, economics, and wilderness that characterizes the Adirondack region, including its vast capacity for adaptation and recovery.



Johnson, Doug. *Learning Right from Wrong in the Digital Age: an Ethics Guide for Parents, Teachers, Librarians, and Others Who Care About Computer-Using Young People.* Linworth Publishing, 2003.

Covers such topics as: privacy, property, appropriate use, as well as teaching and promoting ethical behaviors

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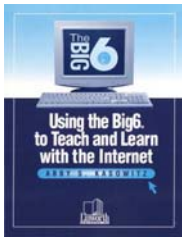
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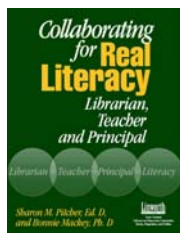
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Kasowitz, Abby S. *Using the Big6 to Teach and Learn with the Internet*. Linworth Publishing, 2000.
Features chapter content relating to planning instruction using the Internet, coaching K-12 students with the Internet, communicating with students on the Internet, along with designing and providing content on the Internet for K-12 students.



Miller, Pat. *Reaching Every Reader: Promotional Strategies for the Elementary School Library Media Specialist*. Linworth Publishing, 2001.
Chapters focus on the following topics: working with teachers, storytelling and booktalking, puppetry, games, songs and chants, dramatics and tours, tender loving care, and centers.



Pitcher, Sharon M. and Bonnie Mackey. *Collaborating for Real Literacy: Librarian, Teacher, and Principal*. Linworth Publishing, 2004.
Covers such topics as: scaffolding, literacy centers, family literacy, children from other cultures, comprehension Instruction, conversations for real literacy, integration, and natural assessment.

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