
SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

YOUTH NEWS

Winter 2006



Websites for Kids and Teens Celebrating Reading

I have been receiving the KidsRead.com electronic newsletter for the past five years now. The website's own description says it best. "Kidsread is the best place on the web for kids to find info about their favorite books, series and authors."

Created for elementary and middle school age children, this site has feature articles such as Best Books of 2005 and Books Into Movies, over 200 author information pages and interviews, write-ups on 69 popular book series, new book reviews, trivia games, book-based word scrambles and wordsearches, a monthly poll and question that children can respond to safely, and links to other literature based websites.

One section helps children begin their own book clubs, with information on starting and running a club and choosing books to read. Included are 17 book guides that have information about the book and author, and discussion questions for the title. A newsletter can be sent out each month highlighting the new information found on the site. The site's privacy policy is prominent and ensures the child's safety while on the site. Advertising links seem to be limited to book purchasing sites. The two ads at the top of the page when I last visited were for Random House and Amazon.com.

The Teenreads.com site focuses on interests and literature for that age group. Teens can read feature articles such as Cool New Series Updates, book reviews, information on a large list of authors, author birthdays for each month, a section on teen organized book

clubs and a monthly newsletter. Also highlighted are monthly polls and questions that viewers can respond to. Advertising for this site was limited with a link to Amazon.com books was at the top of the site.

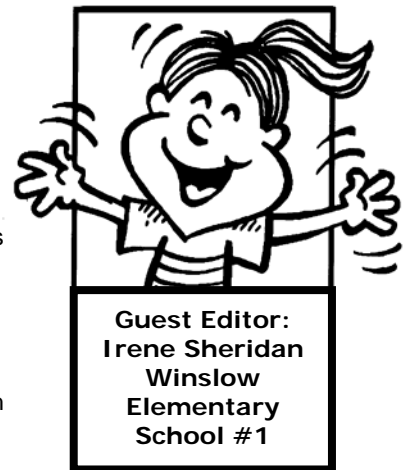
Explore these sites yourself and then promote them to your young patrons. If they love books and reading, they will want to return each month to discover what new book reviews, interviews and articles have been published.



Both websites are part of a network of sites from The Book Report Network that include four other websites that focus on adult literature, information and ideas for book clubs, Christian literature and a guide to popular authors and their websites. Visit the following sites below for more information.

www.bookreporter.com
www.readinggroupguides.com
www.fairfulreader.com
www.authorsontheweb.com
www.kidsreads.com
www.teenreads.com

Irene Sheridan, Librarian
Winslow Elementary School #1
Atco 08004; 856-7676-2850



LETTER FROM THE CO-EDITORS

We thank our guest editor, Irene Sheridan from Winslow Elementary School #1 for the informative articles for this issue. Our guest editor for the Spring/Summer edition will be Pat Collins, Gloucester County Library, Mullica Hill.

What a beautiful time of year for quiet thought and reflection. Let us know of your everyday accomplishments in your library.

Co-editors,
Ann Wodarczyk and Denise Saia.

Winter Holiday Research Project

This past December, a research activity for middle school students was taught by the Reading Specialist in our middle school. She discussed winter holidays and created a list for the students to choose one to research. Some of the holidays were: Christmas, Ramadan, Hanukkah,

See Winter Holiday contd. on p3, column 2.

Hip Happenings at South County Regional Library

The South County Regional Library in Winslow Township has had a great year for programming. Many programs were planned for and attended by teens, children and families in 2005. More are planned in 2006.

One of our greatest and best loved programs is our Summer Reading Program Kickoff. This is held on the last Saturday in June starting at 10:00 a.m. The idea for a carnival was created by Lin Flores, Reference and Youth Services librarian, four years ago. Since then, all Camden County Library branches have joined in and are doing carnivals as well. The community response has been great. Over 300 children, adults and teens attended in 2005. Children participated in crafts and games while watching puppet and live animal shows. In the past, we have welcomed a Riversharks mascot accompanied by a baseball player who read to the children; a Camden County officer and his K-9 Corp. companion; and a fire truck. All attendees who signed up for the Summer Reading Program were permitted to enter their names into a drawing for a childrens' and adult/teen summer basket. In addition, it was with great pleasure that the Teen Advisory Board hosted Alex's Lemonade Stand for the first time. They took in over \$200.00, and they plan to host the stand in 2006.

The New Jersey Academy for Aquatic Science (formerly the NJ State Aquarium) has been our first program in the line-up for our Summer Reading Program schedule. This year will be the fifth year in which the Estelle Stroup and her staff will provide an informative hands on program which brings many children to South County. The Aquarium is always a crowd pleaser and the community looks forward to their programs.

Programs this past summer for teens/adults have included a three part beginning knitting class; a cooking demonstration with local South Jersey Author, "Down Jersey Joe" (Joe Colanero), author of the book Down Jersey Cooking, and Journaling and

Yoga, both programs presented by the Kennedy Health System staff. This is Kennedy Health System's third year partnering with South County in presenting quality, enjoyable programs. All programs were well attended. The summer culminated in the traditional "End of Summer Teen Pizza Party". Pizzas were donated by Pizza Hut of Berlin. Teens were invited to come out and meet the Teen Advisory Board while enjoying good food and having fun.

Another program well received was Spa Night for Teens. This was put on by professional massage therapist, Elisa of Body Awareness in Atco. The teens loved learning how to give themselves hand and foot massages as well as learning relaxation techniques. One mother called up the next day to tell the library how good the program was and how much her daughter loved it.

October and November were busy as we once again partnered with the Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission's Artist-in-Residence program. This year we invited professional poet, Therese Halscheid, to teach poetry to Winslow Township Middle School's 21st Century Grant students. Students met with Therese on Tuesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at South County. This is the third year that the library has partnered with Culture and Heritage. Previous years have included Artists-in-Residence, Jeannine Osayunde and African Dance as well as Eddie Rosado and Afro-Caribbean Drumming.

In November we also invited Dr. Helen Rende from the Horizons Speaker Bureau to present a program on American Indian Clothing. She presented us with a wonderful, informative program, open to all ages, that included a beautiful display of clothing American Indians have worn.

The year ended with the Teen Advisory Board Cookie Exchange Night. Each teen was asked to bring at least one-two dozen cookies to exchange with other teen board members. This is one evening that TAB gets to have fun while eating delicious baked cookies. The teens look forward to this event and have been doing it for four years.

Speaking of the Teen Advisory Board, TAB has been quite busy in 2005. Besides helping with the lemonade stand at the carnival, they had their first car wash. Five teens participated, raising over \$100.00. This money was used to buy Halloween decorations and props for their first Halloween party on Friday, October 28th from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The teens played games with the children and showed scary movies. They did their best to put a scary spin on their activities and make it a booo-tiful night. Most children came in costume. Magda, the gypsy fortune teller (Lin Flores), was a hit with the kids and their parents. There were over 100 attendees.

So far, 2006 promises to be a good year as well. TAB continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In fact, TAB is actively looking for new members. So, if you know of any teens between the ages of 12-18, please direct them to coordinator Lin Flores.

There will be a Family Film Night on March 24th at 6:30 p.m. We will be showing "Ice Princess" and "Madagascar". Popcorn and soda will be served. This program is open to all ages.

February is Black History Month and we are pleased to present our fourth "Celebration of Black History" on February 15th at 6:30

See HIP, continued on p.5, column 2.



Read Across America

As a school librarian, I celebrate reading and literature with my students and teachers all year round. But as March approaches, it is time to plan a Great Reading Bash.

Each year my pre-K to second grade school participates in the national Read Across America celebration sponsored by the National Education Association. The event occurs during the week of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd. Each year, students read a variety of books, create projects focusing on favorite books and authors, and enjoy guest speakers who visit our school and model the joy of books as they read their favorite stories to the children. An evening activity encouraging family reading culminates our celebration.

Planning begins in January with ideas for guest speakers, classroom activities, and the evening program. In past years, our visiting readers have included the mayor of Winslow Township, the director of the South County Regional Library, community members, district board members and administration, parents and grandparents. After contacting possible readers, I create a schedule for the week, placing guests in classes by the time they can visit and the grade they prefer. Each class usually has at least two community/district readers throughout the week. Then I work with the Student Council advisors from one of our upper elementary schools to coordinate the Student Council members reading to our classes. This is a one day event that our children look forward to, as many of the readers are older siblings of our students and previously attended School #1. Our other annual visitors are the Winslow High School Basketball team. They each bring a favorite Dr. Seuss book to read to the children. Our students watched in awe as the six foot plus athletes enter their assigned classes and share the fun of reading. What a great role modeling experience for our little ones.

This year, our school-wide activity will be the challenge of reading across America. Each grade level teacher will read books that take place in a specific region of the country and discuss the story and author with their students. Writing projects and artistic creations will be displayed in the halls as our school "travels" the country through literature. A large state map hung in the all-purpose room will document class progress as we color the regions visited. We will also have our own "Wacky Wednesday," with everyone dressing their wackiest and each class reading Dr. Seuss' book by that title.

The Family Reading Night will be held on March 2nd commemorating Dr. Seuss and culminating our weeklong celebration. Planned is a PJ Party with students and siblings coming back to school dressed in their pajamas and relaxing on blankets as teachers

See READ, Continued, next column.

Websites About Reading: For Children, Parents and Professionals



Two websites with great information about reading and activities for children are Scholastic at www.scholastic.com/index.asp and Reading Rockets at www.readingrockets.com.

Scholastic has a section for parents with suggestions and activities to help children develop their reading skills. The Kid's section has great games and fun projects featuring favorite book characters such as Clifford, the Big Red Dog and Ms. Frizzle from the Magic School Bus series.

Reading Rockets is a website that includes reading news headlines, research-based articles, tips for parents and educators, video interviews with top children's book authors, and a monthly e-newsletter. See the families section for ideas to encourage reading in the home. Colorín Colorado at www.colorincolorado.org is a Spanish language site sponsored by Reading Rockets with information for Spanish speaking families and ESL teachers about helping children learn to read.

Irene Sheridan, Librarian
Winslow Elementary School #1, Atco 08004, 856-767-2850

Winter Holiday continued. from 1, column 2.

Posada, Chinese New Year, The Feast of the Three Kings, Diwali, and Kwanzaa.

After explaining the project, the Reading Specialist brought her students to the library where they received an outline packet, then were sent to the internet to search for information related to a list of categories for that holiday. Once the information was located, they printed a copy to read and highlight important facts on their holiday.

Next, students used the highlighted information to fill in an outline guide, with the Reading Specialist and Media Specialist's assistance. Once the outline sheet was completed, the students typed the report from their own notes. When the final report was proofread, they were able to add pictures (either drawn, from clip art, or from the internet).

Finally, the projects were placed on poster board and displayed in the Media Center. The students loved to see their work on display and the research skills they acquired may be applied to other areas.

Barbara McCarthy, Media Specialist, 856-767-2850
Winslow Township Middle School, Atco 08004

READ, Continued from previous column.

read three or four books aloud to the assembled families. Books will be scanned ahead of time and prepared as a PowerPoint presentation for each title. This will allow everyone to see the illustrations projected on a screen as they listen to the stories. Each child will receive a ticket with his name for a drawing of books donated by the faculty and our Home/School Association. Every child will leave with a new book of their own.

I look forward to this special week each year. I love reading and hope that I encourage that enjoyment in my students every day of the year. But for one week, reading is the all-encompassing theme for just about everything we do in school.

See READ, Continued on p.4, column2.

Librarians Helping Librarians

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) offers its members a formal mentoring program designed to assist new School Library Media Specialists (SLMS) in their first years in the profession. This is the second year this innovative program has been offered. The program is innovative because it is possible only through mentor volunteers, who provide invaluable assistance to the new school librarian. This is different from the mentor programs required for new teaching staff. NJASL does not charge the mentee or the school district any fees, although it is required that the mentor and mentee be members of the organization. The sole mission of the mentoring program is to assign an established mentor, for one year, to work with a new SLMS to help acclimate them on how to effectively operate and support a school library media program.



New School Library Media Specialists, who have joined NJASL, may apply for a mentor, who will work with them for the school year. When matching the two SLMSs, the following is taken into consideration:

- locality within the state;
- type of school and size of the school; and
- a mentor with similar experience.

The process entails signing a contract to formalize the process, visitations to the respective schools, phone calls, e-mails, and attendance at a workshop at the annual NJASL State Conference. Throughout the year guidance is provided on the practical aspects of being a SLMS. The [NJASL Mentoring Handbook](#), which is available in the “Members Only” section of the NJASL website www.njasl.org, is the framework that drives the process. Resources, contacts, and library organizations are provided in the appendices. At the end of the year an evaluation of the process is completed and returned to the committee. Professional Development Hours are awarded to the mentors.

While the Mentoring Program targets first-year SLMSs, those with three or less years would also benefit from the mentoring experience. It is the intent of the program to provide guidance that will enable a new SLMS to develop their own unique and pivotal role within the learning community of their school district. It is hoped that through this collaboration the new SLMS will be able to develop

READ, Continued from p3, column2.

We are celebrating not just the joy of reading but the realization that learning to read, practicing reading skills, and finding time in our busy schedules to sit with a good book is a lifelong goal for everyone, students and adults. Reading is the key to the rest of our lives.

RESOURCES:

[Read Across America](#) written by Gloria Rothstein and published by Scholastic, 1995. This book explores seven regions of the United States through popular children’s literature. Each region includes a description of the region with a map, two to five appropriate books and ideas, and activities and printables for extending the titles into various areas of the curriculum.

www.nea.org/readacross: NEA Read Across America website with ideas for planning your celebration and a history of the event.

www.seussville.com/seussentennial/events2.html
A site created for the Dr. Seuss Centennial with information about Read Across America, Dr. Seuss, ideas for celebrating his birthday, and printable / online activities to spark your celebration from Dr. Seuss Enterprises.

www.seussville.com: Seussville is a site that has great online and paper activities for children centered on many popular Seuss titles sponsored by Random House, Inc.

Irene Sheridan, Librarian
Winslow Elementary School #1, Atco 08004
856-767-2850, sheridir@winslow-schools.com

and carry out their own vision for a student-centered library media program that is based on the three central ideas from **Information Power**: collaboration, leadership, and technology.

If you are new to the profession, working in a New Jersey school, *or*, if you would like to share your experience with a new school librarian, and are interested in more information, make a contact at one of the following:

emanjmentor@mtlakes.org
slemmerip@yahoo.com
slk144@aol.com

Pat Slemmer and Sharon L. Knauss
Co-chairs, New Member Orientation Committee
New Jersey Association of School Librarians

My First Year As A Librarian

My name is Kim DeCicco and I am the new librarian at Winslow Township School #2. I have nine years experience teaching elementary school; I spent seven years teaching first grade and two years teaching kindergarten. Reading books and teaching children how to read was my favorite part of being a classroom teacher, therefore, I knew my Masters Degree would have to focus on reading. That is when I decided to pursue a Masters Degree in Library Science. Survey of Children's Literature was the first course I took. My professor was great and I could tell she loved books as much as I did. I learned so much from my coursework and from my mentor, Irene Sheridan, the librarian at Winslow Township School #1. Right now, I am in the process of studying for my GREs so I can complete my graduate coursework.



I am the librarian for preschool through second grade. I love working with the various ages of children. For preschool, I concentrate on finding fun, engaging stories. I like to use manipulatives or some type of hands on activity to complement the stories I read. I want the children to be excited about visiting the library so they can develop a love of reading at an early age. In kindergarten, we read many stories, and I especially like using big books so the children can get involved in reading the story. We also read, act out and sing nursery rhymes. In first grade, we have been studying various authors and their books. We focus on the elements of the story as well as where to locate the books in the library. In second grade, the children learn the Dewey Decimal System so they can locate their own books. They also learn to use the OPAC to locate library materials. The second graders will be using books and online resources to complete several reports this school year.

Just like beginning teachers, beginning librarians need mentors too. After I was hired as the librarian at my school, I was notified that I would be mentored over the summer. I was thrilled to have the help and the opportunity to learn how to do things the right way. Over the summer, I met with my mentor on three separate days. Irene helped me to organize my library, gave me some tips on how to manage the library, and she explained to me the key aspects of the Follett Software used by my district. We worked together to enter students into the system. Having the help allowed me to feel much more confident when the students started in September.

The mentoring has continued through the school year. Whenever I am unsure about something I know I can turn to her. Using email has been a great way for us to communicate. Whenever I have questions, I know that she is just a click away. My first year as a librarian has been successful due to the help and support of my mentor. I am fortunate to be working in a district that views mentoring as a fundamental tool in training new librarians.

My days have been busy and very exciting since school has started. I am enjoying my new position even more than I ever imagined.

Kim DeCicco, Librarian
Winslow Township Elementary School #2
Atco 08004
856-767-2850

HIP, Continued from p2

p.m. We have partnered with the Winslow Township High School African-American Culture Club once again. In fact, this program is now listed in RoseMary Honnold's new book More Teen Programs That Work, which has gotten good reviews from School Library Journal and Booklist. This year we have invited Ms. Anita Lovely to join our celebration. Ms. Lovely is a local author who wrote the historical fiction book Betrayals. She will discuss the book's Underground Railroad subplot. We invite you to join us. Refreshments will be served. The program is open to all ages.

April is National Poetry Month and we are once again hosting "Open Mic Poetry Night" during Young People's Poetry Week. On Thursday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m. we will have a night of sharing. Poems that are personally written or from a favorite poet will be read. This year we have invited professional local poet Napalm da Bomb to host the evening. He will also share some of his poetry with us. Coffee and donuts will be served and the program is open to ages 12 and up.

Finally, May 6th is Free Comic Book Day. We are inviting local comic book store owners to share their collections with children ages 9-12 and their parents. Free comic books will be available from the owners. Bring your own comic books to swap with others. This is our first comic book swap and it should be a fun time for all. Refreshments will be served.

So there you have it! South County Regional Library is a hip happening place. There have been many quality programs which our customers, young and old alike, have enjoyed. We continue to provide good quality customer service. We hope you will join us for a great 2006. See you at the library!

Lin Flores, Reference Librarian
South County Regional Library
Atco 08004
856-753-2537x4415
Fax: 856-753-7289
lflore@camden.lib.nj.us

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All at: www.sjrlc.org

Calendar

South Group Book Evaluation:

Meets Wednesdays, 3:30 pm

Mar. 15: Wildwood High School Library.
Contact person: Kathy Fulginiti, 609-522-7922, x409.

West Group Book Evaluation

Meets Fridays, 9:30 am

Mar. 17: Waterford Township Library.
Contact person: Eva Lynch, 856-767-7727.

All Day Book Evaluation on May 5th
Place to be announced.

YOUTH NEWS is the newsletter of the South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative Youth Services Committee, Char: Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville. SJRLC Director: Karen D. Hyman. Telephone: (856) 346-1222, FAX: (856) 346-2839. The South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative is part of the New Jersey Library Network and serves the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. SJRLC is supported from State funds appropriated for the New Jersey Library Network.

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For more events and workshops see:

www.sjrlc.org/ce and www.sjrlc.org/calendar

South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

YOUTH NEWS

Paint Works Corporate Center
10 Foster Avenue, Suite F-3
Gibbsboro, NJ 08026
www.sjrlc.org

