
SOUTH JERSEY REGIONAL LIBRARY COOPERATIVE

YOUTH NEWS

WINTER 2004

MENTORING NEW SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS

The Mentoring Committee of the Educational Media Association of New Jersey (EMAnj) has been busy working on putting together a handbook for new school library media specialists. The handbook has formally been adopted by the EMAnj at its fall meeting in November. The handbook will be available for distribution at a future date, however, the committee is previewing two sections of the handbook: *Needs of New School Library Media Specialists* and *Ingredients for Success*.

Members of the committee include: Mary Ellen Malloy from Harrison Township Elementary School, Sharron Knauss from Woodbury Jr./Sr. High School, Kay Baggs from Lindenwold High School, Pat Slemmer from Williamstown High School and Mary Moyer from Delsea Regional High School.

Although many of the committee members are currently working in high schools, they also have elementary and middle school experience. Further information for new school library media specialists can be found at the webpage, "Help, I'm the New Media Specialist" (<http://www.delsea.k12.nj.us/Academic/MediaCenter/hs/mentoring/mentoring.html>).

Needs of New School Library Media Specialists

Dealing with specific tasks of SLM Center

Collection development - library programming - reading programs - library budgets - regional library cooperatives - jobbers, publishers - developing library policies - selection policy and challenged materials policy - weeding.

Instructional needs:

Exhibit knowledge of local school curriculum and NJCCS - collaborate with classroom teachers to teach library skills to meet NJCCS - develop library lessons - integrate information literacy into library lessons.

Professional development:

Professional and library journals - professional library organizations - professional educational organizations - workshops - grants.

Handling school related issues:

School policies and rules - financial procedures of school district/budgeting procedures - organization of local school/district - involvement in school community (i.e., committees, extra-curricular activities, social events).

Dealing with feelings of isolation:

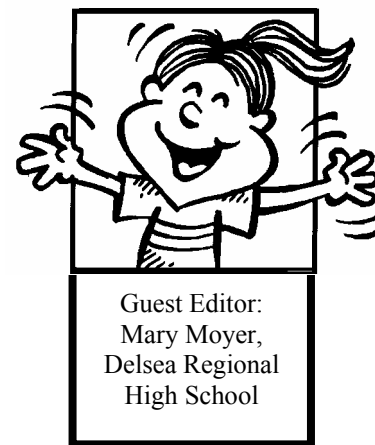
Often a school or school district only has one school library media specialist - consequently, a new SLMS has no one in the district with whom to network.

Ingredients for success for new school library media specialists:

Culture:

1. Make friends with the custodians and secretaries.
2. Find out the key players in your building, whether by department or in each grade level. These people can influence others to help strengthen your program.
3. Get to know your colleagues before school starts. Use the school yearbook or last year's faculty photos.
4. Get out of the LMC between classes. Talk to teachers, get to know the students. Be visible, friendly, and a people person.
5. Know your supervisory contact.

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FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Our thanks to guest editor, Mary Moyer, Delsea Regional High School library media center specialist. Once again, Mary has come to our rescue!

The guest editor for the spring/summer issue is Beth Lillie, director of the Monroe Township Library, Williamstown.

If anyone has upcoming meeting notices, please contact Peter Bromberg at the Region (bromberg@sjrlc.org) or 856-346-1222 - Peter will post the notices on the Region's listserv.

Ann Wodarczyk and
Denise Saia, Co-editors

LOCAL NEWS FROM COUNTY EMAS

Climate:

1. Make sure you wear comfortable shoes.
2. Never threaten students with an action you cannot carry out.
3. Listen to your patrons. Try to purchase what they need and some of what they like.
4. Take lunch with your colleagues. Be collegial and congenial.
5. Make SLMC welcoming and friendly.
6. Get to know the principal and the technology manager/coordinator.

Cooperation:

1. Find out what their priorities are.
2. Have a "can-do" attitude. Go with solutions, rather than problems.

Collaboration:

1. Have an orientation for new staff. Provide refreshments and keep the session to one hour. Make the LMC the place they want to come for help and the answers.
2. Don't try to convert all the non-users of the library the first year.
3. Get to know the LMC-using teachers. Approach one or two about a collaborative project. Word of mouth is your best friend.
4. Be of service, but not a servant. Work with the teachers as a colleague, not as support staff.

Competence:

1. Don't change things right away. See how the LMC is used first.
2. Learn to let the little things go. Concentrate on what is essential for the moment, for the day.
3. Every project does not have to be done in the first year. You can add onto your successes each year.
4. Accept the fact that you will never get it all done. Don't whine.
5. Try to handle things once, especially the mail and other paperwork.
6. Prioritize work.

Communication:

1. Network with other school library media specialists and local public librarians through county and state organizations.
2. Request site visits to/from other SLMC.
3. Join LM_Net, set to "Digest" for the first few months so you are not overwhelmed.
4. Check the LM_Net archives for research topics, before you post a request.
5. Spotlight new collection items and SLMC happenings with newsletters, e-mails, etc.

For more information on mentoring, see:
www.delsea.k12.nj.us/Academic/MediaCenter/hs/mentoring/mentoring.html

Camden County EMA - The upcoming event for CCEMA is the mini conference on February 27 at Lindenwold High School. The mini-conference will run from 8:30 am to 12 noon. Keynote speaker will be Lin Flores, recent recipient of the NY Times Librarian of the Year Award. She will share her experiences as youth librarian as well as programming ideas and tips for collaboration between school and public libraries. Other programs will highlight Computer Repair, a SIRS demonstration, and storyteller, Ruth Blake.

For further details and a registration form, visit the CCEMA website at <http://www.delsea.k12.nj.us/Academic/MediaCenter/hs/ccemaprograms.html>.

REMAINDER BOOKS FROM EMANJ AVAILABLE FROM BARNES AND NOBLE

The following is a list of books that Barnes and Noble cannot return that were highlighted at the EMANj conference. If interested in purchasing any of the titles, please contact Ann Eisenhut at the North Brunswick store – voice mail 732-545-7860 or email – crm2985@bn.com. Store address: Barnes and Noble, 869 Route 1 South, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. Shipping is usually \$3.99 for the first book and then 99 cents for each additional book. Shipping costs can be adjusted, however – 20% educators discount to all purchases.

- Sweet, Sweet Memory by Jacqueline Woodson/illustrator Floyd Cooper (15.49).
- Shark! Strange and Wonderful by Laurence Pringle (15.95).
- School Dress Code by Barnara Cruz (21.95).
- Living on the Edge Hot Deserts by Wendy Pfeffer (25.64).
- Living on the Edge High Mountains by Wendy Pfeffer (25.64).
- Living on the Edge Icy Antarctic Waters by Wendy Pfeffer (25.64).
- Living on the Edge Deep Oceans by Wendy Pfeffer (25.64).
- Wing and a Prayer by John Morano (10.95).
- Makoona by John Morano (10.95).
- Power Research Tools: Learning Activities and Posters by Joyce Valenza (55.00).
- Sara Michelle Gellar by Phelan Powell (15.95).
- Sheryl Swoopes by Rosemary Wallner (21.26).

JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT BOOK REVIEWS

Freewill by Chris Lynch (grades 5-8).

Will is supposed to be a pilot, flying high and free. Instead, he is stuck in woodshop class, churning out furniture and garden gnomes. Lately, though, he has been creating strangely beautiful sculptures. When these sculptures begin showing up at spots where some of the local teenagers committed suicide, Will falls under suspicion. (Printz Award Honor Book).

Ruse v. 1: Enter the Detective by Mark Waid (grades 9 and up).

The city of Partington public officials have been acting strangely, blindly supporting newcomer, Miranda Cross, the Baroness of Kharibast. Simon Archard, master detective, and his lovely assistant, Emma Bishop, must join forces to prevent Miranda from seizing control of the city. Sherlock Holmes and the X-Men elements combine to create a thoroughly enjoyable graphic novel.

Haunted: A Tale of the Mediator by Meg Cabot (grades 7-10).

Suze Simon is a mediator, a person who can see and speak to the dead. As her junior year of high school begins, Suze must contend with the everyday realities of being accepted at a new school and the occasional ghost seeking her assistance. And don't forget her boyfriend, Jesse, who happens to be a 150 year old ghost.

Debbie Swierk, Library Intern
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DELSEA STUDENTS SPONSOR D.E.A.R. DAY FUNDRAISER

In October, 2003, the 9th grade students at Delsea Regional High School sponsored a D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Day during their English classes. The D.E.A.R. Day event raised funds for “Matthew’s Miles” which benefited the American Brain Tumor Association. Students collected donations from parents, staff, community members and other students to present a total donation of over \$2,000 to the Passarella family who had organized “Matthew’s Miles,” an annual walk in honor of ten year Matthew Passarella who was diagnosed with a brain tumor two years ago. D.E.A.R. Day was part of the 9th graders’ Learn and Serve project to promote literacy as well as a way to support local charity organizations.

“Matthew’s Miles” was selected as the recipient of the donation because Matthew’s father, Jack, author of several young adult novels, had agreed to speak to the 9th graders about the writing process. The 9th grade students write and illustrate children’s books that they share with the local elementary students for a Read Across America celebration. Jack Passarella waived his normal speaking fee in exchange for the Delsea students’ contribution to “Matthew’s Miles” for the American Brain Tumor Association. The students were excited to be able to spend their entire English class period reading. Students read books including graphic novels, magazines such as Dirt Bike and newspapers for the event. They were happy to be able to promote literacy with their D.E.A.R. Day event and at the same time, help a good cause.

In addition, the preschool class from Aura Elementary School was invited to attend, and those students who collected the most donations in each individual English class, came to the media center to read to the preschool students. The preschool students were treated to stories, fingerplays, coloring and a snack. The 9th graders enjoyed having a chance to share reading activities with the preschoolers, and the preschool students loved the opportunity to interact with high school students. The culminating event for the day was when the Passarella family was presented with the check for “Matthew’s Miles.” The family was overwhelmed at the generosity of the Delsea Regional High School students.

The follow-up event to D.E.A.R. Day was the presentation made by author Jack Passarella in December. Jack spent the day speaking to the 9th graders about the writing sequence including thoughts on where authors get ideas and inspiration for writing and on the process of story building. The topics provided useful information as the 9th graders begin the process of writing their very own children’s books.

Note: To view pictures of the events and to read a further description of the activities, visit the Delsea Media Center Webpage. (<http://www.delsea.k12.nj.us/Academic/MediaCenter/hs/Teen2003.html>)

Mary Moyer, Media Specialist, Delsea Regional High School
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DEDICATION BOOK CLUB

My school’s library is involved in a unique program called the Dedication Book Club. Like all good ideas, this one originally came from a fellow library media specialist, Gloria Horvay of E. Greenwich Township. I have redesigned the program (several times over the past years!) to meet my needs. What follows is my proposal and procedures for running a program similar to this one. Many of the forms can be viewed by checking my eboard site on our school’s website – <http://www.harrisontwp.k12.nj.us/> Please feel free to use and adapt this program for your library – it is a great way to get more books into the library, with little or no cost!

Purpose:

1. To provide community members with a way to support the library.
2. To provide community members with a way to commemorate special events.
3. To foster an enjoyment of books.

Procedures:

1. A copy of the Dedication Book Club (DBC) letter and request forms goes to the school secretary to be copied and enclosed in the “back to school” packet that goes home with each student in the beginning of the year.
2. As the requests come into the library, I try to match up requests with the new books ordered over the summer to start the school year.
3. As soon as a match is found, a confirmation letter is sent. The confirmation letter is copied and the copy is placed in the book and set aside to wait for payment.
4. When the payment is received, the book is processed. Usually, the confirmation letter is returned with the check. If it is, that copy of the letter is retained. Then after checking to make sure there are no corrections, a bookplate is typed. A customized sticker is placed on the spine of the book (ordered from Brodart). We also record the name of the donor on the self list card and in the computer records.
5. If the donor has a family member in our school, that child’s name and class and library day are put on a note on the cover of the book. On their library day, they are called up to the front of the room, I do a brief book talk about the book, and show them the special bookplate in the book. That student is allowed to check out the book first.
6. If there is no book that matches the requested subjects, there are a few options. The donor may accept other related topics, or a book that matches the request may be researched and ordered. If the book is ordered, the donor is called to explain the delay (ordering a book in my school can take at the very least 8-12 weeks for the purchase order to go out and the book to be delivered).
7. Books purchased at places like Sam’s Club or Barnes and Noble are not accepted for the DBC. These books do not have the library bindings that will make them hold up for repeated circulations. (Also, they need to be processed from scratch or to have processing ordered, both of which are time consuming).

Ideas in the works: I am thinking of adding another promotion for the DBC around December as a reminder of a great gift idea for the person who has everything – they probably do not have a book donated to a library in their honor! Also, as a reminder for parents whose kids have birthdays in the next half of the year. I usually do another order of books in January that can meet most of the requests.

FAQ: How do you handle the money? I am able to handle the checks through an old checking account that was established many years ago for the library. In a former school, however, I was able to use the PTA’s checking account. They were willing to set up a line item for the library that we also used for book fair time.

Wrap up: I have had a lot of success with this program! Inexplicably, my partner librarian in our district’s 4-6 buildings has not had the same success with this program. This year, so far, we have had around 75 books donated, whereas my partner has had only about 12. It is great publicity and a good way to stretch those book budgets!

Mary Ellen Malloy, Harrison Township School (Prek-3)
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SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL LIBRARIES

Washington Township High School – Read the latest article by Washington Township School Library Media Specialists, Julieta Dias Fisher and Ann Hill, in the January 2004 issue of Library Media Connection. Their article, “High School Students and Read Across America,” discusses ways that high school students can participate in a Read Across America celebration.

Gloucester County Public Library – The Gloucester County Library System has purchased graphic novels, manga, and anime videos and DVDs.

At the Mullica Hill Branch, the young adult section is now in the snack room. Students 13 years old are invited to attend the Anime Club meetings but anyone is welcome to join the Chess Club. For information, call 856-223-6029. Students interested in organizing a book discussion group at the library are invited to call Pat Collins at 223-6029.

Pitman High School – The Media Center at Pitman High School has some great educational experiences using our Distance Learning capabilities. They had a special Veteran’s Day program with veterans from World War Two, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War, and Iraq plus two “ghosts” (re-enactors) from the Civil War. These people met with groups of high school students and discussed their experiences and answered questions. They video-conferenced the Vietnam and Civil War segments with the Pitman Middle School. The group is also planning a repeat of a very successful Shakespeare workshop that they did with Rutgers last year, and are looking at a virtual field trip to the Globe Theater. (Marsha Hahn, Media Specialist).

Haddon Township Public Library Youth Services Programs:
February: Pizza and Pages on Feb. 5 at 6 pm. Discussion of the book

Continued, next column

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Rag and Bone Shop by Robert Cormier.

March: Polymer Clay Craft on Mar. 4 from 3:30-5:30. Poetry Café on Mar. 18 from 7-9. Registration is required for all classes – 854-2752. (Nasreen Ahmed, Youth Services Librarian).

Ocean City Free Public Library - will be holding a five week nutrition/creative dramatics program in conjunction with Rutgers Cooperative Extension starting Jan. 22 until Feb. 19. The program is called Nutrition Auditions, a Dramatic Way to Eat. Kids ages 10-13 will meet Wednesday from 3:30-4:40 pm to act out skits on a nutrition theme and learn to make healthy snacks.

For more information, contact Leslie Clarke, Ocean County Free Public Library, 609-399-2434.

CALENDAR

Book Evaluation - South Jersey Group (Wednesday, 3:30 pm)

Mar. 17 - Cape May County Library.

Contact person, Judy Jarmer, 609-463-6360
(snow date, Mar. 24).

Book Evaluation - West Jersey Group (Friday, 9:30 am)

Mar. 12 - Haddon Township High School Library.

Contact person, Arlene Baker, 856-869-7793
(snow date, Mar. 19).

April 20, 21 - NJLA Conference.

May 14 - All Day Joint Book Evaluation and Giveaway, Atlantic County Library, Mays Landing.

South Jersey Regional Library Cooperative

YOUTH NEWS

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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. YOUTH NEWS is published three times a year and is distributed to libraries as part of membership benefits. EDITORS: Ann Wodarczyk, Main Road School, Newfield, NJ and Denise Saia, Franklin Township Library, Franklinville, NJ. Design and layout by Peter Bromberg, Program Development Coordinator, SJRLC, based on a design by the Community Relations Department of the Atlantic County Library System.