

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- 2008-2010
GKCASL
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from the Fall
Meeting
- Anatomy of a
Library Make-
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GKCASL Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2008

FALL ISSUE

From the GKCASL President Cathy Betz

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Ideas from the GKC membership abound! Thanks for staying active and participating in GKCASL. I applaud the professional enthusiasm of this group. I invite you to visit the GKC website www.gkcasl.org for the list of officers, reps, contacts, awards, event dates, links and more. These are the 2008-2010 GKC goals:

--Increase networking and encourage and offer professional development opportunities.

--Inform members of available resources.

--Encourage membership in the GKC region.

--Support educational scholarships.

--Promote professional librarianship.

Business Meeting Information Items:

1. The fall meeting of the GKCASL region was October 14, 2008, at Staley High School of the North Kansas City School District. A facility tour of the "green" high school started about 5 pm. Special thanks to Sara Brown for hosting the meeting at this facility!

2. The business meeting discussion involved budget items. The group voted and approved the following:

---to reimburse Karen McKarnin for both last and this year's GKC web site maintenance fee at \$30 each.

---Jessica Vandebos will assist with establishing non-profit/tax exemption status for GKC.

---The two GKC scholarships awarded will increase to \$500 each.

---GKC will financially support the MASL President Gayla Strack from our region by hosting the President's Reception (not to exceed \$500.) held during Spring Conference.

---Susan Mayes volunteered to scan the GKC logo so it can be used electronically. The logo may be updated in the future.

---Expect Outstanding Middle School and Blue Ribbon Idea Awards information from Sherry Rowett and Robbie Keeling. Nomination deadline is Feb. 13.

---Much committee chair information is also shared by emails to your district reps to forward to you. Thanks to the REPS!

(continued on page 8)

Kansas City News by Jane Pettman

Students, families and staff from John T. Hartman Elementary, along with The Heart of America Foundation® and Target stores volunteers, celebrated the unveiling of a newly-renovated library on October 2, 2008. As part of the Target Volunteers school library makeovers, Hartman Elementary received a complete transformation this summer, including thousands of new books, technology, paint, lighting, customized wall art murals and reading corners. Every student also walked away with five new books to add to their own at-home reading collection.

Twenty-three schools across the country, including Hartman Elementary, were awarded a library

makeover. Hartman was the only school in Missouri to receive the honor. The school selection was based on percentage of low-income children and overall need for library improvement. The school library makeovers were led by local Target Volunteers, who contributed their time and talent to the projects. Hartman Elementary's LMS is GKCASL past president, Susan Schank. (see Susan's article on page 6)

Foreign Language Academy (Linda Ighoyivwi, LMS) will be holding a Mother-Daughter Literacy Night on November 20th for the mothers and daughters of the school. Three authors will present to the mothers and daughters. One pre-

sender is a fellow KCMO librarian, Susan Schank, author of "Tera's Dawn". This event will foster appreciation of great literature as well as parental involvement.

Margaree Mitchell King, author of Uncle Jed's Barber Shop, will visit with Kansas City, Mo School District Librarians at their staff development meeting on November 7th.

Info Box:

www.booktour.com

"This is an interesting website with lists of authors visiting in/around the area."

Recommended by

Cathy Betz

Independence News by Janice Gumerman

Lots of changes in the Independence School District for the 08-09 school year. You may have read or heard about the seven schools from Kansas City school district that are now part of Independence School District. A full time media specialist is in each of these buildings so our department numbers have grown. Here is the list of new people joining our department from throughout the district: Deborah Karlssen, Van Horn HS; Angie Wieggers, Nowlin MS; Melissa Beasley, Fairmount Elementary; Jessica Shultz, Three Trails Elementary; Matt Maher, Randall Elementary; David Cromwell, Glendale Elementary.

In other news, Julie Ohrenberg at Pioneer Ridge Middle School, Rebecca Cornish at Sugar Creek Elementary and Janice Gumerman at Bingham Middle School each received grants during the summer and fall. Julie and Janice were awarded funds from the Independence School District Foundation for library related projects. Julie received the "Picturing America" Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Janice received a "We the People" bookshelf grant from National Endowment for the Humanities and ALA. Rebecca Cornish was one of only three people in the district to receive a GEHA grant of \$1000.00 to start a

broadcast club at the school.

Kay Kliethermes at Blackburn Elementary was named teacher of the year in her building by a vote of the certificated staff. Congratulations to her on this honor.

An upcoming event that we are eagerly anticipating is a visit by Gordon Korman in February. He will make presentations at Blackburn Elementary and Bingham Middle School. We are co hosting this well known author with Fort Osage district.

Campbell Middle School hosting annual Family Literacy Night and Twilight Premiere Party in November! By Jessica Vandebos

A substantial focus of the *Making Middle Grades Work* framework is on literacy. Jessica Vandebos, Library Media Specialist at Campbell Middle school reaches out to her families and community members through two Family Literacy Nights each year and many teen promotional activities.

Each Family Lit Night, families are invited to come up to school and enjoy a free dinner. Dinners are funded through business partners, PTA donations, and book fair profits. After dinner, many activities are planned for students and parents to participate in a literacy-focused event. This year, students will be treated to a visit by a Chiefs player, Book Bingo (in which everyone leaves with a free book by books brought in by staff and students during a Teen Read Week book drive), a library-card sign up table, duct-tape projects, and computer-based literacy games and activities!

In order to promote and engage in the Twilight phenomenon, Campbell Middle School is planning to hold a **TWILIGHT MOVIE PREMIERE PARTY** on November 21, 2008, (the date the movie releases). Students will be invited to come to school early on that day for literacy-focused fun! Jessica has also made a link on her website for students to sign up at home due to limited time constraints between classes. *Exciting* events are planned for the students,

including:

Book giveaways (collectors set of the entire series)

- Movie pass giveaways
- Fun treats
- T-Shirt making — **bring your own t-shirt to decorate!**
- Team Jacob/Team Edward fun
- Games
- Trivia

Fortune teller

...And much more!

*to find out more about any promotional activities or more tips and tricks for meeting teen needs, contact Jessica Vandebos at [Jes-sica.vandebos@leesummit.k12.mo.us](mailto:Jessica.vandebos@leesummit.k12.mo.us), or checkout her website at: <http://bcms.leesummit.k12.mo.us/bcmslmc>



Raytown News by Kim Nelson



Raytown is proud to have Gayla Strack (Raytown Middle School) representing our school district as MASL President.

We want to introduce you to Jamie Osborn, who is the new Raytown South Middle School library media specialist.



Ellen Wickham and 3 classroom teachers at Raytown South High School received a \$1600 grant from the Raytown Educational Foundation. The grant, "Reaching Reluctant Readers" was used to purchase graphic novels. Research indicates that graphic novels have particular appeal to reluctant readers, most of whom are boys. It is anticipated that once introduced to graphic novels, students will continue to read them for pleasure, and use them as a springboard to reading traditional novels.



Raytown Central Middle School opened this fall with Lacie Griffin as library media specialist. The school has 550 students. The



district completed remodeled the media center with new carpet, furniture, equipment, computers, and materials. There are 9,500 brand new books to checkout and 10 MP3 players.

Spring Valley received a grant from Raytown Education Foundation for books that have won the Coretta Scott King Award. These award winning books were chosen to encourage the minority children to read. The books are displayed in a special place in the library. The students check them out regularly. They especially love the two books about Jazz!

Joyce Siler (Westridge) and Susie Ference (Blue Ridge, Robinson, and Fleetridge) received an Education Foundation grant to create virtual field trips of MO. They have been taking day trips, doing research and creating power points of the trips. They plan on making 1 CD for each elementary school in Raytown of the finished trips. They were also able to add some additional books to the Mis-

souri section as well with this grant.

Missouri Governor, Matt Blunt, visited Westridge on September 30, visited an eMINTS classroom, and held a press conference in the library to talk about eMINTS funding.

On October 2, Dr. Markley, Raytown superintendent, came to Westridge and read Corduroy for our RIF kick-off and as part of "Read for the Record". There were a number of teddy bear activities to go along with that – a button guessing contest and matching the teddy bears to the teacher to which they belong.

Fort Osage News by René Burress

The Fort Osage School District libraries are very busy this fall. The district opened up a new school, Indian Trails Elementary School, with a brand new library and hired a new librarian, Sally Sienkiewicz. Sally was the library para at Buckner Elementary School last school year and has been hard at work, purchasing books and getting them on the shelves for student use.

Fort Osage High School librarian, Paula Erickson received a Sprint Grant to help promote the Gateway Reading program. The grant will pay for incentives, additional copies of the books, and the food for the voting party in March.

The “Twain Campaign” Reading Challenge is in full swing at Fire Prairie Middle School, under the direction of Joyce McMurray! Students and staff are selecting reading materials from the Mark Twain Award nominees, Truman Award nominees and Guest Author books to meet the Challenge by May 9, 2009. Our 6th Grade Book Club is currently reading *City of Ember* together and making plans to attend the upcoming new movie together as soon as we finish the book. Our 5th and 6th graders are getting into the new Destiny Quest features by writing book

recommendations and reviews for their friends.

René Burress, the librarian at Buckner Elementary School, created a Mark Twain discussion board using software called Moodle. 4th grade students are discussing their feelings and opinions about books by using the discussion boards.

Felicia Moore, the librarian at Elm Grove Elementary School, has invited author Lisa Campbell Ernst to visit schools in Fort Osage next spring.



**Indian Trails Elementary
School Library**

Belton News by Carol Hambrecht

Cheryl Harness Visits Mill Creek in Belton

Mill Creek Upper Elementary in Belton was honored to have nationally recognized local children’s book author/illustrator, Cheryl Harness, visit their school on October 17. She gave a wonderful presentation on how she got started illustrating and writing. The students learned about the

process of writing, revising, and the research involved. Students had the opportunity to meet the author up close and personal in the library to have their books autographed.

Library Sponsored Clubs Abound at Belton Freshman Center

Four LMC-sponsored clubs are keeping things busy at Belton Freshman

Center. The Technology Club will begin next week, while it’s sundown for the Twilight Series Bookclub after discussing a Twilight book per session. During Conferences, the Library Student Advisory Council will serve beverages and Foods Class cookies, as well as read to little munchkins while their parents talk to teachers. The Poetry & Writing Club’s ambitious goal is to produce a literary volume by semester’s end.

Anatomy of a Makeover by Susan Schank

Starting the school year at a new school is always a challenge. You expect some surprises. What you don't expect is the surprise to be an empty concrete room called a library. My new school, Hartman Elementary, was in the process of an extreme library makeover called "READesign". This amazing process, funded by the Heart of America Foundation and Target Stores, took a small, cramped library and turned it into a spacious, modern, inviting place for students, faculty, and parents. They even donated 2000 new books and rehabbed a neglected courtyard that connects to the library.

You might think wading into a gray, empty room, with wires dropping from the ceiling and a thermostat sticking up on a pipe in the middle of the room would be shocking. And it was. But it was also exciting! I could see the whole

space and its potential. And once I was briefed on the plans and saw a few sketches I was even more thrilled. New carpet and paint, two beautiful wall murals painted by a Disney artist, modern furniture. The works!

Though I missed the demo, which was disappointing as I truly enjoy smashing things with sledgehammers, the remake was awesome! Just like in the TV remake shows, different crews came and went, installing carpet, landscaping for the courtyard, painting, etc. And just like in the shows, there was a last minute crisis. Three days before the "reveal party" the 60" shelving was delivered. Except that half of the pieces were cut at 59". After a bit of panic and some calls to the manufacturer, the correct part were overnighted and installed just in time for the party.

And boy, what a party! 140 Target volunteers and VIP's everywhere, including Bullseye, the Target dog! The playground was filled with tables draped in red and white and topped with buckets of candy! And don't forget the inflatables and sundae bar. The kids had a blast, as well as the parents and teachers!

Personally, I was overwhelmed. The generosity of the Heart of America Foundation and Target Stores and all the crews who volunteered their time, talent, and treasure is more than I could have ever imagined. It is truly inspiring to know there are people who care so much that kids have books and a beautiful place to read them in. It makes working at Hartman, the best school in the nation" just that much better. Stop in sometime, we'd love to have you visit!



Technology Matters by Mischelle Tripp

Technology Matters is new to the GKCASL Newsletter this year! Its purpose is to feature technology news in the library media field and to provide ideas and tips that might benefit our members.

Using Photo Story, Podcasting, Website Blogs, Copyright concerns in the online age, Availability of WIFI, and MP3 downloads are only a few headlines featured in recent school library journals. It is obvious that technology matters in school libraries today.

Let's begin by taking a look at the following clip linked from K12 Conference 2008 and contemplate the question:

"Where are our kids today?"

<http://k12onlineconference.org/?p=263>

Journals suggest that we join our students in learning and keeping up to date with the latest technology trends. How? Try a few ideas gleaned from School Library Journal' and Library Sparks

- Join a NING by trying <http://teacherlibrarian.ning.com/> Learn what Library Media Specialists all over the world are saying including what is new in technology.
- Try out a Webinar available through Edtechtalk.com.
- Get into a MUVE or a Twitter – A MUVE is a Multi User Virtual, 3D Environment that allows you to interact and learn with colleagues or friends. A Twitter (Twitter.com) is a brief post of 140 or fewer characters that you can receive on the Web or your phone. You can get great nuggets of information in tweets when you find the right thread to follow. (Valenza).
- Create a podcast by using a free host site named Gcast at www.gcast.com. Consider an

audio tour of a media center, weather reports for science class or tours of local museums. (Brisco)

- Try an upgrade to PowerPoint with Microsoft Photo Story. The download is provided at www.microsoft.com/photostory (Brisco). View an example at: <http://www.rcs.k12.va.us/tech/doe/Ocean%20Floor.wmv> .

In addition to keeping up-to-date with technology, local media specialists are using Moodle to infuse technology in their libraries.

Kim Nelson, library media specialist and Stephanie Howell, practicum student at Laurel Hills Elementary in Raytown have an excellent example of using Moodle to host a library website:

<http://mediamanager.raytownschools.org/common/welcome.jsp?site=204>

Renee Burress, library media specialist at Buckner Elementary uses Moodle to host a Mark Twain, reading blog: <http://destiny.fortosage.net/common/welcome.jsp?sessionid=7573EE50D9545C00626E8B301573A8BC?site=104> (sites linked with permission of the creators)

Are you trying something new in technology or want to report on how you used some of the suggestions in this article? Please send an email to mtripp@fortosage.net and you will be guaranteed a spot in the next GKCASL newsletter!! Thanks for visiting the GKCASL website and keep touching kids through library media technologies!!!

Valenza, Joyce. "Reboot Camp." School Library Journal May 2008: 56-57. EbscoHost. 9/20/08. <http://web.ebscohost.com> .

Brisco, Shonda. "Podcasting" Library Sparks 6 (Aug/Sept 2008): 7.

Brisco, Shonda. "Using Photo Story" Library Sparks 6 (Nov 2008):15.

"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important..."

Bill Gates

Photos from the GKCASL Fall Meeting @ Staley High School



From the President...continued

Presentations

--Our main program presentations were breakout sessions to appeal to both the elementary and secondary instructional levels. The elementary focus was on the Kinder Klassic Book Award explained by Sandy Bauer. Another presentation given by Joan Arth and Naomi Williamson was on spring and summer 2008 children's literature releases and the curricular areas in which they can be used. Megan Arnett and Amy Taylor presented the secondary focus on appealing to the 21st century learner in finding ways to reach out to student and staff

members.

--Part of the meeting food and door prizes were sponsored courtesy of Gary Wilsher, a BTSB rep, who was available to membership in attendance. --Thanks to Jessica Vandebos and Karen McKarnin for the meeting planning.

Always Have A Goal...

I look forward to seeing many of you at Fall MASL in Jefferson City. As you look forward, it is never wrong to reshape your goals. It is wrong to not have any goals at all. As we approach my favorite sports season of basketball, I recall an ancient Greek saying Jerry

West repeated to others: "Before you can score, you must first have a goal." Good Luck! Thank you for serving!

