

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Highlights of our Spring Banquet
- Photos from the Spring Banquet
- Votes for KC3 Award

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*From the GKCASL President Cathy Betz*

**Have Books, Will Read!  
Put These 5 R's in Your Summer!**



Relaxation is a necessity, not a luxury. When you are relaxed, you are better able to keep stress under control and to handle life's daily ups and downs. You can tap into new energy and insights as well. Make relaxation a part of your summer...and your life.

**Relaxation Basics:**

- \* Avoid clutter
- \* Accept the things you can't change
- \* Look for the silver lining in everything
- \* Simplify your life
- \* Spend time enjoying your family
- \* Use soft lighting
- \* Spend time with positive people



**Put these 5 R's in your summer:**

- Rest
- Read
- Relax
- Renew
- Repeat all of the above!

⇒ **Thanks to all** on the GKCASL Executive Board, Executive Council, and all the District Reps who contributed their energy and ideas to our organization this year. Any input is always welcome and your professional participation and volunteerism are much appreciated. Special shout out to Karen McKarnin and Jessica Vandebos for the two excellent program meetings and banquet organization this year!

⇒ Sixty were present for the annual GKC spring banquet May 6<sup>th</sup> at Zona Rosa. Many GKC treasures were celebrated! Laura Whitaker (North Kansas City School District, Maple Park Middle School) was recognized for the Outstanding Middle School Library Media Program. Joan Arth (Liberty School District, Alexander Doniphan Elementary School) was the winner of the Blue Ribbon Idea Award. The two senior recipients of the \$500.00 GKCASL Education Scholarship are the following: Sarah Trosen of Blue Springs High School and Jessica Falke of Lee's Summit North High School. Various professional recognitions were announced, as well as, librarians who are retiring this year were honored for their service and membership in GKC. Best wishes to the retirees who include: Carol Hambrecht, Diane Hansen, Robbie Keeling, Jackie Krinke, Sharon O'Donnell, and Marj Jackson.



## Independence News *by Janice Gumerman*

The Independence Library Media Specialists are pleased to recognize Kay Kliethermes from Blackburn Elementary along with Blackburn fourth grade teachers who were honored with the Teacher Librarian Collaboration Award at MASL spring conference. Four of the teachers attended the conference award ceremony along with Sandy Kiehne, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction. Kay was also part of a workshop with Sheri Hartley, one of the honored fourth grade teachers from Blackburn. The award was shared with Blackburn

teachers Kathy Melton and Kristy Williams and librarian Yvonne Tuggle. Tonna McGee from Santa Fe Trail Elementary presented a workshop at MASL on her Undercover Club in which students study quilts and make quilt blocks which are then assembled into a final product. Independence had a flurry of author visits this school year. Blackburn Elementary (Kay Kliethermes) and Bingham Middle School (Janice Gumerman) hosted Gordon Korman in February. Bridger Middle School (Korene Ekstrand) and Nowlin Middle School

(Angie Wiegers) had a visit from Heather Brewer in May. IRA hosted author Claudia Mills at Pioneer Ridge. Independence Librarians participated in this event.

Janice Gumerman recently received the 2009 Picturing America art print collection from the National Endowment for the Arts and the 2009 We the People Bookshelf grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and ALA.

## Raytown News *by Kim Nelson*

Lacie Griffin, KC Award chair, shared the results of the KC3 Reading Award.

**1. Drooling and Dangerous by Mary Amato 715 votes**

**2. Princess for a Week by Betty Ren Wright 308 votes**

**3. John, Paul, George and Ben by Lane Smith 298 votes**

**4. Clementine by Sara Pennypacker 258 votes**

**5. Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff 213 votes**

**6. Super Emma by Sally Warner 160 votes**

**7. Phineas L. Maguire Erupts! by Francis O'Roark 148 votes**

**8. Robert and the Practical Jokes by Barbara Seuling 98 votes**

**9. Reggie by Eve Bunting 77 votes**

**10. Marvelous Mattie by Emily Arnold McCully 41 votes**

Joyce Siler and Susie Ference presented their Missouri Virtual Field trip at MASL last month. It was very successful, and the ladies have been invited back again next year.

## North Kansas City News by Leslie Roe



Kristie Carney and Abby Yellman, media specialists at North Kansas City High School are recipients of several recent honors. NKCHS will continue to receive funding from "Teaching Tolerance", a new gift from Harrah's and a Dan Kahler grant, all to be used for the purchase of books for NKC\_BookSpace.

Kristie and Abby were also awarded the International Reading Association Plains Region award: Award for Technology and Reading. Congratulations to this dynamic duo!

## KCMO News by Jane Pettman

C.A. Franklin celebrated School Library Media Month with the theme, *Worlds Connect @ your library with a Library Card Drive Day*. On Wednesday, April 15, LMS Thelma Braswell collaborated with the children's librarian from the L. H. Bluford Public Library Branch who was available in the school from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm. During that time she:

- . registered 75 students for new cards
- . renewed expired cards
- . adjusted fines & fees totaling \$ 30.00

In all a total of 110 library cards were issued to students, and 1 card was issued to a teacher.

Central High's winter reading campaign **WARM UP WITH A GOOD BOOK!**, organized by LMS Michelle Lowe, ended March 12, 2009 with a Book Celebration in the school's Library Media Center. Refreshments were served with giveaways of free books and two grand prize iPods to freshman

Devonuha Williams and junior Marquieze Walderbanks.

To participate in the campaign, students read a minimum of three books or more of their choice and then wrote a brief review. For every three books read, students received a small incentive, invitation to the book celebration and entry into the grand prize drawing.

A total of 20 students completed the requirements and attended the celebration. Special guests were youth and teen librarians Mary Thompson (Bluford Branch), Kimberly Patton (Central Branch) of the Kansas City Public Library and Brandon Jackson, poet and Central alumnus. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Patton gave book talks discussing books of interest to teens. Mr. Jackson read excerpts from his book of poetry.

Watch for some of the reviews on the Kansas City Public Library teen web site at <http://>

[kclibrary.lib.overdrive.com/254F709C-7B90-47C9-A682-DCB6D8C5846F/10/425/en/Default.htm](http://kclibrary.lib.overdrive.com/254F709C-7B90-47C9-A682-DCB6D8C5846F/10/425/en/Default.htm).

In celebration of Poetry Month and School Library Media Month, LMS Jane Pettman, invited Steve Rideout, local poet/author of "Don't Go Up the Windmill" to speak to the Upper Elementary students at Faxon Montessori School. The students enjoyed the poetry reading and learned more about the writing process.



Poet Steve Rideout regaled students with his funny poems.

# Fort Osage News by René Burress



Author Lisa Campbell Ernst visited Fort Osage

Author, Lisa Campbell Ernst, came to the Fort Osage School district the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> to visit students in the elementary schools. Ms. Ernst, who lives in Kansas City, was an absolute joy to be around and related well to our students. The kids

thought that the best thing about her visit was the art work she drew. The students who got an autograph, enjoyed the fact that she drew one of the book characters in each of the books she signed.

The fairy godmother came to Elm Grove Elementary School library on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Third grade students at Elm Grove Elementary School who read fairytale books were treated to lunch with the fairy godmother. Their challenge was to read 15 books from a list of 30 books. They had to read at least 5 of the fairy godmother's favorites

(yes, it is true, she does have a top 10 list). About 35 students and one teacher accepted the challenge and were treated to

a special visit from the grand lady. The students who read all the books on the list were invited to sit at the head table with the fairy godmother and were given a special reward from her magical basket. The students were enthralled with the fairy godmother and loved every minute of the lunch. Several students even commented that it was worth reading "all those books" to eat lunch with her.

Middle school students in the Fort Osage District are participating with record numbers in the "Fire Prairie Reading Challenge", a reading incentive program now in its ninth year at FPMS. The program encourages students to read 16 books from a carefully chosen list of quality literature, including Missouri Mark Twain and Truman award nominees and some that correlate with the school's annual guest author program. This year over 75% of the students have completed at least one level of the program and over 17% fulfilled all requirements and met the challenge. Of the 94 students meeting the Reading Challenge this year, 22 were 5th graders, 72 were 6th graders, 55 were girls

and 39 were boys. The number of students meeting the challenge has grown steadily over the years from 12 students in 2001 to 94 in 2009, a significant achievement by our students. The Reading Challenge provides a strong support to Fire Prairie's efforts to envision itself as a reading community.

Blue Hills, Buckner and Indian Trails Elementary School took record numbers of fourth grade students to the Children's Literature Festival. Students get to attend the festival by reading Mark Twain award nominees. A highlight was meeting Lea Wait, author of *Finest Kind*, a Mark Twain nominee from this school year.



Buckner Elementary students meet author Lea Wait



Elm Grove's Fairy Godmother visit

# And the Winners are...Photos from the Spring Banquet



Outstanding Middle School Library Media Program  
Award winner, Laura Whitaker  
from Maple Park Middle School, NKC School District



Blue Ribbon Idea Award winner, Joan Arth  
from Alexander Doniphan Elementary School,  
Liberty School District



GKCASL Education Scholarship recipients: Sarah Trosen of  
Blue Springs High School and Jessica Falke of Lee's Summit

## More Photos from the Spring Banquet



## From the GKASL President *continued*

⇒ Lacie Griffin and Kris Baughman presented KC3 book award winners. *Drooling and Dangerous* by Mary Amato won the 2009 KC3 Award.

⇒ You are invited to visit the GKC web site [www.gkcasl.org](http://www.gkcasl.org) for more details and pictures; with continued thanks to GKC website master Karen McKarnin!

⇒ Kudos to Jane Pettman for organizing the GKASL newsletters!