

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Highlights of our Winter General Meeting.
- GKCASL's new LOGO
- KC3 Committee
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- Technology Matters

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From the GKCASL President Cathy Betz



Three Cheers for ...

- The newly adopted GKCASL logo please note!
- GKCASL has grown to 108 members.
- GKC is so proud to recognize member Kay Kliethermes, who will be presented with the TLC Award at MASL Spring Conference
- The GKC Region is delighted to host and invite you all to attend the Spring Conference President's Reception on Monday, April 20th at 9 pm.
- Nominees for the GKC awards!
- It's almost March; hoop it up!

On February 12, GKC members attended the Winter General Meeting at Bingham Middle School hosted by library media spe-

cialist Janice Gumerman of the Independence School District. The business meeting discussion included voting



Cathy Betz conducting the business meeting.

on a new GKC logo; updates on both the Blue Ribbon and Outstanding Middle School Library Program awards; high school scholarship and deadline info; MASL updates and greetings were given by MASL President Gayla Strack; Spring Conference information was promoted and shared; and committee reports followed.

The Mark Twain committee wants to share great ideas to promote the Mark Twain reading program. If you are willing to share your ideas, contact Robin Gibbons.

The GKC Winter

program included the following three presenters: Dr. Curt Fuchs, who explained DESE information and State Standards changes; Loni Bernard, who is a Midwest sales account manager for Borders shared library services and fundraisers available through Borders; and Anitra Steele distributed information about the Mid-Continent Public Library summer reading program.

Enter this date in your planner. The GKC Spring Banquet will be Thursday, May 7 at Tomfooleries at Zona Rosa.

Hoping to see you at Tan-Tar-A....

Respectfully,
Cathy Betz,
GKC President

Fort Osage News *by René Burress*

Fort Osage High School received a grant from Sprint to help promote the Gateway Reader Award. With the help of this grant, the high school has recorded a record number of student participants. The deadline for reading is February 27, but already, there has been a 17% increase in the number of students participating and a 64% increase in the number of students reading all of the nominated books.

Gordon Korman, guest author, will be at Fire Prairie Middle School for Family Literacy Night on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. 48 of our 5th and 6th graders have met our annual reading challenge already this year!

Lisa Campbell Ernst, guest author will visit the following elementary schools from April 20th-23rd, 2009: Blue Hills, Buckner, Elm Grove and Indian Trails.

Blue Hills, Buckner, Clermont, Elm Grove and Indian Trails elementary schools have all hosted several open library nights, where students bring their parents to the library in the evening and do a special activity. Some of the favorites are: Bingo for books (students won free books to take home), Love Your Library (students made Valentine themed book marks) and upcoming Dr. Seuss night (students eat green eggs and ham and play Dr. Seuss bingo).

Blue Hills, Buckner and Indian Trails librarians and fourth grade students will be taking a field trip March 16th to the Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg, MO.

Deb Gordon, Caring Communities coordinator through LINC will be receiving the "Friends of School Libraries" award at the spring MASL conference for everything she does to support the library at Buckner Elementary School.

"Knowledge is free at the library. Just bring your own container."
- unknown

Raytown News *by Kim Nelson*

Westridge Elementary recently won \$200 from Papa John's. This money will be used to purchase library books. The check will be presented this month to library media specialist, Joyce Siler.

At Raytown High, The Book Club Café meets twice a month during lunch with library media specialist, Terri Friebohle. On January 27th, Nancy Pickard, an award-winning local au-

thor, joined us for lunch and discussion. She writes poetry, short stories, fiction and non-fiction. She spoke about writing in general, her writing career and *The Virgin of Small Plains*, the book the students read in book club. She is a wonderful speaker. The students really enjoyed hearing from a real author and she was very impressed with their questions and insight about her book. She had

such a great time that she offered to come back again next year.

North Kansas City News *by Leslie Roe*

Opening of New School:

Bell Prairie will be open in the fall of 2009. This will be the 21st elementary facility in the district. Courtney Wheeler who currently serves Topping and Nashua Elementary has been selected as the Library Media Specialist for the new school.

New Arrivals:

Yes, we have all received exciting new books for our libraries this year but two of our media specialists have received a bundle of joy recently. Kristie Carney and Abby Yellman, both library media specialists from North Kansas City High School are proud moms. Maddy Yellman and Taryn Carney were born just days apart in early January. Congratulations to both of them and their families.

Honored Staff Member:

Laura Whitaker has been nominated for the "Traditions of Excellence" 2009 Honor Cadre for Service. Laura is the Library Media Specialist for Maple Park Middle School.

"If we encounter a man of great intellect, we should ask him what books he reads."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Independence News *by Janice Gumerman*

What a delight to have Author Gordon Korman visit Bingham Middle School and Blackburn Elementary in Independence in late February. He interacts so well with students and is so patient with their questions and requests. At Bingham Mr. Korman spoke to all students during two presentations. He also signed books and posed for pictures with students. At Blackburn he spoke to fifth grade students and then joined students in the Library Media Center for an autographing session.

Janice Gumerman at Bingham MS was recently notified that her school is a recipient of the Picturing America collection from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association. This is a set of 20 double sided 24 X 36 laminated prints depicting events and people from American History along with a resource guide. Watch for announcements of future opportunities to apply for Bookshelf Grants or Picturing American collections.

Korene Ekstrand and Angie Wiegers, middle school LMS at Bridger and Nowlin sponsored a student trip to the Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg, Missouri for the first time. Tonna McGee and Radene Worley from Santa Fe Trail and Luff Elementaries have taken students for several years now and continue to receive positive comments from their students for this experience.

Belton News *by Jana Sasser, Melissa McConnell, and Lindsay Linck*

This year the students and staff at Belton High School have made teen literacy a top priority. The library media center has supported this effort with several reading activities or events. One popular activity has been the BHS Book Clubs. Over forty students have joined the five book clubs (one for each lunch shift) to discuss books as they eat their lunches in the media center. The LMC also sponsored a fall book fair, a teachers' book swap and a Twilight Movie Night. Another reading promotion at Belton High School has been the use of a large bulletin board with the caption "BHS: A Community of Reader". Pictures of students and staff caught reading are on the display outside the LMC.

"The students and teachers have been very receptive to promoting reading at BHS and more end of the year activities are being planned," commented Jana Sasser, Library

Media Specialist at BHS. For instance, a Gateway Book Party for students that have read three or more of the Gateway nominated books is scheduled for March and a Poetry Café for April. Plans are also underway for the Summer Reading Promotion. Students will be able to check out books for the summer and can return or check out new books during Summer School hours.

Hillcrest Elementary and Kentucky Trail Elementary have started a contest called Raisin' Readers. The two schools are competing against each other to see which school can earn the most Reading Counts points on average per student during third quarter. The winning school's 100 Point Club members will be making a human ice cream sundae using the losing school's librarian as the ice cream. The losing school will be able to watch a videotaped version after the event. We are halfway through

our contest and the students have been extremely excited about the contest and are fired up about reading. Each building also hosts weekly contests within their buildings to keep the kids motivated. Mrs. McConnell and Mrs. Linck hope to see great gains in their students' SRI scores from this contest. The data will be shared with teachers and administrators, and the hope is to make this a yearly event.

Get Caught
Reading and
BHS Book
Clubs at
Belton High
School



KC3 News *by Corliss Moore*

It is time for Kansas City Third Grade Readers to vote for their favorite nominee! Picture Ballots are available at the GKCASL website. Click on "Vote Here" and go to Student Ballot.

The KC3 Committee has compiled a list of nominees for the 2009-2010 school year.

The KC3 Award is given for a chapter book that is quality literature appropriate for third grade readers, written by a U.S. author, and with a copyright no less than 2 years older than the nominee year. The award grew out of the original state designation of the Mark Twain Award for literature. Originally, the MTA included books for grades 3-8. In 1999, members of GKCASL felt that a separate award should be given to books for this age group since the third grade level is a pivotal year for readers where focus moves from the 32 page picture book to chapter books.

In this 10th anniversary year of the award, interest and enthusiasm seems to stay high with local third grade readers. The KC3 Award is one that is exclusive to readers in our community. Anyone reading on a third grade level, regardless of age, is

eligible to read and vote.

The nominees for next year are:

- The Talented Clementine by Sara Pennypacker
- Dexter the Tough by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Young Pele: Soccer's First Star by Lesa Cline-Ransome
- Piper Reed: Navy Brat by Kimberly Willis Holt
- Stinky and Successful: the Riot Brothers Never Stop by Mary Amato
- Soupy Saturdays with the Pain & the Great One by Judy Blume
- Oh, Brother! By Nikki Grimes
- Phineas L. Maguire-- Gets Slimed! by Frances O'Roark Dowell
- A Song for Harlem by Pat McKissack
- Remembering Mrs. Rossi by Amy Hest
- Bethany Hamilton: Follow Your Dreams by Michael Sandler

The KC3 committee is in need of adult readers for next year's nominees. Improvements are being made to the KC3 page through GKCASL's website that

will enable readers to rate the selections. The committee asks members to speak to potential volunteers in their schools in an effort to recruit readers for 2009-2010.

The KC3 Committee needs adult readers for next year's nomination.



Kansas City News by Jane Pettman

King Elementary will sponsor Read Across America on March 2. This is a reading awareness program that calls on members of the community to read to students. Organized by King's librarian, Madonna Bock, the school will celebrate reading in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday.

Some of the community members who have agreed to participate include the following: Dr. Clive Coleman (acting superintendent of the KCMO School District), Marilyn Simmons (KC School Board president), Dustin Colquitt (KC Chief's punter), Grace Bridgeford (KC School District Library Supervisor), parents, and friends.

The readers will gather for an informal reception from 10:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M. in the library and will read to students from 10:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. They will read to King's students in grades K-7 and nine classes from Weeks Pre-K.

Two Kansas City librarians attended the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL)/ International Book Fair. The FIL takes place in Guadalajara, Mexico every year and it is the most important event for the world's Spanish-language book market. The American Library Association (ALA) "Free Pass" program and FIL provide financial support to some members wishing to visit the fair. ALA chose 215 members to attend the 22nd FIL, and Maria-Elena Singelmann and Claudia Kimrey were two of the lucky ones. Maria-Elena is the librarian in a newly re-opened district school, Southwest Early College Campus, while Claudia is at East Elementary.

You may read more about last year's FIL at <http://www.criticasmagazine.com/article/CA6606948.html> You may also learn about this year's FIL by going to http://www.fil.com.mx/ingles/i_info/i_info_int.asp

Here are some pictures of the display Claudia created in her library with some items purchased in Guadalajara:



Mari-Elena (in black) and Claudia (in green) at the Feria Internacional del Libro



Technology Matters *by Mischelle Tripp*

In this issue of Technology Matters there are three things to share. First, is technology news from Pleasant Hill. Thank you to Ann Bush who sent these great ideas for technology in school libraries! Second, is a quick tip for expanding circulation options using Destiny in the elementary building and last a short report from our Winter meeting regarding *Hippocampus*.

Technology News from Pleasant Hill Schools :

At the Primary School grades K-2: Tricia Beaman has after-school club called BEAT time (Books Exercise and Technology), We're using MP3 players with books downloaded from Audible.com. The kids walk laps in the gym while listening to the books. We have different books on different players, and give them a different one each day (they walk 5 days).

At the Intermediate School Janis Yokley uses Flip Video Cameras. The sixth graders at Pleasant Hill Intermediate School are doing video book talks that will be posted on the library blog and Teacher Tube. Working in groups of three, each student will have a chance to do a book talk, record a book talk, and move the video files to a shared network folder. A scoring guide was developed collaboratively with the Communication Arts teacher and Library Media Specialist that will help guide the students to include all the required story elements and perform the book talk with good eye contact and voice projection. The goal for students was to promote books, write a book talk and perform it to an authentic audience.

Student Book Lists using Destiny Automation System

Students may enjoy having their own book list based upon a specialized sort in the circulation system. If you have Follett's, Destiny Automation system, follow these simple steps to create student lists:

- While in the library catalog option, select search setup from the left menu options
- Add a group by clicking on the folder icon at the top of this section
- Name it for a grade level
- Add a folder to this group and name it name it for a grade level teacher's
- Add a search, naming the search with each student's name
- Under Power search, choose "lexile" for the Reading program
- Specify a Range as suggested by the classroom teacher or reading assessment.
- Repeat for each student

Students in the Fort Osage school district have enjoyed having their individual reading lists and also enjoy getting us to bump up their lexile range throughout the year! I do not advocate using it exclusively as leveling books is not an

idea I advocate. However, it does provide an alternative to adding stickers to books and is a nice way to help a student that may become frustrated when trying to find that "Just Right Book".

What is Hippocampus?

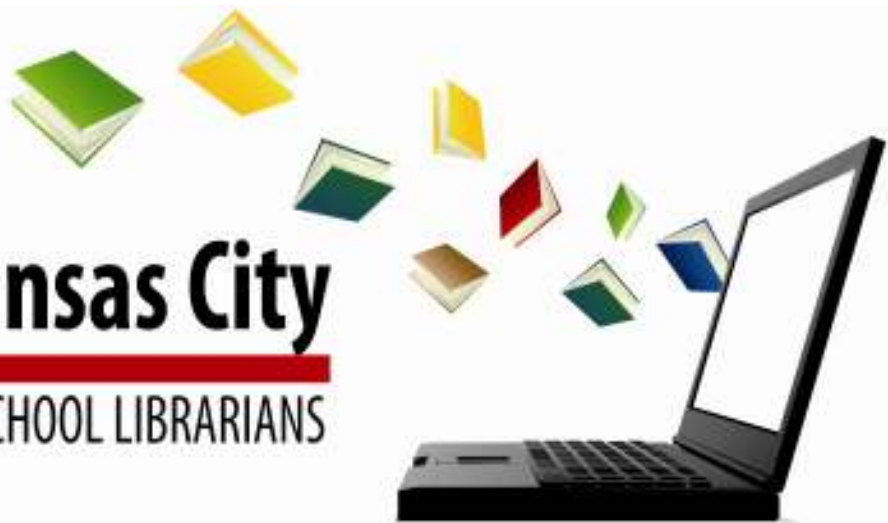
During our Winter GKCASL meeting, Curt Fuchs, Coordinator of Educational Services and Director of MOVIP; Missouri Virtual Instruction Program introduced us to a new program called Hippo Campus (www.hippocampus.com) at our winter GKCASL meeting. This is a free website that offers K-12 online courses for students statewide. Entire courses are available from any internet connected computer and are available twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

MoVIP offers online courses for students statewide. Students can take an entire course from any Internet-connected computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Availability of this program allows students in Missouri equal access to a wider range of coursework, is a viable option to home bound students and offers flexible learning that is neither time nor place dependent.

Curt encouraged us to get the word out to teachers about MOVIP and encourage its' use. To log on to Hippocampus, scroll down to the last login option. The user ID is mymvip.

Greater Kansas City

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



GKCASL's new logo that was chosen by the majority of the membership at the Winter General Meeting.



Photos from the Winter General Meeting