

# Winter Newsletter

G R E A T E R   K A N S A S   C I T Y   A S S O C I A T I O N   O F   S C H O O L  
L I B R A R I A N S

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- From the GKCASL President
- Library News
- MASL's Winter Connections
- 2007-2008 Executive Council
- Upcoming Events

**F R O M   T H E   P R E S I D E N T   B Y   S U S A N  
S C H A N K**

We've had a great year so far in GKCASL! Many thanks to all the wonderful committee members who keep this organization rolling! This will be my last newsletter as president. I have truly enjoyed serving this wonderful organization. Being involved with such warm people inspires me daily! I know that whoever follows will be a fabulous leader and will take this organization to new levels. I encourage you to be as welcoming and accommodating to them as you have been to me. Thank you for your confidence and trust. I won't forget it!

Jessica and Dana Kepler are busy planning our Spring banquet meeting! It will be held on May 6th at the Argosy Terrace Buffet, so bring your appetites! The Terrace is lovely and it is sure to be a wonderful evening! We will be installing our new officers at the banquet as well!

We are still in need of a Parliamentarian, Continuing Education Chairperson, and a Historian. Email Susan Schank at [sschank64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sschank64@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

Have a wonderful spring! Stay Strong!

It's not too late to register for the MASL Spring Conference! The dates are April 13-15 at Tan-Tar-a. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/spring/SC2008.php>

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**R A Y T O W N   N E W S   B Y   L A C I E   G R I F F I N**

Lacie Griffin is becoming the new Library Media Specialist for Raytown Central Middle School. This will be Raytown's third middle school that will be opening in the fall.

Congratulations go out to Charlotte Ward, retired Raytown South Middle School reading teacher and now dedicated volunteer at RSMS Library Media Center, as she is the recipient of the MASL 2008 Friend of the School Library

Award. She was nominated for her six years of service, her faithfulness, and her professionalism in the library. She will be recognized at the MASL Spring Conference on April 13.

## BELTON NEWS BY CAROL HAMBRECHT

Friday, February 29, 2008 Cambridge Elementary hosted the Tenth Annual Read Across America Celebration, sponsored by the National Education Association. The theme for the day was "Hooray for Dr. Seuss' Birthday." Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our goal was to have every child in the company of a book during the celebration. Cambridge Elementary celebrated with events such as: Dr. Seuss door decorating parties, green eggs and ham for breakfast, Seuss themed lunches, and much more. Students also participated in Seuss themed spirit week. Cambridge hosted over sixty guest readers including Belton School District Board of Education members, our superintendent as well as other Central Office administrators, Cambridge staff members, parents, and other community leaders.

At Hillcrest Elementary, spring break is here and the kids have just wrapped up another great quarter of reading and taking quizzes on the Reading Counts program. We had 51 first through fourth graders (26% of our population!) qualify for the Points Party—the kids get to come to the library, hang out, have a snack, and talk with their friends. The last party of the year is coming in May. This is the best, because the kids earning 25 or more points for the year get to come by & "shop" for books with their points! Our spring book fair profits are taken entirely in books, so the kids are getting high-quality literature for FREE! Fourth quarter incentive has the kids reading an alphabet of authors. They need to read 26 books and pass the

quizzes—all picture books are fine, but the books all have to be by a different author, and some are combined to make "free slots." The kids chart the books on a form and turn it in for a prize and bonus points for the final party.

For Read Across America, Kentucky Trail Elementary combined learning about US States with Reading. The goal of the cross-curricular project was to cover a huge map, located in the Commons, with cars traveling to each State. Classes signed up for classroom reading time slots, and each 15 min. slot earned the class a car on the map. As each State was covered, students added facts about that State. Second grade excelled and earned too many cars for the map to hold! Second grade cars were diverted onto "roads" that led from the Map in the Commons to the Library door,

For Read Across America, Scott Elementary used My Many Colored Days as a theme for wearing different colors each day with activities such as Guest speakers, RIF Books, and Green Eggs and Ham. Each child received a free copy of a Jan Brett Hedgehog book and had a turn sitting and pretending in a wooden box the same size as the one in Henry's Freedom Box.

At Gladden Elementary, Read Across America brought guest Service Learning readers from the High School to read in classrooms. Kindergarten classes wrote letters to the characters in

the Purple Monster books. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy learning to use the computer catalog and to understand the arrangement of the Library. 25 Gladden 4<sup>th</sup> graders earned the right to attend the K State game 3/12 as part of the WIN for KC Reading Challenge and Fitness Program sponsored by the Women's Inter-Sports Network for KC. Students read 12 biographies and sports books, in addition to keeping a fitness journal conscientiously for 2 months.

Mill Creek Upper Elementary School celebrated Read Across America with a Book Fair that featured a Family Event Night. The real Cat in the Hat was the celebrity guest. This school circulates its Reading Counts books at an astounding rate. The LMC has recently supported 6<sup>th</sup> grade Ancient Rome research and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Explorers units, and they look forward to several more research units after spring break.

Yeokum Middle School participated in RAA with a full lineup of Guest Readers and a very successful Book Fair. Students have been honing their info lit skills while playing World Almanac Jeopardy and writing Persuasive Speeches.

[continued on next page]

P A R K H I L L N E W S B Y D A N A K E P L E R

Diana Gehrt, first year Library Media Specialist, at Congress Middle School in the Park Hill School District, achieved 2007 National Board Certification. Diana earned her Master's in Library Science in 2005, and continued working as an eighth grade reading teacher as she pursued National Board Certification in Library Media.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Representatives Jason Grill and Jason Brown, along with Senator Charlie Shields recognized Diana and others for attaining National Board Certification. She is proudly displaying some nice plaques commemorating her accomplishment in her media center.

Diana is also the recipient of the MASL scholarship for first year Media Specialists and looks forward to attending the upcoming conference. She is also looking forward to the opportunity to meet everyone at the GKASL at the spring banquet.

K C M O N E W S B Y J A N E P E T T M A N

Book clubs can be fun and rewarding, especially if the students come up with the idea themselves.

In Central High School, librarian, Michelle Lowe, is very excited about the creation of two book clubs and a writers club spearheaded by the students themselves. They came up with the idea and sought Michelle's help in planning the logistics. By sacrificing their lunch periods, students meet once a month to have a boys book club, a girls book club, and a writers club. They have called themselves the Eagle Readers and Writers Club (C.H.S.'s mascot is an

eagle). Even reluctant readers and "apathetic students" have signed up to join the clubs which, of course, has pleased the school's principal. At the end of the school year, the clubs are going to have a joint Book Bonanza wherein they get to have a reading celebration.

At Faxon Montessori School, there are three book clubs currently in session. Faxon's librarian, Jane Pettman, organized the KC3 Book Club for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders wherein the students came and ate lunch in the library and gave up their recess every Tuesday to read and

discuss some of the nominated books for the KC3 Award. Though the students have already voted, the book club still meets and continues reading and enjoying the KC3 books. The other 2 book clubs are for the upper elementary students (grades 4-6) and they also come to the library to eat lunch and read instead of going to recess one day a week.

B E L T O N N E W S C O N T I N U E D . . .

At the Freshman Center, the Beltonian Book Battle ended 3/5/08. Participating students read 4 books and answered questions written by members of the Student Library Advisory Council. Winners received gift cards and their names

will be added to the BBattle trophy. A Poetry Slam (sort of) was held 3/12/08 in the LMC for 15 teen poets. They shared their poetry, ate, and had a great time. Will the group continue their poetry connection? (Cliffhanger!)

BHS has 5 popular Book Clubs,

one for each lunch group. Eat and read!!

On the last day of school, all students will be invited to check out three books for summer reading. They can exchange their books in the during Summer School LMC hours.

## LEE'S SUMMIT NEWS BY KAREN MCKARNIN

Libraries in our district just completed a successful Reading Week Celebration in conjunction with the Lee's Summit Reading Council, a division of the International Reading Association. All schools and many community businesses participated in sustained silent reading during "Lee's Summit READS!" on March 4 from 10:00 - 10:20 a.m. Other activities during the week were Dr. Seuss' Read Across America Day, dress-up days, contests, and book swaps.

Three Lee's Summit Media Centers have been nominated for the GKCASL Outstanding Media Program Award for Elementary Libraries. Sharon O'Donnell (Greenwood Elementary), Pam Scott (Highland Park Elementary) and Jaci Hurley (Longview Farm Elementary) are the media specialists at those schools. Congratulations to these ladies!

Sheryl Kiefer will retire this year after serving 12 years as media specialist at Lee's Summit North High School. Sheryl has been involved in the professional school library community for many years and her services will be missed. Trish Barnard, currently LMS at Summit Lakes Middle School, will replace Sheryl at North.

Terry Kling, LMS at Pleasant Lea Middle School, has resigned and is moving with her family to California. We wish all three the best in their new endeavors.

Lee's Summit High School principal, John Faulkenberry, is receiving the MASL Administrator Award at Spring Conference. Sandy Stuart-Bayer and Michael Russell, media specialists at LSHS will present a workshop session with Mr. Faulkenberry. Other library/media department staff presenting at Spring Conference are Megan Arnett, Sandy Bauer, Sharon Early, Bill Hume, Sherry Rowett and Amy Taylor. Sandy Stuart-Bayer is conference workshop co-chair.

Our elementary schools are busy planning and holding book fairs from February through May. Two Missouri authors will present at several of our elementary school media centers this spring. Media specialist Jaci Hurley will host Lisa Campbell Ernest at the Young Authors Conference held at Longview Farm Elementary in late March. Marj Jackson, LMS at Hawthorne Hill Elementary and Sharon Murphy, LMS at Trailridge Elementary are hosting author Judy Young in April. Jessica Vandebos,

LMS at Campbell Middle School, will hold a Literacy Night on April 30 at the Paradise Park Fun Center. Families can shop at a Scholastic Book Fair, eat and take part in activities like miniature golf, arcades and go-carts. Kim Bell, Summit Pointe LMS, began a new "Books We Love" program during February. Staff members selected their favorite childhood titles which were labeled with their name on a heart, and the books were available for students check out. It was lots of fun for everyone!



*"As a child, my number one best friend was the librarian in my grade school. I actually believed all those books belonged to her."*

- Emma Bombeck

G K C A S L S P R I N G E V E N T

GK CASL Spring Banquet

Tuesday, May 6

Social Time @ 5:00 pm

Unlimited Dinner Buffet Banquet @ 5:30 pm

Come for awards, door prizes, and recognition of our retiring LMS!

**Argosy Terrace Buffet**

777 Argosy Parkway

Riverside, MO

816-746-3734

**Cost: \$21.00**

Mail check made out to GK CASL by May 1 to:

Dana Kepler

8140 NW Kirkwood

Kansas City, MO 64151

*\*\*Please indicate if you are a retiring member when you send in your payment.\*\**

"What a school thinks  
about its library is a  
measure of what it  
thinks about  
education."



Harold Howe, former U.S.  
Commissioner of Education

G R E A T E R K A N S A S  
C I T Y A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F S C H O O L

2007-2008 OFFICERS AND  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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KC3 CHAIR— LACIE GRIFFIN  
PUBLIC RELATIONS—CATHY BETZ  
TECHNOLOGY—DEBBIE SWARTZ  
PAST PRESIDENT— SUSAN MAYES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MARCH 27, 2008—GKCASL Ex-  
ECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING @ SWIN-  
NEY ELEMENTARY

APRIL 10, 2008— GKCASL EXECU-  
TIVE BOARD MEETING @ SWINNEY  
ELEMENTARY

APRIL 13-15, 2008—MASL SPRING  
CONFERENCE

MAY 6, 2008—GKCASL SPRING  
BANQUET

M A S L W I N T E R C O N N E C T I O N S 2 0 0 8 O N L I N E

The **Winter CONNECTIONS 2008** is available on the MASL website as of March 19!

Articles of interest include:

**New MASL logo selected !!**

**Proposed dues increase** . . . members will vote on this proposal during MASL Business Meeting (Monday morning) during Spring Conference.

**MASL Awards & Grants** . . .

**LOTS of information regarding Spring Conference in April** . . .

**and MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!**