



Brien McMahon Library Media Center Newsletter

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Inside this issue:

ALA in New Or- 1

Book Trailers 1

Freshmen 1

Trial Databases 2

Opposing View- 2

Book Club 2

GOTTA LOVE THOSE FRESHMEN

For the second year, 9th Grade Team English teachers Sarah Molinelli and Heather Delude are requiring their students to do independent reading. They brought their classes into the library before school had been open a week for a quick introduction to the facility and an opportunity to check out books. Last year it was a few freshmen who outpaced everyone else in taking out—and reading—the most books from the BMHS library.

And More Freshmen... (plus Sopho- mores)

They're all asking: Why is the library closed to groups from study hall during September and October? It will become obvious starting September 15, as 9th and 10th graders begin arriving, with their Social Studies classes, to begin in-depth research projects. Freshmen will learn to navigate the online catalog and the library stacks, discover databases, RADCAB the Internet, and cite their sources. Their sophomore counterparts will receive a refresher on these essential skills, and more.

N'AWLINS



The day after school ended back in June, Ms. Andronik was off to New Orleans for the Annual Conference of the American Library Association. (Great city, lots of spirit—just don't visit in June, when the temperature and humidity soar.) Much of her time was spent with the Odyssey Award and Amazing Audios committees. She got to meet some of the top names in audiobook narration—Bahni Turpin, Nick Podehl, Macleod Andrews, and others. One of the best non-audiobook activities she attended was a seminar on creating a book trailer—see below!

A DIFFERENT KIND OF BOOK REPORT

NOW SHOWING

How many times have you said, "I've GOT to see that!" after seeing an exciting movie trailer on television or online? Trailers can be a way to get readers excited about books, too.

There are several technologies for creating book trailers. They range from the relatively simple to the sophisticated. And, since we're all about fair use and respecting copyright, there are public domain tools out there that help the creators of book trailers avoid commercial images and music.

The single best workshop Ms. Andronik attended at ALA New Orleans this summer was on book trailers, and she'd love to share what she learned with you and your students (after she practices a bit more). If you have tech savvy kids in your classes, book trailers are a creative alternative to traditional book reports.

Since kids learn about really good books from their peers, Ms. A would also like to create a browsable

collection of BMHS-produced trailers to guide visitors to the library as they choose the perfect book..

For some examples of trailers promoting YA books, check these out:

http://animoto.com/play/pKzfEafX09XUHW08CKKy7Q?utm_content=main_linkSwallowing%20Stones

<http://bookscreening.com/2009/09/02/the-monstrumologist-by-rick-yancey/>

IT'S HERE! OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS



We already subscribe to some useful databases in the BMHS Library Media Center: Culturegrams, Teen Health and Wellness, Britannica Online. This year, there will be a great addition to our online collection: Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. Many of you are familiar with Greenhaven Press's Op-

posing Viewpoints series, which has been around in print form since the '80s. More than providing an overview of a topic, OP breaks controversial subjects into manageable subtopics, then presents pro/con arguments, culled from top magazines, journals, and news programs,

from both sides of the issue. A recent print spinoff is the At Issue series, which tackles more focused issues and is excellent for introducing thesis statements—and it's in the online center, too, among a number of other resources ideal for beginning critical researchers.

Reading is dreaming
with open eyes

LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB IS BACK!

It took a while to figure out the logistics with the new lunch schedule, but Ms. A is hopeful it's going to work: the BMHS library media center's **LUNCH BUNCH BOOK CLUB** will enter its third year very soon. Last year we had nearly a dozen students avidly reading and discussing The Hunger Games trilogy by Connecticut resident Suzanne Collins. (Watch for the movie based on the first book, anticipated for 2012.)

This year we'll be reading

Cheater by Michael Laser and *Libyrrinth* by Pearl North, plus one and possibly two titles from the forthcoming Nutmeg Teen Book Award 2013 list. (I was on the selection committee but am not at liberty to divulge the list until early 2012—just know that they're really good books.)

I'm ordering 25 copies of each title—hardcover, from a great deep discount source!!—and all members of the club get to keep their books

for their home library.

We'll be meeting once per quarter for all four lunch periods. Students will attend a book discussion during whatever lunch they happen to have. The library will provide pizza or sandwich wraps, a drink, and dessert.

Books should be coming in any day, and the first discussion is scheduled for Thursday, October 27.

TRIAL DATABASES—FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

The library media center has access to some trial Facts on File databases until the middle of October. There's quite a variety, ranging from Social Studies ("Empires of the Past," "Life in America," "World Religions," etc.) to Science ("Energy and the Environment," "Genetic Diseases").

There is also a bank of streaming videos. All can be found on any school computer at the BMHS Library Media Center "Catalog (Internal Only)" homepage (a.k.a. Destiny in Favorites. The username is **bmhslib3**; the password is **senators**. These databases are available only for a limited

time, so check them out with your students soon. If you see something you LOVE, let Ms. A. know! There's a little money still remaining in the library's account.