



Brien McMahon Library Media Center Newsletter: Teacher Edition

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Inside this issue:

Fundraisers	1
Student Library Committee	1
YALSA	2
Public Library Cards	3
Book Clubs	3
Shoutouts	4
Book of the Month	4
Webinar	4
Do Teens Read?	4
Prezi	4
New Books are In!	4

GIMME AN M!

We've been promising, and we're almost ready to deliver! As so many of you have asked, the BMHS Library Media Center will be selling red-white-and-blue McMahon "M" car magnets. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards adding print and nonprint resources to the library and supporting reading initiatives. (Thinking **really** big, we'd love to make enough money to bring in a visiting author!)



BOOKFAIR

The Book Fair is coming!! The Book Fair is coming!!

Books make great gifts, and the BMHS Library Media Center will be making it easy for you to choose the best titles for giving! We'll be hosting a book fair during the week of December 13. Books will be provided by Merritt Bookstore, located in Millbrook, New York. There will be something for everybody—teen novels, classics, best-sellers, cook-books, titles just for teachers, even a few picture books perfect for gift-giving.



DONORSCHOOSE

Do we love DonorsChoose? In the BMHS Library Media Center, yes, we certainly do! Ms. Andronik is happy to report that we've received yet another DonorsChoose grant. This one will benefit the AP Spanish students, who will soon have access to books in the original Spanish by such authors as Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Ana Maria Matute, and Miguel de Unamuno. There are also English-language critical and historical books that place the literature in context.

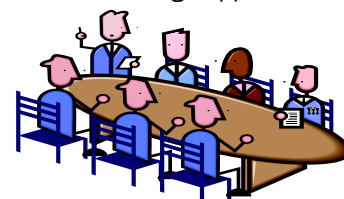
Do you have a research project idea, but are hesitating because the library media center lacks sufficient materials? Your new project could be just a grant away!

STUDENT LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We would love to reinstate the Student Library Committee this year. Adults have lots of ideas about what a school library should look like—but in the end it's the students who actually use it, and the library staff would appreciate their advice. Would they like the furniture and spaces arranged differently? Is the collection meeting their needs? meeting their needs? Are

there programs they would attend if the school library offered them? If students ARE library users, why? If they aren't, why not—and what would entice them through those double doors? We're looking for students who live in the library, students who have never taken out a book, and anyone in-between. Logistics are still being figured out, but we will probably meet about once a

month during lunch waves. Please mention this opportunity to your classes—and add that membership on a Student Library Committee would look REALLY impressive on a college application!



YALSA 'S YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE SYMPOSIUM



UFOs (Uncontrollable Fiction Obsessives) sighted in New Mexico.

Yes, there ARE gay, Hispanic, and even weight-challenged superheroes!

Warm autumn sunshine, Georgia O’Keeffe landscapes, Pueblo Native American communities, great Mexican food—and LOTS of young adult literature. That’s what Ms. Andronik got to enjoy attending the second biennial Young Adult Literature Symposium, sponsored by the Young Adult Library Services Association, held from November 5 through 7 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme of this year’s conference was “Diversity, Literature and Teens,” and focused on topics like fiction (and non-fiction) for teens featuring GLBTQ, urban, Hispanic, disabled, or otherwise “non-mainstream” elements.

Unable to choose between all-day pre-conference sessions on GLBTQ or urban books, Ms. Andronik divided her time and attention, attending the former in the morning and the latter in the afternoon. She came away with some excellent bibliographies for collection development.

Far too early Saturday morning she enjoyed a presentation on Latino

literature highlighted by readings and comments by YA authors Margarita Engle and Ben Saenz. Next came an interactive discussion about the larger meaning of diversity: Every teen reader is different in one way or another, and books are seldom “one size fits all.”

The Bill Morris Author Luncheon featured author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award for *Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal*. While that book is aimed for a younger audience, she read aloud from her forthcoming fictionalized biography for teens of her uncle, the feisty proprietor of a notable Harlem bookshop from the 1930s into the 1970s.

That afternoon, Ms. Andronik was herself a presenter, giving a paper on her Ph.D. dissertation topic, recent Australian fiction for young adults and the many American awards it’s been winning.

Next came an enthusiastic talk about diversity in graphic novels, including “traditional” comic books

and manga. Yes, there ARE gay, Hispanic, and even weight-challenged superheroes!

Saturday evening, attendees enjoyed a private guided tour of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, which featured a display of traditional pottery and weaving from the 19 pueblos as well as historical information.

Sunday morning was filled with big name authors: first an interactive demonstration of the power of “open mic” (a.k.a. “slam”) poetry readings led by the dynamic and prolific Nikki Grimes; then a closing discussion by Lauren Myracle and Ellen Hopkins about the many community challenges their books have generated.

If anyone would like copies of handouts or booklists from any of these sessions, just let Ms. A know and she can print them out or email you a link.

Ms. Andronik is already looking forward to the 2012 Symposium in St. Louis!



DO TEENS READ?

A recent article in the *Washington Post* says that they definitely do—although not all their reading is in formats like books, newspapers, or magazines any more; reading a website is still reading! Check out the details at <http://tinyurl.com/262cqvx>.

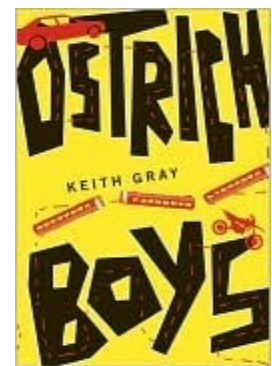


Book of the Month

Ostrich Boys by Keith Gray

Best friends Blake, Sim, and Kenny are mourning buddy Ross's death in a bicycle accident. It's wrong that he is no longer with them—and the funeral seems even more wrong, with well-meaning words from people who hardly seem to have known Ross the way the boys did. So they concoct a wild and crazy scheme to kidnap his ashes and let him fulfill his lifelong dream: to travel to the little town of Ross, Scotland. It looks like a simple train trip, but what ensues is far from simple as Kenny, Blake, and Sim encounter everything from beautiful Scottish girls to bungee jumping along their journey. And somewhere along the way, they

make momentous discoveries about themselves, and uncover a disturbing truth about the friend they thought they knew better than anyone.



WEBINAR

Here's advance notice of a webinar that's coming up on March 9, 2011. Entitled "This Is Not Optional: Developing and Delivering Comprehensive, Predictable and Accountable Big6 Information Literacy for College- or Workforce-Bound Students with Mike Eisenberg," it will present practical information about the nationally recognized research model. The Big6 is an incredibly useful model for students of any age who are engaged in research projects. The webinar is sponsored by Library Media Connection, an affiliate of ABC-CLIO. It's held at 4 p.m. The more attendees we can attract, the better the pricing. If you are interested, please drop Ms. Andronik or Ms. Payton a note or an email.



TECHNOLOGY OF THE MONTH

Looking for an alternative to PowerPoint as a presentation tool? Try Prezi!

<http://prezi.com/>

It's a slideshow with swing, sort of a graphic organizer set in motion. In a single large frame, you can zoom in and out, free of the constraints of linear designs like PowerPoint or PhotoStory. Prezi Basic is free; upgrades provide additional storage space and editing options.



It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it. ~Oscar Wilde

NEW BOOKS ARE IN!

After the new book drought of school year 2009-2010, the BMHS Library Media Center is happy to announce that **NEW BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!** Besides biographies, lots of new health-related materials, and the latest college and SAT prep references, there is also plenty of fiction to fit all tastes. The "Drama High" series has already proven popular (and much thanks to the student who recommended it!). The 2010 Printz Award winner, *Going Bovine* by Libba Bray, is also available. With the holiday break coming soon, please encourage students to stop by the library and choose the perfect book for a quiet, snowy winter afternoon.