

# MSLA Forum: February 2011

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## President's Message

### Gerri Fegan: The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Plan for Massachusetts

Last October, I was asked by the Massachusetts DESE to serve as part of an expert panel that would review the draft of the new literacy plan for our state. The working group that put together the first draft consisted of DESE literacy experts and outside literacy organizations, reading specialists, publishers, universities, early childcare specialists, and health professionals. The group produced a thoughtful and proactive way to help our students "prepare for college, career, and citizenship."

The Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant, awarded to Massachusetts in the fall of 2010, asked the state (and other awardees) to prepare a statewide literacy plan for all children from birth to high school. This differed from the previous statewide plan, not only in age requirements, but in the depth of the 21st century complex goals for literacy success. The previous plan from 2005 needed to be revised to include the objectives set forth by the grant.

When the expert panel met in January to review the first draft, I found myself humbled to be in the presence of my educational heroes and to be representing Massachusetts school librarians. It became evident that this team was comprised of all the stakeholders who are very active in student success. I prepared by submitting our national standards and MSLA documents that demonstrate our unique purpose, objectives and commitment to the service of students and was grateful to see that other members of the panel agreed that school librarians play an important role in student academic success.

We reviewed the efforts of the working group and made bold statements in terms of the accomplishments that we felt need to be made in the next ten years. While I can't divulge specifics about the document because it has been submitted to Washington for approval, I can say that I am thrilled that the whole child aspects of the plan are strong and vibrant. From medical aspects of a child's early development to the standardized tests that will evolve to place students in the careers of their choice, the plan is all-inclusive. The opportunities for school and public librarians to work together to promote new literacies, to incorporate the Common Core into enrichment, and to collaborate on the same academic goals for students through free access to all information and literature are some of the ways we hope to see substantial improvement.

Massachusetts has seen substantial success in many literacy programs, including the establishment of the Center for Curriculum and Instruction. Working with the Center could very well be the key for school librarians to infuse the critical skills we teach into assessments and curriculum, and demonstrate the versatility of our unique positions in our schools as conduits from classroom to real world learning, from the physical library shelf to the worldwide web. Massachusetts has taken many steps this year to bring school librarians into working groups, committees and planning sessions. As I step down from my presidency in May, I have been proud to represent Massachusetts school librarians and encourage all of you to step up to the plate when the DESE calls.

As of this writing, the President's budget has cut the funds for this project. I am hopeful that this will be reinstated. So much work, so much promise, and such devotion to our children is a light in the dark.

## From the Editor



### It's all about **VOLUNTEERS!**

This issue of the MSLA Forum has an agenda - Volunteers. I actually have two parts to this agenda.

**First, I am seeking VOLUNTEERS** for this publication. Although the Little Red Hen is my patron saint (if you want something done....do it yourself), I sincerely believe in the importance of involvement. YOUR involvement makes MSLA a stronger organization and you a more connected School Librarian. Here are some ways for you to better MSLA and yourself:

- **PULSE** is a column that highlights news in the school library world and it has a "Help Wanted" sign....please consider collecting information posted by the ALA and AASL newsletters, scouring the blogs, and keeping your ears/eyes open for local news. [Check out this issue's column.](#)
- **MY TURN** is an opportunity for anyone to step up and expound on something - sort of an open microphone. In the [1.1.11 issue of the Forum](#), [Brian Tata](#) had his turn....how about you?
- **Write an article**...you may see my call for articles on the MSLA listserv, but consider this your open invitation to report on an author visit, a new development in your school...there are no requirements, only that it's interesting to our membership.
- **Hot Button Issues** are exactly what they sound like. Last month, I did a survey of our members on the topic of Volunteers in our school libraries. Please feel free to follow my lead with your own topic, or to write up a question that you posted to our listserv.

**Second**, I am reporting on a Hot Button Issue, **Volunteers: + or - ?** It turned out to be such a huge topic that I am separating it into sections. This issue has the benefits and downsides of volunteers. In the April Forum, we will have additional reports. Rachel Hopkins will share her Simmons GSLIS project on "Best Practices" with volunteers and I will complete my distillation of the survey results.

I have always believed in the mantra, "**Don't Whine, SHOUT**" and it's more important than ever to present a positive face with positive results. It's a scary time to be in education and school libraries are definitely in the cross hairs of the cuts. We cannot prevent cuts, but we can change minds on where the cuts are taken. **So, VOLUNTEER! Step up! Be Seen!**



Volunteers: + or - ?



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## **HOT BUTTON ISSUE: Volunteers and School Libraries**

by Ann Perham

In January 2011, I posted a survey to the MSLA members on volunteerism. I know I hit a "hot button" based on the response on the [Google Survey](#). In just a few days, I received over 50 responses and collected some very thoughtful ideas in the open answer section.



For this issue, I will report on the benefits and downsides of volunteers. In the April issue of the Forum, readers will learn about "best practices," and ways of thanking volunteers. The burning question, "Are volunteers replacing professionals" will be the focus of the final section.

**QUESTION: *What do you consider to be the benefit(s) of using volunteers?***(below)

**QUESTION: *What do you consider to be the "down side" (if any) of using volunteers?*** (continued on next page )

Responses clustered in two main categories, with two other minor categories:

SUPPORT / ADVOCACY for my program

NEEDED MANPOWER

BENEFITS to the INDIVIDUAL STUDENT, Insight for SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

BENEFITS to the VOLUNTEER

Members chose the option of supplying their names, or of commenting anonymously.

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### **SUPPORT / ADVOCACY for my program**

- Barbara Boulay *I believe that the more parents/community members I have helping me in library, the more community support I will have in times of budget cuts. Parents in our community are very supportive of our school and are very happy to be in the library helping out. If I want the library to be considered a vital part of the school by the greater community, what better promotional tool could I have at my disposal than having parents working in the library and contributing to a part of their student's school day?*
- Sandy Kelly *My volunteers are my strongest supporters. They get to see what really happens when they are in and they appreciate the program and access to resources. Many even have their own library cards.*
- ~anonymous~ *Volunteers act as liaisons to the PTO, who in return are receptive to the school library's needs.*
- Rich Winnick *They can also become library advocates, especially after they gain an understanding of the amount of non-professional work that it takes to keep the library organized and functioning.*
- ~anonymous~ *Creating relationships with parents is a benefit of them volunteering in the library. They are often helpful spreading the word about services offered in the library.*
- ~anonymous~ *Getting to know parents is one of the best ways to "sell" the profession. Make friends with those taxpayers! Let them see you in action so that they appreciate the many tasks you perform. One of my long-time weekly volunteers is the wife of a school committee member. She sees what I do, and understands the necessity of the library and librarian. I'm sure she shares that info with her husband.*

### **NEEDED MANPOWER**

- Char Sidell *Shelving and circulation – with 600 students and an annual circulation of over 36,000, I count on my volunteers!*
- Susan Harari *They free us from everyday tasks so that we can concentrate on information literacy and strengthening the collection. We are understaffed, so having them gives us a little extra time.*
- Cindy Erle *When I have a parent volunteer, they can assist with all the processing of books. This not only saves me time, but since I don't have to pay for processing it helps my budget and allows me to purchase more materials!*
- Marcia Bernard *As the sole employee in a busy school library, I really count on my volunteers to keep things running smoothly. The help they provide in shelving books alone is huge.*
- ~anonymous~ *Mundane library tasks that should have been done by paraprofessionals can be performed minimally.*
- Kerry Butler *I love having volunteers help out shelving, organizing, do other small jobs I do not have time for during the day. Most of my parents come in when their child has library class with me. They become a big help in keeping order during library class since they begin to know my students because they know my students because of outside activities. I have two parents that are willing to help me out with the card catalog system which is a big plus since I do not have the time sometimes to keep up with it.*
- Susan Farr *Shelving takes me away from students and teachers and doesn't require a library degree to do. I am happy to get it done by a volunteer.*

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- Laura Gardner *Using volunteers makes it possible for the library to be open for the entire school day to teachers and students for research, browsing and circulation. Without volunteers I'd go crazy! It also allows me to focus on professional duties like teaching students information literacy and makes it possible for me to occasionally prep for future instructional classes (although I do most of that at home or after school).*
- ~anonymous~ *Our volunteers free us up from basic clerical tasks and allow us to use that time to work with and for students.*
- Rich Winnick *They can do a lot of the paraprofessional work that I would otherwise have to do in order to keep the library organized and functioning*
- ~anonymous~ *I can help students find the book they want while the volunteer is circulating books. I have more time to do what I need to do while they reshelve the books.*
- ~anonymous~ *New materials are made accessible faster.  
Books are re-shelved faster.  
Copies made, magazines processed, searching done efficiently.*
- Doris Gallant *When I need to leave the room, the volunteers provide coverage.  
The volunteers are able to do repetitive processes to help get the books on the shelves quicker. The volunteers help with administrative procedures that I wouldn't have time to do. One volunteer is able to help with weeding by category. Sometimes they can cover for a professional day.*
- Elaine Donoghue *Without them, the library couldn't function. They do all the shelving. Thus far, we have circulated over 15,000 books this year. They would never have found their way back to the shelves without the volunteers. They also help with circulation, processing and whatever task needs to be done.*
- ~anonymous~ *Great bulletin boards, in those years when we are lucky enough to have volunteers willing to do them (usually the volunteer adds a lot of creativity)*
- ~anonymous~ *Books that never (or at least anytime soon) would have seen the shelves are getting processed and are circulating.*
- ~anonymous~ *There is no way I could run a quality school library program at the elementary level if I didn't have volunteer support. Young children require assistance in the library and I can only multi-task so much!*
- ~anonymous~ *Having another helping hand. When a volunteer comes in on a regular basis and does a very thorough, careful job, it's like having another colleague. Priceless. That doesn't happen often.*
- Alice Sajdera *They relieve the professional and para professional staff of the clerical tasks that can take a lot of our time. It also frees staff to work with students rather than performing those tasks.*

### **BENEFITS to the INDIVIDUAL STUDENT, Insight for SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**

- ~anonymous~ *Volunteers are often very supportive of their own children's reading needs and provide information for me to use about reading trends.*
- ~anonymous~ *Students benefit from volunteer assistance - less "wait" time*
- Cindy Erle *The 'lunch buddies' are the 8th grade student volunteers. They help with shelving the books as well as decorating the library and doing bulletin boards. The benefits are that they are more involved in the library and spread their enthusiasm with others. Students in the 6th and 7th grade also see them in the library and ask how they can do it too. Each year I get more and more students who want to help...I hope I can keep up!*

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~anonymous~ *They know the parent community, and provide valuable feedback when we consider instituting changes in fine structures, etc. Most important, volunteers have a wealth of experience to offer. Our volunteers have experience in business, libraries, the insurance industry. It's all come in useful.*

~anonymous~ *The parents learn about children's and young adult literature and they become champions for their children as readers.*

~anonymous~ *Volunteers model service to the school. We have had a dad and a grandmother as volunteers which was very cool.*

## **BENEFITS to the VOLUNTEER**

Nancy Byrne *Benefit to volunteer - A senior member of our community who feels productive and is able to reduce his property taxes.*



**Leslie Schoenherr, Editor**  
*Got a great idea? [CONTACT Leslie](#)*

### ***Don't Work Harder.....Work SMARTER:***

**Read Across America Readers Theater**

**Put Your Hands In The Air**

**Beyond the Basic Book Report**

**Great Displays**

**Best Sites for MARC records**

**Track Supplies**

**Portable Barcode Reader**

**Teaching Bibliography**

**Labeling Boxes for Moving**

**Professional Signage**

**Magazine Barcodes**

**Track Student Visits**

**Netbook Cord Management**

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## **Read Across America Readers Theater**

This year staff will perform a Readers Theater of Jackie Mims Hopkins's *The Gold Miner's Daughter: A Melodramatic Fairytale* at our Read Across America assembly. The cast of characters includes an evil Mr. Bigglebottom and many traditional fairytale characters. The story provides lots of opportunities for fun costumes. Students love guessing who the fairytale characters are and responding with hissing and cheering to the rebus-like icons throughout the story.

*Submitted by: Rachel Keegan-McGlenn  
School Librarian, Upham Elementary,  
Wellesley*

## **Teaching Bibliography - How Does it Make YOU Feel?**

By its very nature, beginning to write bibliographies is confusing and tedious for many students. I have found a fun way to introduce the topic of plagiarism to my fifth grade students and to explain the importance of giving credit where it is due.

I begin by placing a small chunk of modeling clay at each student's place (I have table covers). I tell them that I will give them 10 minutes to create something of their very own. At the end of the ten minutes, I collect these "masterpieces" and display them on a table. I make a great show of placing these very carefully. I prop a sign up that I made that says "Artwork Created by Mrs. Mari." I then wait for the uproar. Once the uproar of "Hey you didn't make those!" settles down, we talk about how they felt when I took credit for their work. This starts up a lively discussion about intellectual property and ownership of ideas, which leads into a discussion about bibliography.

At the next class, I remind them of the incident and we begin to write citations for a book, then add complexity with an encyclopedia, and then a website. It never gets to be their favorite thing to do, but it does become easier.

I've made it a point in my school to share a bibliography example sheet around at my school. I notice that if I color code the bibliography example sheet, it seems to help.

*Submitted by: Pati Mari  
Norris School, Southhampton*

## **Put Your Hands In The Air**

It drives me crazy that after a class is in the library, the chairs are left a mess. I have started doing this: when it is time for cleanup, I tell the kids to stand up where they are, put their books and papers away and when that is done, I tell them to put their hands in the air. Then sometimes we dance a little! Then I say to put their hands on their wooden chair that is in front of them, and to push the chair in or take it to the place from which they got it. Don't know how well this would go over with high school students!

*Submitted by: Sharon Hamer  
Belmonte Middle School, Saugus*

## **Labeling Boxes for Moving as Easy as 1-2-3**

DO NOT mark boxes with the range of call numbers of their contents. I found a much faster and less error-prone way that I used after I moved the first of six libraries. The method I used allows you to mark boxes



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before filling them and makes it almost impossible to "lose" a box.

There's a major advantage to acquiring same-size boxes for moving books if you have the funds to do so. During one move, I had a local company make cardboard boxes to my specifications. My principal liked the idea so much that he ordered another 1000 boxes for teachers to use. After our move was over, we were able to sell the boxes to another school district, so the cost to us was minimal.

Non-fiction example (for 300s): I labeled boxes ahead of time based on a guesstimate of how many boxes I needed: 300-1, 300-2, 300-3, 300-4, etc., etc. (My guesstimate of how many boxes I needed was determined by the number of books in the 300s we had, divided by the number of books that would fit in one box.) This pre-labeling was generally accurate to within a couple of boxes, more or less. Then, we would start at the beginning of the 300s and fill boxes in order from the shelves. We might have ended up with the last of the 300s in a box labeled 300-23, and we also labeled this one "last box."

Every Dewey class had a set of boxes number sequentially using the method above. We had cardboard boxes especially made for us, and I was actually able to put books in them in the exact order in which they came off the shelves with their spine labels facing up. So re-shelving them after the move was also very easy. They also can't be too heavy. Fiction and Reference were packed similarly, using the designations FIC-1, FIC-2, etc., and REF-1, REF-2, etc.

This method had three advantages:

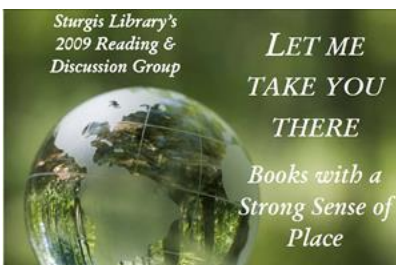
- Boxes are much easier to label and can be labeled in advance of packing them, a great time-saver.
- Different classes of non-fiction can be packed simultaneously, i.e. one person can pack 300s, and another can pack 400s, or fiction for that matter.
- It's almost impossible to miss a box when reshelving them because they're labeled very simply and sequentially. We had students and parent volunteers both packing and unpacking boxes. They did need a little training and supervision, however, to make sure books were packed and reshelved correctly.

A major caveat! Don't get too much help with moving. Use only the number of people that you and your staff can manage to adequately supervise. More is not necessarily better and can result in your having to redo things when your helpers make mistakes. Also, if you can work this out, you're better off bringing a limited number of books into the new library when reshelving rather than bringing all boxes in at once. Bring some in, then reshelve them. Then bring more books in, and reshelve them. This will avoid a lot confusion and reshelving problems.

*Submitted by: Rich Winnik, Bement School, Deerfield*

### Professional Looking Library Signs

*Owen Maloney (Director, Clapp Memorial Library, Belchertown) recently queried the listserv about creating professional, aesthetically pleasing and reasonably priced signs. Two creative responses below:*



We currently use Microsoft Publisher, but have also used Photoshop Elements. Both are available through TechSoup for nonprofits at a greatly reduced price.



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*Submitted by:*

*Lucy Loomis  
Library Director, Sturgis Library,  
Barnstable Village*

Katie Huffman, our Adult Service Librarian, has come up with an inexpensive sign system that works very well for us. She creates our large signs by designing a sign using Photoshop (you can use another program, but your end result needs to be a pdf file). Then she uploads the pdf to GotPrint (an online based printing company).

They print the file on high quality printers and ship it to us. The price is \$15 for a 22x28" poster. For smaller signs, we've cut the product down to the size we want. We've been using acrylic poster sign holders to display the end product. We purchased the 22x28" sign holders from Gaylord for \$60 each.



*Submitted by:*

*Christina A. Stewart  
Library Director, Wilmington Memorial  
Library*

## **Displays That Highlight Your Collection**

Having trouble being creative with your library displays? Here's an easy way to come up with 10 displays while highlighting your collection. Rotate your library displays by Dewey class! Make a sign for each class, i.e.: Highlighting the 100's (Philosophy & Psychology) and then pull some stellar titles from that class to display. Not only is it easy to keep displays fresh, but it puts titles on display that may not see the light of day. I read this tip in LMC recently and started using it in my library. It doesn't take much effort but the displays pique interest through frequent rotation.

*Submitted by:*

*Leslie Schoenherr  
School Librarian, Lexington Christian  
Academy*

## **Magazine Barcodes at Your Fingertips**

Magazines- Pre-Print the barcodes for the year(s) subscription, one for each month or edition and place them in a folder. Then when the issue comes in the barcode labels/stickers just go on the magazine and out it goes. It is apparent if any issue is missing for that month and you can call the supplier quickly.

*Submitted by:*

*Judy Williams, School Librarian  
Van Sickle Middle School, Springfield*

## **Best Sites for MARC records**

<http://www.delicious.com/vansickle.library/MarcRecords>

*Submitted by:*

*Judy Williams, School Librarian  
Van Sickle Middle School, Springfield*

## **Track Student Visits**

Student visits to library before or after school- Students pick up a pre-made laminated pass (from a central location such as the main office or guidance office) with a barcode number cataloged as a "book" in Destiny or any library software.

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The student then comes to the library checks out the pass and his/her ID number at the library circulation desk. This way you can track student visits before and after school, plus students have a central place to pick up a pass and a limited number of passes, limits the number of patrons at any one time to a safe amount of students.

*Submitted by:*

*Judy Williams, School Librarian  
Van Sickle Middle School, Springfield*

### **Track Those Supplies**

Other materials- Students are always asking for scissors, tape, glue, etc. Place a barcode one for each type of material onto old circulation cards and check it out to the student who is borrowing the material. This way you can track when something doesn't come back. Just remember to check them back in when it's returned. Barcode everything! Overhead projectors, TV carts, lap tops, scissors, tape dispensers, glue stick, etc. You could also place those barcodes in a binder and have that on hand rather than the old catalog cards.

*Submitted by:*

*Judy Williams, School Librarian  
Van Sickle Middle School, Springfield*

### **Netbook Cart Cord Management**

I purchased clips to adhere to the inside of the cart in each slot. I placed the clip about an two inches from the top of each divider. I loop the cord for recharging through the clip which hangs above the net book. When I plug the net books in I can easily see which net books are charging. The cords don't come loose from the back or get jammed and tangled because they are hanging from the top of the slot.

*Submitted by:*

*Julie Farrell, School Librarian  
Overlook Middle School, Ashburnham*

### **Creative "Portable" Barcode Reader**

We can't afford a portable device to take to the shelves and read barcodes for inventory. For years, I have been successful taking the desktop computer on a cart with a long network connection cord that IT made for me. I scan the barcodes directly into the computer and manage the inventory on that computer. I suppose, if we ever get wifi and laptops this won't be necessary, but it works well for now.

*Submitted by:*

*Mary Saunders, School Librarian  
Gloucester High School*

### **Beyond the Basic Book Report**

Posted to the MSLA Listserv on January 17, 2011 by Laura Gardner: *What sorts of projects do either you or your English teachers do as alternative ways to assess students on their free reading projects?*

Members responded with both Web 2.0 and non-tech assessments:

- Readers Theater
- Book Trailers or Book Commercials using Microsoft PhotoStory to produce mini movies
- Podcast
- Booktalk Groups that organize a report and share with the class
- Game created by students about the book
- Design a cereal box and commercial

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- Postcard correspondence in the voices of the two main characters, design appropriate artwork on the front
- Scrapbook/Memory book report
- CD, either actual or just the cover, with thematic cover, song titles and lyrics that demonstrate comprehension of the book
- Blog, either fictional blog from the point of view of the character or a response blog
- Glogster
- Wordle
- Animoto
- Voicethread
- Write/perform a monologue from one character's point of view
- Goodreads group/discussion forum
- Write a review for the OPAC
- Piclits.com
- Write an alternative ending
- Poster presentations
- Letters to the author
- Book in a Bag report
- Book Report Sandwich <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/sandwich.asp>
- <http://ksumail.kennesaw.edu/~jcope/Eng3391/ABRIdeas.pdf>
- [http://www.middleweb.com/mw/workshop/williams\\_altbkrpts.pdf](http://www.middleweb.com/mw/workshop/williams_altbkrpts.pdf)

*Thanks to the following members for sharing their ideas:*

*Rachel Keegan-McGlenn  
Michelle Tanguay  
Laurie Cleveland  
Britt Sorensen  
Rochelle Garfinkel  
Judy Williams  
Carol Holley  
Laurie Dias-Mitchell  
Carol Kelly  
Sharon Hamer  
Jessica Pollock  
Pamela Valee  
Laura Gardner*

Awards! 

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by Ann Perham

January is an exciting time in the world of libraries, for it brings the announcement of the awards for excellence in publishing for the previous year.

School librarians scramble to purchase those titles that they don't have on their shelves, and eagerly await the delivery of the books with their beautiful medals on the front cover. These medals are excellent guides for our students (and faculty) in selecting books. And, they make for great displays.



So how about the books that you already have on your shelves, that don't have the medals? Check out the [ALA Online Store](#) for a treasure trove of award seals. Think about purchasing enough to do your entire collection; this would be an excellent project for parent volunteers, or a community service activity for students. For a pack of 24 medals, the cost is \$14.50. Another consideration is the variety pack for \$136 that includes 14 award medals: Caldecott Gold and Silver, Newbery Gold and Silver, Coretta Scott King Bronze and Pewter, Pura Belpré Gold and Silver, Printz Gold and Silver, Sibert Gold and Silver, Edwards Award, and the Notable Book Seal.



While you're considering the medals, take a look at the [awards posters](#) that ALA offers. There are two posters available for YA and Children's awards. Instead of showing the winning titles for each year, they highlight the awards themselves. The YA poster, "Be an Award Winning Reader" includes: Alex Awards, Coretta Scott King Award, Edwards Award, Printz Award, Odyssey Award, Schneider Family Book Award, Stonewall Book Award, Morris Award, and the YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. The "Read Award-Winning Books with a Child" features: Batchelder Award, Pura Belpré Award, Caldecott Medal, Geisel Award, Coretta Scott King Award, Newbery Medal, Schneider Family Book Award, Sibert Informational Book Medal, Wilder Award, Stonewall Book Award, Odyssey Award. Best of all, these posters are UNDATED. They are a good buy for \$16 each.

If you haven't yet checked your collection for what award-winners you already own, here are some links to get you started:

## YALSA

- Alex Awards
- Amazing Audiobooks for Young Adults
- Best Books for Young Adults
- Best Fiction for Young Adults
- Fabulous Films for Young Adults
- Great Graphic Novels for Teens
- Margaret A. Edwards Award
- Michael L. Printz Award
- YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults
- Odyssey Award
- Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults
- Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
- William C. Morris YA Debut Award



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**ALSC** is another division of ALA that announces its awards in January:



- Newbery Medal
- Caldecott Medal
- Batchelder Award
- Pura Belpre Medal
- Carnegie Medal
- Geisel Award
- Odyssey Award
- Sibert Medal
- Wilder Medal
- Great Interactive Software for Kids
- Notable Children's Books
- Notable Children's Recordings
- Notable Children's Videos

**National Jewish Book Awards** date back to 1948 and recognize outstanding books on Jewish topics for the year in sixteen categories. On the website of the Jewish Book Council read about the Award; and link to the [complete list of winners](#) for 2010.



*GRAPHICS CREDITS:*

*ALA Online Store*

*YALSA website*

*ALSC website*

*Jewish Book Council website*

## The PULSE: News in the School Library World

Note: This feature column is looking for an editor; please contact [Forum Editor, Ann Perham](#) if you are interested.



**Sue Ballard, "Learning and the Jungonauts" on the ASCD "Whole Child Blog"**

[READ the entire article](#)

"Connecting with the connected means consideration of where 21st-century students learn. They are not so much place-based as virtual-space-based. They learn everywhere. We need to understand their comfort zones and new habitats, and remain connected ourselves. We are not the only ones asking them to pay attention in class anymore. We have serious competition 24/7 from the virtual world-at-large." Sue's article is thoughtful and timely.

Besides writing for ASCD, Sue found time to be a judge for the 2011 MSLA Bookmark Contest. She is the director of library media and technology services for the Londonderry (N.H.) School District, chair of Whole Child Partner the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force, and an emerging Jungonaut. She is a candidate for the AASL President in the March 2011 election.



**Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century**



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<http://www.tpt.org/?a=kits&id=4#home>

The program aired nationally on February 13th. This is an excellent conversation-starter with administrators, faculty, parents and students. Use it as an advocacy tool! From the website:

*Targeted at parents, teachers and anyone concerned with education in America, this one-hour documentary takes viewers to the front lines of an education revolution. Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century examines how mobile devices and digital media practices can empower young people to direct their own learning. Documenting five success stories both inside and out of the classroom, the program demonstrates how digital media, games, smart phones and the Internet are fundamentally transforming the way young people communicate, collaborate, participate and learn in the 21st Century. Featuring leading experts, thinkers, and practitioners in the field, Digital Media is a startling preview of a 21st Century education.*

## **Not your Grandmother's Library!**

The ISTE "Learning & Leading" magazine features librarians Joyce Valenza, Chad Lehman, Keisa Williams, & Wendy Stephens. This would be an excellent advocacy tool for your library program. [READ the article](#)

## **MMMMMM! Google has a Delicious Importer**

Google has just rolled a [tool to import your Delicious bookmarks, labels and tags](#) . You will need to log into your Google Account (or establish one) to accomplish the import operation.

## **Whither the research paper?**

Maura Smale writes in the [ACRLog](#) on February 18th, "Should all college students have the experience of writing a formal academic research paper? And, if so, why?" She goes on to confess that, "I'm stuck on this question because in my gut I feel that yes, the research paper is a valuable assignment for all students. But the justifications that come to mind most readily have to do with the value of writing in general: writing helps us think through issues thoroughly, forces us to make choices about what's important about the topic, and improves communication skills, which are critical to any career.... I've been thinking on ideas for next semester, strategies to use to help students work on their summarizing skills and ability to synthesize material from multiple sources." Ms. Smale's thoughts as well as the responses to the blog entry make for some very interesting reading for all who teach research.

## **Advocacy works: IMLS, LSTA Funding Saved**

On February 14th, U.S. Rep. Scott Garrett (R-N.J.) introduced an amendment that would eliminate all funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services which includes LSTA. Thanks to a grassroots outcry, Amendment 35 to H.R. 1 was defeated. [READ MORE](#) from the ALA Washington Office.

## **Making the case for Facebook in education**

Most schools block Facebook, but should this policy be revisited? This [slideshare presentation](#) gives us much to think about.

*Our Authors, Our Advocates*  
*Authors Speak out for Libraries*

<http://www.ourauthorsouradvocates.org>

From ALA President, Roberta Stevens: "I've long believed that authors are natural allies of libraries. Especially in these challenging times, they understand the key role that libraries and library staff play in the economic, social and educational fabric of our nation. They can speak passionately on the importance of not only sustaining, but increasing support for libraries. My presidential initiative, Our Authors, Our Advocates: Authors Speak Out for Libraries, is a new campaign that enlists America's authors to become articulate and powerful spokespeople for

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libraries. Please help fuel the national dialogue on America's libraries. Spread the word. These public services announcements are available for placement on your library's website and for sharing with your library's advocates.

## **Travel grants to AASL National Conference**

AASL is offering 30 grants for travel to its 15th National Conference and Exhibition in Minneapolis, October 27–30. The \$750 grants for first-time attendees of the conference are sponsored by Bound To Stay Bound Books. The application deadline is March 8; [READ MORE](#)

## **AASL Position on ESEA Reauthorization**

[READ the entire article](#)

AASL has issued a position statement on the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). AASL holds the following position on the four key education assurances that will be addressed in the upcoming Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act:

1. Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace
2. Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers and principals
3. Building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices
4. Turning around our lowest-performing schools

## **AASL Launches Video Contest for Students**

Through March 18, students may submit videos detailing how their school library and technology empowers them to be Learners4Life. Winners will be announced at the start of School Library Month on April 1, 2011.

Each video should visually illustrate the four standards for student learning - Think, Create, Share, and Grow - and how technology relates to each:

- Think: Using technology to access information and pursue inquiry. For example, the school network, the internet, wireless networks.
- Create: Using technology to create products that express new understandings. For example, using video cameras to create an educational film.
- Share: Using technology to organize and display knowledge that others can use; participate and collaborate with others. For example, web conferencing, video conferencing.
- Grow: Using technology to seek information for personal learning; join social networks to gather and share information. For example, finding free music lessons or other courses online.

[READ](#) all contest rules and guidelines, on the Learning4Life in My School Library contest page and learn more on the [SchoolTube](#) site.

## **Study Shows New Jersey School Librarians are Cost-Effective**

Read the entire report in PDF:[http://cissl.rutgers.edu/docs/NJASL\\_Phase\\_1.pdf](http://cissl.rutgers.edu/docs/NJASL_Phase_1.pdf)

The Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL) has published Phase 1 of its study, One Common Goal: Student Learning. It shows that New Jersey school library programs staffed by certified school librarians are cost-effective in helping students achieve higher standards, and critical for the intellectual, social, and cultural development of students.





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## Elevensies



Elevensies is a group of authors whose debut novels release in 2011. The great thing about getting a bunch of authors together is that they can't wait to give away some books! Which is where the 2011 Book Feast comes in. Here's the official announcement:

*The Elevensies want to share our books with librarians and readers. So we're hosting a major giveaway that runs throughout the year. Librarians, this is your chance to stock your shelves with the latest fiction crafted to appeal to the varied tastes of your readers. Readers, you can win prize packages with tons of titles you'll love!*

To find out how to win prizes for your library, visit the 2011 Book Feast website <http://2011bookfeast.com/index.html>



**INTERVIEW** with Anna Staniszewski by Sarah Chessman

A few weeks ago, I posted a message about the Elevensies on the MSLA listserv. When I was asked to give a little more information about the group for this forum, I thought what better way to do that than to interview a member! Below is my interview with Elevensies member Anna Staniszewski, whose first novel, *My Un-Fairy Tale Life*, comes out this September. I asked her to talk a bit about the Elevensies and how an organization like theirs can help librarians.

**Can you tell us a little about the Elevensies?**

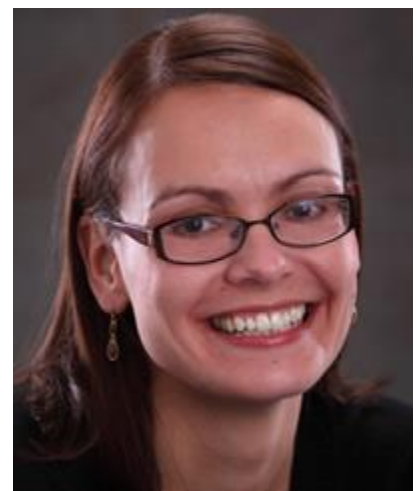
*The Elevensies is a group of traditionally-published authors whose debut novels for children and young adults come out in 2011. Membership in the group is free and open to any authors whose debut novels meet the requirements. The group's main presence is on its website where the authors can get to know each other, and where readers can find out more about the books and their creators. While it's not a marketing group, the Elevensies will be having giveaways throughout the year to celebrate the release of our debuts.*

**How did the group get its name?**

*The name "Elevensies" refers to the year our books will be released, and it's also a term used to describe a mid-morning snack. The group before us, whose debuts released in 2010, were known as the Tanners, and the 2012 debuts are aptly named The Apocalypsies.*

**How has being a member been helpful to you?**

*Having your first book published is exciting, but it can also feel a little scary and overwhelming; that's why being part of a group of authors who are also going through the process is so helpful. We cheer each other on and chime in with advice and encouragement when it's needed. There are a few other Elevensies in the New England area, so I'm excited to meet them in person and possibly do some book events with them in the future.*



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**Can you tell us about the Elevensies Book Feast and some of the other library-friendly things on the website?**

*The "Elevensies Book Feast" is a year-long giveaway broken into three seasons. Each season offers books by debut authors that librarians AND their readers can win. It's all about sharing fresh new fiction and supporting institutions and people who are big supporters of debut authors. You can find more information at [www.2011bookfeast.com](http://www.2011bookfeast.com).*

*Besides the Book Feast, our website features information about the Elevensies' books and their authors, as well as listings of book signings and other events. There's also a recurring segment called "Ask the Elevensies" where readers can ask us questions, and a "News at Eleven" segment where readers can get updates on the latest Elevensies happenings.*

The Elevensies can be found at <http://community.livejournal.com/2011debuts> .

Groups like the Elevensies are very helpful for librarians and teachers, but there are so many resources that sometimes it's hard to keep up. I find out about a lot of these resources through people like Anna (who I know from grad school), and other people in the industry and am happy to pass them along to the teachers and students in my building (and other librarians!). These days, our students are able to have relationships with authors; they can follow them on Twitter, read their blogs and visit them at bookstores and local libraries. By sharing information about book resources and events, we're able to give students opportunities to discover new authors and new books.

One last plug. Since Anna was kind enough to do this interview, I want to plug her website First Page Panda. FPP is the brainchild of Anna and local YA author Alisa Libby. Twice a week they post the first page of a new young adult or middle grade book, a bit about the author and some reviews. It's a great resource for finding out about new titles being released. And they do a ton of giveaways! Check it out at [www.firstpagepanda.com](http://www.firstpagepanda.com)

## 2011 Legislative Breakfast

By Judi Paradis



Amy Bloom hosted the MetroWest Legislative Breakfast at the Wilson Middle School on February 11. The event was well-attended and provided a wonderful forum for advocacy directed at local and state decision makers. Amy's principal and superintendent were on hand to add their voices to those explaining the importance of school libraries. The most impressive voices were those of middle school students describing the many ways their school libraries helped them to succeed academically. *(above)* Amy introduced the Natick Superintendent of Schools while the students waited for their turn to talk about their library.

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*Amy Bloom, School Librarian at Natick Middle School, greets the many attendees.*



*Representative Linsky of Natick was the keynote speaker at the breakfast and described the library at the Wilson Middle School as a source of community pride.*

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2011 Bookmark  
Contest



***Think...Create...Share...Grow***

VIEW the **2011 Winners and Honorable Mentions**



**THANK YOU to our Panel of Judges:**

*L-R Back Row:* Ralph Masiello, Author-Illustrator; David Yoo, Author;  
Stephen Krensky, Author-Illustrator; Katia Wish, Illustrator;  
Alissa Libby, Author; Vicky Enright, Illustrator

*L-R Front Row:* Susan Ballard, AASL Learning4Life; Mitali Perkins, Author;  
Jacqueline Davies, Author; Anne Broyles, Author; Susan Goodman, Author



(above) Judging took place at the Plympton School in



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Waltham on February 11th.  
Each judging team had one division of bookmarks to judge.  
Jacqueline Davies and Susan Goodman  
contemplate the terrific submissions.



*(above)* Susan Ballard, Jacqueline Davies and Susan Goodman narrowed the selection, but found it difficult to select a winner and two honorable mentions.



*(above)* Ralph Masiello and David Yoo teamed up to select the winner and honorable mention in their division. It was a task for humor as well as contemplation!

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(above) The 2011 submissions were both an array of creativity and strong evidence that their school library is important to student learning. Judges selected entries that embody the theme, "Think, Create, Share, Grow."



(above) Members of the 2011 Bookmark Committee enjoyed the afternoon of judging. Julie Farrell, Ann Perham and Linda Coviello watch as the judges go through the process of selecting the winners.

Other members of the committee included Judi Paradis, Gerri Fegan, Laura Harrington and Nancy Snow.

## What D-Y Loses in Cutting Librarians

By DEBORAH SWEENEY

February 21, 2011

*This editorial appeared in the [online issue of the Cape Cod Times](#) and is reproduced with permission of the author.*

Hot off the press are the new Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts. Massachusetts has taken these standards and added more of its own.

One of the guiding principles in these new standards includes the following: "School librarians play a key role in finding books and other media to match students' interests, and in suggesting further resources in public libraries."

This really struck a note with me, because I am a school librarian in the Dennis-Yarmouth School District whose position has just been cut.

I teach kindergarten through Grade 3 students at Laurence MacArthur Elementary School. Every student comes to the library twice each week for 45 minutes at a time.

For the past six weeks I have been working with students in every grade doing some type of research project.

Kindergarten students heard stories about community workers in the library. They chose a community worker they would like to follow for a day. The next time they came to the library they went to the computers and listened to information about the community worker they chose. With that information we created songs that incorporated what they had learned.

First-graders are doing an author study of Tomie dePaola. His stories are read and discussed in the library and his life is being researched in the computer lab. Students created a PowerPoint presentation of the interesting things they learned about him.

Second-grade students listened to a story called "Never Smile at a Monkey," a nonfiction book that describes some of the little-known most dangerous animals in the world. They each chose one or two animals that they found interesting.

They wrote down some questions they had. The next time they came to the library they went to the computers and learned how to use the netTrekker database to find the answers to their questions. Maybe they will create a photo-story, or a blog about the animal they researched.

Third-grade students first read a fiction book with an animal character and then went to the computers and researched information about the "real" animal from the story. In the library they filled out a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the "real" and the "fanciful" animal. They then filled out a graphic organizer about a party they could have with the animals. They took that information and wrote a story. Now in the computer



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lab they are creating a PowerPoint presentation about the party they are having with the animals. We will be turning the slides into JPEG images and making a movie using the Animoto Web application.

Phew! There is a lot of learning going on in the library! Unfortunately, next year that won't be the case. The lights and the learning will be gone from the library, along with me.

Deborah Sweeney of Centerville is a teacher and librarian for the Dennis-Yarmouth School District.