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BEHS LIBRARY
MEDIA CENTER
NEWSLETTER

Media Matters

this issue

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LIBRARY USERS FOR SEPTEMBER

Mrs. Berube
Mrs. Burdelski
Ms. Fabrizio
Mr. Cirillo
Mr. Coderre
Ms. Deslauriers
Ms. Feshazion
Mr. Fleischman
Mr. Hochman
Ms. Infante
Ms. Kaminski
Ms. McDaniel
Ms. Miller
Mrs. Paquette
Ms. Roberts
Mrs. Rocco
Mr. Sarvides
Ms. Scarrozzo
Ms. South
Mr. Stavens
Mr. Valus
Ms. Young
Mr. Zimmerman

Janet Kenney,
Media Specialist
Wendy Newman,
Media Assistant
860-584-7876 x152

Upcoming Book Promotions

October is a busy month for library programming. If you are interested in a booktalk, please let me know! Booktalks can be arranged to coincide with your curriculum (fiction or non-fiction) or with existing library programs.

Teen Read Week: October 17– 23, 2010: Books With Beat

The BEHS LMC will celebrate Teen Read Week™ 2010, Oct. 17-23, with special displays encouraging our students to read for the fun of it. Thousands of libraries, schools and bookstore across the country will hold similar events centered on this year's theme, Books with Beat @ your library®, which encourages teens to read a variety of materials, including poetry, books about music, and more.

Teen Read Week™ is the national adolescent literacy initiative of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), the fastest-growing division of the American Library Association.

Teens have more activities to fill their free time than ever — web videos, social networking sites, video games, afterschool activities, athletics —and increasingly high expectations in the classroom. It's important that we show them that reading is something that's fun and relaxing that they can do for free. And that reading for fun can translate into better performance at school.

Halloween: October 25– 31, 2010

The annual Halloween Chamber of Horrors will be up and operational the last week in October. The Chamber will be well stocked with tales of horror, the supernatural, and gore!

BEHS
Library Media Center

Website Monthly Pick

WolframAlpha

www.wolframalpha.com

From the website: "*Wolfram|Alpha is a free online computational knowledge engine that generates answers to questions in real time by doing computations on its own vast internal knowledge base.*"

Why I like the site:

Wolfram Alpha is an amazing site. Imagine google and a calculator had a kid and you'll start to understand the potential of this site. Even better: the content is screened for appropriateness. At first, you'll want to just play with it (type in an equation, a chemical, your birthday, a city, etc). Once you've seen its capabilities, you may be wondering how you could use it in your classroom (even SS and English). They have a small, yet growing collection of lesson plans in the educator portion of the site (www.wolframalpha.com/educators)

See me for a guided tour of the site!

COLLABORATION CORNER

Banned Books Week with 9th Graders!

Thanks to Mrs. Burdelski, Mr. Zimmerman, Ms. Scarrozo, and Ms. Roberts for letting me into their classrooms to talks about "dangerous" books with their students.

If you weren't aware, Banned Books Week is a big deal in the Media Center. In addition to the displays, flashing lights, caution tape and posters you see here, there is an activity I do with all 9th graders to relate book banning to their own lives.

In typical adolescent fashion, when I come into the classroom and talk to them about the books they've read which have been banned

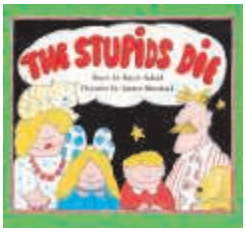
(Captain Underpants, Harry Potter, Jody Picoult) they get outraged and insulted. They feel they are old enough to deal with the concepts in any books and don't like the idea of grown-ups telling them what to do.

The students and I brainstorm reasons why people may object to books (language, racism, drugs, sexual issues, etc). Once we've figured out *what* it is in books that makes them controversial, I turn the tables on the students.

The students are broken into groups and each is given a children's book that has been challenged. Each book does have controversial content. The students are then asked to fill out a graphic organizer listing three reasons why the book *should* be banned and three reasons to keep it.

The students are often shocked and appalled at what is in the children's' books and have a difficult time finding reasons to keep the books.

Each book is then shared



with the class and is discussed using a cumulative graphic organizer on the board. The students enjoy the activity immensely and are shocked at how easy it is to find something controversial in a book.

The lesson concludes with a reminder that even if the books seem silly and childish, freedom of speech depends on the free exchange of ideas—including those in books. It is up to the child and his/her parent(s) to decide what is appropriate for him/her —not for one parent to make a decision for the whole community.

Techie Tuesdays

Get CEU credit and work on your tech skills.

NoodleTools

THURSDAY, October 14, 2010
2:30-3:30 in the LMC computer lab

Noodletools: An overview of the site. Teachers will create a sample works cited page and note cards. Once samples are created, we'll learn how students can "share" the online notecards with teachers and discuss scenarios to use the program.

SMART Board™

October 26, 2010
2:30-3:30: location TBA

Smartboards: With the assistance of a regular smart board user, we'll review tricks and troubleshooting tips for teachers who already have the boards. Time permitting; we'll review some of the more advanced features.

This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: Is there a way to show a YouTube Video to my class?

A: There are websites which allow you to download YouTube content into a video file that you can save. This process works best at home. Once you've saved it, you can email it to yourself here or put it on a flash drive. The website recommended by Instructional Technology was www.mediaconverter.org The site is fairly self-explanatory. You put in the link, choose your settings and it will convert it to a downloadable file for you. I recommend going into the advanced settings so you can choose the highest resolution. It may still turn out grainy, but it is our best option.

YouTube
Broadcast Yourself

finalsite
web software & services for schools

FinalSite Tips

SPACING

When you hit "Enter" it double spaces.

To single space you must hold the "Shift" key while you hit "Enter."

TURN OFF POP-UP BLOCKER:

Ask Tech Support if you are unclear how to do this, but it needs to be off while editing (accessible through your "Tools" tab). You may want to turn it back on to prevent annoying pop-ups from interfering with SmartBoard lessons to your classes.

SAVING VS. PUBLISHING

Saving your work IS NOT the same as publishing it *when you are in your Home Page*. You must "publish" to make it viewable on the web.

Saving your work IS the same as publishing it when you are working on you Classroom Pages, either the Overview, Bulletin, Calendar or the Resource sections.

Book Club

The book club selected four books to read this year (one for each quarter). Each book has been or is about to be made into a movie. Please promote the book club and its books with your students! We meet every other Tuesday in the library after school.

If I stay : a novel
Gayle Forman
While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen -year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weights whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

Angus, thongs and full-frontal snogging: confessions of Georgia Nicolson
Louise Rennison
Presents the humorous journal of a year in the life of a fourteen-year-old British girl who tries to reduce the size of her nose, stop her mad cat from terrorizing the neighborhood animals, and win the love of handsome hunk Robbie.

It's kind of a funny story
Ned Vizzini
New York City teenager Craig Gilner succumbs to academic and social pressures at an elite high school and enters a psychiatric hospital after attempting suicide.

Uglies
Scott Westerfeld
Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

Save the date:

Our annual African American Read-In will be on Friday, February 18 in the media center.

For newcomers: the African American Read-In is a national event sponsored by the NCTE. Now it in its 22nd year nationally, we've been incorporating it into the LMC's Black History Month celebration for 3+ years. Traditionally, we host a poetry-slam type event in which teachers sign up and bring their classes. Students are encouraged to share favorite works by an African-American. It could be poetry, lyrics, or prose. Students have come to embrace this annual event and I've seen many "shy" or "troublemaking" students shine on these days!

What can you do?

- Save the date on your calendar.
- If you are teaching anything related to African-American history or literature, remind students that what you are studying could be used at the read-in.
- See a media maven for a packet of famous poems or check out one of our many books!

BOE Poster Making

Did you know that the BOE had a large format printer that can be used for printing posters? I've used it several times with great results. Contact Cindy Broderick at the BOE for more details. Here are the requirements:

1. All files must be submitted electronically by e-mail to cindybroderick@ci.bristol.ct.us
2. All files must be in one of the following formats: Microsoft Word, Publisher, or PowerPoint, Acrobat PDF, GIF, JPEG.
3. All files must be ready to print, the tech center will not edit any files.
4. Please allow 10 school days to complete your order.
5. Large format images are delivered to your school in a cardboard tube.
6. Large format images are approximately 24 X 31 inches in size.

In accordance with Board of Education policy, large format printing services are for educational and instructional purposes only. Events such as plays, concerts or fundraisers are not eligible for these services. Organizations and individuals that are not officially part of the Bristol Public School District cannot use this service.