

Media Matters

LMC Facts and Figures for Sept. 2011

Classes brought to
the LMC
105

Independent Student
Use
2289

Books Circulated
467

Ave. Students per
day (including
classes)
204

Emails received
about scheduling
classes
697

Classes scheduled
online:
104



this issue

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Web 2.0 we can use! Hooray!

For the past few years, teachers have constantly been asking if there was an approved way for your classes to have online discussions, share information, etc. The website isn't the easiest thing to use, and the easy, free stuff that is out there has largely been off limits because it didn't protect our students' privacy. The solution (drumroll please) is something called Moodle.

Moodle is a free e-learning platform the district is preparing to provide us. I think of it like Blackboard—which some of you may have used in your college coursework. In it, you post announcements, provide links to resources, conduct **threaded discussions**, create a wiki, give self-correcting online quizzes, keep a homework calendar or go paperless and have students submit assignments online. The site is secure and run from a BOE server. All students will have accounts that are in-house and not floating around in the cloud anywhere.

I am currently in touch with IT to get the Bristol site running as it should and will get back to you regarding training and a launch date. If you'd like to learn more about Moodle, check out this online overview I found online at <http://bit.ly/nrui97> or explore their website: www.moodle.org.



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Website of the Month



(link available on our Library Database webpage)

SIRS Issues Researcher is a general reference database containing thousands of full-text articles exploring 300+ social, scientific, health, historic, business, economic, political and global issues. Articles and graphics are selected from domestic and international publications, and are indexed according to subject headings.

Why I like this database: It arranges topics into a Pro V. Con format that includes essential questions. Many topics include a timeline and overview to put the issue into perspective and highlight related issues. I also like the hyperlinked subject heading included with each article—it reminds me of a very powerful version of the “see also” note you’d find in encyclopedias.

This is a great database that allows students to simultaneously find print and non-print information for a wide variety of topics.



COLLABORATION CORNER

The Progressive Era Research Skill Project

As part of the BOE’s movement toward incorporating research skills into the curriculum, the 10th grade history teachers (Mr. Cirillo, Mr. Lavoie, Ms. Miller and Mrs. Rocco) were presented with the daunting task of whipping up a project centered around the Progressive Era.

To help narrow the focus, each teacher developed a list of topics from the era, and selected the research skills they wanted the students to concentrate on.

The project strove to

expand student’s research to include print materials—partly to expose them to the wealth of materials available to them, but largely because we don’t have enough computers to serve all 10th grade history classes simultaneously .

The new Destiny software for the library was helpful in creating a list of titles that I could send to the teachers for pre-screening titles for the project. All of the books from the list were loaded onto a cart that could be taken upstairs .

The expected outcomes

from the students varied from teacher to teacher, but generally included at minimum a list of citations and summaries of relevant information.

We discovered some obstacles to student success. Particularly we noticed students were overwhelmed by the amount of information available in a book and weren’t quite sure how to efficiently select relevant information.

Overall, the project was eye-opening to teachers and shall serve to help guide future research assignments.

Trails Question of the Month:

TRAILS is a knowledge assessment with multiple-choice questions targeting a variety of information literacy skills based standards. All of our 9th graders are administered the test at the beginning and end of the year. The following is one of the question. Try it out yourself and see how you do.

The answer will appear in the next newsletter!

1 "Most disturbing of all, some researchers want to use cloning to create human beings solely for experimentation and destruction. They propose to supply genetically matched tissues for treating various diseases by making human embryos from patients’ body cells, then dissecting these developing embryos for their ‘spare parts.’ Some even speak of growing genetically altered ‘headless’ or ‘brainless’ human clones as organ farms."

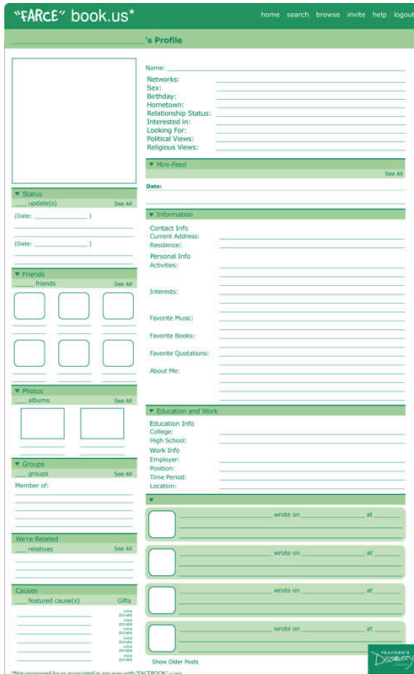
You want to use this information in your research paper on cloning. What is your next step?

CHOOSE ONE ANSWER.

- A Verify the accuracy of the information.
- B Write your paper.
- C Plan your search strategy.
- D Define your topic.

Farcebook

Facebook is a fun way for students to demonstrate knowledge of a person/fictional character in a format they are familiar with (a Facebook profile). If you think this is a “fluffy” assignment, you are sorely mistaken. If a student is to truly capture the personality, times and events of someone in an interesting way, it is rigorous. Typically, they cannot just copy and paste answers. They must synthesize bucketloads of information into succinct, informational statements.



There are 3 ways you can use Facebook:

1. I have a set of literary character posters already filled out (there are SS ones I could order)
2. I have blank posters that have been laminated that students could fill out with dry erase markers! NO TECHNOLOGY NEEDED
3. I am awaiting a code for our students to use to create online farcebook profiles. (see <http://bit.ly/nrv00h> for an example).

LIBRARY USERS FOR SEPTEMBER

- Berube
- Burdelski
- Carrington
- Charles
- Cirillo
- Coderre
- Deslauriers
- Dilernia
- Fleischman
- Fleming
- Greger
- Jackman
- Krupnikoff
- McDaniel
- Miller
- Monaco
- Paquette
- Peluso
- Rajotte
- Roberts
- Rocco
- Stavens
- Toomey

This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: I thought they unblocked YouTube, so why can't I see it?

Yes, YouTube is unblocked *for teachers*, BUT it certainly has been glitchy so far this year. If you are signed in and the filter message appears restart your computer. 99% of the time, that seems to do the trick (I don't know why, but it does).



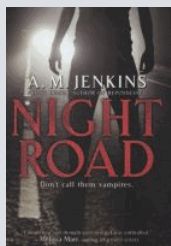
Remember there are couple of other tips you can use with YouTube.

- (1) If you know you are going to use the same video over and over again, download a copy of it using mediaconverter.org or keepvid.com
- (2) If you only want to show part of a video, www.tubechop.com lets you to excerpt the part you want and gives you a permalink to it.

New Horror/ Thriller Books

Night road

By A.M. Jenkins

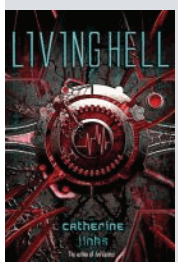


Battling his own memories and fears, Cole, an extraordinarily conscientious vampire, and Sandor, a more

impulsive acquaintance, spend a few months on the road, trying to train a young man who as recently joined their ranks.

Living hell

By Catherine Jinks

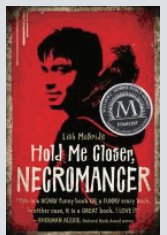


Chronicles the transformation of a spaceship into a living organism, as seventeen-year-old Cheney leads the hundreds of inhabitants in a

fight for survival while machines turn on them, treating all humans as parasites.

Hold me closer, necromancer

By Lish McBride

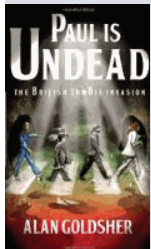


Sam LaCroix, a Seattle fast-food worker and college dropout, discovers that he is a necromancer, part of a world

of harbingers, werewolves, satyrs, and one particular necromancer who sees Sam as a threat to his lucrative business of raising the dead.

Paul is undead : the British zombie invasion

By Alan Goldsher



A gothic classic that finds Beatles John, Paul, George, and Ringo as rocker zombies taking over the world.

Miscellany

CHANGES IN THE LIBRARY LAYOUT

The library is more user friendly this year as the result of 2 1/2 years of work by Wendy Newman. ALL books have fresh, new, and easy to read spine labels and many have new dust covers. We have also shifted parts of the collection around. All fiction titles, story collections, and graphic novels are now on the courtyard side of the library. Reference materials have been inter-shelved with the non-fiction. Reference materials are restricted to overnight check-outs, but the new system makes it easier to see ALL of our titles on a subject in one place. Everything looks shiny, new, and is oh so much easier to find! Thanks Wendy!

LAMINATOR

The laminator has been relocated to the library conference room. Please call/email ahead if you'd like us to warm it up for you. Please plan ahead and be prepared to work around meetings that our scheduled for the space.

DATABASE CUTS AND PASSWORDS

In keeping with the times, we've had to tighten our belts in the LMC. To that end we cut a pair of databases from ABC-CLIO. Also, we've removed the list of passwords from the database website. The passwords are available via a password protected link on the library's database webpage. Now, it may seem ridiculous to password protect a page of passwords, but I figured if they could remember the one, then they can find the rest. The password for the passwords page is " " — notice the trend here?! I'm trying my best to stay legal (not publicly posting passwords) and yet keep it simple.

The screenshot shows a webpage titled "DATABASES" with a green header. Below the header, there is a paragraph of text: "A database is an organized, computerized collection of information that can be searched, sorted and analyzed rapidly. The Bristol Public School purchases many databases to support curriculum and student research. The databases provided to students at Bristol Eastern High School are listed below." Below this text is a tip: "Tip: Hold your mouse over the link to learn more about that database!" At the bottom of the page, there is a line of text: "passwords available for BEHS faculty and student [here](#) (see Mrs. Kenney for more information)". A red arrow points from the tip to the "here" link, which is circled in red.

The link to the LMC's page of database passwords.
The password for the page is password.