Southern Westchester BOCES
School Library System

Planet School Library
News, events and important topics

The End of the Year is (almost) Here!

The 2015-16 school year wraps up in just a few short weeks and the summer break will be here before you know it!

This was a year of *learning*! Leading the way for the School Library System was the focus on inquiry and the skill alignment of the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum and the new K-12 Social Studies Framework. Many of you attended one of the free workshops, which were offered throughout the year. Other workshop highlights included topics that ranged from primary sources to inquiry to copyright!

Once again, our council members and communication coordinators were essential to the SLS through overall participation, planning and communication. The CC meetings were very well attended and energetic! Meetings focused on Digital Citizenship, ELLS, Member Plan and, of course, Innovation! Your involvement is vital to the success of the SLS program. Thank you!

A special congratulations to our retirees and best of luck! Your students, colleagues and all of us here at the SLS will miss you!

Finally, after six years at SWBOCES, I too will be moving on - but will still be a part of the Southern Westchester librarian community! Beginning in September, I will be joining the Irvington librarians at Dows Lane Elementary School. I will miss working directly with all of you and, this goes without saying, Pam and Janet! I've been fortunate to have two wonderful colleagues! (And, quite honestly, there's no one else I'd rather share an office space with!) 🙂

Congratulations!

Enjoy your summer & mark your calendar because our first event for the school year will be the

Welcome Back Social!

Date: September 15th, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Location: 450 Mamaroneck Ave, Harrison, NY 10528

Join us to learn about:

* What's new at the SLS

* Exciting new workshops

* The Communication Coordinators Program, and more!
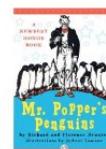
Free eBooks with Zing

Zing, provided by Schoolwide, is a platform that offers over a thousand free fiction and nonfiction ebooks to students and teachers. Books are predominantly in English, but Spanish titles are available too! One of the best features—the ebooks offer unlimited, simultaneous access. Ebooks, which are accessible anywhere there's internet access, can be used on laptops, desktops, interactive whiteboards and tablets.

Zing organizes titles by genres. Users also have the ability to search and filter by guided reading level, lexile, theme, topic, etc. Another key feature of Zing, it also boasts eReader tools. Some examples include: note taking, highlighting, bookmarks, and an interactive dictionary.

Educators have the option to create a class and manage accounts for students. Reading logs can also be monitored. After reading user feedback, it was noted that the classroom setup process can be somewhat time intensive and that there is room for improvement in that area.

Overall, Zing shows much potential and clearly offers another vehicle to promote reading. Consider sharing this with elementary and middle school students to promote reading over the summer months, when students don't have access to a school library. For more information on how to get started, visit http://www.schoolwide.com/zing

2016 Student Research Awards!

Interested in encouraging your students to explore historical records found in archives and libraries around New York State? Look no further because the Student Research Awards program is a statewide competition open to all NYS students in grades 4-12.

Students can work independently or in groups and projects can be in the form of research papers, exhibits, documentaries, performances, etc. Since this is a research-based contest, the final student product should answer a research question. It is also recommended that students work with teachers, library media specialists, local historians, etc.

A total of three awards will be given, one from each division: Grades 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

All entries must be received no later than July 1, 2016. For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/h6h2e65.

June is GLBT Book Month!

GLBT Book Month, an initiative of the American Library Association, was started in 2015 as a "nationwide celebration of the authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community." It also provides an opportunity to celebrate the best in GLBT literature.
Looking for some good titles? Consider some of the following that relate to the GLBT experience:

Elementary

George - by Alex Gino

Stella Brings the Family - Miriam Schiffer

Gracefully Grayson - Ami Polonsky

Secondary

Becoming Nicole : The Transformation of an American Family - by Amy Ellis Nutt

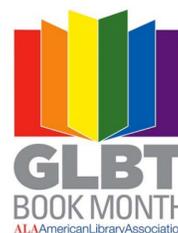*The Best Man* - Richard Peck

I'll Give You the Sun - Jandy Nelson

My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights - Brooks Benjamin

The Other Boy - M.G. Hennessey

The Porcupine of Truth - by Bill Konigsberg

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda - Becky Albertalli

EasyBib is Now Free!

Chegg Inc., which recently acquired Imagine Easy Solutions, is now offering EasyBib for schools, for free! While the current EasyBib version is free, a new and more robust version of EasyBib is currently in the works. Once the new version is complete, it too will be offered at no cost.

EasyBib is a bibliography and note-taking tool that creates citations in MLA (a new 8th edition is coming this summer), APA, and Chicago styles. It is a great tool to teach students how to accurately credit sources. Crediting sources goes beyond teaching students how to avoid plagiarism, but it demonstrates a knowledge of how to properly research and also allows the reader to accurately access resources used during the research process.

EasyBib includes a notebook feature, which enables students to organize their notes. In addition, there is a new information literacy tool that teaches students to critically evaluate websites. Other features that are arriving soon include an annotation tool to help students find important information, and an improved Google Docs add-on with notes and outline support to help students throughout the writing process.

Currently subscribers will still be able to access their accounts. Those who are interested in having a new EasyBib account should visit http://tinyurl.com/jenvy38 to request access information for the upcoming 2016-17 school year.

NOVELny Databases

NOVELNY is an electronic resource project that enables libraries across New York State to offer online access to the full text of thousands of journals, newspapers and other references. The great news is that access to the below databases will be continued through June 30, 2017!

Gale Cengage Learning

- Academic OneFile
  Business Insights: Essentials
  General OneFile

- Health Reference Center Academic

- InfoTrac Newsstand

- Kids InfoBits

- New York State Newspapers

ProQuest

- eLibrary Elementary

- Gannett Newsstand Complete

Scholastic GO!

- Includes: Encyclopedia Americana, The New Book of Knowledge, Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre, Amazing Animals of the World, The New Book of Popular Science, America the Beautiful, and Lands and Peoples

Look for free NOVELny webinars throughout the upcoming school year to get the most out of these valuable resources. To read more about the databases, check out the fact sheet - http://novelnewyork.org/factsheets/noveldb.pdf

Grants, Awards & Other Opportunities

Best Buy Community Grants
Need a technology-based makerspace? The foundation will award grants of up to $10,000 to local and regional nonprofit organizations working to provide teens with places and opportunities to develop technology skills for a twenty-first-century economy. Examples of program activities include computer programming, digital imaging (photography, graphic design, videography), music production, robotics, and gaming and mobile app development." Deadline to apply is July 1, 2016. For more information, go to https://corporate.bestbuy.com/community-grants-page/

IEEE Maker Project Competition
This competition welcomes innovators and tech enthusiasts to battle it out for great prizes and the chance to work with an IEEE member. Submissions are accepted through Sept. 2, 2016. To learn more, visit http://transmitter.ieee.org/makerproject/

The Cart/Campbell Grant
The Cart/Campbell Grant for librarians offers $500 funding plus complimentary registration toward attendance at the annual two--day ALAN Workshop. Visit the website for specific guidelines and requirements - http://www.alan-ya.org/awards/the-cartcampbell-grant/ The deadline to apply is September 1, 2016.

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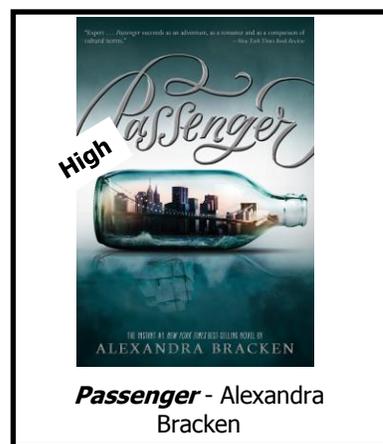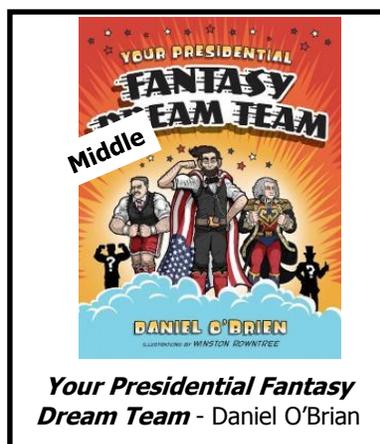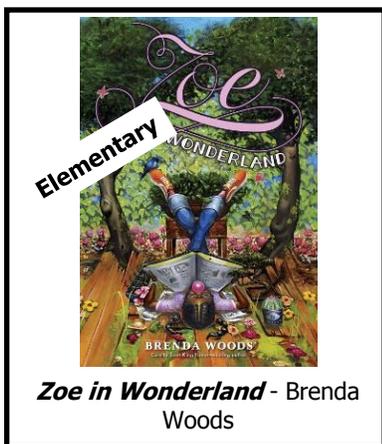
June Calendar of Events

- Friday, June 3—Learning Technology Grant (members only) - 8:30 am—3:00 pm

What's new? Pre-order these great titles!

Elementary

Zoe in Wonderland - Brenda Woods

Middle

Your Presidential Fantasy Dream Team - Daniel O'Brian

High

Passenger - Alexandra Bracken

Webinars and Opportunities

EdWeb
A Year in the Life of a New Makerspace - Whether you've had a makerspace for years, don't have one yet, or are just getting started, this webinar has something for you! The presenter will chronicle her experience jump-starting maker culture in her learning community. Funding, curricular connections, equipment, and celebrations, and challenges will be addressed. Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 5:00 pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/j9e2pvv

Scholastic
Blending Scholastic GO! with NYS Social Studies Framework, and the C3 Inquiry Arc - This session will focus on key aspects, ranging from SS Framework, C3 Inquiry Arc, Primary Resources, Information Text and Vocabulary to Deeper Evidenced Based Research, Text Complexity and Point of View. Wednesday, June 15, 2015, 3:00 pm. To register, visit http://tinyurl.com/jkslovk

Gale
Summer Reading Support with Gale/NOVELny Resources- This webinar will reveal how much author and literature content your resources hold; we'll find out how to find author interviews, literary criticism, book reviews, and more! Thursday, June 30, 2016, 11:00 am. Visit http://tinyurl.com/j46e8uz.