Planet School Library
News, events and important topics

Not 1, Not 2...but 3 Authors!

This year at the annual SW BOCES and P/NW BOCES annual School Library System conference, Perspectives on a Diverse School Library, we are extremely pleased to announce that there will be three authors! Meet the following authors and receive a couple of free, signed books along the way. Can’t beat that!

Children’s Authors:

Kate Hosford has worked as a foster care worker, a teacher, an illustrator and, of course, a children’s author! Her latest book is Feeding the Flying Fanellis: And Other Poems for a Circus Chef (2015). Praise for this latest title includes, “Enjoy a ringside seat and be enthralled by a circus that’s like no other.” - starred, Kirkus Reviews

“It’s highly enjoyable and inventive blend of circus feats and culinary treats.” - Publishers Weekly

Read more about Kate here: http://khosford.com/

Christine Pakkala is the author of the Last-But-Not-Least Lola series for young readers ages 7-10. The series introduces children to Lola Zuckerman—an irrepressible and charming heroine who is always last due to her last name beginning with the letter “Z,” but never least! The latest book in the series is Lola and the Cupcake Queens (2015). Read more about Christine here: http://christine pakkala.com/

Young Adult Author:

Mark Alpert is the author of The Six, his most recent book (2015), which is a thrilling cyber-tech adventure. It has been hailed as “fresh and fascinating” in a starred review from Booklist. The beginning chapters of The Six, as well as much of the action in the upcoming sequel, The Siege (scheduled for release summer 2016), take place in Westchester County.

Read more about Mark here: http://www.markalpert.com/

You can meet all three authors at our conference, sign up via MLP: https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?I=2017115&D=12439

Kate Hosford
Christine Pakkala
Mark Alpert
2016 Teen Tech Week!

Mark your calendar...this year’s Teen Tech Week (TTW) is March 6-12, 2016! “Teen Tech Week is when libraries make the time to showcase all of the great digital resources and services that are available to help teens succeed in school and prepare for college and 21st century careers.”

This year’s exciting theme is “Create it at your library.” Considering this, how can librarians be facilitators for hands-on, project-based learning opportunities for teens? How can libraries—a space where students can explore, create and share—help teens gain STEAM skills?

Explore the TTW website (http://teentechweek.ning.com/) to learn about related activities and ideas, to obtain free digital downloads of themed posters and bookmarks and to access free archived webinars.

In addition, check out the Teen Creative Writing & Art Contest for TTW. As part of Teen Tech Week, YALSA is teaming up with the Connected Learning Alliance, Deviant Art, National Writing Project, and Wattpad for the Twist Fate challenge. The challenge is to get teens telling stories about what happens when a hero becomes a villain, or a villain a hero (through writing, video, digital art, animation, etc.) and sharing them across the Deviant Art and Wattpad platforms. Visit http://tinyurl.com/gpnaat4 for more information!

2016 Teen Tech Week™
CREATE IT AT YOUR LIBRARY!

Booklist: Top 10 Multicultural Nonfiction

Below are some noteworthy multicultural nonfiction titles that are sure to engage your students!

- *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings* - by Margarita Engle (Gr. 5–8)
- *Freedom in Congo Square* - by Carole Boston Weatherford (Gr. 1–3)
- *Funny Bones: Posada and Day of the Dead Calaveras* - by Duncan Tonatiuh (Gr. 3–5)
- *Jump Back, Paul: The Life and Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* - by Sally Derby (Gr. 5–7)
- *My Seneca Village* - by Marilyn Nelson (Gr. 6–9)
- *Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip through the Motown Sound* - by Andrea Davis Pinkney (Gr. 5–8)
- *Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People* - by S. D. Nelson (Gr. 4–7)
- *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Voting Rights March* - by Lynda Blackmon Lowery and others (Gr. 7–12)
- *Watch Out for Flying Kids!: How Two Circuses, Two Countries, and Nine Kids Confront Conflict and Build Community* - by Cynthia Levinson (Gr. 5–8)
- *Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees* - by Franck Prevot (Gr. 3–5)

**Collaborate with Realtime Board**

Realtime Board is a great collaboration tool for online brainstorming sessions. The basic version is free, but there are also upgrades that are for a fee. However, Realtime Board offers educators a free account that includes premium features, plus unlimited collaborators!

To begin, users can select from an array of templates (Brainstorming & Note-taking, Canvases, Visual Planning, etc.). Within the template, you have additional options. For example, there are mind maps, KWL charts, Venn Diagrams, etc. under the Brainstorming & Note-taking template.

Once selections are made, users can collaborate and add content to their creation.

In education, use Realtime Board for: visual explanations, creative projects, group discussions, work on presentations, brainstorming, research, etc.

Realtime Board supported devices include the following: Windows, Mac OS, iOS, Android, Chromebook, Interactive whiteboard, Graphics tablet.

To get started, visit https://realtimeboard.com/education/ and sign up for your free educator account!
More Exciting Conference News...

Don’t miss the opportunity to win a new 3D Pen! This innovative product allows users to create 3D objects in thin air. Bring your student’s imagination to life! Raffle is at 3:00 pm.

Do you have any questions about the big event? Many questions can be answered by visiting the 2016 conference website for news and updates. The website features all of the latest important information about our upcoming conference. Look for the following highlights: registration, keynote, session descriptions, presenter info, agenda, authors, flyers and more! Check back often as new conference information becomes available. Visit http://libguides.swboces.org/Conf2016!

Newsela Text Set: Campaign 2016

Sometimes it can be a challenge to find election-related issues and articles that are relevant to students. It can also be difficult to find age-appropriate resources that also meet specific reading ability needs. Newsela (https://newsela.com), which was actually featured in an SLS newsletter a while back, is a great resource that helps educators find current articles for a student’s age and reading ability. When searching through the Newsela website, users can narrow choices by grade level, reading standard and language (look for titles in Spanish!). And for this year’s big election, it’s time to educate even our youngest of students!

What’s new? Newsela has recently added text sets about the 2016 Election. Check it out here: https://newsela.com/text-sets/5995/presidential-race. Assign a specific text set to a class and also look for related writing prompts and short quizzes.

In addition, students can get ready for their state primary - visit https://newsela.com/students-vote-2016/.

Grants, Awards & Other Opportunities

Six Flags Read to Succeed Program
Registration is now open for the 2015-16 program and it is open to students in grades K-6. The deadline to enter student is 3/1/16. For more information, visit https://feedback.sixflags.com/RTS.

Ezra Jack Keats Mini Grants
Nearly $850,000 Given Directly to Educators at Public Schools and Libraries across the United States. The deadline is extended to 3/31/16. For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/p3q7kt.

Google Science Fair Competition
The Google Science Fair is a global online science and engineering competition open to individuals and teams from ages 13 to 18. Submit a science or engineering project and win unbelievable prizes. Competition is open from 2/21-5/18 2016. For more information, visit https://www.google/sciencefair.com/en/competition.

Researching the Empire State
This Writing Competition is to encourage original research and publication around cultural, social, and political topics of NY history. Deadline to apply 4/1/16. For info, visit https://www.esln.org/researching-the-empire-state/
your graphic novel offerings looking a little sparse? In this free, hour-long program, join representatives from DC, Random House Publishing, and VIZ media as they discuss upcoming comics, graphic novels, and manga to enliven this increasingly popular section of the library.

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 @ 2:00 pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/gtnzdb7

**March Calendar of Events**

◊ Wednesday, March 2, 2016—Digital Library Advisory Board Meeting—8:30 am-10:00 am
◊ Thursday, March 3, 2016—IFC Introductory Workshop—3:30 pm-5:00 pm
◊ Monday, March 7, 2016—Implementing the New Social Studies Framework (final half day)—12:00 pm-3:00 pm

**Webinars and Opportunities**

**EdWeb.net**
Rethinking the Research Paper: Part 2 - In this session, participants will explore alternatives to the traditional research paper that will engage students with the research process while challenging them to document their learning using innovative tools and meeting rigorous expectations. Wednesday, March 16, 2016 @ 5:00 pm. Register at: http://tinyurl.com/jbc2w9w

**Booklist**
Get More Graphic: New Titles for Your Graphic Novels Shelves - Are your graphic novel offerings looking a little sparse? In this free, hour-long program, join representatives from DC, Random House Publishing, and VIZ media as they discuss upcoming comics, graphic novels, and manga to enliven this increasingly popular section of the library. Tuesday, March 15, 2016 @ 2:00 pm. Register at: http://tinyurl.com/qtnzdb7

**Scholastic for NOVELny**
Beyond the Intro to GO! - Learn how to promote the regular use of Scholastic GO. Thursday, March 3, 2016 3:00 pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/zuvhdog
Blending Scholastic GO! with Common Core, Social Studies Framework, and the C3 Inquiry Arc - Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:30 pm. Register at http://tinyurl.com/zacqh6s