2016 Conference Highlights!

The April 15th SLS spring conference provided school librarians with an array of cutting edge information to support innovative and engaged learning in schools. The theme of the conference was *diversity* and that was evident from the keynote presentation delivered by researcher and professor Sandra Hughes-Hassell. In her talk titled, “It Does Matter! Creating Libraries that Meet the Needs of Diverse Youth,” she discussed the growing inequality in the nation’s schools. She spoke of the need to have positive attitudes towards, strong beliefs about, and a solid commitment to diversity, equity, and social justice.

Other conference topics included sessions on augmented reality, children’s & YA literature trends, coding, inquiry-based collaborative curriculum, digital portfolios and more. In addition to the best practices shared at the Exploratorium, participants had the opportunity to visit with three well-known authors.

Visit the conference website [http://libguides.swboces.org/Conf2016](http://libguides.swboces.org/Conf2016) and look under the “Speaker Info & Shared Resources” tab for additional resources shared by session presenter.

Again, thank you for being a part of this wonderful event. Also, a special thanks to our council members for all of their volunteer work throughout the day!
2016 Administrator of the Year Award!

The Mamaroneck UFSD Hommocks Middle School principal, Dr. Seth Weitzman, was named Administrator of the Year and honored at the SWBOCES SLS annual conference on April 15th. He was nominated by the middle school librarian, Kelsey Cohen.

“Since I joined the Hommocks staff in 2010, Dr. Seth Weitzman has been a constant support to me and the library program I envisioned for the school. Starting with a redesign of the space, he supported the idea of the library as a learning commons that welcomes students and teachers to collaborate and learn together. In recent years, he has involved me, classrooms teachers and administrators on a mission to infuse inquiry and curiosity into students’ everyday life at Hommocks.” She continued by saying that “his overall his openness and generosity has supported creativity and innovation in the library.”

Check Out Pixel Press Floors!

Pixel Press Floors is a gaming/problem solving app that allows students to create (actually draw) and share their own video games. If you’re looking for some technology to add to your library program, this is worth exploring.

Here’s how it works...students draw on specially designed paper, which is downloadable, or they can draw in the app (designs are printable). The drawings, which build on creator elements, are captured by the app and immediately transformed into playable games. Educators can check out the one or five day lesson plans that include rubrics and brainstorming resources. “Pixel Press lesson plans have been created to engage students, teachers and parents with exercises that teach STEM focused learning principles: prototyping, design thinking, teamwork and collaboration, trial and error, and user empathy.” To learn more, visit http://www.projectpixelpress.com/floors/

Top Historical Fiction Titles

Booklist just released a fantastic list of new historical fiction titles for youth. Your students will enjoy escaping into these titles:

- **Burn Baby Burn** - By Meg Medina (Gr. 9–12)
- **The Death and Life of Zebulon Finch, v.1: At the Edge of Empire** - By Daniel Kraus (Gr. 9–12)
- **The Detectives Assistant** - By Kate Hannigan (Gr. 4–7)
- **Full Cicada Moon** - By Marilyn Hilton (Gr. 4–7)
- **The Hired Girl** - By Laura Amy Schlitz (Gr. 7–10)
- **The Lie Tree** - By Frances Hardinge (Gr. 7–12)
- **Lillian’s Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965** - By Jonah Winter (Gr. 1–4)
- **Night on Fire** - By Ronald Kidd (Gr. 5–8)
- **Salt to the Sea** - By Ruta Sepetys (Gr. 9–12)
- **The Seventh Most Important Thing** - By Shelley Pearsall (Gr. 5–8)
Learning Technology Grant

The Southern Westchester BOCES School Library System has been awarded the 2015-2018 New York State Learning Technology Grant, “Building a Strong Elementary Social Studies Program: the Integration of Inquiry, Technology and the New Social Studies Framework.” During this three year project, collaborative teams of grades 3-6 elementary classroom teachers and school librarians will develop and teach social studies “Inquires” incorporating the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework and Tool Kit resources, digital tools and primary sources.

This project has been designed to provide a total of 60 elementary classroom teachers and school librarians a deeper understanding of inquiry-based learning supported by technology where students actively construct knowledge rather than passively receive it.

Congratulations to the following districts who will be participating in this initiative:
- Elmsford UFSD
- Greenburgh Central
- Greenburgh Eleven
- Harrison CSD
- Mount Vernon SD
- Mt. Pleasant
- Pelham UFSD
- Pocantico Hills
- White Plains
- The Masters School

Children’s Book Week 2016

This May is the 97th anniversary of Children’s Book week, celebrated May 2-8! First established in 1919, it is an annual celebration of children’s books and a love of reading. CBW is the longest-running national literacy initiative in the country and it aims to connect events and celebrations “across schools, libraries, bookstores, homes—wherever young readers and books connect!”

The Children’s & Teen Choice Book Awards, in which kids and teens vote for their favorite author, illustrator and book of the year, will announce the winners during the CBW.

There are many resources, graphics, and suggested activities available on the

CBW website: http://www.cbcbooks.org/about/ecar-cbw/
Teacher & Librarian Resource Page: http://www.bookweekonline.com/educators
Digital Toolkit: http://www.bookweekonline.com/toolkit

Grants, Awards & Other Opportunities

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

Sara Jaffarian School Library Program Award
This annual award goes to a K-8 school library that has conducted an exemplary program or program series in the humanities during the prior school year. Application deadline is 2/1/16—5/6/16. Visit http://www.ala.org/programming/jaffarianaward

ASM Teacher Grants K-12
This grant awards 20 grants of $500 annually to help K-12 teachers bring the real world of materials science into their classrooms. Deadline to apply is 5/25/16. Visit http://www.asminternational.org/foundation/teachers/teacher-grants-k12
**Contact the SW BOCES SLS Team**

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**May Calendar of Events**

- Mon/Tues, May 2-3 - Learning Tech Grant (members only) - 8:30-3:00
- Fri, May 6 - Digital Library Advisory Board Meeting - 8:30-10:00
- Thurs, May 12 - Council Meeting - 3:30-4:30
- Thurs, May 12 — Year-end Celebration & Retirement Dinner — 4:30 -7:00

**Webinars and Opportunities**

**TeachingBooks**

Great Nonfiction - Explore award-winning booklists, resources to support student learning and advanced search features to create custom reading lists. May 10 & 11, 2016. Register at http://tinyurl.com/hm3goqh

**Booklist**

Listen Up! New Audiobooks for Summer 2016 and Beyond - Wondering what to suggest to your listeners this summer? If so, you won’t want to miss this webinar!

Tuesday, May 24, 2016 2:00 pm.
http://tinyurl.com/zmaydsy

**edWeb**

Designing and Creating Maker Spaces - Most educators think robotics, 3D printing and construction when they envision maker spaces, so how does this concept fit into the curriculum? By using design thinking as a framework for instruction, we will explore the possibilities for students to engage in empathy, seek new problems to solve, then prototype and test their solutions. Thursday, May 26, 2016 @ 5:00 pm.
Register at http://tinyurl.com/zp5tmqx

**Discovery Education**

Discovery Education in Action - Join us as we step into Discovery Educators’ classrooms from around globe. In this series you’ll hear practical tips and see strategies for integrating Discovery Edu into your teaching. The focus of this webinar is on STEM. Tuesday, May 31, 2016 7:00 pm.
Register at http://tinyurl.com/zkwyqj9

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**The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez** - Robin Yardi

**Hour of the Bees** - Lindsay Eagar

**Nora & Kettle** - Lauren Nicolle Taylor