



**ARKANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA**
VOLUME 54 ISSUE II



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The AAIM Journal

is the official publication of Arkansas Association of Instructional Media. It is published twice annually (spring and fall).

Opinions expressed in the *AAIM Journal* do not necessarily reflect the official position of AAIM.

Submissions

Your contributions to our journal are coveted. Please share your news for our next issue. We would love to hear of your library promotions, recognitions, technology tools, great literature, and more. Email your contributions to journal editor Amy Castleberry at journaleditor@aaimk12.org.

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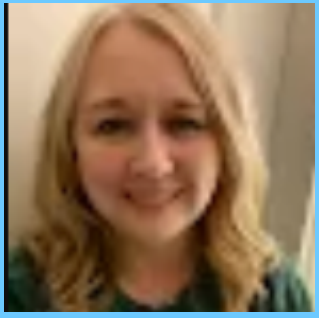
Tech Bytes Contributor,
Ashley Cooksey



Book Review Contributor,
Jennifer Dowdle



Arkansas State Library
Contributor, Katie Walton



President's Message

Tana Sanders

This message has been challenging to write; I have struggled with what exactly to say to you in my final address as President of AAIM. Along with many of you, I followed the happenings in the state legislature very closely. I learned more about the political process, and even how to send pink slips to my representatives. I watched my fellow librarians speak honestly and eloquently about the importance of school library media specialists and the work we do. It is very easy to be discouraged in times like these. I don't know about you, but I have spent hours fretting and feeling somehow less than the highly qualified and educated professional that I am, that we all are. We are the ones who are experts in collection development and as such, we work long hours to make certain that our patron needs are met through a variety of media materials.

As I have reflected on current events in our state, I am reminded of my theme from AAIM 2022: Explore and Evolve. Sometimes we choose change; sometimes change is placed upon us. Either way, how we respond to the change will shape our perceptions and our performance. We will rise up and continue to make our libraries strong and meet the challenges we have been given. Please know that I am very concerned about how this will proceed, and how it will affect us both individually and as a professional community. I absolutely wish I could offer better words of encouragement. However, what I can offer is the continued opportunity to get involved with AAIM and become part of this strong community of professionals who are dedicated to the field of School Librarianship, and who are working to make a difference.

Every year I look forward to the AAIM Conference; this year is no different. Our theme "Unity In The Unique" is very timely, as we are working from a unique perspective as educators; we are librarians, teachers, media specialists, and so much more. We have much to offer one another, and I encourage you to take time to visit with other professionals, including our speakers and vendors, as they have unique opportunities for support and learning. There has been an incredible amount of behind the scenes work that takes place to make a conference happen. Brittany Fleming, our President-Elect and Conference Chair, has a tremendous conference planned! I am very excited to hear from our speakers and see each of you at conference. I plan to take time to attend many of the helpful and high quality professional sessions that I have come to enjoy as part of my membership in AAIM.

It has been my honor to serve the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media as your President this year.

Tana Sanders, President
Arkansas Association of Instructional Media

"We will rise up and continue to make our libraries strong and meet the challenges we have been given." Tana Sanders
AAIM President

2023 AAIM CONFERENCE

Over the past few months, libraries across the county have been faced with various challenges. When I found out I had been elected conference -chair/president-elect, it was important to me to promote how strong we are as a profession and the importance of libraries for our patrons. Our different backgrounds, abilities, cultures, and stories make sure who we are, not just as people, but educators too. In this, I feel like it is important for us to showcase our uniqueness to build a stronger profession. I can't wait to share AAIM 2023: Unity in the Unique with you!

**April
23-25**

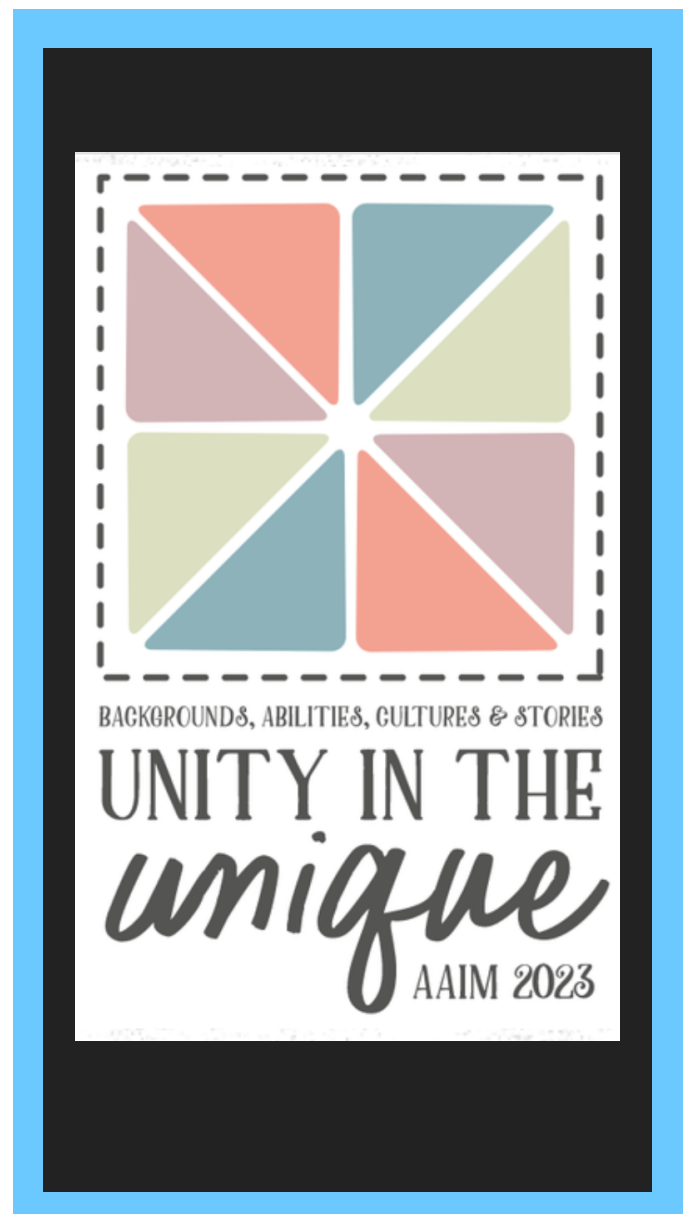
AAIM's 2023 conference will take place April 23-25 at the Little Rock Marriott Convention Center. My vision is for each of us to identify our strengths by acknowledging our uniqueness to become confident in who we are as professionals. Seeing the uniqueness in not just us, but our programs too, is essential in setting goals and growing our students.

Pre-Conference

We will kick-off the conference weekend with a Pre-Conference at the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum. Cassandra Barnett, our ADE Program Director for School Libraries, and Kathleen Pate, the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum's Education Specialist, will help us explore the "Women's Voices, Women's Votes, Women's Rights" exhibit. They will share instructional strategies for analyzing primary sources and will share resources and educational programs offered through the Presidential Library and Museum and the National Archives. The Pre-Conference is \$50 in addition to the conference registration price of \$195. This includes entrance to the Presidential Library and Museum as well as lunch.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Presidential Library & Museum



2023 AAIM CONFERENCE

Sunday

Sunday afternoon brings the official start to our annual conference showcasing our first featured speaker, Jarrett Lerner. Author-illustrator Jarrett Lerner is the award-winning creator of the EngiNerds series of middle grade novels, the Geeger the Robot series of early chapter books, the activity books *Give This Book a Title* and *Give This Book a Cover*, *The Hunger Heroes* series of graphic novel chapter books, and the *Nat the Cat* series of early readers. Jarrett is also the creator of the forthcoming illustrated novel in verse *A Work in Progress*. Mr. Lerner will be presenting a breakout session following his keynote, and he will be available to sign books as well.

Following our keynote speaker, our concurrent sessions begin. These sessions feature the best librarians and library practices from across the state brought to you by our very own members. In the afternoon, we will culminate our day by celebrating students during our annual Student Media Festival. Our Presidential Reception and Exhibits Grand Opening will take place from 5:00-6:00 pm. Make sure to stop by our exhibit hall to grab a bite to eat and mingle with colleagues and vendors.

Monday Morning

Monday will be a full day filled with more featured speakers, sessions, and time with vendors. Our first general session of the day will be brought to us by Jason Matsumoto and Dr. Ashley Cheyemi McNeil of Full Spectrum Features. Jason is the co-founder and Director of Operations at Full Spectrum Features, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to driving equity in independent film industry and providing education about social and cultural issues through the power of cinema. Dr. Ashley Cheyemi McNeil is Director of Education and Research at Full Spectrum Features and leads the division Full Spectrum Education, which focuses its educational filmmaking projects on exploring parts of history that are often untold in classrooms and recognizes our collective need to more fully understand the many facets of U.S. history. The two of them will focus on Full Spectrum Features educational filmmaking projects on exploring parts of history that are often untold in classrooms and recognizes our collective need to more fully understand the many facets of U.S. History and Arkansas History.



JERRETT LERNER
AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR
JARRETTLERNER.COM



2023 AAIM CONFERENCE

Monday Afternoon

During our annual awards luncheon, we will host Danyelle Musselman, former sports reporter for NFL Network, Yahoo Sports, Fox Sports, and ESPN and wife of Arkansas men's basketball coach Eric Musselman. Concurrent sessions will take place following both the general session and luncheon.

Monday night, through the generous funding from the Arkansas Humanities Council, Full Spectrum Features is partnering with AAIM to co-host a community film screening of their short films on Japanese-American histories, *The Orange Story* and *Resettlement: Chicago Story* at the Ron Robinson Theater in downtown Little Rock. Full Spectrum Features is working with local Japanese American community organizations to invite Japanese American community members to the event and to facilitate a special discussion with incarceration survivors and their descendants after the screening. This event will be free and open to the public.



DANYELLE MUSSELMAN
PHOTO CREDIT: REAGAN MCKINNEY

Tuesday

Tuesday will wrap up our conference with more wonderful sessions and one last keynote speaker. Our last speaker is Amanda Jones, a school librarian and certified reading specialist from Louisiana. Amanda is the 2021 School Library Journal Co-Librarian of the Year, a 2021 Library Journal Mover and Shaker, and the 2020 Louisiana School Librarian of the Year, plus many more accolades. Amanda is passionate about school library advocacy, and will help give us some tools to navigate through the current library issues.

BRITTANY FLEMING
AAIM PRESIDENT-ELECT
AND CONFERENCE CHAIR



2023 AAIM CONFERENCE

Special Thanks!

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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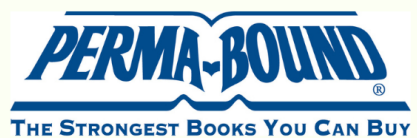
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**MONDAY'S COFFEE
STATION**

ATTENDEE TOTES

**Thank you
for
supporting
Arkansas
libraries!**

NEW LIBRARIAN WELCOME

Jennifer Chotard Spears

Bayyari Elementary Springdale

Hello, I'm Jennifer Chotard Spears. I am the librarian at Bayyari Elementary in Springdale. We are a Pre-K-5 school. I am currently enrolled for LMIS certification through Southern Arkansas at Magnolia.

Some of the things that I have loved in my first year as librarian is being a voice between classroom teachers and my new specialty team. I spent 22 years in the classroom, most recently in kindergarten and 3rd Grade. My favorite part about the library is ordering new books, although I had no idea how much work it was just to get one book on the shelf! I look forward to networking through AAIM and collaborative librarian team meetings. I've read more this year than any other in my life and I'm loving it.

Last children's read:

Linked by Gordan Korman

Last adult read:

The Hotel Nantucket by Elin Hilderbrand

Last children's listen:

Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
by J.K. Rowling

Current children's read:

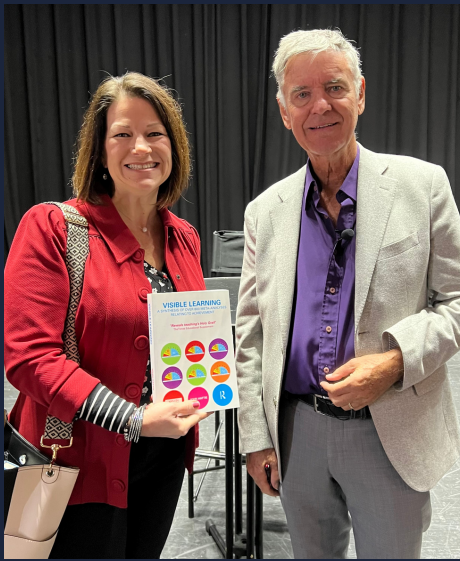
Julieta and the Diamond Enigma
by Luisana Duarte Armendariz

Current adult read:

The Wives by Taryn Fisher

Current adult listen:

Spare by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex



NEW LIBRARIAN WELCOME

Emily Crowley

**Booneville High School
Grades 10-12**

What do you love about being a librarian?

Having the freedom to be creative and think for myself is the best part. I love that I get to bring new things to the library and work with kids to help them get excited about reading and technology!

I realized that I play a big part in the daily routines that help the school run smoothly. I feel like I have freedom to share my ideas and try new things!

What was the most challenging part of this year?

Learning all the ends and outs of running a library was the most challenging part of this year.



"I absolutely love my job! It has been a learning process, but I am so grateful for this opportunity!"

--Emily Crowley



RETIRING LIBRARIAN

CATHY SANDERS

CENTERPOINT ELEMENTARY LIBRARY



"Be prepared for change every year."



After teaching first, second, and third grades for many years, I went back to school at age 50 to get my master's in library. Now, after 14 years in the library, I am retiring from Centerpoint Elementary. I am planning on doing all those things that time just doesn't seem to allow: traveling, gardening, reading books that aren't kids' books, and seeing more of the grandchildren.

My words of wisdom. "Be prepared for change every year." Every year I have worked, there has been something new. It can be the schedule, new administration, a new building, and even a whole new group of teachers or students with different needs.

REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS



Steve Marion

"Steve Marion passed away August 2, 2022. Steve served as a LMS in both Van Buren and Fort Smith. He was always willing to go the extra mile for his family, friends, and students. He would often share his lessons and technology creations. His passing left a legacy that cannot be measured. I am so blessed to have called him a friend."

-Debbie Griffin, King Elementary, Van Buren School District



Joyce McCain

"Joyce was a dedicated AAIM member who represented ATU for several decades. She was our trusted historian from 1997-2009 and covered every base; AAIM's history was so important to her. Her expertise and constancy were a vital part of AAIM board meetings. She never failed to keep the AAIM booth open at conference and at HSTI, encouraging members to become active in our organization. She was a friend to many and faithfully welcomed new members. She is definitely missed and that would please her."

-Sara Dickey, Paragould High School, Paragould School District

"Joyce McCain of Russellville worked at the Tech library till retirement and was our AAIM Historian for many, many years and on the board forever. She also took our booth to HSTI and ArLA. She was a great supporter of Arkansas librarians"

-Rachel Shankles, ARLA President

"Joyce, was at ATU when I was attending classes. I knew of her but when I joined AAIM she became a friend. She was always recruiting for AAIM. Joyce believed in freedom of reading, and promoted this every way she could. When she retired, I missed seeing her face, and her positive attitude. We have lost two outstanding advocates for AAIM, and Libraries. "

-Donna Stobaugh, Pottsville Junior High School



Connie Zimmer

"Connie Zimmer was my main professor when I completed my LMS degree at Arkansas Tech University. Connie was a genuine person. She was always willing to give you her undivided attention with any concern or challenge we faced. I always looked forward to seeing her at AAIM. She will be missed; however, her legacy will live on."

-Debbie Griffin, King Elementary, Van Buren School District

"Connie was so pleasant and always had a smile on her face at AAIM conferences and board meetings. I loved it when she was in attendance because she brought happiness wherever she went. She was a faithful member who represented ATU for years. She is missed by many."

-Sara Dickey, Paragould High School, Paragould School District

"Connie, recruited me to become a Media Specialist 25 years ago. She guided me through the process. I will be forever grateful to her this is the best job I have ever had. I have her grandchildren in classes at this time, and I strive to live up to her expectations. I will miss her, and her guidance. Rest in Peace Connie."

-Donna Stobaugh, Pottsville Junior High School

GREETINGS FROM THE STATE LIBRARY!



Katie Walton

Arkansas State
Library

As you may know, the Traveler resources are reevaluated every three years during a formal bidding process. It's hard to believe that time is already approaching, but I plan to send out the Request for Proposals next fall. In the upcoming weeks, I will be sending out a survey about the Traveler Statewide Digital Resource Program and our current collection of resources. I encourage each of you to fill it out and share it with your colleagues, so the Traveler Advisory Committee can use your survey responses to aid in their decision-making process. If you have other thoughts you'd like to share, you can also reach out to me or the school library representatives on the Advisory Committee- Kristy Bentley, Ronda Hughes, and Sara Dickey.

In light of the many challenges facing librarians and teachers at the moment, I wanted to offer some words of encouragement, but I was admittedly coming up short. However, I believe one of the signs of a good reference librarian is knowing when to ask the experts for help, so I reached out to someone who has offered me support and guidance more times than I can count- State Librarian, Jennifer Chilcoat.



Jennifer Chilcoat

State Librarian

You are no doubt aware that there's been an intensifying effort underway for

many months now to remove books from the shelves of school library media centers and public libraries—even from academic libraries. The only thing necessary to put a book in the crosshairs is that someone doesn't like the content of it. The bar seems to be in constant movement, depending on who is lobbying the criticism. In Texas last fall, a State Representative came up with a list of 850 books that he felt were contrary to Texas law. That list included *Confessions of Nat Turner* by William Styron (an adult book), *The Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine*, and *Eyes on Target: Inside Stories from the Brotherhood of the US Navy Seals* by Scott McEwan. A study of the list by BookRiot.com found that 62.4% of the titles dealt with LGBTQ+ topics, 14.1% with sex education, 8.3% with race and racism, but fully 15.1% dealt with other issues altogether. And if you're serving any grade range, be it first through fifth grades or K-12, you've got to figure out whether to limit your collection to only materials that are appropriate for the lowest grade you serve.

It can be disheartening to know that some of the materials that will make a difference in your students' lives are being threatened of their spot on your shelves. To know that you're only one moment and one title away from being personally attacked. To wonder where the line is. And to wonder when you will be able to breathe again.

Jennifer Chilcoat

CONTINUED . . .

Sometimes there is little comfort to be found in troubling times. But you can, perhaps, keep yourself from falling apart by reminding yourself of a few things:

First, you are not alone. We are part of a profession that is jam-packed with empathy. Reach out to your colleagues for support. It may feel weird to you at first, but I promise you it won't feel weird to them. They'll probably be comforted to talk to you, too. If your heart is too heavy or your fear too great to be helped by a friend, seek professional help ASAP. Don't sink too low before you reach your hand up.

Second, you will emerge from this time stronger than you were before. I'm terribly sorry if that sounds cliché. Maybe Michelle Obama sounds less cliché: "You should never view your challenges as a disadvantage. Instead, it's important for you to understand that your experience facing and overcoming adversity is actually one of your biggest advantages." I think of the things in my life that I barely got through: abuse, depression, coming out, having my worth repeatedly attacked in a workplace. In retrospect, I wouldn't change a thing about my past, because it made me who I am today. I'm not invincible, but I'm pretty tough, and I have a depth of empathy that you can't get from leading an untroubled life. I am a better person.

Finally, don't lose sight of the fact that these times wouldn't be so difficult if you didn't love your job so much. For most of you, this is truly your calling—you wouldn't do anything else, even if you could. There will come a day when you can realize, again, how lucky you are to feel passionately about your work. I hope that day is soon.

**A sweet greeting
welcomed students at
the Paragould High
School Library in
February.**

Designed by Sara Dickey



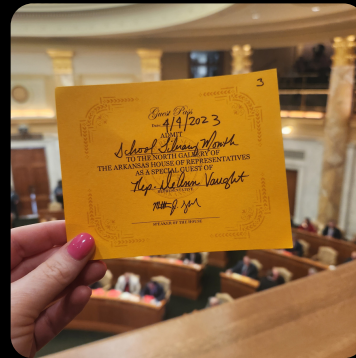


NEWS

ARKANSAS SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH

On April 4 Dr. Erin Shaw, Ashley Cooksey, Cassandra Barnett, Linda Neal, and LaToya Morgan attended the meeting of the House of Representatives as House Resolution 1075 was presented and adopted. HR1075, sponsored by Representative Vaught, declared April as School Library Month in the state of Arkansas. Senate Resolution 47 (SR47 sponsored by Senator Clarke Tucker) was presented and adopted at the same time in the Senate.

Ashley proposed the idea to Representative Vaught who had the resolution written and worked with Senator Tucker to ensure both chambers declared the resolution. Representative Vaught invited school librarians to attend the reading and passage of the resolutions on April 4 to celebrate School Librarian Day. Those in attendance were invited to the North Gallery to observe the House session.



Johnson Presents at EDUCON

Dr. Brian Johnson, School Library Media Specialist at Lakeside Junior High School, was recently invited to copresent at EDUCON in Philadelphia, PA, on February 5, 2023 . His copresenters were seminal Library researcher Dr. David Loertscher, AASL 2021 School Librarian of the Year Dr. Melaney Sanchez, and Boston librarian Morgan Keohane. Together, they presented a session entitled The Secret Is Out: Recipes for Reinventing and Making a Difference in Your School with a Creative Credentialed Librarian.

EduCon 2023

February 3rd-5th, 2023 at The Science Leadership Academy

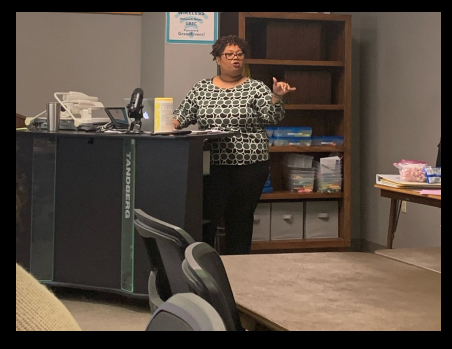
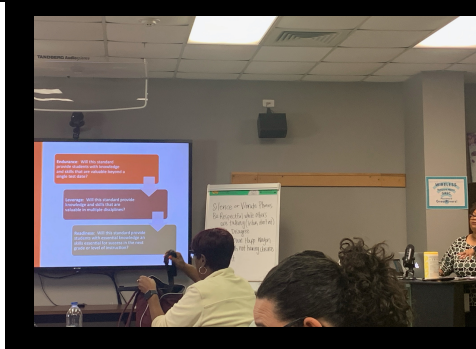




NEWS

Librarians Come Together at Great Rivers Educational Cooperative

On November 30, 2023, the librarians of the Great Rivers Education Cooperative gathered at the cooperative in Helena, Arkansas. Librarians received presentations on dynamic shelving from Meaghan Wright, the West Junior High librarian, and Racheal Emberton, the Faulk Elementary librarian. Discussions on developing a weeding plan, library programming for the second semester, and establishing GREC essential library standards were conducted by Ouida Cunningham, a member of the Arkansas Library Project Collaboration and librarian at Wonder Jr. High School in West Memphis, AR.



Topics and Tours with NEA Co-op Librarians

Fourteen schools in the Northeast Arkansas Educational Co-op were invited to the NEA Librarians' meeting on December 2, 2022. Hosted at Paragould High School and facilitated by Sara Dickey, the morning session topics included updates from AAIM, a book challenge discussion, reviews of the Book Blast program, and a presentation from the Master Gardeners organization. The Master Gardeners, Pauletta Toby and Vickie Griggs, shared scholarship information and volunteer opportunities for our high school students. The afternoon session consisted of tours of various Paragould and Greene County community resources: the Greene County Museum, the new Paragould Fire Department, and the historic Linwood Cemetery Mausoleum where notorious ganster Frank Nash is interred.



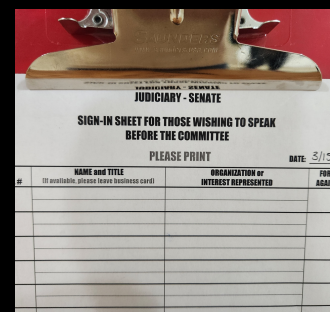
NEWS

A Legislative Journey

by Dr. Erin Shaw, UCA Assistant Director

In all honesty, I took on the Legislative Committee chair position because we didn't have anyone as the chairperson. I really didn't know much about how the legislative process worked, but thankfully, I asked LaToya Morgan to co-chair the committee last April. Along with our AAIM webmaster, board member (and various other titles) Ashley Cooksey, LaToya and I learned so very much! There were so many bills proposed this legislative session. I am truly grateful for Ashley who created a spreadsheet document with all of the bills that may have affected schools and particularly our libraries.

The main bill that garnered our attention was SB 81 (now Act 372) which will have an impact on schools and libraries. The bill was introduced in the Senate (hence the SB prefix) by Senator Dan Sullivan. The AEA president Carol Fleming reached out to AAIM regarding the bill and let us know only 1 school librarian had spoken to him about the bill. LaToya Morgan made an appointment with Senator Sullivan for us to sit down and talk through the bill. We met for over an hour, but in the end, he decided to run the bill with a few amendments after our talk. The original amendment was to include a challenge process for both school libraries and public libraries. The bill went first to the Senate Legislative Committee. Several people including a few school librarians were there to speak against the bill, but it passed through the committee and the full Senate easily.

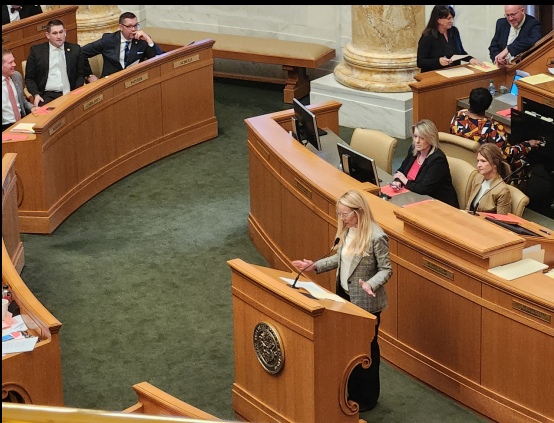


The focus of this bill is about providing obscene materials or material harmful to minors. This legislation refers to laws that prohibit the distribution or display of materials that are considered harmful to minors (these may include pornography, obscene images, or explicit content that is deemed inappropriate for children). The obvious purpose of these laws is to protect children from being exposed to material that may be harmful to their physical, emotional, or mental well-being; this is the same charge all educators follow by ensuring we ethically and professionally serve our students. The real conundrum is that while obscene materials are clearly defined by law (and libraries and schools can't purchase these anyway), what is considered harmful to minors may vary depending on who is reviewing the materials. This is where a later part of the bill includes a materials challenge policy specifically for school libraries (and there is a separate section of the bill for public libraries). The policy for school libraries is similar to policies I have seen in districts I have worked in, so they aren't really anything new since all public schools have had to provide a written challenge policy since 2003. Now would be an opportune time to sit down with your administrators to ensure your library challenge policies include the requisite language. Of course, you can include more detailed steps, but this bill just states the minimum that should be included in your policy.

A Legislative Journey continued . . .

A curious amendment was added after it reached the House Judiciary Committee and failed the first time. Ashley Cooksey and I both had a chance to speak at this hearing, along with fellow school librarians around the state and even students. It is certainly intimidating to sit at the end of the long table facing elected officials. The amendment strikes the word “remove” and instead inserts “relocate” if a material is challenged and decided to be inappropriate for that particular school. So now school libraries will need to find a suitable place to put the material so that it is inaccessible to anyone under 18.

The bill passed through the House Judiciary Committee the second time and moved on to the House where it also passed. There was a school library champion, Representative DeAnn Vaught, who spoke passionately against the bill, particularly from the school standpoint. She supported our professional expertise and included information regarding the library bill of rights as being included in the DESE TESS evaluation information for school librarians.



The bill is now Act 372 and will go into effect soon. Some things to consider: just because a book is challenged and relocated in one school does not mean it has to be relocated in any other school unless it goes through the full challenge process and is deemed inappropriate at that school as well. We need to remember that each library and each school library community is different and that patrons need materials that allow them to see themselves represented in literature and to see the world so that they can learn how to be empathetic citizens. According to the bill's sponsors, there will not be a list created for the state. All decisions will be made at local levels. It is still unclear how classroom libraries will be affected, but this may be determined in future rules. It would be a good idea to establish an advisory committee for your library, one comprised of teachers, parents, and students who could help assist with advocating for your library and the collection. Again, now is a good time to sit down with your administrators to establish strong and transparent policies regarding selection, relocation, and challenges in your library.



NEWS

The legislative session ended on a high note for school libraries. Both the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Senate passed a resolution to officially announce that April will be dedicated as School Library Month through HR 1075 (sponsored by Republican Representative DeAnn Vaught) and SR 47 (sponsored by Democrat Senator Clarke Tucker). Thankfully, LaToya Morgan, Ashley Cooksey and I were able to attend the House dedication, along with AAIM elected board member and DESE school library program advisor Cassandra Barnett and newly elected AAIM President Linda Neal. We had reserved seats in a special gallery and were recognized when the resolution was proposed.

The biggest takeaway for me is that we, as school librarians, need to tell our story or at least advocate for our profession especially at our local levels, so if it goes to the state legislative level, there are others who support the work we do and the expertise we hold. Otherwise, there will be people who misconstrue what we do and will tell a different story.





AAIM

NEWS

Did You Know?

AAIM is an affiliate of AASL, ALA, and ISTE. Check out these sources to consider becoming a member of another professional organization.



American Association
of School Librarians
TRANSFORMING LEARNING

A DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

<https://www.ala.org/aasl/>

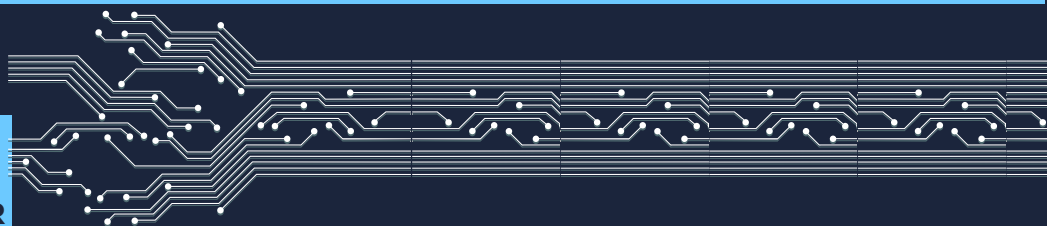


American
Library
Association

<https://www.ala.org/>



<https://www.iste.org/>



It's Advertising, not Bragging

The school library program is often an unsung hero of the school. Myths and misconceptions about what a modern-day school library should look like and what a school librarian does all day often drive the narrative. It can feel embarrassing to advertise yourself, almost like bragging.

In the *AAIM Journal* Volume 4 Issue 1 (fall 2022), Britany Chavez, 2022 AAIM School Library Program of the Year winner, and Amy Shipman, 2022 AAIM School Library Media Specialist of the Year winner, both highlight the importance of collaboration with content educators. And, as Amy said, "There isn't a magic formula for the library."

An easy way to advertise the library's services to faculty and staff is through library menus. A quick Google Search of "library menu of services" will yield thousands of results.

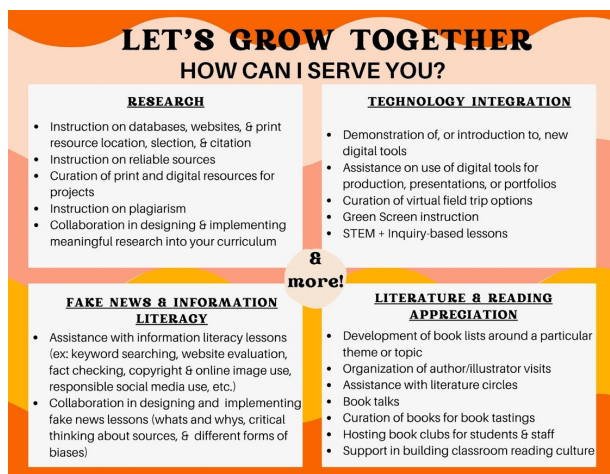
Here are some quick and easy tips for creating your library menu:

- Keep it simple. Focus on specific services you provide and that you are comfortable executing and discussing.
- Create a graphic. Use free tools like Smore or Canva to create an eye-catching graphic that is easy to share. Bonus: Use hyperlinks in PDFs or web-based graphics to direct others to your website or page. Image files do not yield clickable links.
- Follow up and follow through. Don't just send out your information once. Follow up throughout the school year and use common meeting times when a large group may be in the same space.

It may seem silly to advertise your job; however, many people associate the library with a library of their childhood - a quiet room and a shushing librarian. Including free resources like the Arkansas Traveler Databases can give teachers the boost they need to reach out. And, don't forget, advertising is not bragging!

Free tools to create graphics

- Google Draw or Slides
- Canva
- Smore
- Piktochart
- Visme



Prairie Grove Junior High
Blake Baker



Lakeside Junior High School
Brian Johnson

Examples from our AAIM Members

Meekins Middle School Library

Menu of Services

MRS. TAWNIA HERRING,
LIBRARIAN

Appetizers

- Curate Resources
- Borrow Materials
- Reading Culture
- Open Library

Entrees

- Research Skills
- Digital Citizenship
- Technology Integration
- Collaboration

Desserts

- Makerspace and Coding
- Relaxation and Meditation
- Other Teacher Services

More Information

Find our online catalog at:
<https://bit.ly/31esvdk>

Find more on the Arkansas Traveler Databases:
<https://bit.ly/3nwqbw7>






Meekins Middle School
Tawnya Herring

How Can Mrs. Fleming Help?

Lesson ideas, resources, and more!

2022-2023

Why is the library important to our school? School libraries are extensions of the classroom...the school library allows students to delve deeper into classroom subjects and topics of personal interests. Reading as a foundational skill is supported and promoted by the school library program. Research has shown that students' standardized reading test scores are higher when they have access to a well-resourced school library staffed with a full-time certified/licensed school librarian who partners with teachers on student instruction and provides teachers with staff development on resources and information technologies.*

LESSON IDEAS TO TEACH, CO-TEACH, OR MODEL

- Literacy Enrichment Groups
- Interactive read alouds
- Various reading strategies
- Work with students to set reading goals
- Search the internet (safe sites, accuracy of the internet)
- Integrate STEAM
- Connect Science and Social Studies to literature
- Explore databases (Tech Cards)
- Research skills
- Evaluate Sources
- Copyright and plagiarism
- Select research topics
- Respond to literature in a variety of formats (book talks, book trailers, etc.)
- Booktalks: for pleasure and different lesson topics
- Recognize text features (digital and print)
- Primary and Secondary Sources
- Digital Citizenship

Baker Elementary
Brittany Fleming

BHS LIBRARY MENU

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

RESOURCES

- Curate pathways for research projects
- Instruction on database, website, & print resource location, selection & citations
- Collaborate to design & work meaningful research assignments into your curriculum

FAKE NEWS & INFORMATION LITERACY

- Fake News & Media Literacy Lessons
- Information Literacy Lessons (ex: keyword search, website evaluation, fact checking, copyright & online image use, responsible social media use, etc.)

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

- Instruct/demo digital presentation tools
- PD for teachers on digital tools (schedule a time for you to learn something new)

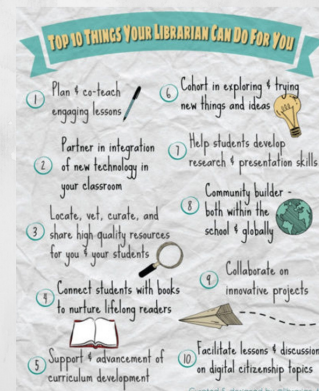
LITERATURE & READING APPRECIATION

- Curate recommended book lists around a particular theme, unit or topic
- Organize & host video author chats
- Assist with Literature Circle discussions
- Book Talks
- Book Tastings

Bigelow High School
Dena Meriweather

Teacher Resource Ideas

- Create resource/research guides (print and digital) for students to use for research
 - Pull library books to match curriculum needs
 - Find in-person and virtual opportunities to bring experts into the classroom
 - Create Screencast videos
 - Order for curricular needs
 - Create Presentation tools for lessons/unit
- Don't hesitate to ask! I love to create materials!



Source:
1. School Library Research Summarized A Graduate Class Project, 2007. School Library Research Summarized A Graduate Class Project, Library & Information Technologies, Marshall University of Pennsylvania.
<http://librar.research.marshall.edu/gradproj/>
Kick Start: <https://www.kickstart.com/>
Photo: @blacian_01

Baker Elementary
Brittany Fleming

A New Kind of Book Fair

by Amy Hutto, Teacher Librarian
South Side High School

As most of you already know, the book fair issue has been a bit tenuous in the last few years. Large companies have become increasingly hard to deal with. Small schools like mine could not meet the sales quotas needed to keep the fully loaded book fair being delivered, and many, like myself, just gave up trying. For a while, there was an honest search for a new company or a new way to provide this service to students, but I'm not sure any solid replacement surfaced.

Still, the idea and excitement of a pop-up book sale in the library was missed by both the students and teachers in my building. Last year, in an effort to promote reading amongst our high school students, my principal and I discussed how we could bring this back in a bigger and even better format. South Side High School Principal Kelly Leonard offered some specially allocated funds (from a state categorical grant based on poverty) to provide a book fair where every child would get a book for free. These funds were meant to provide services above and beyond what would normally be provided by a school, and promoting reading fit the bill. A new kind of book fair was born, one in which no child would be turned away for lack of money.



A new kind of book fair was born, one in which no child would be turned away for lack of money.



Our high school has about 550 students in grades 7-12, so that meant I need to start shopping for a lot of books that would catch their attention and inspire them to read. For each title I found, I ordered anywhere from 6-10 copies depending on how popular I anticipated they would be. Scholastic was a great source for buying bulk books for this purpose. To supplement, I cruised the sale aisles at Books-a-Million, as well as ordered some hard to find books, particularly on hunting and outdoorsy things, from Amazon.

As with any good book fair, a theme is essential. Last year, the theme was "Say Aloha to a Free Book," and when classes came into the library, they were greeted with a lei and a popsicle as they browsed the books. Palm frond umbrellas and beach towels set the tone. This year, I decided to stay with my library theme for

the year: "Camp Out with a Free Book." Students got to grab a Capri Sun out of the ice chest, and munch on S'more trail mix (or a vegan, nut free, lactose free alternative) while they searched for the perfect book.

New Kind of Book Fair continued

I am immensely grateful for a principal who supports reading programs like this and is willing to back her support with generous funding. No child is turned away for lack of money—no money is needed at all. What a wonderful thing for our district! It is also an awesome feeling when I have some books left over and I get to invite my avid readers back for more, or even allow my teachers to choose some books for their personal kids or their classrooms. I understand that funding can be fickle, and I may not get to do this long-term, but it sure has been fun to experience the excitement of a new kind of book fair the last couple of years. I encourage you to sit down with your principal and see if they might be able to drum up some funds to support a program such as this in your school.

SSHHS LIBRARY'S
FREE BOOK FAIR
MARCH 9TH AND 10TH
COME GET YOUR FREE BOOK DURING YOUR ENGLISH CLASS

SEE MRS. HUTTO FOR DETAILS

Featured books include: *Outdoor Survival*, *Year in Sports 2023*, *The Stolen Heir* by Holly Black, *Two Degrees* by Alan Gratz, *Summer of Broken Rules* by M.L. Walthers, *My Hero Academia*, *Ghost Hunter's Daughter*, and *The Trials of Apollo*.

Other text on poster: "sit, stay, love" with a pug illustration.



LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: PROGRAMMING

Books and Blue Bots

by Lynsey Moats, Library Media Specialist
Dr. Jim D. Rollins Elementary
Springdale School District



Photo credit:

One of my primary goals as a library media specialist is to help my students fall in love with learning. For some students, simply sharing the books on the shelves is enough to accomplish this goal. However, for other students, they need something more to captivate their interest. As a result, I commonly pair my read alouds with STEAM activities to better engage all students in the learning process, and one of my new, favorite activities is coding with Blue-Bots!

Blue-Bots are sturdy robots with command buttons on their backs which easily allow even my youngest students to program them successfully. Not only are Blue-Bots easy for all learners to use, but they are also very versatile in providing multiple opportunities to make curricular connections.

Before using the Blue-Bots, I purchased white poster board paper and created grids. Each grid has twelve squares measuring 6 x 6 inches each. This size correlates to the distance the Blue-Bot travels with every forward or backward move. I then laminated the grids to increase their durability and to allow me to use washi tape to adhere different themed images on the boards throughout the year.

The first time I used the Blue-Bots, my students and I read and discussed *How to Trap a Leprechaun* by Sue Fliess. The students then imagined that their Blue-Bot was a leprechaun and worked collaboratively to program it to travel to an image of a trap that was placed on the grid. On the way to the trap, students had to ensure their Blue-Bot passed other images along the way. One feature I really like about the Blue-Bots is that students can quickly and easily identify if there is a bug in their algorithm, press the delete button on the back of the Blue-Bot, and then immediately try

again. This process allows students multiple opportunities to apply critical thinking and problem solving skills. The second time we used the Blue-Bots, my students and I read and discussed *Long Shot: Never too Small to Dream Big* by Chris Paul. This time the students imagined their Blue-Bot was a basketball player and worked collaboratively to program it to travel to various images ultimately arriving at an image of a basketball goal.

Finally, in addition to the command buttons on the back of the Blue-Bot, these robots also have Bluetooth and voice command capabilities. I am so excited to plan more lessons connecting books and Blue-Bots utilizing these features in the near future!



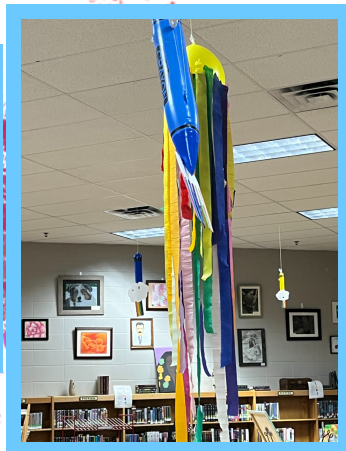
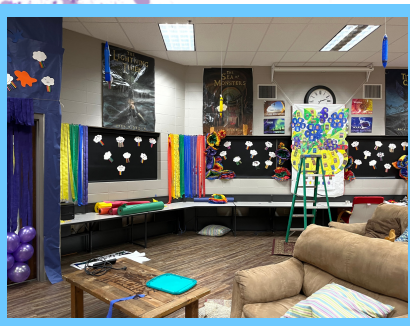
Photo credit:

Splashes of Color

by Donna Stobaugh, Library Media Specialist
Pottsville Junior High

Reading Colors Your World

Our junior high students helped with decorations for their Scholastic book fair, which we themed Reading Colors Your World. We raised \$2000 through the book fair.



Read Across America Week

Our seventh, eighth, and ninth graders participated in an all-day book reading during Read Across America week. Students were allowed to read picture books or books of their own choice. We had treats for them, and some classes played games with the books they read. One of our classes made paper airplanes and tested them after their science teacher read a book about airplanes to them. Our coaches even got in on the action, reading books about sports - the kids loved seeing them participate.

For the day, students were given a punch card for taking AR quizzes. We also had drawings for prizes (the giant Tootsie Roll and Smarties are examples of some of them). Students could put their name in for the prize drawings.

Our PTO provided Seuss-themed snacks, and our library students made truffula trees from balloons, tissue paper, and yarn.

What a success!



Spreading Kindness Through the Library

by Amber Chastain, NBCT, Library Media Specialist
Bethel Middle School



As the library media specialist at Bethel Middle School in the Bryant School District, I am always looking for new ways to build up our school community and make the library media center the “heart” of our school. One successful initiative I started in our library is a campus-wide Kindness Week. For the past two years, I collaborated with our Student Council, teachers, and staff to promote a week-long event dedicated to random acts of kindness and giving back to our community.

I am fortunate to see most of our 6th and 7th grade English classes weekly in our library. The idea for Kindness Week started when our

learning specialist noticed a need in our school culture and suggested I conduct a lesson on “empathy” in the library toward the end of last year. This inspired me to create a multi-lesson unit focused on the words “respect,” “empathy,” “responsibility,” and “kindness.” I wanted to facilitate discussions about these topics with students while they visited the library and give them a chance to put their words into action. While planning, I asked our Student Council for community service ideas, and they quickly jumped on board. Together we developed Kindness Week!

To prepare our students for Kindness Week, I taught the unit beforehand in the library and ended it with a challenge to intentionally perform acts of kindness, both in school and outside of school. Student Council set up a bulletin board outside of the library with slips of paper students could take sharing ideas such as “write an affirmation for someone,” “give cookies to the custodian,” “pick up litter,” and “make dinner for your family.” I gave our teachers and staff tickets to give to students who were “caught being kind.”



Spreading Kindness Through the Library continued



Instagram: @bemslibrary

Throughout Kindness Week, students submitted their “caught being kind” tickets to the library to enter their names into a daily prize drawing. I collected several small prize donations from local businesses and purchased prizes with fundraising funds. This year, I was able to give 52 students a small prize for their kind actions on campus!

Because Kindness Week is also about spreading kindness outside of school, I asked our Student Council to choose a community organization for a #giveback campaign. Last year, we donated over 50 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House. This year we collected over 350 items to donate to a local nursing home. We collected items the residents would enjoy like new blankets, non-slip socks, and stuffed animals.

To add some fun to our #giveback campaign, we conducted a friendly competition between classes. I contacted a local business and they generously donated ice cream parties to the two classes with the most donations. However, while promoting our campaign in the library, I stressed the importance of performing “genuine” acts of kindness, meaning they should help others without expecting anything in return. It is enough that helping others has a positive effect on our mental health and happiness.

Kindness Week had an immediate positive impact on our school culture. Several students and staff shared stories with me in the library about the kindness they had received. One teacher emailed me, “I have really enjoyed students from around the school... reading to CBI students! I have enjoyed seeing [their] happiness and meeting other students from around the school!” A custodian came into the library beaming because a student surprised her with cookies and a kind note. I hope Kindness Week becomes a tradition at Bethel Middle School. It’s my wish to continue using the library to make a positive impact on our school culture and community.

KINDNESS

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT: PROGRAMMING

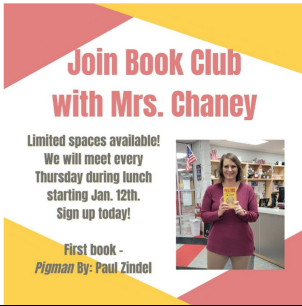
Visions of Bookish Things

by MacKinzy Chaney, Library Media Specialist
Glen Rose High School

New things we've tried this year:

Book Club - We meet every Thursday at lunch. I have a solid five students attending book club. We set a certain number of chapters to read and have great discussions. I have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with them. We will read one more book for the year.

BOOK CLUB



**Join Book Club
with Mrs. Chaney**

Limited spaces available!
We will meet every
Thursday during lunch
starting Jan. 12th.
Sign up today!

First book -
Pigman By: Paul Zindel

COMING IN JANUARY!

BOOK CLUB

Sign up today for Book Club! We will meet in the library every Thursday during lunch. The first date is Jan. 12th. We will discuss the book and assign reading for the next week. Limited spaces available, so sign up today! This is a great way to interact with a group about books! Let's improve our reading and have a little fun!

Summer Days - The middle school librarian and myself (high school) set four dates to open the libraries to students and families in the summer. This is a huge success. The middle school had more students, but I was happy to have the handful of students I had show up.



Visions of Bookish Things continued

Book Fair - Yes, I did a tabletop book fair through Scholastic in my high school library. We had an amazing turnout and sales in the high school. I was thrilled with the response from the students. I will definitely host again.



Book Talks - EVERY book I read that is from the library or YA, I book "talk it": It is crazy how talking about a book, author, genre, type (verse, etc.) will make those books fly off the shelf. All it takes is finding that ONE book for a student for them to be hooked into reading!

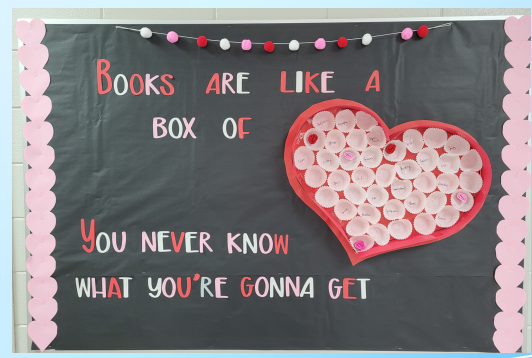
Need some chalk board inspiration? Check out these fantastic chalk board displays provided by GRHS library!



Instagram: @grhs_librarymedia

Visions of Bookish Things continued

Need some bulletin board inspiration? Check out these fantastic bulletin board displays provided by GRHS library!



New Favorites

by Courtney Young, NBCT, Library Media Specialist
Paragould Junior High School



Tik Tok Ready photo booth

In our library this year, we set up photo booth opportunities throughout the year. Students can take pictures - the catch is they must include a book in the picture.

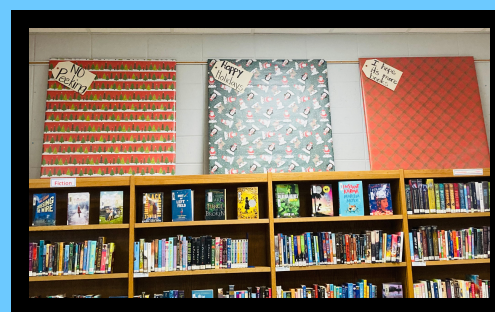
The Library Family

Our library aides are proudly displayed in our family photo wall. For added interest and a magical flair, they are presented with an animated filter.



Living Literature

The library partnered with our school's BETA Club sponsor for a Living Literature competition. For this competition, we have to create a scene from a book. This year, we used a scene from Neil Gaiman's *The Graveyard Book*.



Festive Holiday Decor

Presents, stockings, and a tree by a cozy fireplace. The holidays are warm and inviting at Paragould Junior High.

Book Circles

By Ashley Lewis, Library Media Specialist
Highland High School

Each quarter, the Highland High School Library hosts a "Book Circle" for students and staff who would like to participate. I select a title that has high reviews, appeals to high school students (and staff), and can be purchased in bulk at a cheaper rate. I most often order from BookOutlet.com because of the low prices! I can't always find the book I'm looking for, but I keep a running wish list of titles to use for our Book Circles and check back often for availability.

Once a book is selected, I send an email to grades 9-12 as well as staff informing them of the book price, the deadline to sign up, and a blurb about the book. I've never chosen anything over \$10, and most often the books are closer to \$5-6. In the past, I have had staff members sponsor student copies for those who cannot afford to pay. This year, our Library Club fundraiser generated enough money that now all students who wish to participate (usually around 10) can do so for free!

Once everyone has received the book, I set a meeting date for students during school (club meeting time) and staff after school. We meet only one time after the book is completed. No one has time for "read a little and then meet multiple times." LOL! I know this is low-key, but it works for us. I'd love to hear others' Book Circle/Book Club ideas!



Promoting Books at Bergman

By Lisa Davis, Library Media Specialist
Bergman High School



I am in my 2nd year as LMS. My Book Club wanted to do a *Blind Date With a Book* in February, and it was quite successful. So, I extended the concept into March with *Try Your Luck With a Book*. I haven't had as many checkouts, but the display does draw the attention of the kids.

I have also implemented an idea I got from a library group on Facebook. It's an if you liked _____, try ___ idea. I ordered the display rack from Amazon and printed off the pages from the original poster's file. It is really drawing a lot of attention.

Link for the display rack:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0792H5V8J/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o02_soo?ie=UTF8&psc=1



Matilda's Journey

**By Amy L. Curtis, K-12 Library Media Specialist
Lead Hill School District**

My top priority for our school library has always been to have an environment our students could feel safe and secure in. Not only have I created a space where students can read or study quietly, but one where they can decompress when life becomes overwhelming.

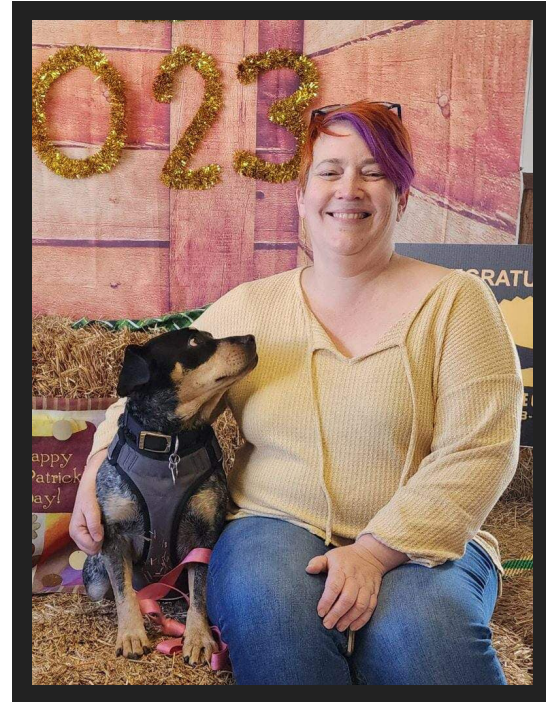
To support this, I provide hot, aromatic teas, quiet corners, and an ear to listen if needed. However, there was one item I wanted (I'd like to say needed, but...) to have: a therapy dog.

I created a list of traits I expected this dog to have: at least 3-5 years old, great with kids and other animals, intelligent, patient, and had basic obedience training. I follow Arkansas Correctional Industries Paws in Prison and anticipated adopting from there.

I also began researching requirements in my district and laws in my state. Of course, one of the first places I started asking questions at was with our AAIM network!

To make a long story short, Matilda was abandoned in our area and came into my care. I was able to immediately determine she fulfilled my list for a therapy dog in our school.

My next task was to find rules and regulations about therapy dogs. I discovered that there is some guidance from the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA) which defines therapy dogs and has criteria that a local school board can adopt. After reviewing these rules and criteria, my superintendent is allowing me to bring Matilda to school as long as she has her therapy dog certification.



Matilda's Journey continued . . .



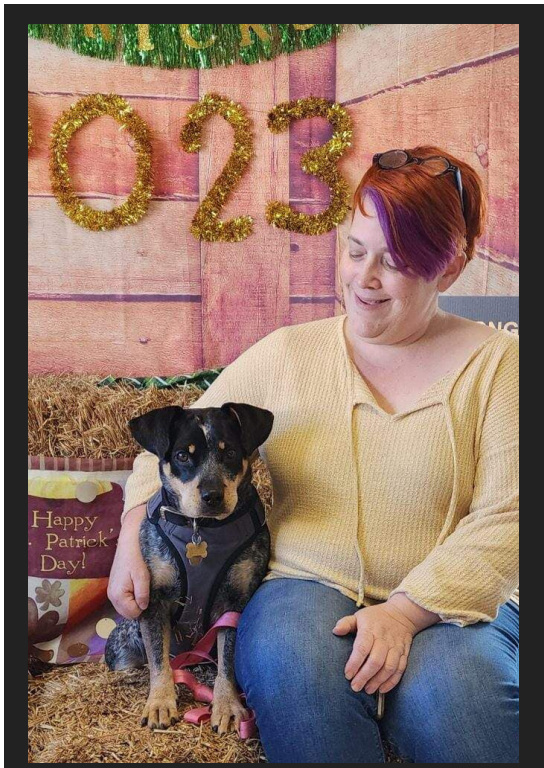
One of the primary components of ASBA's criteria was to get training through someone certified from Therapy Dogs International (TDI). The only trainer I could find in Arkansas was Pamela Padgett through Conway Canine Companions in Conway, AR. The animal must be at least one year old, have basic training (Canine Good Citizen certification is a plus), be fully vaccinated, and have a good temperament. The cost of the training was \$130, and we met weekly for 6 weeks.

We passed the test with flying colors the Friday before spring break. All I have to do now is fill out the paperwork for registration through TDI.

One of the wonderful things about TDI is that they provide liability insurance when you're registered. However, they recommend carrying private liability as well. Another is that TDI promotes reading therapy dogs. So, not only does Matilda help students and staff decompress, but she sits with students while they read to her.

Although Matilda didn't pass her test until before spring break, she was allowed to come to school to work the week prior. One of our recent graduates passed away in a car accident; he was the third former student in less than 18 months to die in a car wreck. Matilda provided emotional support with hugs and snuggles to many of our staff and students.

Matilda has already proven herself invaluable to our school. She is a true Lead Hill Tiger.



Lead Hill School District

Developing Leaders and Learners for Life

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

Presented by Cassandra Barnett
Arkansas Department of Education

Virtual Sessions

June 8, 9am-12pm: Policies and Procedures for School Libraries, K-12 school librarians 492818.

This virtual workshop will focus on reviewing policies and procedures needed for managing a school library. Emphasis will be on the required selection and challenge policies as well as emergency preparedness. Sample policies and procedures will be provided.

July 6, 9am-12pm: Policies and Procedures for School Libraries, K-12 school librarians 492831.

This virtual workshop will focus on reviewing policies and procedures needed for managing a school library. Emphasis will be on the required selection and challenge policies as well as emergency preparedness. Sample policies and procedures will be provided.

June 12, 9am-12pm: Law for Arkansas School Libraries, K-12 school librarians, K-12 administrators 492836.

This virtual workshop will focus on Arkansas and federal laws that impact school library programs and school librarians. We will take a closer look at Arkansas Code, Title 6, Chapter 25 (Public School Library Media and Technology Act), privacy and confidentiality laws, and copyright issues.

July 17, 9am-12pm: Law for Arkansas School Libraries, K-12 school librarians, K-12 administrators 492854.

This virtual workshop will focus on Arkansas and federal laws that impact school library programs and school librarians. We will take a closer look at Arkansas Code, Title 6, Chapter 25 (Public School Library Media and Technology Act), privacy and confidentiality laws, and copyright issues.

Summer Professional Development Opportunities

Presented by Cassandra Barnett
Arkansas Department of Education

In-Person Sessions

Teaching Information Literacy Using Digital Resources

K-12 school librarians, will present at educational cooperatives, minimum of 10 attendees, 6 hours.

This workshop will focus on instructional strategies designed to help students effectively use digital resources in their research. Special emphasis will be on the Traveler Databases for K-12 students available through the Arkansas State Library as well as other sources of primary and secondary historical documents and artifacts. Suggestions for lessons and projects will be provided.

- June 13 – Crowley’s Ridge (492878)
- June 16 – Northwest (492812)
- June 20 – South Central (495128)
- June 26 – Northeast (495190)
- June 28 – Wilbur D. Mills (492960)
- July 13 – Dawson (492832)
- July 20 – OUR (493282)

Books and STEAM: a Perfect Blending

PK-12 educators, Arkansas River Co-op, June 27 (495508)

This 6-hour workshop will highlight STEAM activities using picture books, fiction, and non-fiction books. Arkansas Diamond, Charlie May Simon, Teen Book Awards books will be given special attention. Resources focusing on collection development will also be addressed. Time to create lesson plans will be provided. Participants are asked to bring their laptops or tablets.

ABC-Clio and New Social Standards

4-12 educators, Arch Ford Co-op, June 30 (498931)

This 6-hour workshop will focus on strategies designed to help teachers effectively use digital resources in their instruction. Special emphasis will be on the ABC-CLIO databases, part of the Traveler Databases for K-12 students available through the Arkansas State Library as well as other sources of primary and secondary historical documents and artifacts. Suggestions for lessons and projects will be provided. In addition, teachers will be given time to integrate use of these resources into their curriculum units.

A SWEET FAREWELL

BULLETIN BOARD DESIGNED BY SARA DICKEY,
PARAGOULD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN FOR HER
GRADUATING SENIORS



**Our *AAIM Journal* staff wishes you
a fantastic end to the school year
and a relaxing period of
rejuvenation this summer!**