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Library Education and Development Newsletter, Volume 8, Issue 2

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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Library Education and Development Newsletter

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"Information helps you to see that you're not alone. That there's somebody in Mississippi and somebody in Tokyo who all have wept, who've all longed and lost, who've all been happy. So the library helps you to see, not only that you are not alone, but that you're not really an different from everyone else."

~Maya Angelou

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Advice from the Frontlines
Krystal Spilger
Newell Elementary School, Grand Island Public Schools

In your capacity as a professional librarian, what aspects of your job bring you the most joy?

After spending 12 years as a classroom teacher, the first benefit of being a media specialist is working with all of the students in the school. I get the joy of spending 1 hour with Kindergartners and then the next hour working with fifth graders. As a specialist, I can see how the students grow and mature as readers and as users of technology.

Another aspect of my job that brings me joy is being the person to introduce the students and staff to new computer programs. Every week, I get the honor of integrating a piece of technology with a standard being taught in the classroom. The excitement of learning something new each week makes coming to the library a little more motivating. It brings a smile to my face when a student walks up and says “What are we learning today?” or “I really liked Kahoot!” Weekly, students are introduced to new programs, and I look forward to hearing which ones are their favorites.

The third aspect that I really enjoy is being able to collaborate with all staff members. Every Wednesday I meet with all of the classroom teachers. We discuss what is going to happen in the coming week and what I can do to help support them in their classroom instruction. On Thursdays, I meet weekly with my principal to discuss changes in technology and school needs that are connected to the Media Center. This time is invaluable, as communication bridges the gap between the library and the classroom.

Please discuss one personal characteristic that you feel has contributed to your success as a school librarian?

Flexibility is my main characteristic which has helped me become a successful school librarian. As a school librarian, you never know what may arise on any given day. The website you were planning on using may go down just as you and your students were about to use it. A teacher may need help with his/her class. An unplanned meeting may need to take place. Technology is always Continued on page 3
changing. Our district is utilizing web-based programs instead of legacy programs, and is in the process of moving from Macs to PCs. These are things that happen and you aren’t always prepared, but you have to be able to handle the unexpected.

The AASL Standards for the 21st Century learner ask today’s school librarians to rethink and redesign their work with students to ensure mastery of the skills and dispositions necessary for personal and academic success. Please share a lesson, unit, or experience that represents the best of you as a Teacher and Information Specialist.

Part of my job as an Integration Specialist is to work with the high ability learners in my school. In that capacity, I work with students who are reading above grade level. The fifth graders were to be taught the standard: 5.1.6.e Summarize the main idea from informational text including supporting details. I chose to have the group of students read A History Perspective Book and have them identify the main idea from each perspective and rewrite the historical account using all of the main ideas. The students had to synthesize all of the information they had learned and rewrite the historical event. They submitted their account using Google Classroom. This lesson gave the students an opportunity to read a book from a new nonfiction series and to utilize a new program, Google Classroom. The students were so excited about using the program that they were completing the assignment at home.

Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

Just this past month, I read The Ascendance Trilogy (The False Prince, The Runaway King, and The Shadow Throne) by Jennifer Nielsen. All three books were engaging and exciting throughout. The books were written masterfully and you were in constant shock about the choices the main character, King Jaron chose to make throughout the whole storyline. It appeals to all readers. Another book I just recently read was The Angel Tree by Daphne Benedis-Grab. This book is a perfect read aloud for this time of year. It touches on the true meaning of Christmas and you can’t help but enjoy the ending.

Please share a favorite website you have used for instruction or professional development.

I have two favorite websites that I learned about at the Fall NETA Conference. The first website that I have used for instruction and professional development is Google Classroom. It allows me to be able to really hold the kids accountable for assignments. I also like that it helps me organized my assignments. The other website that I have found to be fabulous is Newsela.com. I love the fact that the articles are current events that can be leveled and there are questions that are connected to the Common Core standards. Best of all, it’s free!

“The excitement of learning something new each week makes coming to the library a little more motivating.”
Student Spotlight: Jen Prasch
Portal Elementary, Papillion-LaVista School District

What is your education / library/experience background?

I currently teach 4th grade and have taught for 7 years. Before my teaching career, I taught social skills at Boys Town which also provided me much experience in behavior intervention. My future plan is to become a library media specialist and to fill children with a love for knowledge and reading.

What is on your reading list? What are your favorites? Your recommended? Your want to read lists?

Some of my favorite books are; "The Giving Tree," by Shel Silverstein, "Love Aubrey," by Suzanne LaFleur, and "The Westing Game," by Ellen Raskin, I certainly recommend these to all ages!!!

Some books that I am currently reading are; "Freaky Fast Frankie Joe," by Lutricia Clifton and "Twelve Hours' Sleep by Twelve Weeks Old," by Suzy Giordani. As you can see I am a Mom of a newborn, this is my fourth baby, but I believe that the more I learn, the better I will become and sleep is certainly needed! Ha! ha!

“I am creative. I love to create and imagine things like a kid. I like for students to do the same and not be afraid to share because they are scared of what others will think.”

What professional journal or article have you read and would recommend? Why?

School Library Journal is a wonderful Continued on page 5
professional journal to have and read. I recommend them because they have lots of information; book reviews, resources, curriculum, etc.

**What do you do in your “down time”? Do you have any hobbies? How do you relax?**

In my down time, I love to hang out with my husband and four boys! They keep me on my toes with making paper airplanes, playing cars, building forts and much more. If I'm lucky enough to get some time away, I like to blog, paint, do wood working projects, and watch movies.

**What deep dark secret would you like to share?**

My deep dark secret that I have is that I want and am working on writing a novel. I have an idea and have started writing some of it. No one knows what it is about except for my husband and it is going to stay that way. You will have to read it once it gets published. ;)

**Name one of your personal or professional qualities that will make you a leader in 21st century library and information centers?**

I am creative. I love to create and imagine things like a kid. I like for students to do the same and not be afraid to share because they are scared of what others will think.

**What advice do you have for other students who are currently enrolled in Library Science studies?**

This is a degree that has many changes with many things to learn. So be prepared to never fully know the "job", be open to the vast world it comes with.

**What do you see as key future trends and challenges for school librarians?**

Challenges of being a Library information specialist is being able to keep up with all the innovative ways to teach and learn. So much is being created that it is impossible to learn it all, but wanting to learn is key to being successful in this position.

**What do you think will be your legacy in this profession?**

My legacy that I want to I still in others is that you are never done learning. Always seek more knowledge and you will go far!

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**Favorite Quote:**

"Great things never came from comfort zones"

~author unknown
Did you know???

Dr. Melissa Cast-Brede, College of Education Criss Library Liaison, is available in the Roskens Hall Student Lounge on 2nd floor, two days a week for personal, one-on-one librarian/student interactions. No question is too big or too small.

- Need the perfect book recommendation?
- Having trouble with APA citation?
- Need help finding a statistic?
- Need a book or journal not available at UNO?
- Would you like to check out an iPad or Kindle?
- Not sure which journal to use?

ASK MELISSA!!!

Melissa is available in Roskens Hall Mondays and Tuesdays from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Librarians are almost always very helpful and often almost absurdly knowledgeable. Their skills are probably very underestimated and largely underemployed.

–Charles Medawar

Follow the link below to learn what our very own Jennifer Misbach is up to these days!!
http://tinyurl.com/jennifermisbach
Announcements:
Scholarships, Registration, Comprehensive Exams, Graduation

Scholarships

NSLA: Nebraska School Librarians Association
NSLA awards two $800.00 continuing education scholarships to school library Media Specialists and paraprofessionals who wish to gain additional professional training in the field on a full or part time basis. For more information, visit the NSLA website: http://www.neschoollibrarians.org/awards-and-scholarships.html

NLA: Nebraska Library Association
The NLA established the Louise A. Nixon Scholarship Fund to provide $1000.00 to any Nebraska student in pursuit of a Master's Degree in Library/Information Science, or a Master's Degree in a media program that meets the ALA/AASL curriculum guidelines. The $250.00 Duane Munson Scholarship is available to help practicing librarians and paraprofessionals to gain additional library-related education and training. For submission and deadline information, visit the NLA website: http://nebraskalibraries.org/blog/nebraska-library-association-scholarship-opportunities-reminder/

Nebraska Library Commission
The Nebraska Library Commission is continuing to offer its 21st Century Librarian Scholarship program for undergraduate candidates. Scholarships may be used for tuition (for coursework contributing toward a certificate or degree), course-required materials, and school-assessed fees.

See http://nowhiringatyourlibrary.ne.gov/scholarships.asp for details and to learn how to apply.

Questions? Contact Kathryn Brockmeier, Grant Program Manager, by e-mail (kathryn.brockmeier@nebraska.gov), or by phone 402-471-4002 or 800-307-2665.

American Library Association
The American Library Association and its units provide more than $300,000 annually for a Master's Degree in library and information studies from an ALA accredited program, or for a Master’s Degree in school library media that meets the ALA curriculum guidelines for a National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The scholarship process is open annually from October-March. Applications and reference forms are available during that time period.

Instructions and general information remain available year round. For a complete list of available scholarships, visit the ALA website: http://www.alaweb.org/educationcareers/scholarships

To register for comprehensive exams, contact Sandy Keil in the Department of Teacher Education;
Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212.
Email: skeil@unomaha.edu

Selective Retention forms should be submitted at the completion of 12 credit hours and approved before students can register for comprehensive exams. Please make note of the following registration deadlines.

Comprehensive Exam Deadlines

Secondary Education Literacy/Library Candidates: The registration deadline is February 9th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2015 semester. The required review session will be held Monday, March 9th.

Reading Candidates: The registration deadline is January 12th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2015 semester. The required review session will be held Thursday, January 22nd.

Elementary Education Capstone
Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. Spring 2014 class dates: Fridays: January 16th, March 6th, April 10th, and May 1st from 5 to 8pm. This course is by permission only. Please contact Dr. Kathy Danielson at khdanielson@unomaha.edu or contact Dr. Rebecca Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu.

UNO College of Education is: Live with LiveText
Livetext is your:
• academic social network
• evidence of meeting program standards
• professional portfolio
Implementation began in Spring 2013!
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

NETA
Nebraska Educational Technology Association
Spring Conference

April 23-24, 2014
LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center

FREE Webinars!! Go to:
http://nlc.nebraska.gov/CE/webinars.aspx
Good IDEAS!
Innovation, Design, Experiences, Activities, Synergy
Wendy Loewenstein, IDEAS Room Coordinator, UNO College of Education, 402-554-3653, wloewenstein@unomaha.edu

Looking for an Alternative to Powerpoint and Prezi? Try emaze

Are you tired of Powerpoint? Is Prezi making you dizzy? I have been exploring a new tool that is worthwhile considering as an alternative: www.emaze.com.

emaze is still in beta, but is very promising. It combines components of Powerpoint and Prezi in a user-friendly interface that students of all ages should be able to manipulate. In emaze you can import images, websites, videos, and even existing powerpoints for teachers who have Powerpoints already developed. Most importantly, it is collaborative. Below is a comparison of emaze to Powerpoint and Prezi. So, if you are looking for a new tool to spice up an end of the year presentation, give it a try!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20 reasons to use emaze</th>
<th>emaze</th>
<th>PowerPoint</th>
<th>Prezi</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compatible on PC, Mac, Tablets &amp; Smartphones</td>
<td>✔</td>
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<td>Presentations can be accessed from anywhere</td>
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<td>Professionally designed templates</td>
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<td>Spatial motion of information</td>
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<td>Position text, images and videos in 3D plane</td>
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<td>Share your presentation via email or Facebook</td>
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<td>Collaborate presentations with your colleagues</td>
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<td>Dozens of pre-designed layouts</td>
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<td>Supports all languages</td>
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<td>Automatic presentation translation</td>
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<td>Presentations can be embedded in any website</td>
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Things to Consider

NEA's Read Across America

Read Across America Day is March 2, 2015!!

NEA's Read Across America welcomes all of you back to school. We are excited to share new resources and celebrate NEA's Read Across America, our annual celebration that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on the birthday of beloved children's author Dr. Seuss.

Mark Your Calendars! Read Across America Day is March 2, 2015

Oh, the Places You’ll Go when you read!. March 2, 2015 is NEA's Read Across America Day and this year, the book is the Seuss classic, Oh, The Placed You’ll Go. Start your planning and get ready to read this spring as NEA prepares a Seussational Read Across America celebration.

Find resources to help make your event Seussational.

Join the celebration and party with a picture book! November is Picture Book Month. Read * Share * Celebrate!

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For questions or suggestions regarding the UNO L.E.A.D. Newsletter, please contact:

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