L.E.A.D.
Library Education and Development Newsletter

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MetLink
Elementary Literacy Conference

Saturday, March 29th at Alumni Center on UNO campus – 8am-2pm

Keynote speaker: Steven Layne

Participants will receive a copy of his book: Igniting a Passion for Reading

More information on Steven Layne: http://www.stevelayne.com/

For more information contact Kathy Danielson: kdanielson@unomaha.edu

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Advice from the Frontlines

Betsy Rouse
Skyline Elementary
School Librarian
Elkhorn Public Schools

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

My favorite thing about being an elementary media specialist is watching the growth of students as both readers and researchers over a period of 6 years. It is amazing to observe the maturation of a student from a kindergartener to 5th grader. I think this is a unique and special privilege that school librarians are given that the classroom teacher does not have the opportunity to see.

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

The personal characteristic that has most contributed to my success as a school librarian is my ability to be an advocate for my media program. I believe communication is extremely important and vital to the success of a library program. A school librarian needs to promote their program and resources and share examples of student learning. If parents, teachers, and the administration are aware of the value a school librarian adds to their building they will be more likely to support new ideas and programs. Be a cheerleader for your library!

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.

One of my new favorite lessons is a digital citizenship lesson I do with my 5th graders. This project was inspired by the blog http://thetidyteacher.blogspot.com. Many of my students are starting to experiment with social media sites and apps and I believe it’s important to seize this opportunity to start the discussion on ethical online behavior and digital citizenship before sending them off to middle school. In the week leading up to My Digital Footprint project students explore different digital citizenship themes with lessons/activities provided on the Digital Passport program created by Common Sense Media. After
many discussions and collaborative online writing opportunities students are asked to think about their future Digital Footprints. They are then asked write about 5 things that they would proud to have connected to their names and create a footprint image that represents these ideas using Kid Pix 3D. The final step is to have students record their thoughts about digital citizenship with the camera app on the iPads. These videos and posters are then used to create Auras that can be scanned and shared with others using the Aurasma app.

Please share a favorite book you have read recently.

*How to Beat a Bully Without Really Trying* by Scott Starkey was an extremely entertaining read that literally made me laugh out loud. I think that this is a great transition book for those “Diary of a Wimpy Kid Only” readers or reluctant readers. One of my 5th graders who is a voracious readers just told me that it was the funniest book he'd read in months!

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

One of my favorite databases to use with my beginning researcher is Facts 4 Me. This database is affordable which is extremely helpful with more and more libraries facing tighter budgets. This database provides students with brief informational articles on 90 different topics written at a 2nd to 3rd grade reading level. It's a must have online resource for emerging readers and researchers.
What is your education / library/experience background?

In May 2000, I graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with my bachelor degree in Social Science with an emphasis in elementary education. In August 2000, one week before school started, I was hired to teach 4th grade at Newell Elementary School in Grand Island. In May 2004, I received my masters in reading from UNK, with a reading specialist endorsement. After teaching 4th grade for four years, my principal approached me about looping with my students to 5th grade. I taught 5th grade for a couple years before going back down to 4th grade for two more years. It was then time for another move, this time to 1st grade. After two years in 1st grade, I again looped with my class up to 2nd grade. I was just getting settled into my second year in 2nd grade when my principal approached me about taking over the Integration Specialist position at our school, which would soon be coming available. I saw it as an opportunity to work with all age groups while being surrounded by books, so naturally I was interested. With that goal in mind, I began taking classes at UNO in January 2012 to get my library media endorsement. I continued taking classes that summer, and last fall, with my provisional in hand, I assumed the role of Integration Specialist at my school. I’ll finish up my studies at UNO this spring.

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

Favorite Reads:


Palacio, R. J., & , (2012). *Wonder.* New York: Random House. - This book was full of reminders that all of us need from time to time. It is a great read aloud for elementary

*Continued p. 5*
students and leads to in-depth discussions about personal character.

**Current Reading List:**

Pitler, H., Hubbell, E., & Kuhn, M. (2012). *Using technology with classroom instruction that works.* (2nd ed.). Denver, CO: McRel.--I am participating in a book study using this book. Plus, my school’s classroom teachers were already reading Classroom Instruction that Works, so I thought it would be a good fit to read the technology perspective.

Robertson, W., & Robertson, K. (2012). *The duck commander family: How faith, family, and ducks built a dynasty.* New York: Howard Books.—Sometimes you just have to read something for fun!

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

*Educational Leadership* and *Knowledge Quest* are excellent professional journals that keep school librarians current and up-to-date with new findings in our field.

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

I enjoy curling up with a blanket and a good book when snow is falling outside. In the summertime, I like to hike and fish in the Rocky Mountains with my family. After work, I enjoy spending time with my puppy, Phantom.

What deep dark secret would you like to share?

My parents were so concerned about my vision getting destroyed from reading in the dark that my dad built a bay window with a seat for me to read in. I read by daylight every day at home in that window seat.

“Learning from a teacher who has stopped learning is like drinking water from a stagnant pond.”

-Indonesian Proverb

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

I have a knowledge of four different grade levels from the classroom teacher’s perspective. I know the challenges teachers face every day in the classroom, so I can work side-by-side with the staff to collaborate on lessons to integrate technology and provide resources that enhance the curriculum.

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

*Continued p. 6*
Listen and absorb as much as you can in class. There are so many experts around you (students and professors) that have valuable ideas and experiences that can help you in your own job. Take advantage of being around peers.

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

The challenge for all Library Information Specialists is keeping current. Technology is always changing and it is imperative that we adapt our teaching to embrace the 21st century.

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

Instilling the joy of reading into my students will be my legacy.

Did you know???

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. Just ask!

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

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers.

-Charles W. Eliot
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 NSLA.

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.

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 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.

Program Completion Requirements

To register for comprehensive exams, contact Joyce Jones in the Department of Teacher Education;
Phone: 402-554-2212 or 1-800-858-8648, ext. 2212. Email: jpjones@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 10th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2014 semester. The required review session will be held Monday, March 10th.

Reading Candidates: The registration deadline is January 17th for those students taking their comprehensive exams during the Spring 2014 semester. The required review session will be held Thursday, January 23rd.

Elementary Education Capstone

Elementary Education School Library Candidates: TED 8700 Elementary Capstone has replaced the comprehensive exam. Spring 2014 class dates: Friday, January 17th, February 28th, April 11th, and May 2nd from 5 to 8pm. This course is by permission only. Please contact Dr. Kathy Danielson at kbdanielson@unomaha.edu or contact Dr. Rebecca Pasco at rpasco@unomaha.edu.

LiveText will be your: Going Live with LiveText

• academic social network
• evidence of meeting program standards
• professional portfolio

Implementation begins in Spring 2013!
• Look for LiveText training sessions later this fall.
• Contact your advisor for information regarding EDUC, TED & SPED courses requiring the purchase of LiveText.
Upcoming Conferences, Professional Development and More!

**NETA**
*Nebraska Educational Technology Association*
Spring Conference
April 24-25, 2014
LaVista Embassy Suites and Conference Center

**Metropolitan Reading Council**
K-12 Writing Contest
Entries Due December 15, 2013
For more information visit [http://www.metroreadingcouncil.org/writing-contest.html](http://www.metroreadingcouncil.org/writing-contest.html)

**MetLink**
Elementary Literacy Conference
Saturday, March 29, 2014
@UNO alumni center
Good IDEAS!
Innovation, Design, Experiences, Activities, Synergy

Wendy Loewenstein, IDEAS Room Coordinator, UNO College of Education, 402-554-3653, wloewenstine@unomaha.edu

Promote Your Library & Events
Advocate for your library & share the great things you do

How? Create Online Flyers & Newsletters on Smore

The site: www.smore.com is an intuitive site that helps you generate colorful, creative flyers and newsletters that you can share out with your students, families, teachers, and administrators. There are a variety of templates and formats and it operates using a drag and drop editing that your students could even create for a research project. There are many possibilities with this site for you to explore. So, here's the nitty gritty.

Free account:
- Can be edited at anytime (just in case you find a pesky typo-but there is spell check)
- Only allows you to email flyers to 200 addresses/month.
- Doesn't have the custom backgrounds (but the backgrounds that come with the free account are nice).
- Flyers can be private and only viewable to those with the link
- Flyers can be printed, embedded, and shared using a link, but not downloaded as PDF
- Users can track how many views each flyer has, but can't view the analytics of the views until you have 30 views.
- Commenting capabilities can be enabled or disabled.

The educator's "reduced price" plan is $59/year.

- Can be edited at anytime (just in case you find a pesky typo)
- Custom backgrounds (including educational backgrounds)
- You can view analytics on how many times your flyers/newsletters are viewed
- 5,000 monthly emails/month allowed
- Downloadable versions of your flyers are allowed
- Commenting capabilities can be enabled or disabled.
- SMORE branding can be removed from your flyers
- No ads whatsoever on your flyers

To view this newsletter online click here
Things to Consider

SCHOOL BUILD STRONG STUDENTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT
Test scores tend to be significantly higher for schools that have full-time certified school librarians as well as for those that have such a librarian with support staff.
Achterman 2008

WHEN SPENDING FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES RISES, BETTER READING SCORES FOLLOW.

STATE STUDIES CONFIRM SCHOOL LIBRARIANS SUPPORT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS
“School libraries are essential learning resources and librarians are the essential ‘guides inside’ our schools, leading everyday teaching and learning toward methods and outcomes that best prepare our students for the challenges of the 21st century.”
Borris Trilling, Global Director, Oracle Education Foundation, 2010

“INFORMATION RETRIEVAL AND EVALUATION IS A LIFELONG SKILL THAT ALL WORKFORCE STUDENTS NEED. SCHOOL LIBRARIANS PROVIDE THAT INSTRUCTION.”
Bill Cullifer, Exec Director, WebProfessionals.org/WhyITNow.org Initiative, 2013

OF ALL AMERICANS DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY AT HOME.
PER 2012

STRONG SCHOOL LIBRARIES BRIDGE THAT GAP

Sources:
Cullifer, Bl. Conversation by telephone February 2013.
Strong School Libraries Build Strong Students

“Education is the only valid passport from poverty...we bridge the gap between helplessness and hope for more than five million educationally deprived children. We put into the hands of our youth more than 30 million new books, and into many of our schools their first libraries.”

President Lyndon Baines Johnson’s remarks on signing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, April 11, 1965.

A strong school library is staffed by the library team of a state certified or licensed librarian supported by clerical assistance; has up-to-date books, materials, equipment and technology; includes regular collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians; and supports the development of digital literacy skills.


The library team provides the foundation for student learning.

“The most important thing a strong library program can have is a full-time certified librarian with support staff.”


“Research consistently shows that when children have access to good libraries with plenty of good books and with adequate staffing, they read more, and thus do better on reading tests. For children of poverty, libraries are typically the only possible source of reading material.”


“The school library provides a wealth of curriculum-based resources as well as opportunities for students to learn at a personal level of inquiry, outside the assigned curriculum.”


Over 21 state studies confirm that school librarians and school libraries support students in academic achievement, lifelong learning, 21st century skills, and reading.

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There was a significant positive relationship between a majority of the 21 library services regularly provided and student achievement at all levels. Total library services were significantly related to student achievement at all levels when controlling for all school and community variables.


School librarians provide the scaffolding for reading success

When comparing schools with and without librarians, the study indicates that the presence of a qualified school librarian can make a tremendous difference in reading achievement. This difference ranges from eight percent for high schools to 35 percent for elementary schools. For instance, schools with librarians have 35 percent more fourth graders who score proficient or above than schools without librarians.


In an Iowa study, in all three grade levels surveyed, the students’ test scores tend to rise with the increased incrementally as [library] staffing and library usage increased.


In a Missouri study, students who have access to the library either during school hours or have electronic access outside the library show a significant success rate.


“Studies confirm that more access to books and reading material in general results in more independent self-selected reading. More independent self-selected reading results in more literacy development.”


**School librarians provide the blueprint for teaching students research skills, digital citizenship, safety online, and information communication skills**

“School librarians have deep expertise in digital literacy skills; have well-developed instructional strategies based on thinking critically, communicating creatively in a variety of media, and solving problems creatively; and are often role models for strong leadership, initiative, and other career and life skills.”


“School libraries provide equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment.”


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**School librarians provide 21st century professional development to their teaching colleagues**

School librarians and teachers make a strong instructional team combining their knowledge of pedagogy, resources, and technology to meet the specific needs of each student.


Teachers were three times more likely to rate their literacy teaching as excellent when they collaborated with librarians.


Student test scores were higher the more time librarians worked cooperatively with classroom teachers, the more they taught information literacy independently, and the more they provided in-service training to teachers.


“School libraries provide equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment. School librarians collaborate with others to provide instruction, learning strategies, and practice in using the essential learning skills needed in the 21st century.”


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For questions or suggestions regarding the UNO LEAD Newsletter, please contact:

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