

# Fall Newsletter

G R E A T E R   K A N S A S   C I T Y   A S S O C I A T I O N   O F  
S C H O O L   L I B R A R I A N S

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- National Library Legislative News
- 2007-08 Officers
- Calendar of Upcoming Events
- An Author Among Us

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Liberty News	1
Raytown News	2
North Kansas City News	3
Legislative News	3-5
Belton News	6
Lee's Summit News	6
KCMO News	7
Officers and Calendar	8
"Tera's Dawn"	8

**FROM THE PRESIDENT BY SUSAN  
SCHANK**

We've had a great year so far in GKCASL! Major kudos go to Jessica Vandembos for planning the fall meeting. We got to meet nationally-known author and advocate of collaborative planning with Media Specialists, David Lometerscher! He is also known as an expert in the field of school librarianship. We heard about his collaborative planning taxonomy and how to get teachers into your Media Centers! The meal was provided by Laura Hammerschmidt from Mackin Publishers. The meeting was attended by over 50 people!

Jessica and Dana Kepler are busy planning our winter general meeting. We voted to hold it on a weeknight this year. The where's and when's will be announced later.

Our spring banquet will be held on May 6th at the Argosy Terrace Buffet, so bring your appetites! The Terrace is lovely and it is sure to be a wonderful evening!

It's not too early to register for the MASL Spring Conference! The dates are April 13-15 at Tan-Tar-a. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.maslonline.org/calendar/spring/SC2008.php>

We are still in need of a Parliamentarian, Continuing Education Chairperson, and a Historian. Email Susan Schank at [sschank64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sschank64@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested.

Have a wonderful school year! Stay Strong!

**LIBERTY NEWS BY ALISON SCHULTZ**

Andrea Sumy, formerly the library media specialist at South Valley Jr. High and Oak Grove High School, became the Coordinator of Library Media Services for the Liberty Public Schools. She takes over for the retiring Carroll Makemson.

Teresa Barnett was welcomed as the library media specialist at South Valley Jr. High.

Franklin and Liberty Oaks Elementary hosted visiting author Kirby Larson on November 14 and 15.

All Liberty elementary schools will welcome authors Roland and Marie Smith the week of November 26.

RAYTOWN NEWS BY LACIE GRIFFIN



Joel Nichols at RIF Kick-off for Westridge

Ellen Wickham at Raytown South High School is a reviewer for (LMC) Library Media Connection. Check out her book reviews in Aug/Sept and Nov/Dec issues

Ben Williams, a fourth grader at Fleetridge Elementary school, won first prize in the Bag Your Favorite Books Contest from Price Chopper. He was surprised at a school-wide assembly and will receive a class party and \$500 for the school's media center

Joyce Siler at Westridge Elementary had Joel Nichols from KMBC read to our students for our RIF kick-off. (He even mentioned my name when he showed the picture the next morning. He thanked me for sending the pictures.)

At Westridge, I did the walking field trip with 4th grade. Since WR is right along the Santa-Fe trail and the farm house of the original settlers along with their family cemetery is only 1 block from school, I do a MO history in your own backyard lesson with the students. It really makes this area

seem more important to them. One teacher even had the students take notebooks or clipboards and write down information from headstones that they could come back and create math problems with. (They also had dates of the Santa-Fe trail, dates of the family coming to MO, dates of county taking land for 79th street and then judge Harry S. Truman signing the orders for the county to take land from

the family for widening of Blue Ridge which gave them other numbers to work with.)



Westridge Elementary 4th Graders at a settlers' family cemetery.

*"The time ~~was~~ when a library was very like a museum and the librarian was a mouser in musty books. The time ~~is~~ when the library is a school and the librarian is in the highest sense a teacher, and a reader is a workman among his tools."*

Melvil Dewey (1851-1931)



## NORTH KANSAS CITY NEWS BY LESLIE ROE

Fox Hill Elementary Students Give  
Back to Kansas City Kids

During the month of October, Fox Hill Librarian, Leslie Roe and Fox Hill students collected 2300 books from for the "Hooked on Books" literacy program sponsored by the Junior League of KC. This metro-wide book drive puts new and gently used books in the hands of Kansas City area children who need them.



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS BY TRISH BARNARD

**National Legislative News****No Child Left Behind / SKILLS Act**

Please continue to contact your Representatives and Senators to ensure the inclusion of the SKILLS Act in the reauthorization of NCLB.

The SKILLS Act would place a state-certified school library media specialist in every school.

There is a possibility that the NCLB rewrite will be postponed until the next session of Congress.

**SKILLS - Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries Act**

This bill is in the first step in the legislative process. Introduced bills go first to committees that deliberate, investigate, and revise them before they go to general debate. The majority of bills never make it out of committee.

Sep 11, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

This bill is identical to [S. 1699](#) (Status: Introduced).

**Committee Assignments**

This bill is in the first stage of the legislative process where the bill is considered in committee and may undergo significant changes in markup sessions. The bill has been referred to the following committees:

[House Education and Labor](#)

[House Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education](#)

**LSTA –Library Services and Technology Act**

The last information I could find on this bill H.R. 3043 stated that each house passed its version of the bill that provides funding for these monies. ALA supports the Senate version.

## Key Bills in Congress and ALA Position

	Number of Cosponsors	
<a href="#">S. 2088</a> - <a href="#">A bill to place reasonable limitations on the use of National Security Letters, and for other purposes.</a>	10 (3 R, 7 D)	
<a href="#">S. 1699</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes.</a>	3 (1 R, 2 D)	
<a href="#">S. 1121</a> - <a href="#">A bill to authorize the cancellation of Perkins Loans for students who perform public service as librarians in low-income schools and public libraries.'</a>	2 (1 R, 1 D)	
<a href="#">S. 1032</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.'</a>	2 (2 D)	
<a href="#">S. 1032</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish an Office of Rural Broadband Initiatives in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.'</a>	2 (2 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 886</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records.'</a>	7 (2 R, 1 I, 4 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 849</a> - <a href="#">A bill to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.'</a>	17 (6 R, 1 I, 10 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 717</a> - <a href="#">A bill to repeal title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005, to restore section 7212 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which provides States additional regulatory flexibility and funding authorization to more rapidly produce tamper- and counterfeit-resistant driver's licenses, and to protect privacy and civil liberties by providing interested stakeholders on a negotiated rulemaking with guidance to achieve improved 21st century licenses to improve national security.'</a>	6 (2 R, 4 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 609</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.'</a>	32 (16 R, 16 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 274</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, and for other purposes.'</a>	12 (3 R, 1 I, 8 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 215</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure net neutrality.'</a>	10 (1 R, 1 I, 8 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">S. 49</a> - <a href="#">A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prevent the carriage of child pornography by video service providers, to protect children from online predators, and to restrict the sale or purchase of children's personal information in interstate commerce.'</a>	1 (1 R)	<b>We OPPOSE this legislation</b>
<a href="#">H.R. 3189</a> - <a href="#">To establish reasonable procedural protections for the use of national security letters, and for other purposes.</a>	27 (3 R, 24 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">H.R. 2864</a> - <a href="#">To amend the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 regarding school library media specialists, and for other purposes.</a>	9 (1 R, 8 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<a href="#">H.R. 2545</a> - <a href="#">To make available on the Internet, for purposes of access and retrieval by the public, certain information available through the Congressional Research Service web site.</a>	3 (1 R, 2 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>

<b>H.R. 1877</b> - <a href="#">'To authorize the cancellation of Perkins Loans for students who perform public service as librarians in low-income schools and public libraries.'</a>	16 (5 R, 11 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1739</b> - <a href="#">'To require the approval of a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court judge or designated United States Magistrate Judge for the issuance of a national security letter, to require the Attorney General to submit semiannual reports on national security letters, and for other purposes.'</a>	1 (1 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1309</b> - <a href="#">'To promote openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.'</a>	3 (1 R, 2 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1255</b> - <a href="#">'To amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records.'</a>	15 (3 R, 12 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1201</b> - <a href="#">'To amend title 17, United States Code, to promote innovation, to encourage the introduction of new technology, to enhance library preservation efforts, and to protect the fair use rights of consumers, and for other purposes.'</a>	19 (14 R, 5 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1120</b> - <a href="#">'To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.'</a>	92 (85 R, 7 D)	<b>We OPPOSE this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 1117</b> - <a href="#">'To repeal title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005, to reinstitute section 7212 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which provides States additional regulatory flexibility and funding authorization to more rapidly produce tamper- and counterfeit-resistant driver's licenses and to protect privacy and civil liberties by providing interested stakeholders on a negotiated rulemaking with guidance to achieve improved 21st century licenses to improve national security.'</a>	32 (32 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 985</b> - <a href="#">'To amend title 5, United States Code, to clarify which disclosures of information are protected from prohibited personnel practices; to require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements to the effect that such policies, forms, and agreements are consistent with certain disclosure protections, and for other purposes.'</a>	30 (4 R, 26 D)	<b>We SUPPORT this legislation</b>
<b>H.R. 278</b> - <a href="#">'To amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.'</a>	48 (14 R, 34 D)	

(as taken from the following websites) [www.ALA.org](http://www.ALA.org) and [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us)

### HELP WANTED!

GKCASL still needs volunteers to fill the following positions: Historian; Continuing Education; and Parliamentarian.  
Interested parties can find out more by contacting  
Susan Schank, GKCASL president.

Please send nominations for next school year's GKCASL Officers to Susan Mayes. Positions needing to be filled: President, Two Vice President positions, Secretary, & Treasurer.

**BELTON NEWS BY CAROL HAMBRECHT**

At Hillcrest Elementary School in Belton, second graders were very busy throughout first quarter. Classes learned about the rules of the library, talked about safe places to keep their books, and started checking out. During their first 2 visits, the children heard the book Animals Should Definitely Not Wear Clothing, and then we wrote our own class book (Animals Should Definitely Not Check Out Library Books) in which the kids thought of an animal that should not check out a library book.

Later, as the students learned about American symbols in class, they heard the story Saving the Liberty Bell in the library. The children then went into the computer lab where we helped them complete a Liberty Bell research page, which the kids then took back to class & wrote sentences from their "notes." The teachers were amazed that their second graders were able to do research! J

To build on learning how to research and take notes, the children moved on to Johnny Appleseed. The kids were shown how to print a page from a website, and then in the library, we learned how to identify & highlight

important words. From that, the kids were then able to write 2 sentences of fact and 2 sentences of tales people told about Johnny Appleseed. One class even typed their sentences & we posted them on our webpage!

Belton High School Freshman Center LMC just concluded its fall Library Card campaign. Four Academic Focus classes had 100% participation and enjoyed donut parties with donuts from local bakery, Duke's Baker's Dozen. Students filled out Library Card applications at school, and Teri Milbourn and her staff at Cass County Northern Resource

Center in Belton made cards for all the students. They also made it very convenient for students and their families to have their fines forgiven in November by contributing canned good for Harvesters. . Students saw a PowerPoint presentation during Academic Focus explaining how to access remote reference data bases and how to have their public library fines forgiven in November.

**LEE'S SUMMIT NEWS BY KAREN MCKARNIN**

Our newest elementary school, Summit Pointe Elementary, opened this fall. We welcome new media specialists, Kim Bell at Summit Pointe and Michael Russell at Lee's Summit High School, to our team.

Author Roland Smith visited Lee's Summit's 17 elementary and 3 middle school libraries this fall. During his 3-week visit, he mesmerized the students with tales of his adventures and writing tips.

Thirteen Lee's Summit media specialists accompanied Sharon Early, Library/Media Services Director, to the AASL conference in Reno, Nevada in October. Sandy Stuart-Bayer, Lee's Summit High School media specialist, presented a workshop on the new Web 2.0 technologies.

Lee's Summit elementary libraries hosted fall book fairs to benefit the Lee's Summit Reading Council, a chapter of the International Reading Association. Greenwood Elementary media specialist Sharon O'Donnell is president of the LSRC, which is one of the largest chapters in Missouri. The LSRC provides funds to support local literacy activities, such as the recent visit of Missouri author Judy Young. They also sponsor the Young Authors Conference, field trips to the Children's Literature Festival in Warrensburg, scholarships and books for underprivileged children.

Dr. David Loertscher, nationally-recognized expert on school libraries and information literacy and former AASL president, presented to district elementary principals and library media specialists on November 15. Dr. Loertscher's presentation provided an opportunity for principals and media specialists to explore ways to enhance flexible scheduling and collaboration between teachers and media specialists, which is a district CSIP goal. A group of library media specialists are currently conducting a book study of his book, *Ban Those Bird Units! 15 Models for Teaching and Learning in Information-rich and Technology-rich Environments*, which emphasizes collaboration and higher-level thinking.

## K C M O NEWS BY JANE PETTMAN

This school year is an MSIP (Missouri School Improvement Plan) Accreditation year for the Kansas City MO School District, which means all of the district's librarians under the direction of their District Library Coordinator, Grace Bridgeford, are gearing up for the MSIP visits in the spring.

Maria-Elena Singelman, librarian at Northeast Middle School, is continuing her work as an advocate for better Spanish resources for the district's Latino student population. She recently attended the Feria Internacional

de Libros (FIL, International Book Fair) that took place in Guadalajara, Mexico from November 24-December 1<sup>st</sup>. There she met librarians, both public and school, translators, editors, and book representatives from different countries: Germany, Spain, Cuba, and Colombia, to name a few and from the US: Philadelphia, New York, California, New Mexico, and Miami. Maria-Elena has always advocated for the selection of Spanish books that are not mere translated versions of American literature. At the FIL, Maria-Elena most like got her fill for original Spanish works f

for children and young adults and she brought back her recommended lists for district librarians to choose from.

In Maria-Elena's words: "My main accomplishment, other than enjoying the people and the atmosphere, was learning about publishers who have beautiful children's literature that just begs to be enjoyed. I met several authors and many publisher representatives who were equally enthusiastic in recounting a particular children's book...It was a great educational, productive, and professional experience."

By the way, Maria-Elena is also looking for opportunities to talk with other library groups that might be interested in purchasing great literature in Spanish.

In collaboration with the KC Public Library's National Children's Book Week activities, the Upper Elementary students of Faxon Montessori School went on a field trip with their school librarian, Jane Pettman. They visited the Bluford Public Library to attend a presentation by Shane Evans, a local artist and children's book illustrator. Some of Mr. Evans's works include, "No More: Stories and Songs of Slave Resistance", "Take it to the Hoop, Magic Johnson", "Fishing Day", "Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter", "Down the Winding Road". Many of Faxon's students love to draw and check out drawing books from the Library regularly. It was good for them to see and listen to a real artist.



*"The school library media center is the symbol to students of our most cherished freedom- the freedom to speak our minds and hear what others have to say."*

*ASL on the Role of the School Library Media Program*

G R E A T E R K A N S A S  
C I T Y A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F S C H O O L  
L I B R A R I A N S

2007-2008 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS

PRESIDENT—SUSAN SCHANK  
VICE PRESIDENT— JESSICA VANDENBOS  
AND DANA KEPLER  
SECRETARY—SUSAN MARTIN  
TREASURER— LACIE GRIFFIN  
AWARDS— CAROL HAMBRECHT  
REPORTER—JANE PETTMAN  
MEMBERSHIP—KELLY KNUDSEN  
LEGISLATIVE—TRISH BARNARD  
KC3 CHAIR— LACIE GRIFFIN  
PUBLIC RELATIONS—CATHY BETZ  
TECHNOLOGY—DEBBIE SWARTZ  
PAST PRESIDENT— SUSAN MAYES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

JANUARY 21, 2008—DEADLINE FOR  
SUBMISSION OF KC3 RATING BALLOTS

WINTER GENERAL MEETING—TBA  
(WEEKDAY EVENING)

APRIL 13-15, 2008—MASL SPRING CON-  
FERENCE

MAY 6, 2008—GKCASL END OF THE  
YEAR BANQUET

A N A U T H O R A M O N G U S  
B Y J A N E P E T T M A N

Susan Schank, current president of GKCASL and librarian at Swinney Elementary School of the KCMO School District, is now also a published children's book author. Advance copies of Susan's picture book, "**Tera's Dawn**" is now available for purchase on the publisher's website, [www.purpleskypublishing.com](http://www.purpleskypublishing.com). It will eventually be available for purchase through other book vendors like Follett, Barnes & Noble, Amazon.

To give you an idea of the story, here is the information on the blurb:

*Tera's Dawn* is the heartwarming tale of a young mare in search of her family. Taken from her herd at the hands of ranchers, Tera experiences loneliness as she longs for her freedom. While in captivity, Tera discovers something extraordinary that changes her life forever. A beautifully illustrated tale that reinforces the idea of family and stresses that anyone can overcome adversity and emerge stronger. A story to be read again and again.

Congratulations, Susan!