

Volume 2; Number 6 March 17, 2006

Published bi-monthly by Read to Me, a service of the Idaho State Library

In this Issue:

- Welcome!
- Meet Suzanne Davis
- Library to Library
- NexGen YS: Mission IM Possible
- Young Adult Corner: What's New with YA in Idaho Falls
- Book Look
- Upcoming Events
- Summer Reading News
- School Zone
- Know the Numbers
- A Closer Look at El Día de los Niños/Children's Day
- Tips & Tools
- News Beyond Idaho



Welcome

The Scoop editors are off to Boston next week to attend the **Public Library Association Conference**. We will be joining over 6,500 attendees who will be choosing from 150 workshop sessions and table talks. This conference promises to be one of PLA's biggest and best ever. We are looking forward to gaining new ideas and resources for both youth services and outreach services and networking with colleagues from across the country. We'll share what we see and learn in upcoming issues. If other Idaho librarians are planning to attend, we invite you to share your impressions from the conference. Just e-mail [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#).



Meet Suzanne Davis

Suzanne has worked on political campaigns, as a lobbyist, with adults with disabilities, and most recently, as a teacher. When she was laid off last year due to shrinking enrollment, she moved to Idaho. She accepted the position of Youth Services Librarian with the East Bonner County Library District in Sandpoint, Idaho, in September. It was a decision that she hasn't regretted.

"I've always loved libraries. When I was a kid, my dad was in the Air Force and we moved just about every year—always the weekend after school was out. Many summers, books were my only friends. No matter how far we lived from the local library, we made weekly visits. I would check out 50 books at a time. And I got a new bookmark each time!" she remembers.

The East Bonner Library is always filled with kids. It is a bright airy building that was just built in 2001, so it's a great space for people in the community. (To see photos of the library, check their website at www.ebcl.lib.id.us/ebcl/.) It's located within a few blocks of the middle and high schools, one elementary school, and two private schools. As a result, the library gets anywhere from 50 to 80 kids who show up after school. While many kids do use the library to do their homework, use the Internet, and check out books, many more consider it a prime social location. That can be a challenge for staff at times, especially as there is no designated young adult space. Suzanne has been running a weekly after-school drop in program, but she wants to reach more teens. "We are going to offer a Teen Café on Thursdays beginning immediately after Spring Break and continuing through the end of the school year. We will offer free coffee and tea to everyone (including adults), mark off a seating area in the lobby, set up a magnetic poetry board, and put out free magazines. That's where many of the teens hang out, and we want to show them that they do belong here!" she stressed.

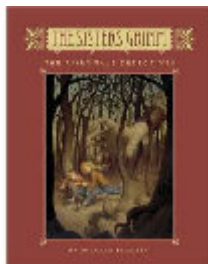
She has also commenced work on a daycare and preschool outreach program. "I'm so glad I went to the Read to Me Meeting. Storytime is my favorite part of my job, and I've done storytimes at Head Start, but I hadn't even considered calling area daycares. In two weeks I've gotten seven centers excited about monthly storytimes! The first one will be next week." She is also planning to offer summer storytimes at the Summer Food Program at Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School as well as several of the library's bookmobile sites.

Other projects for future consideration? She is considering both writing and science clubs for preteens. The East Bonner County Library in Sandpoint has offered a writing club for teens for the last three years, but because of the content of some of the members' writing, the club is inappropriate for younger writers. "I had some expressed interest, and I think it's worth trying. However, it may need to wait until fall." She'd also like to explore ways of working with Bonner General to reach new mothers.

This winter, she has put together a number of special programs including a silent auction in which kids used “book bucks” to bid on prizes, a teen poetry slam, and a hands-on “Birds of Prey” program. “I’ve had some successes, but I’ve also had some failures,” she laments. “My big winter reading program was not nearly as well participated in as I had expected. Kids had the opportunity to win ski passes, but only 40 kids participated.” The library partnered with Schweitzer Ski Resort to sponsor “There SNOW Better Time to Read.” The program included themed storytimes, a reading race, and a final party featuring Helewise, a local storyteller and artist, a ski video, and an ice cream social. “At the same time,” she continued, “I do think I’m beginning to better understand the community.”

Suzanne is crazy about her three cats and enjoys skiing (she tackled 50 ski runs in one weekend recently), yoga, social dance, bicycling (she’s planning to do the Seattle to Portland Health Ride in July), knitting, and reading in her spare time.

Speaking of reading, Suzanne rattled off a list of her “new favorite books” which included: *Henry and the Buccaneer Bunnies*, by Carolyn Crimi, John Manders (Illustrator), *Skippyjon Jones*, by Judy Schachner, *The Daddy Mountain*, by Jules Feiffer and *Prehistoric Actual Size*, by Steve Jenkins for the younger



children. Some of her latest favorite young adult choices have been *The Sisters Grimm: The Fairy-Tale Detectives - Book #1*, by Michael Buckley and Peter Ferguson, *Down the Rabbit Hole: An Echo Falls Mystery*, by Peter Abrahams, *How I Live Now*, by Meg Rosoff, and anything by Gennifer Choldenko or Sharon Creech. She’s also read 17 of the 21 [2005 Young Readers’](#)


[Choice nominees](#) in preparation for voting later this month. She is currently reading *Please Don't Come Back from the Moon*, by Dean Bakopoulos. “Sometimes you just need to read an adult book,” she laughed.

Sounds like the switch in career plans is working out great. Welcome to Idaho, Suzanne!




Library to Library

Marcy Price director of the **South Bannock District Library in Downey** recently shared this photo of their library's window decorated for Library Lover's Month. Marcy wrote us, "I was so impressed with the window display created by my Librarian Mary Denney with help from all of the staff at the Downey Library that I decided to take a picture and share it with you and the *Scoop* if you would like. You can't see it but each heart contains a reading message like 'Books are sweet' and 'I love to read,' and my favorite 'Librarians R Sweet.' February being National Library Lovers month it's quite fitting."

 On February 27th, three dynamic individuals from the **Portneuf District Library in Chubbuck** were honored by receiving the International Reading Association, Southeastern Idaho Reading Council's "Celebrate Literacy Award." The award honored **Director Karen Tate-Pettinger, Children's Librarian Heidi Arzola, and Young Adult Librarian Jeanne Farnworth** for their "tireless promotion of the joys of literature to children of all ages." An announcement about the award stated, "Together they work as a team to institute several innovative programs and activities, reaching out to neighborhood families, schools, and the surrounding community."

After becoming the library director in 2000, Karen hired both a children's and young adult librarian to meet the needs of the community. Together this team held 279 programs for over 13,000 kids in 2005. These programs include: "Get Real, Get Fit" (profiled in the issue of [June 10, 2005 issue of *The Scoop*](#)); Dinner and a Book with Dad, a monthly storytime that includes lunch and a free book to take home; Mother Goose lapsit programs for babies and their caregivers; monthly outreach to day care centers; and First Book outreach to Head Start/Early Head Start families at the Fort Hall Reservation.

 **Idaho Falls Public Library** celebrated Dr. Seuss' Birthday with a huge storytime. **Youth Services Director Bonnie Cromwell** said, "We invited three guest readers of Dr. Seuss books; Steve Cannon from KIDK3 (TV), Paul Menser from the Post Register (Newspaper) and Sharon Evans a retired school teacher. We had Cat in the Hat (Costume) MC the program. The children were given Cat in the Hat door hangers to color and take home and we gave each child a little package of goldfish crackers (the colored ones) for *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*. We had a large turn out with 140 children and 72 parents."



Shasta Hochstrasser from the **Kuna Library District** sent photos of their Dr. Seuss celebration. "We had different people from the community come and read while families listened and ate real green eggs and ham," she said. The photo at the left shows **Library Director Anne Hankins** reading to the families.

Louise Nofziger, Buhl Public Library youth services coordinator, reported a great attendance at their "Dr. Seuss Family Night". They involved National Honor Society students from Buhl High School reading Seuss stories. The Buhl Rainbow 4-H Club did face painting and helped the children make bookworm bookmarks and Cat in the Hat /Grinch doorhangers. We used this as a First Book Family Night for the local daycare. Total attendance was about 95 people. "We saw lots of dads that I had never seen in the library before!" Louise said.



NexGen YS: Mission IM Possible

By Dylan Baker

The technological revolution of the Internet has paved the way for countless other revolutions throughout society. Perhaps comparable only to the invention of the telephone in scope, online communication technologies are radically changing the way we converse at home and at work. Many of us use email freely in communicating with coworkers and patrons each and every workday. Several forward-thinking libraries are using online chat to tackle reference needs of patrons anywhere and anytime. The most enterprising libraries are harnessing the newest of Internet communication tools, from blogs to podcasts, in their drive to innovate.

Although e-mail has been widely embraced for communication both inside and outside the library's walls, we've mostly neglected a related tool: instant messaging. Instant messaging (or IM) operates similarly to email, providing written communication through the Internet, but without time delay. In that sense, IM provides fast and simultaneous real-time communication like the telephone. Simply put, IM combines some of the best features of two chief communication tools and provides us with another unique and useful way to connect.

Some libraries are already using IM to communicate with their patrons, whether to provide reference or general library assistance, but few have tapped the tool's other significant potential use: communication within the library. For libraries where most staff use Internet-connected computers, IM is a logical addition to their communication repertoire. Since IM piggybacks over a preexisting Internet connection, there are no additional setup or maintenance fees to make use of it.

But why should you use intra-library IM when you already have phones and email? Because IM fills niches that neither telephone nor e-mail adequately cover. For quick, simple questions that need an immediate answer, IM really shines. If you need to know when their program starts or if they know where a book might be, doesn't it make more sense to send them a fast IM rather than to pick up the phone? IM can also be invaluable when you send a patron to a coworker for additional assistance, if you give them a fast "heads up" so they'll be ready to help the patron immediately. Patrons will be impressed when your coworker already knows what they're looking for and what's already been tried.

IM can also be used to conduct "virtual" conferences with many staff members in many different places. For libraries with large buildings or branches, this can eliminate the difficulty of physically getting everyone to the same place for a meeting. When you're trying to find out if coworker is available at their desk, IM can also be a boon by immediately informing you of their status. This is real timesaver since you no longer have to cross the library only to find the coworker you wanted to speak with isn't there.

Intra-library IM can and should be an integral part of your workplace. The investment of time and resources is minimal, especially compared with the benefits to be gained. For the better we are able to communicate with each other, the better we are able to serve our patrons. Add IM to your library's arsenal and greatly improve your ability to converse, collaborate and communicate.



Talk Back: Dylan welcomes your feedback. Just email [Peggy](#) or [Stephanie](#) and we'll print your comments in *The Scoop*.



Young Adult Corner:

We checked in with Sarah Jackson, YA Librarian at the Idaho Falls Public Library, to see what was new in their library. Sarah reports that the Bonneville Youth Development Council comes to the library every few months to sponsor a workshop featuring one of the 40 assets for youth. "They work wonderfully as youth and library advocates and are always willing to help with other programs and events," she said.

They also have an active teen library council. "The teen library council is made up of 10-12 high school and middle school readers. They have a meeting once a month with our director. Their latest projects have included: book and a movie which they coordinated with the local dollar theater, and after school peer study help."

To read more about the Teen Council, the library's teen room and other activities going on in the Idaho Falls area, be sure to check out their teen web page at www.ifpl.org/teen/.

Does your library have a teen council or advisory group? What are they up to? Give us the scoop! Send a quick e-mail to [Stephanie](#). We'd love to hear from you!

Book Look



Amanda Pittman, Young Readers Choice Award representative for Idaho, sends this message:

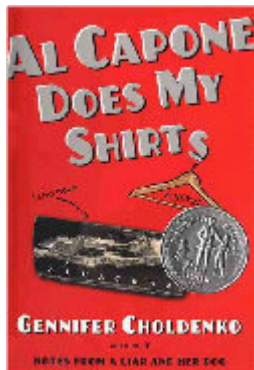
"The 2006 YRCA award voting starts March 15th, and ends the 1st of April. Votes must be submitted by April 5th and can be emailed to me at pittman@adalib.org or mailed to me at Ada Community Library, 10664 W. Victory Rd, Boise, ID 83709. Anyone in grades four through twelve in the Pacific Northwest who has read (or has heard read) at least two titles from the list may vote. Visit www.pnla.org for more information or for a list of the nominees."

Here's a review of one of the 2006 Young Reader's Choice Nominees in the junior division (4th -6th grade).

Choldenko Hits Home Run with *Al Capone Does My Shirts*

reviewed by **Suzanne Davis, Youth Services, East Bonner County Library District**

Gennifer Choldenko's *Al Capone Does My Shirts* begins after twelve-year-old baseball-loving Moose Flanagan's father takes a job as Alcatraz prison's head electrician, moving the family to Alcatraz Island. Being near San Francisco means that Moose's sixteen year-old autistic sister Natalie can attend the Esther P. Marinoff School for children. However, Natalie is expelled after only one night in the dorms because the school "is not equipped to deal with Natalie's problems." She's also sixteen, not the ten her mother has tearfully insisted for years. Mrs. Flanagan refuses to acknowledge Natalie's real age, crying, "She won't have a chance at sixteen. No one cares about an adult that isn't right...She has to be TEN. It's the only chance she has!" (193). So the family hires a counselor for Natalie to prepare her for the school, and Mrs. Flanagan takes a job teaching piano. This means that Moose must give up after-school baseball (the one thing that was helping him make friends at his new school) to come home and look after his sister.



Moose and his family have always kept Natalie "behind closed doors," cared for by family and relatives. That's no longer possible, and as Moose and Natalie spend the afternoons exploring Alcatraz Island with the handful of kids their age, Moose learns more about both himself and Natalie. Moose realizes Natalie really is his older sister, and she does have her own secrets and dreams. When he loses track of her for a few minutes, he is terrified, and then when he catches her holding hands with a convict about her age, he thinks, "This is terrible. This is good" (185). In addition to his own acceptance of his sister, Moose watches as the island kids come to accept her as well. They even throw her a birthday party. Ultimately, Moose learns that his sister, although sometimes a burden, is his sister and does have a place in society. He accepts that he does bear some responsibility for Natalie, but maybe, he learns, that is all right.

Although Moose and Natalie's story could have taken place anywhere, Choldenko, in what proves a brilliant move, chooses to set it against the backdrop of Alcatraz Island. From Moose's first description of Alcatraz as "a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water" (3) to descriptions of the prisoners walking single file, surrounded by guards, across the rec yard to the cell block to descriptions of weedy ball fields and lonely beaches, Alcatraz seems a lonely place, lived in around the edges, almost secretly. Then there's the warden's absolute control over life, including dictates on how children and women should dress (no bathing suits or skirts above the knee), where they are allowed (nowhere within convict sight), and how they should act (misbehavior could result in their father's termination). Alcatraz and its isolation mirrors the isolation and desolation that Moose feels after their move to the island. After all, his father is not around much, his mother is working off the island, and he has become Natalie's caretaker. But as Moose comes to understand and appreciate Natalie, so does he come to understand and appreciate Alcatraz. He even writes a secret note to Al Capone, asking for a favor that the prison's most famous convict just may be able to grant.

Al Capone Does My Shirts received a Newbery Honor and was named an ALA Notable Book and a School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, as well as receiving numerous other honors. It has been designated a Young Readers' Choice Award nominee in the junior division (4th -6th grade). This is author Gennifer Choldenko's second book. An engaging and well-paced story with lovable characters and a convincing setting, *Al Capone Does My Shirts* is sure to be a favorite with upper elementary and middle school kids.



Upcoming Events in April and Authors' Birthdays

National Poetry Month. Poetry readings, festivals, book displays, workshops and other events mark this effort to celebrate poetry and its vital place in American culture. Find more information at: www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/41 and for a list of activities go to www.tengrrl.com/tens/035.shtml .

April is **Holocaust Remembrance Month** with Holocaust Remembrance Day marked on April 25. This month and special day are observed in hopes that the world will never forget the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of some six million Jews by the Nazi regime in the 1930s and 1940s in Germany and occupied Europe. Hitler's regime also targeted others seen as "racially inferior" such as gypsies, disable individuals, Communists, Socialists, Jehovah's Witnesses and homosexuals. The word holocaust derives from a Greek word meaning "sacrifice by fire." The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has an excellent website at www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/. A complete learning site for students is available at www.ushmm.org/outreach/tc.htm and a lesson plan for a play relating

the story of how an American journalist was able to save hundreds of lives is contained at www.holocaust-trc.org/vfplay.htm.

Jazz Appreciation Month. John Edward Hasse, curator of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, says the observation "seeks to raise public awareness of jazz as one of America's—and the world's—cultural treasures." More on celebrating this month is available at www.menc.org/guides/jazz/Intro.html. One of the foremost jazz musicians of our time, Lionel Hampton, was born April 20, 1908. He died in 2002. The Lionel Hampton School of Music at the University of Idaho in Moscow is the only music school named for a jazz musician. Each February the campus hosts the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival. For more on Hampton go to www.uidaho.edu/hampton/bio.html.

April 1, April Fools or All Fools Day. Though not a holiday in its' own right, is a notable day celebrated in many countries on April 1. The day is marked by the commission of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication. For more, go to... http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fool's_Day

April 2, International Children's Book Day. Since 1967, on or around Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, ICBD is observed to inspire a love of reading and to highlight children's books. See www.ibby.org/.

April 2-8, Week of the Young Child. This year's theme is "Building Better Futures for All Children." The National Association for the Education of Young Children established this celebration to highlight the need to ensure that each and every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning. Learn more about the Week of the Young Child at: www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/.

April 2-8, National Library Week. This observance provides an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians, as well as a way to promote library use and support. All types of libraries – school, public, academic and special – participate. Check it out at: www.ala.org/ala/pio/factsheets/nationallibrary.htm.

April Authors' Birthdays:

April 2 - **Hans Christian Andersen** (1804-1875). Danish poet, novelist and writer. Author of *The Red Shoes*, *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen* and more. www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/general/exhibits/andersen.htm

April 3 – **Washington Irving** (1783-1859). The father of the American short story is famous for “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” and “Rip Van Winkle.”

April 5 - **Richard Peck** (born in 1934). Author of *A Long Way from Chicago*, *Strays Like Us*, *A Year Down Yonder* and others. <http://richardpeck.smartwriters.com>

April 12 - **Beverly Cleary** (born in 1916). Author of *My Own Two Feet, Two Dog Biscuits, Ramona Quimby - Age 8* and others www.beverlycleary.com/beverlycleary/

April 13, 1743 is the date that America's third president **Thomas Jefferson** was born. Our own Renaissance man was an inventor, architect, lawyer, writer, gardener and musician. His pamphlet *A Summary View of the Rights of British America* was published in 1774 and supported the movement for American independence. Jefferson was one of the authors and signers of the Declaration of Independence. As we observe the bi-centennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, we note that it was President Jefferson who dispatched these two men and the rest of the expedition on their journey to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. To learn more about Jefferson go to www.whitehouse.gov/history/president/tj3.html.

April 13 – **Marguerite Henry** (1902-1997.) She wrote *Misty of Chincoteague* and other children's horses stories.

April 16 – **Gertrude Chandler Warner** (1890-1979). She wrote the Boxcar Children stories, first published in 1924. They chronicle the adventures of orphaned children living in a railroad boxcar. Warner also taught school for over 30 years.

April 16 – **Garth Williams** (1912-1996). He illustrated *Stuart Little* and this was such a success that he became an illustrator of children's books on a fulltime basis. Williams illustrated Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House on the Prairie series. He also wrote seven children's books including *Baby Farm Animals*.

April 21 - **Barbara Park** (born in 1947). Author of *Buddies, The Kid in the Red Jacket, Junie B. Jones* and *Some Sneaky Peeky Spying* and other titles. www.randomhouse.com/author/results.pperl?authorid=23194

April 23 - **William Shakespeare** (1564-1616). Poet, playwright and author. Shakespeare is believed to have produced most of his work between 1586 and 1616, although the exact dates and chronology of the plays attributed to him are often uncertain. He is counted among the very few playwrights who have excelled in both tragedy and comedy. For more go to www.shakespeare.com or www.shakespeare-online.com/biography.

April 26 - **Patricia Reilly Giff**. Author of *Sunny-side Up, Fourth Grade Celebrity, Lily's Crossing* and others. www.patriciareillygiff.com/

April 26 – **Maud Hart Lovelace** (1892-1980). This Minnesota-born author created the Betsy-Tacy series of children's books recounting her childhood in a town she calls Deep Valley.

April 27 – **Ludwig Bemelmans** (1898-1962). He was born in the Tyrol region of Austria but immigrated to America in 1914. The first of his Madeline books, the adventures of a Parisian schoolgirl, was published in 1939.

April 28 – **Harper Lee** (born in 1926). The author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Coincidentally Gregory Peck, who won an Oscar for his portrayal of Lee’s Atticus Finch in the film of the same name, was born April 5, 1916. For information on studying the lone novel of Harper Lee go to www.swisseduc.ch/english/readinglist/leeh/seclit.html.

April 28 – **Lois Duncan** (born in 1934). Duncan is best known for her young adult suspense novels, many have been chosen as ALA “Best Books for Young Adults”. *I Know What You Did Last Summer* was made into a movie. For more, go to: <http://loisduncan.arquettes.com/>.



Summer Reading News

Thanks to **Meg Lojek**, children's librarian at the **McCall Public Library** for sharing this program idea for “Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales.”



READ TO FEED

“**Read to Feed**” by **Heifer Project International** would combine this year’s animal theme + community service + give a reading incentive for youngsters. Kids get sponsors for their reading, and the amount earned buys animals for needy families worldwide through the Heifer Project. HPI is a non-profit in good standing. They do wonderful community service worldwide and are greatly respected. You can learn more by going to their website: <http://www.heifer.org/> Click on “GET INVOLVED” and then “fundraising ideas.”

Here’s a quote from the website: "Read to Feed – this creative program allows children to change the world by reading books to help end hunger. Read to Feed will foster in your children a love of reading, a passion to help others and a way to help create a better world. It’s a wonderful global education opportunity and perfect for teachers, leaders or parents."



The State Library received a flurry of applications last week as the deadline for 4 summer reading outreach opportunities came and went.

- School Visits:** Over 60 public libraries will be visiting 120 schools to promote summer reading. They will be handing out 40,000 bookmarks and cat and dog bendies to get kids excited about signing up.
- Reaching Underserved Children:** A least 40 libraries plan to partner with community organizations or schools to serve migrant children, children in daycares, and other children who have difficulty getting to the library. Others will be partnering with the summer nutrition program and reading stories and

distributing books in parks along with lunches. Librarians hope to reach over 5,000 at risk children.

- **Steering Committees:** Twenty-one libraries are forming steering committees to help guide their summer programs. After each submits the minutes of their first meeting, the library will receive \$100 in free books.
- **Read for Your Library:** 100+ libraries and schools are partnering by participating in Read for Your Library. School administrators wrote letters in support of summer reading. Librarians will be making presentations to parents, educators, and community members about the importance of summer reading. Each participating library and school will receive \$200 in free books and a summer reading banner.



School Zone

[Editor's note: This announcement was posted on LIBIDAOH on March 2, 2006]

New Online Magazine for Teachers of Information Literacy Skills

S.O.S for Information Literacy announces the premier issue of *Educators' Spotlight Digest*, the first multimedia, online magazine dedicated to providing information and ideas to teachers of information literacy skills.

Located at <http://www.sosspotlight.org/>, the contents of the inaugural issue include:

- a feature story on how kids are using the Web;
- news about relevant information literacy projects and activities;
- tips on how to address copyright issues;
- successful motivational teaching strategies submitted by library media specialists;
- valuable resources available through AASL;
- an article by a guest contributor on transforming research on student motivation into effective teaching strategies;
- amusing and poignant teaching anecdotes by a veteran classroom teacher; and
- archived issues of the publication in its previous format

Educators' Spotlight Digest is edited by Marilyn Arnone, research associate professor in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. Ruth V. Small, professor and director of Syracuse University's Center for Digital Literacy, is associate editor. *Educators' Spotlight Digest*, published three times per year, is a free, online publication of S.O.S. for Information Literacy, a project of Syracuse University's Center for Digital Literacy, in collaboration with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

S.O.S. for Information Literacy is a dynamic web-based multimedia resource for educators, currently in development, that promises to make a significant

contribution to enhancing the teaching of information literacy skills to children. At no time in history has the ability to locate, organize, evaluate, manage and use information been more critical for today's learners. These skills, collectively referred to as information literacy, lay the groundwork for success in every phase of a student's life both in and out of school.

The "SOS" in the title of the project means more than a call to action to enhance information literacy instruction. It stands for Situation (e.g., grade level, curricula area), Outcome (e.g., information skill(s) to be learned), and Strategies (e.g., teaching ideas or specific techniques and strategies to achieve a desired outcome). The educator can input the situation and desired outcomes, and the information system will suggest possible motivational teaching strategies when a strategy search is used.

For more information, contact: Amy Sloane-Garris Syracuse University School of Information Studies 315.443.6885 asloaneg@syr.edu.

Know the Numbers

Children from family households with incomes of \$100,000 or more had the highest rates of home computer use - 92% compared with 41% of children from households with incomes below \$25,000.

80% of non-Hispanic white children use a computer at home, compared with about 48% of black and Hispanic children.

From *Computer and Internet Use in the United States: 2003. Special Studies. Current Population Reports P23-208. U.S. Census Bureau. Issued Oct. 2005.*

A Closer Look at El Día de los Niños / Children's Day

April 30, 2006, marks the tenth anniversary of linking **El Día de los Niños** celebrations in the United States with books and literacy. This is a day to celebrate the joys and wonders of childhood and the importance of books in our lives. In 1996, Pat Mora, nationally acclaimed author of books for children and adults, proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy.

Pat recently spoke about the 10th anniversary and said, "Let's make April 30th a day for remembering the power of words and of books in the lives of all our young people. One in five children in this country come from a home in which a language other than English is the home language. By honoring these languages, we celebrate our linguistic and cultural wealth."

Many Idaho communities celebrate this event and libraries are in the forefront in planning and sponsoring activities. A great resource is available to you this year thanks to a partnership between the **State Library** and the Día de los Niños subcommittee of the **Governor's Coordinating Council on Children and**



Families with funding through the Generation of the Child.

If you are planning a celebration, **we encourage you to register your event.** The first 30 registrants who meet these criteria are eligible to receive a

3' by 5' vinyl banner (see above):

- The event must take place within one week of April 30 (April 23-May 6)
- The event must be free to all who attend
- The primary organizer of the event must be a nonprofit or governmental agency (okay for commercial entities to participate as a co-sponsor)
- Priority will be given to organizations who partner with at least one other organization or entity

Go to: <http://www.lili.org/surveys/ninos.htm>. Banners will be mailed in early April.

Other resources that are available include:

- The **Association for Library Service to Children** (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), is now the national center for the El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Día) project celebration.
- A toolkit created by the Texas Library Association: <http://www.texasdia.org>. The tool kit for librarians, teachers, parents, students and community organizations features downloadable material that is easily used, and affordable for the user.
- A online handbook for planning your celebration: <http://www.gccfc.idaho.gov/documents/dayofthechildhandbook.pdf>
- The State Library's El Día web site has links to resources and information on what Idaho communities are planning: <http://www.lili.org/read/readtome/ninosdia.htm>.

El Día de los Niños was introduced to Idaho libraries in 2000 when the State Library hosted the "Sparking the Connections" conference in Boise. A few years later, Idaho became the first state in the nation to have an official Children's Day. A bill that names April 30 as Children's Day — or El Día de los Niños — won legislative approval in the Senate on March 11, 2003. House Bill 259 was signed

by Governor Dirk Kempthorne on March 20, 2003 and became effective July 1, 2003! This is now a permanent observance.

As a way of introducing the importance of bilingual literacy within the Latino community, organizations such as REFORMA and the National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) have co-sponsored this initiative by linking the El Día del Niños celebration to books, libraries and reading; thus, the expanded title Día de Los Niños/Día de Los Libros (Day of the Children, Day of the Books).

Tips & Tools

Libri Grant Opportunities for Idaho Libraries

The Libri Foundation is currently accepting applications for its 2006 BOOKS FOR CHILDREN grants. **The Foundation has a limited number of special grants for libraries in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.** The Valley of the Tetons Library in Victor received one of these special Idaho grants during the Foundation's January grant cycle.

The Libri Foundation is a nationwide non-profit organization which donates new, quality, hardcover children's books to small, rural public libraries throughout the United States. Since October 1990, the Foundation has donated over \$2,800,000 worth of new children's books to more than 2,200 libraries in 48 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

REGULAR GRANT PROGRAM: In order to encourage and reward local support of libraries, The LibriFoundation will match any amount of money raised by your local sponsors from \$50 to \$350 on a 2-to-1 ratio. Thus, a library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of new children's books. After a library receives a grant, local sponsors (such as formal or informal Friends groups, civic or social organizations, local businesses, etc.) have four months, or longer if necessary, to raise their matching funds.

IDAHO, MONTANA & WYOMING LIBRARIES: The Foundation has a limited number of special grants for rural libraries in these three states this year. The maximum local match has been raised from \$350 to \$500. Thus, libraries receiving one of these special grants can receive \$1,500 worth of new children's books. **Deadline for these special grants is April 15th.** Please contact the Foundation's office for the correct application form. Library qualifications, etc. are the same as the regular BOOKS FOR CHILDREN grant program.

The librarian of each participating library selects the books her library will receive from a booklist provided by the Foundation. The 700-plus fiction and nonfiction titles on the booklist reflect the very best of children's literature published primarily in the last three years. These titles, which are for children ages 12 and under, are award-winners or have received starred reviews in library, literary, or

education journals. The booklist also includes a selection of classic children's titles.

Libraries are qualified on an individual basis. In general, county libraries should serve a population under 16,000 and town libraries should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000). Libraries should be in a rural area, have a limited operating budget, and an active children's department.

Please note: Rural is usually considered to be at least 30 miles from a city with a population over 40,000. Town libraries with total operating budgets over \$150,000 and county libraries with total operating budgets over \$350,000 are rarely given grants.

Applications are accepted from independent libraries as well as libraries which are part of a county, regional, or cooperative library system.

A school library may apply only if it also serves as the public library (i.e. it is open to the everyone in the community, has some summer hours, and there is no public library in town).

A branch library may apply if the community it is in meets the definition of rural. If the branch library receives its funding from its parent institution, then the parent institution's total operating budget, not just the branch library's total operating budget, must meet the budget guidelines.

Previous BOOKS FOR CHILDREN grant recipients are eligible to apply for another grant three years after the receipt of their last grant. Libraries that do not fulfill all grant requirements, including the final report, may not apply for another grant.

Application deadlines for 2006 are: (postmarked by) April 15th, July 15th, and December 15th. Grants are awarded April 30th, August 31st, and January 31st.

Application guidelines and forms may be downloaded from the Foundation's website at: www.librifoundation.org.

SPECIAL GRANTS #1: This year the Foundation is offering a number of special non-matching grants to rural libraries affected by Hurricanes Katrina & Rita. For more information, please contact the Foundation's office.

SPECIAL GRANTS #2: For 2006, The Foundation is doing a special project in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. For more information about these special grants, please contact the Foundation's office.

For more information about The Libri Foundation or its Books for Children program, please contact Ms. Barbara J. McKillip, President, The Libri Foundation, PO Box 10246, Eugene, OR 97440. 541-747-9696 (phone); 541-747-4348 (fax);

libri@librifoundation.org (email). Normal office hours are: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Pacific Time.


New Books at the Idaho State Library:

Gotcha Covered! More Nonfiction Booktalks to Get Kids Excited about Reading, by Kathleen A. Baxter and Michael Dahl. Libraries Unlimited, 2005. [028.162 BAXTER 2005]

Gotcha Again! More Nonfiction Booktalks to Get Kids Excited About Reading, by Kathleen A. Baxter and Marcia Agness Kochel. Libraries Unlimited, 2002. [028.5 BAXTER]

These are the second and third books in the *Gotcha!* series. All the books in the series present booktalks organized by themes that kids find interesting, such as explorers, disasters, inventors, and nature. Each booktalk discusses several books within a theme. More than 300 quality nonfiction titles are included in each book. For each theme, there is a bibliography that can be used for collection development. This feature makes these books particularly useful.

These books are in the State Library collection and can be checked out either by direct loan or through interlibrary loan at your library. Go to www.lili.org/isl/card-application.htm to fill out an application for a State Library card. For more information on borrowing ISL materials, call (208) 334-2150 (locally) or 800-458-3271.

 One of the best **resources for young English Language learners** is the [Coloring Colorado website](http://www.colorincolorado.org). The website had been focused on materials for parents but recently added lots of useful information for teachers. Reading Rockets and the American Federation of Teachers have developed the *Colorín Colorado - AFT Toolkit for Teachers: Reaching Out to Hispanic Parents of English Language Learners*. This toolkit includes background information on reaching out to Hispanic parents, four sample workshops, video clips in Spanish and English, and bilingual handouts. You can download the 92-page document as a PDF and watch the video clips from this web site at <http://www.colorincolorado.org/reachingout/toolkit.php>.

News Beyond Idaho

The **Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)**, a division of ALA, and Houghton Mifflin have created a new "**Curious About . . .**" **story hour program** designed to encourage children to come to the library to satisfy their curiosity. A web site offers all the components a library needs to host a fun-filled reading event, including reproducible announcement flyers, bookmarks, and stationery, event suggestions, activity handouts, and recommended reading lists, created by ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee, on various topics such as

"Back to School" and "Cats and Dogs." Visit www.curiousgeorge.com and click on "Teacher/Librarian Resource Center."

The **Wilbraham Public Library in Massachusetts** hosted a murder mystery dinner for teens (6th - 8th grade) using the "Rock n Roll Over Dead" kit from Anyone's Guess Mystery Program Kit. The kit can be ordered at <http://dbldog.com/aguess.htm>. Cost is \$39.95. The program was held on a Friday from 5-7 pm after the library closed. The library's teen group and the youth services librarian Sue Kent put together the scenes and a pasta dinner. To ensure there was enough space and time for everyone to participate, the group was limited to 30 with about half that many turned away. The event was very successful and created quite a buzz at participating teens' school.

Disclaimer The Idaho State Library retains sole discretion with regard to the content of this newsletter, and reserves the right to edit, modify or delete content. Advertising will not be accepted. Permission to reproduce information in this newsletter is granted to other nonprofit organizations, so long as credit to the author and source is given, except for items which are reprinted from other sources and are protected by copyright. The Idaho State Library is not responsible for the contents of any linked sites or any link contained within a linked site.

To Subscribe: Visit www.lili.org/scoop and click on To Subscribe. Subscriptions are free!

To Unsubscribe:

1. Paste the URL below into your web browser:
http://www.islscoop.org/qmailer_ysnews/unsubscribe.php3/john@example.com
2. Replace the email address at the end (john@example.com) with your own.
3. Surf to that URL and follow the instructions.

Contact Us: *The Scoop* is a service of the Idaho State Library's Read to Me Program. To contribute or provide suggestions, contact [Peggy McClendon](#) or [Stephanie Bailey-White](#) at (208) 334-2150 or 1-800-458-3271.