

Consider the Coalition (Part I)

President's Message by Gerri Fegan

I am a very fortunate individual to be able to represent the finest school librarians in Massachusetts. In all my travels across America and abroad, representing school librarians has never been as fulfilling as when I know that my colleagues here in the Commonwealth are working to build library programs that are recognized as a gold standard everywhere else. I believe this is because we all share the leadership responsibilities: everyone who is a member of MSLA has been actively contributing

to his or her own legacy and adding to the honor of the profession. From the top down, we have proudly worn the badge of school librarian in good times and bad. This past year, we have shared the frustrations of the shrinking economy and have watched our numbers diminish, but I do not believe we have seen anyone give up. There is indeed strength in numbers.

At our first board meeting of the new leadership, I looked around that table at the departing members who have given so much. Thanks to their combined efforts for so many years, we have been able to financially plan conferences and events effectively, to record all the moments of decision-making and policy changes, and to plan innovative, professional development in the regions. I also viewed the new members who are so vibrant and energetic; we'll have many exciting new ideas to pursue in the year ahead.



*All of these meetings
have served as the
prelude to a
statewide coalition
to
protect and preserve
school libraries.*



this as a "wheel of influence" with children at the hub, the center that drives our instruction. Organizations that are the stakeholders of our children's future will serve as the rim that keeps this advocacy wheel in motion. The longer this wheel keeps meeting the road, the more school libraries are recognized as the thrust behind student success.

And finally, I was caught by this moment when I saw the past presidents of MSLA, sitting side by side with such pride at how well we have been able to collaborate with each other and achieve so much. One would think that, after all these years of service, they would want to just get on with family and teaching, but each one of them has gone on to national notice and commendation, and all of them are planning to continue to represent MSLA with vigor and determination. The moment was not lost on me.

This past year, you have read about the efforts of the MSLA board to collaborate with other Massachusetts organizations to help us sustain our school library programs: Massachusetts PTA, MassCUE, MTA, MLA, and even the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Sandy Kelly and I met with the Commissioner, Mitchell Chester, and the Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Julia Phelps to plan new strategies for statistical data collection and curriculum. **We are hoping to develop a stakeholder plan that focuses on children's needs and how school libraries and other organizations can address them. I envision**

Panel Discussion at ALA Chicago 2009

The plan originates with ALA Past President Jim Rettig's articles about the ecosystem of libraries and I had the honor of serving on his panel at ALA in Chicago this summer:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/libecosystem/index.cfm>

The emphasis is not only about public relations, but on the collective esteem, how we can improve our profession *with other stakeholders* who serve our children. We have all heard stories this year from those members who have felt disempowered, who have felt a lack of self-confidence, been "helpless" because they feared of losing their jobs. According to Wangari Maathai (founder of the Green Belt Movement in Kenya where I have helped to build a school library), "to the disempowered, it seems much easier or even more acceptable to leave one's life in the hands of third parties (governments, aid agencies, and even God) than to try to alleviate one's circumstances through one's own effort." It's quite true that the larger powers have had an impact on our careers, dreams and goals, our efforts can only be enhanced by allying ourselves with those whose influential circles are closer to our students. Maathai is speaking to effective advocacy through targeted collaboration with the third parties who can directly affect the cause. She's talking empowerment through local coalitions.

Rettig has asked all of us to brainstorm ways to form alliances with all the stakeholders who have an impact on the lifelong learning that occurs in all libraries. Starting local coalitions means planning, organizing, documenting and publicizing your success with your allies, and it begins at the school level. Ask yourself if you have discussed goals with the stakeholders at your school: the students, parents, teachers, community members and administrators? If you have, have you formalized this by having meetings, communicating with newsletters, media articles, photos and promotions? Have you accomplished goals and achieved success in any way? I would like to offer perspectives on school library coalitions in a series of Forum articles this year that can guide school librarians along the stakeholder path. If you decide to try any of these ideas, please comment and offer suggestions to all members to strengthen our advocacy efforts.

Discover the Identities of Your Stakeholders

Start right away. Don't wait. Make a list of all the stakeholders at your school who can attend meetings and carry out simple advocacy efforts. Get contact information of your teacher leader(s), the head of your student council or advisory, a representative of the parent association, anyone who will serve as a representative from your local Rotary or civic and business group, a member of the school committee, a school administrator, a local public librarian, and (highly recommended) an administrator who specializes in curriculum.

Limit Your Limitations

Make a list of what you are willing to do for your program. Are you able to commit prep time for meetings? Before and after school time? Food contributions? Newsletters? Making contacts? No one can put an estimate on the value of your commitment except you. Only you can determine how much you want to give to make your program important to your stakeholders, especially your students. However, you are the driving force behind your program's success; your administrators will only look with favor on your accomplishments.

Plan a Meeting or Event to Kick Off the Coalition

Make this a simple breakfast or lunch. Communication for this event should be in person, in writing, or by telephone. The most successful strategy for getting positive feedback to invitations is face-to-face or at least voice-to-voice contact. You can always follow this with confirmations by email, but initial contact has the greatest success rate if you have *actual contact* with your stakeholder. More plans have been thwarted by dead emails and lack of follow-up. Your meeting should be no more than 45-minutes in length and should first and foremost be used to set up a set of regularly scheduled meetings – perhaps, monthly or quarterly.

Agendas, Goals and Actions

Each meeting should have formal documentation even if the atmosphere is casual. Plan a standard agenda that allows everyone to discuss old and new business, concerns, and plans. Because these stakeholders are attending at your request for the sake of children, each meeting should have a program-centered goal or event at the heart of the discussion. All stakeholders can then collaborate to accomplish whatever is set forth. Be prepared with ideas that can make your program shine throughout your community and serve as annual events. (I'm not necessarily talking about fundraisers, but advocacy events for your program.)

Give Your Coalition an Identity

One of the best ways to collaborate with your stakeholders is to give them the recognition they deserve for their school library advocacy. Reward them with business cards, tee-shirts and media coverage. If your community knows about your coalition, more attention will be drawn to the school library program in ways that could assist with funding and support.

Coalitions are more than just collaborative efforts and members are considered to be very valuable in their work. Coalitions succeed because they not only work together, they plan together. Local school library coalitions will form the spokes of that "wheel" I mentioned, and the MSLA board will bring your efforts to the statewide stakeholders. I will discuss the second phase of coalition-building in the next issue of the Forum and would love to include your comments and ideas.

The plan to be positive is the greatest strength we have.

Gerri Fegan is the Library Teacher at the High Plain Elementary School in Andover.



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From the Co-Editors Patsy Divver and Jan Koleszar



This year has been one of growth and challenge; we are continuing to flourish in our 21st Century world, at both the local and state levels but our programs are threatened by the economy. The innovative direction for libraries, such as the Chelmsford article depicts, is one way we are growing within our school communities. Connecting with the "powers that be" is another way to strengthen and secure the role of the library teacher in our schools. Be sure to read the interview with DESE head, Mitchell Chester and the article on the MTA Resolution. With the economic impact this year, many familiar faces are not returning to schools, and this situation increases the importance of connectivity. Check the "Join AASL" and "School Funding" articles as well as the "Surviving and Thriving" ideas.

Whether you are new to the school library or a veteran, retired or a student, your input is important to all of us. The Forum provides a venue for us to connect, support each other, voice concerns and SHOUT about the tremendous work we do.

EARN PDPs: Writing for MSLA Forum

Do you enjoy writing? Are you collecting PDPs for the next round of Teacher Licensure? MSLA offers PDPs for all articles published in the MSLA Forum. For each published article of 800-1000 words, MSLA awards 2.5 PDPs. We consider any article that is of interest to MSLA members and that supports our mission. Tell us about your library program, best practices and special projects.

Most of us are the only Library Teacher at our school; by writing an article, you can share your successes with colleagues who understand. We'd like to expand our Editorial Staff and include some special columnists. We publish three times each year: Fall, Winter, Spring.

We depend on you, the MSLA members, to contribute articles so that the Forum continues to be a high quality resource for Massachusetts School Librarians.

Check the MSLA webpage <http://maschoollibraries.org>

*for final updates on our
Annual Conference, October 4-5, 2009*

Read the **2009 MSLA FORUM** online:
<http://www.maschoollibraries.org> > Newsletter

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Chelmsford High School's *Learning Commons*: From Program to Facility

by Valerie Diggs

Students streamed into the library carrying trays of food, bottles of water and sports drinks, and paper bags bursting at the seams with sandwiches, fruit and cookies. This was a typical Friday during the school year. Fridays were *Listening Lunches* days and the students loved the opportunity to have lunch in the library while listening to their peers read poetry, sing songs, perform plays, play musical instruments, and more. Large rolling barrels stood ready to accept the half-eaten lunches and empty bottles, round tables adorned with tablecloths and vases of artificial flowers were arranged in the back corner of the library, and rows of red folding chairs awaited the throngs.



provided students at with the opportunity to ask questions, think about the answers, and create new meaning each and every day. Staff professional development sessions were held in the library, teachers came to work, students came to relax and learn, and our community showed us every day how important we were to the mission and ideals of our school.

All of this took place in a facility that was as dreary and tired as the duct tape that held the carpet together

and kept the insurance inspectors at bay. As hard as I tried to convince our administrators that renovating the library would benefit every student and staff member in the school, my detailed reports, requests, budget submissions, and pleadings all were for naught. The District of Chelmsford began a 31-million dollar renovation plan which included a new performing arts center, new science wing with sparkling new labs, technology classrooms, and instructional spaces. The two middle schools received new libraries:

5,000 square foot wonders that soon became the "place to be" in both buildings.

Other schools were outfitted with new flooring, roofs, boilers,

etc. And through all of these renovations and building projects, the high school library remained as is: a tired, 34-year old space, with duct-taped carpet, bright yellow shelving and walls, and desks with broken drawers and peeling facades.



On Wednesday mornings, our *Java Room* opened at 6:45 AM, pots of steaming coffee and hot water for tea and

hot chocolate lined up beside the aging classroom desks placed side-by-side in the center of the library serving as a *Reference Desk* of sorts. Trays of donated pastries and bagels, here through the generosity of local Chelmsford businesses, beckoned hungry students and staff members. The lines were long, the laughter loud, the books on display enticing students to browse and check out books while they waited for their hot drinks. Students sat and talked, teachers and administrators readied themselves for a day of teaching and instruction by recounting events of the previous days and catching up on daily news.

And, every day, the library was full of teachers and their students ready to learn and discover. With a large space, enough room to accommodate six classes at tables and 38 students using the computers, the library

I admit, I did whine. But, whining did not seem to work. Now what? We had just hired a new town manager, Paul Cohen. In the process of interviewing Paul, he was taken on a tour of the town's buildings and facilities by the town's search committee. As for schools, he saw the high school (minus the library) and was escorted through the new science wing as well as our two beautiful new middle school libraries. The search committee didn't dare bring him near the high school library. It had become so embarrassing a space that avoiding it was a commonplace and accepted practice. So, I invited Paul Cohen for a special visit to my library.



To hear him tell it, it was the first time he had ever been called by a school librarian in over 17 years of public service. He came and saw. I gave him a tour, served him coffee in the workroom, told Paul all about our programs, services, and student learning experiences. He saw for himself not only the duct tape but the entire, sorry mess. That fall, the capital budget was announced and included over \$200,000 for the renovation of the high school library. In this case, a tour was worth many thousands of capital funding dollars. The rest is history.

Chelmsford High School now has a beautiful new space. We celebrated the opening of this space and its new name. *The Chelmsford High School Learning Commons*, on December 5, 2008. Our consultant, Carolyn Markuson, was on hand. Rolf Erikson, who worked alongside Carolyn, was in Germany and sadly unable to attend. The evening was a huge success.

At 2 PM on the afternoon of our Grand Opening Event, I found myself sitting in my new *Learning Commons* space with Ross Todd and Carol Gordon from Rutgers, David Loerstcher from San Jose State University and Hi Willow Press, along with Connie Champlain. I said, **“Pinch me, I think I’m dreaming.”**

The event was a huge success. The speeches were grand, from Ross Todd’s passionate endorsement of the *Learning Commons* model, to past and present principals of Chelmsford High School, Chairperson of the Board of Selectmen, our state senator, and our Town Manager, Paul Cohen. School and public librarians came, as well as



L-R: David Loerstcher, Carolyn Markuson, Valerie Diggs, Connie Champlin, Carol Gordon, Ross Todd

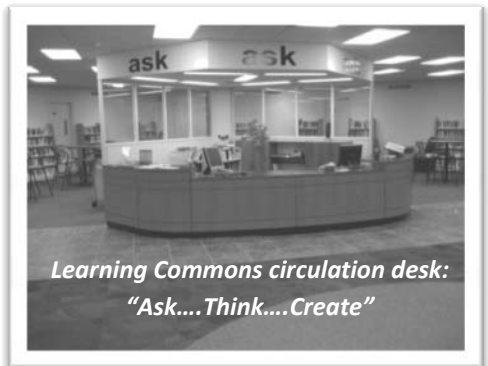


Comfy chairs welcome students and invite collaboration

representatives from the Board of Library Commissioners and Simmons College, and the MSLA executive board. Parents, teachers, school administrators, and students were all present to celebrate this success.

Why a Learning Commons? How did we choose this path? How did the design for the space become a reality? First, and above all, came the program. The design simply flowed from what we do every day. Our school library had become central to everything meaningful in the school. Our only choice in a new design was to make the space fit our program.

And, fit it does!! From our café area with high tables and stools, to our built-in counter for laptops, to our restaurant-styled



Learning Commons circulation desk: “Ask....Think....Create”

booths, and the comfortable lounge furniture and large meeting/ performance space, our new *Learning Commons* is more than ever a place where students and staff are the center of all happenings. Activities, learning experiences, literacies, teachable moments, information sources, and technology explorations occur every day, all day.

It wasn’t all a dream...

... believe that you, too, can fulfill your dreams!

Valerie Diggs is the Director of Libraries in Chelmsford and Library Teacher at Chelmsford High School

Please visit the *Learning Commons*. Come to the school for a tour, or:

View the YouTube before-an-after slide show: http://docs.google.com/Presentation?id=df369mb7_68frqwjwf6

Visit our website: <http://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/chs/library/index.htm>

Read the Boston Globe article:

http://www.boston.com/news/education/k_12/articles/2008/12/08/new_learning_commons_defies_commonplace/

Interview at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



In April 2009, Sandy Kelly and Gerri Fegan had the privilege of sitting down with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Commissioner, Dr. Mitchell Chester and Dr. Julia Phelps, Associate Commissioner for Curriculum and Instruction. This was a significant step for MSLA in that they have generously provided us with communication that we have not had in years. We are so pleased to work with the Department as they restructure their curriculum efforts. We thought our members would like to get to know a little bit about these two leaders of Massachusetts education.



This is a transcript of that conversation.

Kelly: We met almost a year ago when you first came on, and I think since that time you've probably had a lot more time to develop your philosophy and thinking on school libraries. We're really excited that you were able to see the Learning Commons at Chelmsford High School, an amazing vision for 21st century learning. What have you learned about our school library system?

Chester: I had an interesting experience last week. I was a respondent on a set of papers that were commissioned to study the High School of the Future in Philadelphia. The High School of the Future was developed jointly by the district and Microsoft and is at the end of its third year of existence, and the High School of the Future was designed to provide students in Philadelphia with a technology-enabled, paperless, 21st century skills-oriented, project-based education. So the concept of library there was paperless: not a place-bound spot, but rather technology-enabled access to information and I was actually very concerned about what I was seeing in this school. I don't think that there had been very good thought toward curriculum. I thought there was a confusion of ends and means, the means became the ends. Let's not have any paper, let's have lots of technology, let's make sure this is project-based, and so I think this is a cautionary tale about this notion of 21st century skills and technology. We need a good model of curriculum that does not set up 21st century skills as a competing with content, but rather we need to be clear about what it is we want students to do with the content they learn, and I am a believer that students need a strong, broad, liberal arts education, and that you can't solve problems without content knowledge.

You can't communicate persuasively without some knowledge of content. You can't think critically absent knowledge of what you're thinking about, and certainly, critical thinking, persuasive communication, and problem solving are all included in the notion of 21st century skills, but they don't exist outside of content. I think we need to be careful about this notion.

Kelly: So your vision of your school of the future does have a library. It has both paper and electronic sources, and someone to teach kids how to evaluate that information and think critically.

The increasing access to information ...brings a concurrent responsibility for schools to help youngsters learn how to evaluate, assess sources of information, bias and objectivity in information, and the ethical use of that information.

~Dr. Mitchell Chester

Chester: It's very hard to imagine a school at this point in time that's absent of books and reference materials. Now, having said that, I think that more and more the kinds of reference materials that folks from my generation grew up with are increasingly accessible through online mediums. I still have a dictionary and a thesaurus, a hard copy dictionary and thesaurus, that's over my desk and I grab

them periodically when I'm composing. Now those – they're the kind of reference that's easily accessible online, but I'm a creature of habit, so having said that, it's hard for me to imagine a paperless environment. I am aware that more and more young people are experiencing less and less paper in their hands, but I am a believer that young people need to leave our schools with good literacy skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, with strong math background, with knowledge of both U.S. and world history, big ideas in science, the arts, not just visual, but performing and music. I am a believer in a broad liberal arts education for our young people and it's hard for me to imagine that kind of an education delivered solely online. I think you need people-to-people interaction.

Kelly: So our kids are digital natives where we're immigrants and we still like paper in our hands. Kids are growing in an environment where many adults think everything's there to Google. There's nobody teaching how to access the dictionary and thesaurus online. They just think everything is in a Wikipedia or Google and it doesn't need to be evaluated. I tell my kids, "I'm teaching you digital ethics because your parents can't teach you that. They teach you manners, but not how to access this information and use it ethically."

Chester: I think you're exactly right. The increasing access to information the digital medium provides brings a concurrent responsibility for schools to help youngsters learn how to evaluate, assess sources of information, bias and objectivity in information, and the ethical use of that information. I think those are critical. In regards to libraries and media centers, a key question for schools is the

degree to which skills of evaluating, assessing, and ethical use should be taught separately from content areas.

Kelly: They are totally integrated with teaching that's collaboratively planned. We've revised our Information Literacy Standards and devised an appendix based on national standards. We inserted the recommended technology standards from DESE, and put them in one chart, along with AASL's *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*. All those skills, ethics, and use of technology are in a school librarian's training.

Fegan: I agree with you completely; it appears that there is some level of "mythmaking" in the reputation of school libraries, that we keep having to advocate and defend and promote our positions. Certain districts just "don't get it." We're disappearing, becoming an endangered species because there is this myth that we are expendable. Do you have any insight as to how we can promote the use of 21st century libraries in our schools?

Chester: We're in a very difficult scenario right now and I'm very concerned that the impact of this fiscal downturn – that we're just at the beginning of it, that we haven't really felt it yet. We've heard a lot about it, but I am concerned that this coming school year, fiscal year 2010 and the year after, even more so, are going to be when we see the impact of this fiscal downturn, and in terms of school districts having to make decisions about what to cut and I don't think many school districts have many good choices to make. I think some of the areas like libraries, the arts, physical education, are all areas that we need to keep a vigilant eye toward, to understand the impact that these cuts have on the programs. I think I've said it to you before, and I've said to advocates to the arts, but I believe that in those areas, it's critical to show how to integrate those areas with the main stream subjects and not think about the library as a discreet event or class subject. And I say the same thing to people who teach the arts, to the extent that we can find ways to make them integral to the curriculum, we're in better

shape. Now that doesn't provide any guarantee or protection.

Fegan: No, it doesn't. I know that there are a lot of people who are very interested in hearing from you on this and I think we all agree. There are two different issues here. There is money and there is policy.

Kelly: I think there are administrators who get it, and there are administrators who just think the library is an extra, and in some schools it probably appears that way because they don't have a program or they don't have certified staff. Your school district that you live in [Winchester] gets it; that superintendent understands the value of school libraries. That's a model we need administrators to understand.

*... what we need to do is identify
exemplary programs and
showcase them.
~Dr. Mitchell Chester*

Chester: Winchester is one of a relatively small proportion of school districts in this state which is not struggling fiscally right now. Fiscal definitely exacerbates this, no question about this.

Kelly: But you think the vision's there?

Chester: One of the things I am committed to is identifying examples of best practice, effective practice, practice that makes a difference, that brings high quality curriculum that's effective in helping students not only learn content, but learn how to apply that content, and we need to find those examples and make them accessible. I say this across the board. Let's find the schools that are succeeding with English language learners, ... students with disabilities, ...closing the achievement gaps based on race and ethnicity. Let's celebrate and highlight what they're doing. I'd say the same thing in regards to libraries because we've got schools and administrators in the state who have experience with library programs where they really weren't clear what value those programs have.

Kelly: This is probably the majority now.

Chester: So that's a problem, right?

Kelly: The problem is that good people are losing jobs. We want to make sure that they feel that there's support

Chester: Well, what we need to do is identify exemplary programs and showcase them and that's where Julia can be really helpful as we go forward in this regard. That's a strategy we need to use.

Phelps: That's something the Department could do in collaboration with your organization. We could send out an application process and let people nominate, and then review and identify those that we could showcase through any number of places: your conference, curriculum summits, readiness centers.

Kelly: We're revising our Model School Library Program Rubrics so there is a tool with which to measure.

Phelps: So that's where I know we've talked about being incorporated and having a separate framework. It's much to what you're saying about being integrated. I see the strength of the library media skills being integrated into those curriculums rather than being separate because that's exactly just what you said, Mitchell. They're using these standards around content and don't do anything in isolation. I use the library media center around a specific task when I need something, so they're not separate entities. I think that's a good place where we could collaborate and use each other's strengths.

Chester: Just to pick up on what Julia's saying: it's even more powerful if the exemplars of the use of library media centers are in the context of stronger literacy programs, stronger programs for English language learners ...

Phelps: Special Ed students...

Chester: ESL, to the extent where the entry point isn't the library media center, the entry point is a program that's making a difference for kids that a lot of people are struggling with, and here's the role that the library media center plays in that program.

Phelps: One of the things that we're in the next version of, all of our frameworks that we're looking at, is that they're not going to be the paper and pencil kind of things. We're talking about a searchable database. We're also hoping to have, behind each of those standards, resources. I would envision that, if integrating the research piece into the English Language Arts frameworks, that there might be a direct resource piece, so I guess I'm saying I can envision that it could be a possibility that it would make sense. Do I know specifically that, yes, these would be the ones that would be there? I think that's something that we could bring to the table and discuss as we're putting up those – because that's one of the things that we want those teachers to have – we want the vertical piece. We want teachers to be able to go in and search the frameworks by grade level, so they not only get ELA and math, but they get science and social studies, anything connected. We also want them to put in, "grade three research," and anything that would involve research would pop up.

Fegan: And literature as well.

Phelps: And literature! So we're looking at all kinds of ways to be resourceful to teachers that, as the technology evolves, we want to be able to, as Mitchell said, be right out there at the forefront of it.

Kelly: So is this your charge to do this?

Phelps: Curriculum and instruction – that's what we're working on right now. The Department has just received a federal grant for a significant amount of money to build our technology infrastructure.

Fegan: So this is Web 2.0 here? This is interaction from the part of the user? In other words, the teachers who would be referring to all this information would be able to tailor it?

Phelps: Exactly. In answer to your question, is that a possibility that there could be a link, that the library frameworks show up as a resource? Absolutely. I know we are looking at, in all of the frameworks, doing a literacy component. We're trying to build vignettes, and provide guidance, so again there's that cross-cutting -- that things are integrated so that it's not seen as, "I'm the math teacher, I teach only content," but there's an application piece to that. That's the vision. I've got this information, and we'll keep it at the forefront.

Fegan: What is your ideal experience in a school library? What do you expect to see?

*[In the library]... I expect to see adults, facilitating, asking open-ended questions, not giving answers, the teachers, the library media specialists... really stretching students.
~Dr. Julia Phelps*

Phelps: I don't expect it to be quiet. I would expect to see adults, facilitating, asking open-ended questions, not giving answers, the teachers, the library media specialists, the paraprofessionals, whoever is there, really stretching students, that there's not a right way or a wrong way. I think that's where students really learn, where they create that understanding. It may be the quickest way to get to the answer, it might be that I would have gotten there or another student would have gotten there, but it's that they've created their own understanding. I do believe in that constructivist vision and theory of curriculum, of learning. We create our learning. We create our understanding. And it's only from those experiences that we have, so having students have a rich breadth and depth of experience is critical. They're not writing the same report, in the same manner, with the same process year after year.

Kelly: Fifty facts on fifty notecards ...

Phelps: Yeah. That's when true learning happens, when we create an understanding. And, Gerri, you know this from the experience we had in Amesbury, I had an intellectual understanding of curriculum, but it wasn't until we actually created curriculum that I had a real understanding of that theoretical piece. You've heard me say this, "head knowledge" and "heart knowledge." I had that head knowledge, but the twelve inches it traveled to my heart – that's where the real learning was – that's where I understood curriculum. It was when I had to get in and do it, I had to muck around and it was, "I don't know what to do next." We mucked around and we found something that worked. And you know, I think that we as educators need to give kids the opportunity to muck around. I think teachers are afraid to do that.

Kelly: I think that part of it is that they don't think they have time. That's what I keep running up against.

Phelps: I think that was something I've experienced first-hand -- that breadth of information, and that all of the revision work that's being done right now, we're talking about depth. We're talking about what are the essential standards, what are the core standards because, when we look at what happens internationally, we know that they go deep and they go longer -- longer days and longer years and they go to school on Saturday. Not only do we go wider, but we go shorter. We've got two things that we've got to tackle, but I really do think that that's where you have to integrate. In order to go deep, you have to integrate. You can't do things separately. You really have to do it together.

Fegan: And we have to have people there to integrate it.

MSLA thanks Dr. Chester and Dr. Phelps for sharing their thoughts with us. Comment on this article on the MSLA listserv.

Read about the "School of the Future" <http://www.microsoft.com/education/schoolofthefuture/>

The State of Our Union... By Sandy Kelly, Immediate Past President

As the MSLA board changes and the presidency is now in Gerri Fegan's capable hands, it is time to reflect on some of the events that have shaped our association over the past two years. I have had the opportunity to meet and work with some of the finest school library educators in the state and our country. MSLA now has over 800 members, a new name and an updated logo celebrating its third birthday at the 2009 conference. It has gone by quickly. Change and progress in education comes in small increments but ultimately these changes can have a lasting impact.

The MSLA Vision Statement sets out lofty goals and they have been difficult to reach. However, achieving rigorous standards and high expectations are worth our every effort for the positive impact they will have on our children's future. A poor economy, changes in leadership in our state and at the national level have continued to impede education issues. I have learned over the years that good things seldom come easily and neatly packaged. More importantly, I have had the good fortune to work with a stellar Executive Board toward these goals. I extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our board members and to our Executive Director, Kathy Lowe; you have made immeasurable contributions to our association over the past two years of my presidency.

In order to achieve our vision we must have "school library programs that are fully integrated into the instructional program." They must "provide for all students' educational needs," and be managed by credentialed staff to "provide resources and instruction that promote students' achievement." MSLA has developed new liaisons and built collaborative relationships in an attempt to create broad support for this vision.

Legislatively we have developed a strong presence at the State House and jointly with MLA have lobbied consistently each April for better school and public libraries. Many members have nurtured contacts with their local representatives and senators with phone calls and by attending legislative breakfasts. This enabled us to

impress the Education Committee at the State House when we testified to get HB 564 through the Legislature. The bill failed due to the committee's reluctance to open the Chapter 70 laws. At that time, the Governor's Readiness project had begun their deliberations and they believed that many such issues would be addressed by reopening Ch70 at a later date. A new Library Caucus is in place at the State House, ready to advocate for the needs of school and public libraries. A new Education Committee with new leadership has been briefed about the needs of school libraries and the stage is set to move our initiatives forward when the time is right. Nationally, MSLA had a strong presence on Capitol Hill in Washington DC when Senator Jack Reed proposed the SKILLS Act requiring a school library teacher in every school by the year 2011.

Here at home, we have established good rapport with **Governor Patrick's office** and many of us attended and spoke at his transition team meetings when he entered office. Since that time we have also attended Town Meetings that he has held. Kathy Lowe, Gerri Fegan and I were present at the release of the Governor's Readiness Committee report. Kathy and I also held positions on the P21 Advisory Committee and were able to bring the importance and relevance of information literacy skills and school libraries before the committee. As the Governor deals with devastating fiscal issues, and attempts to begin implementing some of the Readiness initiatives, we will continue to collaborate with our other supporters.

MSLA had supporters present at the majority of **Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE)** meetings during the past school year. These advocates included students, parents, MSLA members and a superintendent who spoke on behalf of the need for strong school libraries. We were pleased that the BESE accepted our invitation to hold their April meeting at the Chelmsford High School new Learning Commons. "More than ever," we need to demonstrate for our educational leaders what good school library programs and good information

literacy teaching looks like. Our Standards Chair, Valerie Diggs hosted this event. Valerie has also been an active participant in the latest revision of the English Language Arts Frameworks, soon to be released.



Our new **Commissioner of Education, Dr. Mitchell Chester**, has graciously welcomed us twice to his office to discuss school libraries. Our recent interview with him is included in this MSLA Forum. Dr. Chester supports strong educational programs that will impact student achievement and critical thinking, particularly in areas of English Language Learners, students with disabilities and underperforming schools based on ethnicity. We look forward to recognizing Dr. Chester for his generosity of time, interest in our work and support of strong educational programs at our Sunday conference dinner on October 5th. He is intelligent, a good listener, and understands good educational practice. Dr. Julia Phelps, the new DESE Director of Curriculum, will also join us. Dr. Phelps became an advocate of school libraries when working as an administrator in districts with good programs. Dr. Phelps has agreed to assist us in gathering data that might currently exist on the state of school libraries in the Commonwealth.

MSLA recently formed **collaborations with MTA and the Massachusetts PTA**. Clare O'Neill, Patsy Divver, Ann Collins and Heather Macpherson attended the annual Massachusetts Teachers Association conference and presented *A Resolution in Support of School Libraries*, which passed unanimously. The resolution was written by MSLA Advocacy chair, Judi Paradis. We will work with MTA President Ann Wass to provide as much detail and documentation in support of our goals in the fall. A representative of the Massachusetts PTA attended one of our board meetings and they provided a letter in support of school libraries to the Board of Education.

MassCUE joined with MSLA in 2007, approving a **joint statement** that encourages cooperation, resource sharing, and supporting one another. It defines our common goals and sets the stage for similarities and differences in our jobs. The new MSLA revised standards document will include an appendix that cross references the information literacy skills with the informational technology skills that DESE approved as recommended technology standards for students.

MassCUE President Annamaria Schrimph extended an invitation to our members to present at their joint conference next October to be held at Gillette Stadium with the MA Association of Superintendents. Seizing the opportunity to share our expertise with superintendents from all around the state, we have many MSLA members who will present:

- ❖ **Kathy Lowe** will deliver *School Libraries: Learning4Life*.™ Kathy is now an official AASL L4L trainer. Her workshop will provide an overview of the *AASL Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* and demonstrate how content learning is advanced when school library media specialists and classroom teachers in the context of classroom curricula teach 21st century skills.
- ❖ **Pat Fontes** will have a presentation entitled *Promoting and Teaching Ethical Research Using NoodleTools*.
- ❖ **Chris Steinhauer** will demonstrate curriculum collaboration with a team of teachers showing how to use wikis to give students a more global platform for their research.
- ❖ **Linda Redding and Vicki Wright** have a program entitled *Students as Producers and Consumers of Digital Content*.
- ❖ **Joan Collins** has a collaborative project, *Global Literature Circles with Technology*. Her team has transformed the traditional literature circle by doing everything online: country and author research; book discussion in Moodle; communication using Skype.
- ❖ **Heather Macpherson** presents, *PQARs & the Research Process Using Technology Literacy & Wikis*

Each of these members will model for our administrators what most of us do in our daily jobs to promote 21st century learning skills. MSLA will also have a table and slideshow running called *A Day in the Life of a School Librarian*. We are grateful to MassCUE for their gracious inclusion.

As individual members, we are all responsible to support the Vision and Mission of MSLA by modeling daily our

skills and knowledge for students, teachers, administrators and parents. Our collective efforts to demonstrate and tout our own abilities will move us all closer to success of our goals. I hope every member stays connected, networking with your colleagues and keeping the MSLA board informed of your achievements and needs.

**Please remember:
TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONG**

Speaking up for School Libraries by Sandy Kelly

The March issue of *Educational Leadership*, the journal of the American Association of Curriculum and Instruction (ASCD) published an article, "What Research Says About ... Media Literacy," by Jane L. David. Ms. David states, "One of the most basic strands of media literacy emphasizes the skills and knowledge students need to locate and critically assess online content." In her summary of the research available on teaching critical thinking skills, web evaluation and the different skills students need to read digital information versus print there was no mention of school library teachers or the research available on the impact of school libraries on student learning.

In response to this oversight I submitted a letter to ASCD and am please to know it was published in the June issue. My letter expressed my concern that many educators in leadership positions have never been exposed to quality school-library media programs staffed by certified school library teachers. I referenced the Scholastic monograph, *School Libraries Work*, the new *AASL Standards for 21st Century Learners* and the new *L4L, Learning for Life* initiative, which is the AASL implementation plan for the new standards. I stated, "Good school library teachers and media specialists have extensive education and teaching experience on the issues you have addressed in your article such as website evaluation, proper and ethical use of the wide range of print and electronic resources available to our students today, and much, much more."

Read Ms. David's article:

http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/mar09/vol66/num06/Teaching_Media_Literacy.asp

Read my letter in its entirety:

<http://r.smartbrief.com/resp/qZhQdyvanAasgTCibSwCCicNVMpT>

MSLA Bookmark Contest: Celebration and Advocacy by Ann Perham

It was April 2, 2009 and we were assembled at the Great Staircase in the State House. MSLA president, Sandy Kelly was explaining the history of the Bookmark Contest to the parents, legislators. "How many years is this for the Bookmark Contest?" I was standing at the back of the room and I was momentarily stunned; it had been six years since the first contest. I don't really remember how I responded to Sandy, but I know it wasn't a profound statement. As Gerri Fegan, MSLA president-elect called up the 2009 winners and the legislators shook their hands while parents captured the moments on film, my mind wandered back in time.



My "theme song" as president of MSLMA was SHOUT! It was 2003 and the budget ax was coming down on many Massachusetts library programs. My theory was that too many library teachers are invisible, quietly working to make others look good and reluctant to take the credit. In September, I called for volunteers for a task force to plan a celebration for School Library Month 2004 as an opportunity to SHOUT and to shine. To my knowledge, we had never had a significant MSLA sponsored statewide event for School Library Month. My goal was that 2004 would be different.

A student in the school library graduate program at Salem State named Judi Paradis volunteered to spearhead the effort. She and her task force met through the fall of 2003 to brainstorm what a fitting activity would be. In April of that first year, 2004, Judi and her task force had two events, the bookmark contest and a bulletin board contest. In the six years since that first contest, the MSLA Bookmark Contest has evolved to yield far more than I had dared to predict, far beyond a celebration of School Library Month.

Emerging Leaders Judi Paradis has played a role in each of the six contests, and has gone on to be the Advocacy/Legislation chair. In 2009 she was elected to be the MSLA secretary. Someone named Gerri Fegan joined the Bookmark Contest task force in 2004, lending her spirit and determination. Soon, Gerri became our Northeast Area Director and is now beginning her term as president of MSLA. For the 2009 contest, Gerri recruited Linda Coviello to the task force; Linda began her term as MetroWest Area Director in June.

A Tool for Advocacy The MSLA board soon realized the possibilities for the Bookmark Contest. With a little tweaking of the calendar, they combined the awards ceremony with the MSLA Legislation Day. Instantly, we had a "hook" to grab the attention of the legislators who grant citations and personal tours of the State House.

Important Connections Who will judge the bookmarks? Through the years, we have used the judging panel as an advocacy tool. Members of the Board of Library Commissioners have graciously accepted the position of judges: Em Claire Knowles, Vicky Kaufman and Irving Zangwill. The listing of author/illustrator judges is impressive: Stephen Krensky, Mary Newell DePalma, Brian Lies, David Biedrzycki, Mitali Perkins, Janet Tasjian, Jarrett Krosoczka, Nancy Werlin, Diane Mayr, Kathleen Duple, Lisa Greenleaf, Muriel Dubois, and special guest Emily Elizabeth Bridwell (Clifford's owner).

The Bookmark Contest is well-entrenched in our organization, and we have an amazing pool of entries submitted each year. The MSLA Bookmarks have even been exhibited at the Eric Carle Museum!

Yes, we are SHOUTing and I am SMILEing.



2009 Judging Panel was a Festival of Authors & Illustrators:

[l-r] Seated in Front: Jarred Krosoczka, Mary Newell DePalma, MSLA president-elect Gerri Fegan, Nancy Werlin, Diane Mayr

Standing: Kathleen Duple, Lisa Greenleaf, Muriel Dubois, and Ann Perham (MSLA past president and AASL Region I Director-Elect)

2009 Bookmark Contest Winners Contest Theme: *School Libraries: Learning for Life*

DIVISION 1 Gr K-1



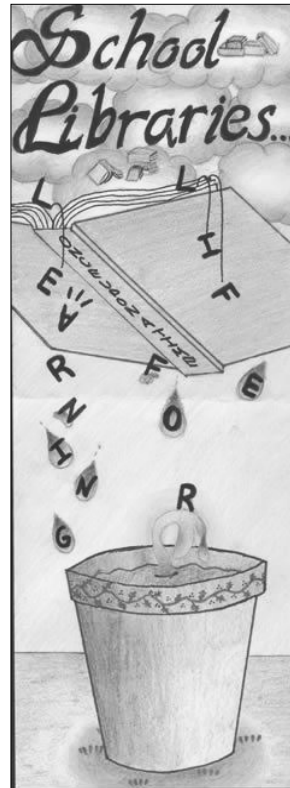
Brooke Elliott, Grade 1
Great Oak School, Danvers
Lisa Swaine,
Library Aide

DIVISION 2 Gr 2-3



Rachel Shereda, Grade 2
Peirce Elementary, Newton
Jamie Lightfoot,
Library Teacher

DIVISION 3 Gr 4-6



Minna Wang, Grade 6
Overlook Middle, Ashburnham
Julie Farrell,
Library Teacher

DIVISION 4 Gr 7-12



Jaime Peck, Grade 12
Belchertown High School
Maryanne O'Brien,
Library Teacher

Statistics from the 6 years of the Bookmark Contest: Winning Traditions

| MSLA Member | School | Winner | Honorable Mentions ** |
|---|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Eileen Barnacoat / Julie Farrell | Overlook Middle School, Ashburnham | 2009, Division 3 2007, Division 3 2006, Division 4 2004, Division 4 | 2007, Division 4 |
| Nancy Snow | Bancroft School, Andover | 2006, Division 2 | 2009, Division 1 2009, Division 3 2008, Division 2 2007, Division 1 2007, Division 2 |
| Claire Pagnotta | Beebe Elementary, Medford | 2008, Division 2 2005, Division 1 | |
| Linda Coviello | Job Lane School, Bedford | 2007, Division 2 | 2007, Division 2 2007, Division 3 |
| Maryann O'Brien | Belchertown High School | 2009, Division 4 | 2007, Division 4 |
| Katherine Covintree | Bishop Feehan High School | 2008, Division 4 | 2005, Division 1 |
| Lorraine Miller / Lisa Swaine | Great Oak School, Danvers | 2009, Division 1 | 2007, Division 2 |
| Gerri Fegan and Laura Harrington | West Middle School, Andover | | 2008, Division 3 2008, Division 3 |

***Note: Honorable Mentions from 2004-06 were "lost" on the old MSLMA.org site. Apologies to the many Honorable Mentions!*

AASL Launches New Resource: Best Websites for Teaching & Learning



Reported by
Committee Member,
Linda Friel

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aboutaasl/bestlist/bestwebsites.cfm>

An exciting resource for education debuted at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago. "The Best Websites for Teaching and Learning" honors 25 Websites that are deemed to be superior in their abilities to enhance learning and curriculum development. These Websites are free and encourage innovation, creativity, active participation, and collaboration; the emphasis is on sites that are user-friendly and support student-centered, inquiry-based learning. The sites are linked to AASL's "Standards for the 21st-Century Learner."

Volunteering At the 2007 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., I attended an AASL Affiliate Assembly session that outlined the need for AASL members to volunteer. Then recently retired, I decided to give back to my chosen profession and subsequently completed an ALA volunteer form: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslgovernance/aaslcommittees/committees.cfm> I was soon invited to join what was then called the AASL Best List of Internet Sites for Teaching and Learning Task Force for a one-year period. The task force's charge was "To develop a list of top 25 Internet sites that AASL will recognize as being the best of the best for curriculum development."

Task Force Work Pam Berger was designated as our chair, with AASL members from throughout the country. We talked via e-mail, wiki, telephone, and met numerous times at ALA conferences in Philadelphia, Anaheim, and Denver.

The task force located possible sites and used Diigo to list, annotate, and organize. We noted that many of the sites were fairly new /Web 2.0, while others had been long-used by library and classroom teachers. The task force made excellent progress, but reappointments for task force members were necessary to complete the task force's charge. Slowly, AASL's amorphous charge was becoming a reality.

We used Skype for our discussions, abandoning landline group phone calls. Documents were posted on Wikispaces for all task force members to read, edit, comment, and discuss.

Through the years, Linda Friel has been a fixture on the MSLA Executive Board, serving on a variety of committees and holding many offices; currently, she is our Treasurer. Linda is in her second year of a term on the ALA Council. She is retired, but not "retiring".

We whittled the list to 25 Web 2.0 tools and resources and categorized them under six headings: organizing and managing, content collaboration, curriculum sharing, media sharing, virtual environments, social networking and communication.

A second list, "Landmark Websites" As we collected possible Websites for inclusion, we noted that many of the sites were fairly new and could be described as Web 2.0, while other Websites had been operative and well-used in education for a number of years. This observation resulted in the development of a second list, Landmark Websites for Teaching and Learning; These Websites are honored because of their histories of providing authoritative, dynamic content and curricular relevance. The Landmark Websites are organized as content resources, lesson plans and more, collaboration, and global education. This list also provides annotations and tips for the integration of their use into content-area curricula.

The task force members worked feverishly until the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in July. At the conference, the task force presented a session on how and why the Websites were chosen and also honored the winners. Several winners sent representatives to accept, while others sent their thanks via videos and Web 2.0 tools. The winning Websites will display special logos on their Websites. The Best Websites list will be updated annually based on feedback and nominations from AASL members.

Reflections I truly enjoyed the time that I spent as a task force member. I worked with terrific colleagues from around the country, learned about many exemplary Websites that can be used to expand learning opportunities and help improve student learning, and managed to give something back to my chosen profession. Serving on an AASL committee or task force is, perhaps, one of the best professional development experiences you will ever have. If you missed the task force presentation at ALA in Chicago, the task force will be presenting at AASL in Charlotte in November.

LANDMARK WEBSITES

Content Resources

ALTEC
Annenberg
ASCD
Discovery Ed.
Edutopia
EduWeb
Library of Congress
MIT Open
Courseware
NASA
Our Documents
PBS Teachers
Read, Write, Think
Smithsonian

Collaboration

Apple Learning
Interchange
Merlot
Moodle
WebQuest

Global Education

Field Trip Earth
Global School
Google Earth

AASL BEST WEBSITES FOR TEACHING & LEARNING



Standards for the 21st-Century Learner

SELECTED WEBSITES

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Organizing & Managing | 2.1.2 | Organize knowledge so that it is useful. | Diigo http://www.diigo.com GoogleReader http://www.google.com/reader Simply Box http://simplybox.com |
| | 2.1.4 | Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information. | |
| | 3.1.4 | Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess. | |
| Content Collaboration | 1.3.4 | Contribute to the exchange of ideas within a learning community. | Mindmeister http://www.mindmeister.com Polleverywhere http://www.polleverywhere.com Wikispaces http://www.wikispaces.com Zoho http://www.zoho.com |
| | 3.1.2 | Participate and collaborate as members of a social and intellectual network of learners. | |
| | 3.1.4 | Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess. | |
| Curriculum Sharing | Guidelines for School Library Programs: Instructional Partner "The SLMS collaborates with classroom teachers to develop assignments that are matched to academic standards and include critical thinking skills, technology and information literacy skills, and core social skills and cultural competencies. The SLMS guides instructional design by working with the classroom teacher to establish learning objectives and goals, and by implementing assessment strategies before, during and after assigned units of study." | | Curriki http://www.curriki.com Partnership for 21st Century Skills http://www.21stcenturyskills.org Primary Access http://www.primaryaccess.org SOS for Information Literacy http://informationliteracy.org |
| | | | |
| Media Sharing | 2.1.4 | Use technology and other information tools to organize and display knowledge and und understanding in ways that others can view, use and assess. | Animoto http://animoto.com Our Story http://www.ourstory.com Teacher Tube http://www.teachertube.com VoiceThread http://voicethread.com Wordle http://www.wordle.net |
| | 3.3.4 | Create products that apply to authentic, real-world context. | |
| | 4.1.8 | Use creative and artistic formats to express personal learning. | |
| Virtual Environments | 2.1.5 | Collaborate with others to exchange ideas, develop new understandings, make decisions, and solve problems. | Rezed http://www.rezed.com Second Life http://www.secondlife.com |
| | 3.1.2 | Participate and collaborate as members of a social and intellectual network of learners. | |
| | 4.3.1 | Participate in the social exchange of ideas, both electronically and in person. | |
| Social Networking & Communication | 3.1.2 | Participate and collaborate as members of a social and intellectual network of learners. | Classroom 2.0 http://www.classroom20.com Edublogs http://www.edublogs.org Facebook http://www.facebook.com Good Reads http://www.goodreads.com Ning http://www.ning.com Skype http://www.skype.com Twitter http://twitter.com |
| | 4.1.7 | Use social networks and information tools to gather and share information | |
| | 4.3.1 | Participate in the social exchange of ideas, electronically and and in person. | |

MSLA: An Evolving Organization



Pat Fontes, Nashoba Regional High School

Editor's note: Pat stepped down in June after serving 20 years on the MSLA Executive Board, most recently as co-chair of the Legislation/Advocacy Committee.

My start with our state organization was very rocky. When I moved back to Massachusetts in 1984, it was the dark ages before the Internet and I had no idea how to locate the state organization for school librarians. I did not know if such an organization even existed. Later, I finally got a name for the elusive organization – Massachusetts Association for Educational Media. No wonder I couldn't connect since neither "school" nor "library" was a part of the name!

I joined up in 1985 and could hardly wait to attend my first conference, but it was almost my last. It was in a Chicopee motel. One session was actually in a motel room; I sat in the back of the room – behind the bed!

I tried one more conference and it went much better, so I stuck with MAEM. The next year, I volunteered my library in Hopkinton as a meeting place for the executive board and was appointed as Intellectual Freedom Chair. Over the next years, MAEM re-branded itself as the Massachusetts School Library Media Association/MSLMA. Apparently I was not the only member who wanted to see "school" and "library" in the name of the organization. With our new identity, our organization grew from a few hundred members to more than 800 members today. We were MSLMA until only a couple of years ago, when we decided to emphasize the "library" part of our organization, proudly proclaiming ourselves the Massachusetts SCHOOL LIBRARY Association.

Whatever the name of our organization may be, it has been the bedrock of my professional life. During the seismic shift from paper records to computerized records, it was difficult for an individual school librarian to learn how to automate a catalog. The workshops offered at MSLA conferences, newsletters and peer-to-peer networking enabled me to muster the nerve and knowledge to undergo the automation process. Thanks to networking and fellowship offered by MSLA, I've also learned everything from the latest YA literature, to the best reference resources and how to cope with the explosion of Web 2.0 tools.

It's also been my privilege to work with the most talented, enthusiastic and caring professionals. I'm proud to have had the opportunity to work with Audrey Friend, the late Joan Gallagher, Donna Guerin, Carolyn Markuson and Peg Hallissey. I'm even prouder to work with those who have served on more recent Executive Boards. Please forgive me for not listing everyone – there are so many hard-working school librarians who spend much of their personal time promoting and advocating for our students and profession.

If I have any advice to share with you, my colleagues, it would be to take pride in what you do and let others know exactly what it is that you do. School library work is not for the faint of heart or for the shy and retiring! Next, get involved. You don't have to spend hours traveling and sitting in meetings, but you can volunteer for an MSLA committee. Go to the State House for Legislative Day. Write to your state representatives and senators about school library issues. Write to your local news outlets about the value of school libraries and certified school librarians.

Looking back, I'm so glad that I decided to give the organization a second chance. I gave myself some great opportunities and got to know some terrific school librarians!



Hats off to Diane Libbey!

Diane accepted a 2008 MassCUE Webbie Award in the category of "Department" at their annual conference dinner in November 2009. Diane is the Library Teacher at Westborough High School.

In 2007, MassCUE launched its recognition of excellence in school web site design at the classroom, building and district level through its first annual Webbie Awards program. More than 89 sites were reviewed in 2008 including "department" sites. The review committee provided all nominated sites with feedback, and a Webbie seal of participation for being reviewed. The committee reviewed each site's content using the criteria of ownership, disclosure, audience, content, and functionality.

View Diane's library webpage: <http://westborough.ma.schoolwebpages.com/education/staff/staff.php?sectionid=354>



MTA RESOLUTION in SUPPORT of SCHOOL LIBRARIES

May 2009

At the Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, April 30 to May 3 2009, MSLA representatives Heather Macpherson and Clare O'Neill presented this resolution and ushered it to its eventual passage. Patsy Divver and Ann Collins were helpful in offering supporting information. The resolution was written by the MSLA Advocacy co-Chair, Judi Paradis.

Background Success in the 21st century requires that our students are literate, comfortable in a multicultural world, and able to access and evaluate information efficiently. School libraries that are well-staffed and have adequate resources ensure student success.

Resource-rich school libraries and licensed school librarians play key roles in promoting information literacy. They help students acquire critical thinking skills and increase their global awareness. More than 19 studies have demonstrated that the services of professional school librarians, well-funded



collections, and rich digital resources enhance student achievement. These research studies show that, when classroom teachers collaborate with full-time, credentialed

school librarians to design, implement, and assess instruction, student achievement increases significantly.

See collected data from studies at:

http://librarypublishing.scholastic.com/content/stores/LibraryStore/pages/images/sl_w_04.pdf

Yet, Massachusetts has no leadership within the Department of Education, no clear plan for improving school library programs, no requirement for licensed school library teachers in its schools, and no statewide standards for school library programs.

Judi Paradis is the Library Teacher at the Plympton Elementary School in Waltham. She was co-Chair of the MSLA Legislation/Advocacy Committee through May 2009

The Massachusetts Teachers Association recognizes that all students need equal access to school libraries that provide

- 1) full-time, licensed professionals;
- 2) adequate resources that reflect multiple perspectives;
- 3) opportunities for classroom teachers and school librarians to collaborate.

Resolution Given the lack of support for library programs in Massachusetts and the need for strong literacy and library programs that lead to students' overall academic success, be it resolved that the Massachusetts Teachers Association:

- Supports our members in the Massachusetts School Library Association in their efforts to petition the Massachusetts Board of Education to appoint a study group to develop a long-range plan for school libraries in Massachusetts;
- Urges the Governor, members of the Board of Education, state legislators, and local elected officials to increase funding for credentialed school library teachers, books, online resources, and other library materials;
- Promotes policies that ensure access to library resources for all learners;
- Supports professional development opportunities for school librarians and classroom teachers consistent with local, state, and national standards; and
- Encourages collaboration between classroom teachers and school librarians to enrich student learning.

Surviving and Thriving: Tips We Share Managing without an Assistant

This January, my paraprofessional was cut. I was a little nervous about how I would manage my work load without her but I also decided to make this an opportunity to shine and to show everyone what a certified library teacher does. One strategy that I used to keep up with library basic needs was to start the class with a "DO NOW" activity which they can complete within ten minutes and while they complete the "DO NOW" I check in students a few at a time, and organize the books to be shelved. The DO NOW can be as simply as playing one of my online Library Practice Games; practicing notetaking (for Grade 5); doing a word search, or completing a quick reference book scavenger hunt. Students are kept busy but do not need me to micro manage and administrators love it.

~Submitted by Katie Cerasale-Messina, AC Whelan Library,

Being Connected, Being a Professional: Join NESLA and ALA/AASL by Ann Perham

Most of us are “lone rangers” in our schools, working without colleagues who are “like us”. For certain, we work with each member of our faculty and are on every committee possible, but the fact remains that we work alone. As a singular voice for the school library program, we are not very loud. Here is the logic for joining MSLA and getting the support of our colleagues via the listserv and by attending the conference. It’s the professional thing to do and there is power and comfort in numbers. MSLA works tirelessly on the regional and state level to make you a better library teacher and to elevate the profession within the state of Massachusetts. I take pride in seeing the vitality within MSLA and the active role school libraries are playing within our state.



Extending the logic of professionalism, comfort in numbers and working together to make changes, **every school librarian should also be joining the regional and national organizations.** I admit that before I stepped into the position of president of MSLA, I had never belonged to a national professional organization. I started receiving the ALA magazine, “American Libraries” and the absolutely amazing AASL publication, “Knowledge Quest”. Reading professional publications is an “intravenous drip” of professional development. “I don’t have time to read anything more” isn’t acceptable – you owe it to yourself as a professional.



Joining your national professional organizations – ALA and AASL – joining is in itself is a critical way to support them as they work to better school libraries across this nation. We all watched Senator Reed as he introduced the **Strengthening Kids' Interest in Learning and Libraries (SKILLS) Act**, with the support of ALA and AASL. Benefits extend beyond lobbying efforts. We’ve all received the new AASL Standards, Learning4Life. Every one of us has used the ALA site to access their “best books” list, or in planning our

Banned Books Week programming. Perhaps you have shopped on the ALA site for posters or professional materials (and missed a discount if you were not a member).

Your dues to ALA and AASL will support their work. A personal membership in ALA will set you back \$65 for the first year, but it’s an investment in YOUR profession. From the ALA site, on the benefits of membership: *“Membership in the American Library Association (ALA) starts to pay you back the moment you join. With discounts on products and services, and members-only access to information through our website and journals, you will benefit right away. Included in many of these benefits are resources to advance your career, your library, and the whole profession.”* Interested in the divisions? Student membership? Retiree rates? Check the ALA website: <http://www.ala.org>

While you are in the joining mode, consider joining **NESLA – the New England School Library Associations**. You may remember them as NEEMA, their name up until a year ago. If you are a member of MSLA, these dues are only \$20. NESLA brings together leaders of the six New England states with the goal of sharing ideas and of furthering the profession. Complete joining information is available on the NESLA website: <http://www.neschoollibraries.org> Watch for details of their January Leadership Conference, just prior to ALA Midwinter.



Because we work alone does not mean we are alone. Joining your state association (MSLA) is the first step towards connecting and supporting the profession. Put it on your “to-do” list....join ALA/AASL as well as NESLA. **Be Connected.**

Ann Perham is a past president of MSLA and has been on the Executive Board for 10 years as webmaster. She was elected “Director-Elect” of Region I for AASL in 2007 and began her 2 year term as Director in July 2009.

Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award (MCTBA) by Mary Ann Rogers

Co-Chairs: Sue-Ellen Szymanski and Mary Ann Rogers
Secretary: Laurie Cavanaugh
Treasurer: Mary Dunphy
Fundraising Committee chair: Maureen Ambrosino

The Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award Committee (MCTBA) formed in December 2008 to create an award for teen literature that is nominated and chosen by teens in Massachusetts. The committee has met in person and virtually since December and has finalized by-laws and have 501 (c)(3) status as a non-profit.

Sue-Ellen Szymanski and Maureen Ambrosino were at the Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference in May to

promote the new award. Many public librarians stopped by the booth to pick up a brochure and a few have signed up to join the committee. Megan Cilley, a school librarian, recruited a student to design a temporary logo to put on the brochure.

The details of the contest will be announced online: <http://massteenchoicebook.wikispaces.com/> The public librarians have promoted the award during their summer reading programs and school librarians will promote the award during the fall. There will be a contest to create a logo that will be used in all publicity materials for the new award; any teen aged 12-18 who lives in Massachusetts is eligible to submit a design.

Look for our table at the MSLA Conference on October 4th & 5th.



Valerie Diggs brought five of her Chelmsford students to the State House

Legislation Day 2009: MSLA Goes to Beacon Hill

by Judi Paradis & Pat Fontes, Advocacy Co-Chairs

Thursday, April 2, was **The Second Annual Joint MLA-MSLA Library Legislative Day**. More than 400 library supporters gathered under the Golden Dome of the State House to promote and lobby for Massachusetts libraries. MSLA was well represented by 50 members and supporters and an additional 45 Bookmark Contest winners and their families. MSLA members attended the presentation of awards in the 2009 Bookmark Contest and a Legislative Briefing by Rob Maier, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Judi Paradis and Patricia Fontes, MSLA Advocacy Co-Chairs.

Sporting bright green stickers announcing that "Libraries Are an Instrument of Recovery," MSLA members and their supporters fanned out across the State House to visit the offices of their Representatives and Senators. The message was simple: Please ask the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to add a person in the BESE who would be responsible for monitoring and promoting school libraries in Commonwealth's schools.

During the lunch break in the Hall of Flags, attendees and their guest legislators heard a rousing call for support of all Massachusetts libraries from Rep. Mark Falzone, Chair of the legislature's Library Caucus. The Massachusetts Library Association's President, Richard Callaghan, and our own MSLA president Sandy Kelly addressed attendees. The highlight of the lunch, though, was the heartfelt endorsement of school libraries by Valerie Diggs's enthusiastic and talented students from Chelmsford High School. After sharing their experiences with the new Chelmsford H.S. Learning Commons, several students entertained the crowd with an enthusiastic *capella* rendition of "Rockin' Robin!"

Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in Library Legislative Day. The contacts that you made at the State House are valuable and they will pay dividends for the future of school libraries in Massachusetts.

Judi Paradis is the Library Teacher in Waltham at the Plympton Elementary School and Pat Fontes is the Library Teacher at the Nashoba Regional High School.

Fall into Some Great Reads

by Pat Keogh



... a few new titles you may want to look for in book stores and libraries this fall.

Patricia Hubbell continues her series on transportation for the very young, *Boats: Speeding! Sailing! Cruising*. A sure-fire hit for young readers is *Dinostrux* by **Chris Gall**. Meet Dozerotops, Cementosaurus and other wild truck/dino combinations. I just met *Saxby Smart, Private Detective*, a smart-talking young detective who lets readers help solve his cases. **Richard Peck** has a new episodic novel, *A Season of Gifts*, about Grandma Dowdel (*A Long Way from Chicago*) and a preacher's family who move in next door. It's amusing and poignant chapters are written in elegant prose. **Harry Bliss** ventured into graphic novels with *Luke on the Loose*, a city boy on the hunt for pigeons, for early readers. **Aaron Reynolds'** *Joey Fly, Private Eye* is a graphic mystery for middle graders.

So much great non-fiction this year! *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice* is the remarkable story of a girl who integrated the buses of Montgomery, months before Rosa Parks. **Philip Hoose's** book brings so much hidden history to light. I haven't read **Steve Sheinkin's** earlier book about history but every page of *Which Way to the Wild West?* holds a thrill, a tragedy (many) or a wild adventure.

At ALA in July, I saw my friend **Ashley Bryan** receive the Wilder Award at the Newbery-Caldecott banquet. His new autobiography, *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life's Song*, shouts joy and celebration throughout his remarkable life. A great read aloud is *Countdown to Summer: A Poem for Every Day of the School Year* by **J. Patrick Lewis**. The countdown is on from the first page, 180 to the last, 1.

**Surviving & Thriving:
Tips we Share**

**Citation
Templates**

I keep a steady supply of templates available in my K-8 library for "Works Consulted" lists. I have a different color form for each type of resource: books, reference, online (double-sided for an internet site or database). The templates have all the proper formatting and order. After research is completed, they can just alphabetize the slips and then type the info using the correct formatting. Keeping the different resource slips a consistent color helps kids to determine if they are using enough different types of resources when teachers require a certain number of books, online resources or general reference. It is very helpful for visual learners and gets students into the habit of proper formatting.

~ Submitted by
Sandy Kelly,
Carlisle Elementary
School

Status of Funding for School Library Programs in Massachusetts

by Judi Paradis, co-Chairperson of Legislation/Advocacy Committee



I attended the Advocacy Institute, a preconference to the May MLA conference in Springfield on May 6, 2009. I was part of a panel that spoke about how different types of libraries are faring and what they are doing to advocate for services. My presentation was well-received and several people attending told me that it really helped them to know the status of school libraries in MA, including Keith Michael Fiels, the executive Director of ALA.

Some things which were interesting to hear:

- Several state legislators and local officials were clear that lobbying makes a difference when times are tight
- ALA is also working on starting a "friends of school libraries" sort of movement and we should look to see what they are doing
- MLA is definitely clear that it benefits public library to support school libraries--this came up repeatedly.

My report delivered for the panel:

Currently our major support at the state level comes from the MBLC, when in fact, we also should be getting support from the BESE—as they are the statewide agency that sets standards for programs and staffing. BESE has no long-range plan for school library programs, no person charged with overseeing school library programs, and no standards or frameworks for library programs.

Chapter 70 is the funding source for education in public schools. School libraries are not explicitly mentioned in Chapter 70 (though it is entirely possible to use chapter 70 money for any book or equipment purchase in a public school, INCLUDING libraries).

Because we have no standing within the ESE and are not mentioned explicitly in Chapter 70, we often get hit hard when state aid or local aid is reduced. We all rely on local school committees to make decisions about what programs to support--and without strong support from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) we have little chance of surviving major budget cuts.

In many communities, principals lose their library staff and replace professional, certified library teachers with teacher's aides or parent volunteers, which we believe violates union rules about replacing teachers with non-certified staff.

At present, we are not looking for funding at the state level. What we are looking for is a commitment from the BESE to appoint a library professional at the DESE to develop a long-range plan for programs and staffing in our public school libraries. We would like to see a set of standards adopted, and MSLA recently developed and adopted Information Literacy Standards for pre-K to grade 12 that we would like to see used as a starting point in this process.

MSLA and MLA agree that we need both school and public libraries in our communities. Our children need 21st century skills—critical thinking, a high level of literacy, technological skills, an ability to efficiently access reliable information—this requires the foundation that a school library provides. Support for school libraries produces citizens that see the value in public libraries. Our hope is that all librarians will help us in our effort to convince the BESE to commit to supporting school library programs, and to impress upon local officials and school administrators that keeping school library programs in local budgets is a sound expenditure.

Blueprint for Educational Excellence National Institute

By Chris Steinhauer, Coolidge Middle School, Reading

Professional development is an important part of being a Librarian. OK, I confess, I love professional development. I like to learn about new things. I love to share new things with my colleagues. This spring I experienced two days of some of the best professional development I have ever attended. I had the opportunity to participate in the Blueprint for Educational Excellence National Institute, presented by the Reading Public Schools and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence.



The Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Organization <http://www.blueribbonschools.com/> is committed to helping schools ensure that all students achieve their highest potential. In 2004, the Coolidge Middle School in Reading was awarded the Lighthouse School award for Teamwork. This was my first year with the Reading Public School district as the Coolidge Middle School's Library Teacher. I had the opportunity to participate in all of the award ceremonies, and to attend the national conference the next year. At that time, our school district made a commitment to excellence. The goal was to host a Blueprint for Excellence National Institute in Reading. This spring, five years after setting that goal, it was realized.

The first day of the conference included morning visits to various schools in our district with the afternoon focused on workshops. Topics included offerings from SMART Technologies, Cyber Safety, run by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, and 21st Century Skills.

The second day started out with a keynote presentation with Will Richardson followed by a series of smaller workshops. I am proud to say that I, along with all of the other librarians in the district, presented a variety of workshops with topics ranging from technology integration and collaboration, 21st Century Skills, new literature, and classroom demonstrations of several emerging technologies such as wikis, blogs, Twitter, VoiceThread, podcasting, PhotoStory, and Oovoo (Online Video Conferencing).

The highlight of the two days was attending a "non-workshop" with Will Richardson. In this session we were allowed to just ask questions, make comments, have a conversation about anything we wanted. This was the last session of the day. The classroom was full of teachers with laptops, online, chatting about whatever we wanted to. Will connected to his Oovoo account and his Twitter and instantly we were "Global", communicating with teachers from all over the world. Yes, I mean the world, as we had teachers from Asia, South America, and across the US, adding to our conversation. I even recognized a few of them- have you heard of *Bud the Teacher*? He follows Will on Twitter, and was instantly a part of our discussion. The hour we spent "chatting" was, for lack of a better word, Awesome. It was a demonstration of what the future holds. It was the connection of people with the common goal of academic excellence, having a conversation, asking questions, contributing thoughts, and just being aware of each other. It was a look at what can be done with the 21st Century tools we have today. I still don't have my head completely around Twitter, but then again it took me a while to figure out Facebook, and now I use it daily. I still don't have Oovoo up and running at my school (filters keep getting in the way), but now I know about them and their potential and am making plans with teachers for the upcoming year. I am giving it all a try; introducing applications to teachers and students and running as fast as I can to keep up. Oh, and did I mention that all of the applications I have mentioned are free downloads?

So, as I mentioned before, I love professional development, and this conference was one of the best. If you ever have the chance to attend a The Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence conference, I would highly recommend it. Likewise, if you ever have the chance to attend a workshop with Will Richardson, take it. You can also follow Will through his blog [Weblog-ed: http://weblog-ed.com/](http://weblog-ed.com/)

Surviving & Thriving:
Tips we Share

Special Collection Shelf Placeholders

Using empty DVD cases with book covers slid in the front and spine labels on the side as placeholders, for books shelved in other areas. For instance, the English department teachers wanted me to put Multicultural Fiction on a separate shelf entitled Global Collection to go with a new part of the English Curriculum.

So if a student goes to look for it in Fiction, they will find a "dummy book" DVD case which directs them to the Global Shelf - with a florescent label. Then all the multicultural books have fluorescent labels so the kids can see them at a glance as different from the other labels.

I called Blockbuster Video and they donated more than enough blank cases to me for the project.

~Submitted by
Barbara Lichtman,
Melrose High School
Library Director

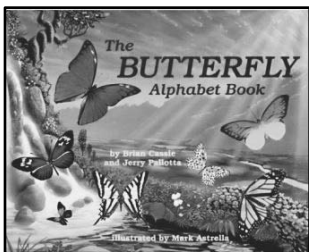
Lunches with Two Authors by Linda Redding

Brian Cassie

I caught up with science author and educator Brian Cassie in Plymouth this winter at the rare sighting of an Ivory Gull.

One book that I keep in my car for quick reference is the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to New England* that you wrote along with Peter Alden. You have also authored a couple of other field guides. Does the writing of a field guide differ than writing a book like *Say It Again, The Butterfly Alphabet Book*, or *Tornadoes*?

Writing a field guide is all about getting the facts straight. Don't get it right and your credibility is shot. So it is weeks of choosing material, writing about it, matching up photos to text, and having editors say, "We need one more line." Editors are indispensable and make good books better.



***Say It Again* is a wonderful book to read to early readers. What inspired you to write an animal book in rhyme?**

I wrote this book as a story about a brother and sister who end up visiting a land where all of the animals have double names. I

liked the idea but the editor chucked all the "story" text, also in verse, in the trash and just kept the poems. Oh well. But your real question was why rhyming and the answer is because I like rhymes. I wrote a poem a day for quite a spell. Maybe I'll find them and look them over. Thanks for reminding me.

A few years ago you were facilitating an after school nature program for students in Halifax and presenting professional developments workshops to the teachers. Now, you are back in the classroom. How does it feel to be back?

I am in the classroom but not technically back in the classroom, as this is my first teaching job. The students and their parents are very appreciative of my work and our work together and so it is most worthwhile and fun being a science teacher.

What did you think of the Ivory Gull visiting Plymouth, MA this winter?

Ivory Gulls of any age are a rare sight in New England. Two adult Ivory Gulls at the same time in Massachusetts....one in Plymouth and the other in Gloucester....was magical. Of course, I went to see both of them and loved my time viewing them.

What projects are you working on now?

Right now my #1 writing project is in the research phase...and has been for many years. I am gathering information on the seashells of New England for a popular book on the subject. Most of the data I have is my own and is based on thousands of hours of fieldwork and lab work. I wrote *The Butterfly Alphabet Book* in four hours. This book has taken ten years...so far!

For more information about Brian Cassie visit:
<http://www.charlesbridge.com/>

Peter Arenstam

Plympton Public Library recently hosted a visit by author and captain of the *Mayflower II*, Peter Arenstam.

You have written both fiction and nonfiction. Do you approach each in the same manner?

Both forms of writing require a fair amount of research before I start writing. It is just as important to get facts and real information for setting scenes in an authentic fashion in fiction as non-fiction. With *Mayflower 1620*, much of the information we needed for writing the book was available to us at my work place, Plimoth Plantation. Of course sailing the ship to get an authentic feel for what it must have been like for passengers on the 1620 voyage was about the best kind of research there is.

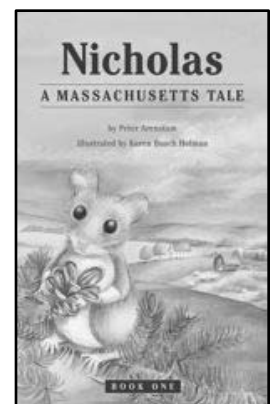
Do you find one easier to write than the other?

I enjoy writing both kinds of work and feel there is as much a creative element to non-fiction writing as fiction. I do like the freedom of fiction however. If I want Nicholas to visit a certain location, that's the way I write it. With the *Mayflower* story, what happened, where the ship went and when it traveled is all pretty much established.

Children reading the Nicholas series are being introduced to the New England states through the adventures of the little mouse. What types of things did you take into consideration when first creating the character of Nicholas and deciding where Nicholas would be travel?

I was careful to research as much as I could about the life cycle of mice, where they live, what they eat and most importantly, who likes to eat them. It would not make a very authentic story to have Nicholas, a tiny field mouse, becomes friends with a barn owl. They probably wouldn't remain friends for very long.

Deciding where Nicholas would travel in each state started with a map and the desire to write about as much of each state as I could. I also wanted to write about areas of the states that were perhaps less well known. I quickly realized, given the length of each book and the rich variety in each state, that I would only be able to cover a small percentage, geographically, of any particular place. I did travel around each state a great deal before starting to write. I tried to imagine a little mouse and how he would manage to get from place to place without running into too many predators.



The cat in *Felix and His Mayflower Adventures* is based on a cat that actually traveled on the *Mayflower II*. What primary sources were you able to use to help guide you in writing the story?

The fun part about writing this book was that I was able to talk with some of the surviving crewmen from the voyage and got a great deal of first hand information about little Felix. Joe Meaney, the American cabin boy in the story takes care of Felix, lives nearby Plymouth and visits *Mayflower II* on occasion, with his wife Anne.

There is also a large amount of written material about the voyage of *Mayflower II*. *National Geographic* produced two articles for their magazine, *Life Magazine* had a reporter and photographer aboard the ship for the voyage, and some of the crew wrote books about their experiences sailing across the Atlantic.

Seeing the *Mayflower II* out at sea is an amazing sight. What was it like to work on the book, *Mayflower 1620: A New Look at a Pilgrim Voyage*?

I have only seen *Mayflower* sailing from pictures after the fact, as I have been aboard the ship when those photos were taken. No matter how many times we sail the ship it is always a breathtaking experience. The ship truly comes alive when we head out to sea. The roll of the deck, the pull of the sails and the hum of the rigging is a kind of musical experience that I never tire of.

Describe a typical day for you as Captain of the *Mayflower II*?

Having just written my previous answer I must say that a typical day aboard *Mayflower II* is, in some ways, the complete opposite experience. My day is full dealing with the endless needs of an aging wooden vessel. There is always painting to do, repairs to complete and countless small details to cross off our work lists. We always remember, however, that it is the attention to those details that keeps the ship in shape and ready to take to the sea again.

What books to have coming out in the future?

There is a fourth book in the Nicholas series, *Nicholas a Vermont Tale* that will be out soon. I am also working on a picture book for younger readers, and a guidebook, written for children, about museums in New England.

For more information on Peter Arenstam, please visit: <http://peterarenstam.com/>

Linda Redding is Library Teacher at Silver Lake Regional High School

TUI T. SUTHERLAND

VISITS DANVERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

By Karen Sekiguichi

In June 2009, the Danvers elementary schools received a visit from well-known children's author, Tui T. Sutherland. Danvers librarians won the visit in a drawing sponsored by MSLA during April Legislative Day activities at the State House in Boston.

Approximately sixty students from the five Danvers elementary schools met at Great Oak School for two sessions with the author. Ms. Sutherland, who also writes under the names "Erin Hunter," "Tamara Summers," and "Robb Kidd," among others,

entertained a rapt audience with personal stories about her life as an author of more than 30 books, including titles from the *Warriors* and *Seekers* series and her new series, *Pet Trouble*. Ms Sutherland also talked and about her career as an editor of children's books.

Students learned fascinating facts about the process of writing, illustrating, and editing children's books—including why authors might use so many different pen names!

Ms. Sutherland autographed her books and collected students' writing which she later critiqued and returned by mail. The box of manuscripts weighed seven pounds! Each workshop ended with a lively question and answer session, with thoughtful questions prepared by the children.

Over lunch, Ms. Sutherland revealed an interesting fact.

She spent much of her childhood overseas, but her dad actually grew up in Danvers. It seems fitting that Danvers students won this terrific visit from a talented and gracious children's author with a connection to their town. Danvers students, teachers, and parents are very grateful to MSLA and to Tui Sutherland for making this learning opportunity possible.



Karen Sekiguichi is the Library Teacher at Great Oak School in Danvers

Visit from Author, Cynthia Lord

by Chris Steinhauser, Reading Public Schools

Sometimes things just work out perfectly! That's what happened this past April when our school hosted a visit from Cynthia Lord, author of the book *Rules*.



Each year I am fortunate enough to have an author visit our school for a day. I work with the public library and the librarian at the other middle school in my district. The author spends one day at each school doing a whole school assembly and several workshops. The evening between the visits is spent at the public library, doing an evening program for students and parents. Costs are divided between the three libraries.

In the past we have hosted authors such as Mitali Perkins, Peter Lourie, Janet Taylor Lisle, and Doug Wilhelm. This year, the author was Cynthia Lord: <http://www.cynthialord.com/>

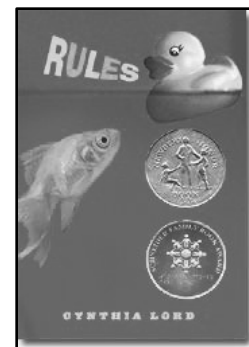
Right from the start, Cynthia was easy to work with. She is flexible about the workshops she could offer to students. She is completely comfortable talking to students and managing a classroom situation. You could tell that she used to be a teacher and that she enjoys this part of her job. Both of these qualities make a good author visit. What made Cynthia's visit extraordinary was the "above and beyond".

It all started with a conversation. I was chatting with a reading teacher about a project idea using podcasting. We then started talking about the upcoming author. One thing led to another and before we knew it we had an idea. What if we could podcast a couple of teacher reading chapters of the book *Rules*?

The idea was to introduce as many students as possible to the book and to build interest. Then, what if the students were given a forum to discuss the book between themselves? We envisioned a wiki that would include the podcasts and a discussion board. But, could we get permission for the podcast?

There was no need to worry. This is where Cynthia went above and beyond. She happily granted us permission to record teachers and students reading chapters of her book and post to them to a password protected wiki using GCast. Students were given passwords, teachers and students were given books and digital recorders and I did the editing and posting.

The result - magic! I witnessed teachers and students having an online discussion about the book *Rules*. During one evening over 200 posts were made to the wiki. I thought that I would send the link to Cynthia to take a look at and before I knew it, she had joined in the conversation, responding to individual students and even asking them questions, which they were thrilled to answer.



On the day of the visit, many students lined up to introduce themselves as "the student who made this or that comment" on the wiki. She made direct references to student comments and questions from the wiki and made the entire experience very personal for all students involved. I was thrilled to see the interest and enthusiasm of the students at such a high level.

The next day, I received what is probably the best evidence of a successful author program. In my wiki inbox, I had several messages from students. Each one was a thank you message.

One author visit: \$1000.00.

One wiki with podcasts: 6 hours.

Seven student thank you messages: Priceless.

Greetings from AASL President-elect, Nancy Everhart

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the exciting and informative MSLA conference.

The theme, "MSLA, Now More than Ever" with the ideas of *Economy, Excitement and Education* manifests AASL's current priorities and takes a proactive stance in helping school library media professionals deal with what is happening with today's economy.

I congratulate the conference committee and the MSLA officers on your outstanding array of speakers and authors who have agreed to share their views and experiences in creating and sustaining successful school library media programs. And, kudos on going green! I look forward to meeting all of you and enjoying the conference.

Please approach me and tell me your ideas for my upcoming Presidential term in 2010-2011. My theme is *Vision!*





P.O. Box 658
 Lunenburg, MA 01462
 Tel./Fax: 978-582-6967
 www.maschoollibraries.org
 Visit MSLA website for current conference information

2009 CONFERENCE Registration Form

October 4 & 5, 2009

Fill in BOTH sides of this form

Registration Includes MEMBERSHIP, PLUS:

*Educational Sessions • Exhibits
 Lunch • Networking Opportunities*

Name: _____

(NOTE TO STUDENTS): If you are a GSLIS student working full time in a school library as a professional (i.e. you are on the teacher's payscale) you can not claim student membership. You must register as a professional.

| PROFESSIONAL RATES | 1 - DAY | 2 - DAYS |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| Regular Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$190 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$140 | |
| Walk in Registration (register day of the conference) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$190 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$240 |
| RETIRED/FULL TIME STUDENT/SUPPORT STAFF RATES | 1 - DAY | 2 - DAYS |
| Regular Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday or <input type="checkbox"/> Monday <i>please select day</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$145 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 | |
| Walk in Registration (register day of the conference) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$145 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$195 |
| SUNDAY LUNCH options - please select one | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Napoleon atop barley pilaf with a balsamic drizzle or <input type="checkbox"/> Asian chicken stir-fry over ginger infused white rice | | |
| SUNDAY AWARDS DINNER - Sunday, October 4 | | |
| <i>Dinner Buffet - Tropical Fruit Salad, Asian Shrimp & Mandarin Orange Salad, Mixed Green Salad with Papaya & Fruit Vinaigrette, Kahuna Smoked Pork Loin, Grilled Cilantro Chicken with Caramelized Pineapple Glaze, Steamed White Rice with Fresh Ginger, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Coffee/Tea</i> | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 |
| <i>MSLA Honorees: Mitchell Chester, Commissioner of Education and Janet Allison, NEASC</i> | | |
| MONDAY BOXED LUNCH options - please select one | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey & Cheese on a bulkie roll or <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetable Wrap (included with both - whole fruit, chips, cookie & drink) | | |
| EXHIBITS, PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION & DINNER - Sunday, October 4 | | |
| (for guests of conference attendees) | | |
| # of guests _____ x \$40.00 = _____ | | |
| MSLA is offering a 20% discount on two new books from AASL that will help school librarians implement <i>Standards for the 21st Century Learner</i> . Books will be available for pick-up at the conference. | | |
| <i>Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action</i> (ALA price is \$39) | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| <i>Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs</i> (ALA price is \$39) | | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ **SCHOOL P.O. # (if applicable)** _____



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Visit MSLA website for current conference information

2009-2010 MSLA Membership Form

Fill in **BOTH** sides of this form if you are registering for the Conference

Email: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Job Title or Other Status (e.g. Student, Retired): _____

School/Business: _____

Work Address: _____

Work City: _____

Work State: _____ Work Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Fax: _____

Library or Personal Website/Blog: http:// _____

Home Address: _____

Home City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home or Cell Phone: _____

Preferred mailing address Work Home
 Please do not provide my contact information to MSLA Conference Exhibitors

Position Type Full Time Part Time

School Type Public Independent (Private, Parochial)

Grade Level Elementary High School College
 Middle District Level

Library Region Boston Metrowest Southeast
 Central Northeast West

Membership Info

ALA NESLA MassCUE AFT MA
 AASL MLA MTA

MSLA Membership Types & Fees

Professional - \$40.00 Vendor - \$40.00
 Library Support Personnel - \$20.00 Full-Time GSLIS Student* - \$20.00
 Retired - \$20.00

*If you are a GSLIS student working full time in a school library as a professional (i.e. you are on the teacher's payscale) you can not claim student membership. You must register as a professional.

Do you want to be listed by MSLA as a Resource Person willing to share your expertise? Yes No

List area of expertise _____

First time member referred by _____

- Includes Membership through Nov. 1, 2010
- A check or school purchase order **MUST** accompany this form. Please make check payable to MSLA.
- Refund policy for cancellation of conference registration: No refunds will be made if registration is cancelled within 5 days of the conference.
- MSLA dues are not refundable.
- Confirmation - A list of conference registrants will be posted on the MSLA listserv.
- Return this completed form to:
MSLA Director
P.O. Box 658
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Email: klowe@maschoolibraries.org
Tel/Fax: 978-582-6967

★ SPECIAL RATE for MSLA members!

Join the New England School Library Association for \$20 (a savings of \$10) Please send a SEPARATE check payable to NESLA, to:

Merlyn Miller
Burr and Burton Academy
57 Seminary Avenue
Manchester, VT 05254

For more information visit the NESLA webpage: www.neschoolibraries.org

For MSLA Office Use Only:

Check: _____

School PO# _____

Amount: _____

Date Paid: _____

2009 Author Fest:

MSLA Celebrates Local Authors and Illustrators

Sunday, October 4, 2009 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Meet the Authors...Have Authors Sign their Books...Line up an Author Visit for your School

Mark Binder <http://www.markbinder.com>

Mark Binder has the unique ability to reach out and grab all ages. His work regularly appears in *Cricket Magazine*. In the past year, he's had four new books released. *The Bed Time Story Book* collection is a multigenerational masterpiece now in its seventh edition. *A Hanukkah Present* was the finalist for the National Jewish Book Award for Family Literature. His first novel, *The Brothers Schlemiel* was published in a beautifully illustrated hardback edition. His latest book is *It Ate My Sister*. Take this opportunity meet Mark before he begins his 2010 international tour.



Rob Bolster <http://robbolster.com>

The importance of education and life-long learning is woven through lessons about art, children's books, and everyday life in class presentations by Rob Bolster. Rob has worked as an advertising artist for major corporations but joins us showcasing the many books he has illustrated for author Jerry Pallotta. Inspired by his childhood in a Rhode Island fishing village his first children's book was *Going Lobstering*. Today his illustrations of Hershey Bars, Twizzlers and Reese's Pieces adorn math picture books while lifelike airplanes, jets and other vehicles appear in Pallotta's alphabet books.



Kathleen Benner Duple <http://www.kathleenduble.com>

Kathleen had sixteen car accidents before she was twenty-one! Being an at-home writer keeps her from hitting the road (or anyone else). She is the author of seven books for children, including *The Sacrifice*, a Jefferson Cup Noteworthy Book, *Hearts of Iron*, an IRA Teacher's Choice, *Bravo Zulu, Samantha!* an Agatha Award nominee and a Massachusetts Book Award Honor Book and *The Story of the Samson*, a NCSS Notable Trade Book. Kathleen loves digging for great historical stories, although, despite her picture, she does not actually dig in graveyards. She loves presenting to students and lovers of books about anything to do with writing, encouraging them all to look for the very best stories right in their own backyard!



Louis Garafalo

Lou a native of southeastern Massachusetts where he resides with his wife and two sons. He is a thirty year veteran of the health insurance industry who enjoys creative writing as a hobby. Lou is the author of three books: *The Sassamon Circle*, a historical novel centering on a Wompanoag Indian named John Sassamon during the time of the King Philip's War in 1675; *Equation Nineteen*, a medical suspense novel set in Boston; *The Road To Phrygia*, a work of religious fiction.



Stephen Krensky <http://www.stephenkrensky.com>

Stephen has had over one hundred books published, everything from picture books to novels, fantasy to realism, fiction to nonfiction. "Being able to try so many different kinds of books has helped me stay enthusiastic about every book I write," he explains. In his recent book, *Sisters of Scituate Light*, he has brought to life the true story of how two resourceful sisters--daughters of the lighthouse keeper in Scituate, became heroes by saving their New England town during the War of 1812. *How Santa Got His Job* was a 1999 American Library Association Notable Book.



Maryellen Maguire-Eisen, RN, MSN

Maryellen is executive director of the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation (Hingham, MA). In March, she was awarded the American Academy of Dermatology's prestigious Gold Triangle Award for *Pretty Prom: Your Skin is Pretty Too* and *Lake Vacation*. The two books were written to empower adolescents with up to date and reliable information about the dangers of overexposure to ultraviolet radiation and to offer positive, easy action steps for sun protection.



2009 Author Fest: MSLA Celebrates Local Authors and Illustrators

Sunday, October 4, 2009 3:00 - 5:00 PM



Ralph Masiello <http://www.ickybugman.com>

A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Ralph acquired his nickname the “ickybugman” from author Jerry Pallotta after illustrating his book, *The Icky Bug Alphabet*. Since 1987, he has been traveling all across the country, visiting thousands of schools to speak to children and teachers about his job and what goes into creating an illustrated book. In addition to illustrating for Jerry Pallotta, he also did *The Flag We Love* with Pam Munoz Ryan. Ralph also has his own series of Drawing Books for kids including, *The Bug Drawing Book*, *The Dinosaur Drawing Book*, *The Dragon Drawing Books* and his newest addition, *The Ancient Egypt Drawing Book*.



Deborah Noyes <http://www.deborahnoyes.com>

Author, editor/anthologist, and photographer, Deborah has published a dozen books — from children’s picture books to adult novels — *Sideshow: Ten Original Stories of Freaks, Illusionists, and Other Matters Odd and Magical*; *African Acrostics: A Word in Edgeways, Prudence and Moxie*; *Encyclopedia of the End: Mysterious Death in Fact, Fancy, Folklore, and More*. Honors and awards include: ALA Best Books for Young Adults, ASPCA/Henry Bergh Award, NYPL Books for the Teen Age, Kirkus Editors’ Choice, Parents’ Choice, a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People. In 2007, Deb was honored as one of the Boston Public Library’s “Literary Lights for Children.” Her second adult novel, *Captivity*, will be published in Spring 2010.



Jerry Pallotta <http://jerrypallotta.com>

Jerry Pallotta is called the alphabet man because he’s written more than 20 nature and science alphabet books. *The Icky Bug Alphabet Book* has sold more than 1 million copies and his third book, *The Bird Alphabet Book* was voted one of the best books of the year by *Birders World Magazine*. Some additional published credits include *Hersheys Milk Chocolate Fractions Book*, *Who Will Haunt My House on Halloween*, *The Bee: Friend of the Flowers*, *Who Will Help Santa This Year?*. His goal has always been to write interesting, fact-filled, fun to read, beautifully illustrated, color children's books. He now visits more than 150 schools per year. At the Author Fest, meet some of Jerry Pallotta’s illustrators: Ralph Masiello, Rob Bolster, and David Biedrzycki.



Ruth Sanderson <http://www.ruthsanderson.com>

Cinderella, *Papa Gatto*, *The Crystal Mountain*, *Saints Lives and Illuminations* are a few of the books Ruth has written or retold and illustrated. She also illustrated 18 covers for the Nancy Drew series and now illustrates the *Horse Diaries*. After being introduced to a children’s book editor by Jane Yolen, Ruth was hired by Little, Brown for her own retelling of *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*. Her most recent book *Mother Goose and Friends* uses Jane Yolen as the model for Mother goose flying high on the cover. Watch for her newest book, a version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.



Tui Sutherland <http://www.tuibooks.com>

Tui is the author of more than 30 books for children and teens, ranging from easy-to-reads to middle-grade and YA novels. Her newest project is a series about dogs for ages 8-13 called *Pet Trouble*. Her books for teens include *This Must Be Love* (a retelling of Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) and the supernatural/post-apocalyptic *Avatars* trilogy. Among her pseudonymous books are, the Disney Pirate series, *Legends of the Brethren Court* (using the pen name Rob Kidd), and the Little House spin-off *Nellie Oleson Meets Laura Ingalls* (under the pseudonym Heather Williams). She is also one of four authors working on the best-selling *Warriors and Seekers* books under the name Erin Hunter.

Surviving and Thriving: Tips We Share **Self Checkout**

Have the patron checkout computer face outwards on the circulation desk, with a rolodex on the desk beside the computer. There is a section for each grade and one for STAFF and the cards are alphabetized by last name. Every student and staff member has a card with a barcode number on it. Check out is easy: type in your barcode number, scan the barcode, press enter, put date due card in book pocket. We teach everyone to do it. They can check them back in, too.

~Submitted by Judith Powers, LMS, Nantucket Elementary School

2009 Author Fest: MSLA Celebrates Local Authors and Illustrators

Sunday, October 4, 2009 3:00 - 5:00 PM

"The Write Sisters" <http://www.thewritesisters.com>

A group of 7 women, they are related only through their shared passion -- writing for kids. Collectively, they have authored over 125 books. Appearing at our authorfest will be Muriel Dubois, Diane Mayr, Kathy Deady.



The Write Sisters are (*back, l to r*)

Muriel Dubois, Barbara Turner, Kathleen Deady, and Andrea Murphy, (front) Diane Mayr, Janet Buell and Sally Wilkins.

Kathy Deady <http://www.kathleendeady.com>

Kathy Deady is the author of over 40 books for children. Her titles include *The New Hampshire Colony, It's Time!* and, *All Year Long*, a CBC/IRA Children's Choice selection for 2005. Her work has also appeared in several children's magazines. Kathy's passion for writing began in college with picture books, but along the way she discovered a love of nonfiction as well. She enjoys visiting schools and libraries to share that love of both with children.



Muriel Dubois <http://www.murieldubois.com>

Muriel L. Dubois is the award-winning author of more than 35 books for children including *New Hampshire Facts and Symbols*, *To My Countrywomen: The Life of Sarah Josepha Hale*, and *Abenaki Captive*. She enjoys speaking to children and adults about writing and publishing. Muriel writes from her home in Bedford, New Hampshire where she also spends part of the day letting her two dogs in and out of the back yard.



Diane Mayr <http://www.dianemayr.com>

Diane Mayr says, "I may not have been born a writer, but I'll surely die as one!" A former school library volunteer and children's librarian, she is now the adult services librarian/assistant director in Windham, NH. Her published works for children include the picture books, *Littlebat's Halloween Story*, and *Run, Turkey, Run!*, *The Everything Kids' Money Book*, and articles, activities, poems, stories in magazines such as *Spider*. Her articles on writing have appeared in *The Writer*.



MSLA BLOCK PARTY

SUNDAY 3:00-5:00 PM

Welcoming back our own MSLA members,
Michelle Tanguay and Linda Picceri
with "City of Roses"

Note: We need to make Steve Gilligan
an Honorary MSLA Member (!)



City of Roses:

<http://www.cityofroses.net>



"Use the L4L Shift Key to Make the Shift; Paradigm, that is!"
Sunday, 10 AM-12:00 Noon and 1:00-3:00 PM
Valerie Diggs and Sue Ballard co-presenters

We are all familiar with the shift key on a computer keyboard. What does it do? The shift key can be used in combination with other keys to produce various modifications. It also gives other keys alternate meanings - in the case of L4L, hitting shift for the number 4, converts it to L\$! Susan Ballard, Chair of AASL's Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force, and Valerie Diggs, MSLA Coordinator for L4L, will provide participants with information and strategies to implement AASL's *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* and *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*. Focus will be on examining existing programs in order to identify key areas to modify and will also address the need to identify and overcome perceived barriers – including economic challenges.

Susan Ballard is the Director of Library, Media & Technology Services, Londonderry NH School District. The Londonderry



program is a past recipient of the National School Library Media Program of the Year. Susan is a past-president of the NH Educational Media Association (NHEMA) and of the NE School Library Association (NESLA). She has also served as Secretary of the American Association of School Librarians and as a member of the AASL Board of Directors. Susan is cited in ALA's *Whole School Library Handbook* as one of the country's "103 Outstanding School Librarians" and in 2008 was a charter inductee to the NESLA Hall of Fame. She has taught at the graduate level for several colleges and universities and written numerous articles for professional publications. She is Chair of the AASL Standards and Guidelines Implementation Task Force.

Valerie Diggs Valerie Diggs is the Department Head of School Libraries for the Chelmsford Public Schools. She has most recently completed the transformation of the Chelmsford High School Library to a true *Learning Commons* space. Diggs' *Learning Commons* program and space was the feature article in the April 2009 *Teacher Librarian*. She also teaches *The Organization and Management of School Library Media Centers* for the Simmons' GSILS. Diggs is also a Doctoral candidate at the UMASS, Lowell. She is also on the MSLA Executive Board, as Standards Committee Chairperson. Valerie was recently published in *Teacher-Librarian*, writing about the Learning Commons at Chelmsford High School, and wrote an article in the May/June issue of *Knowledge Quest* on the inquiry process.



Board Gaming and 21st Century Literacies
Sunday, 10 AM-12:00 Noon and 1:00-3:00 PM
Beth Gallaway, presenter

Learn how to launch tabletop gaming at your library, no matter what your size, space, staff or budget! Board games are a resource with curriculum tie-ins that library teachers can collect, circulate, and use in programming. The session includes justification for adding board games to your collection, advocacy tips for promoting games, an overview of home board games connected to educational standards, and a presentation of best practices in literacy based tabletop gaming in US libraries. Time to try hands-on board gaming will be provided; several games will be raffled off to participants.

Beth Gallaway was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2006 for her work in advocating for videogames in libraries. She is an independent library trainer/consultant specializing in gaming, technology, and youth services, and is a YALSA certified Serving the Underserved (SUS) trainer. Her book, *Game On!* is published by Neal-Schuman (2009).



2009
 Conference:
 Sunday
 Workshops

Books between Cultures
Sunday, 10 AM-12:00 Noon and 1:00-3:00 PM
Mitali Perkins, presenter

A growing number of kids in our schools straddle two cultures. Author Mitali Perkins will start with a personal, humorous case study of growing up between cultures, discuss the "pop culture push," and show how stories help kids stay balanced. Participants will leave equipped with guidelines for evaluating and selecting fiction that empowers rather than alienates young people who might already be feeling marginalized.

Mitali Perkins was born in Kolkata, India and immigrated at age seven to the States with her family. She studied political science at Stanford University and public policy at U.C. Berkeley, surviving academia thanks to a steady diet of children's and YA books from libraries. Mitali's award-winning books for young readers include *Monsoon Summer*, *The Sunita Experiment*, *Rickshaw Girl*, *Secret Keeper*, and the *First Daughter* books. She also posts at Mitali's Fire Escape, (mitaliblog.com), a popular blog where she invites discussion about books and life between cultures, and speaks frequently at schools, conferences, and libraries. Mitali lives in Newton, Massachusetts with her husband, teenagers, Labrador retrievers, and ferret.



**Beneath the Moon and Among the Stars:
A Novelist takes a Detour from His Wicked Orbit**
Sunday, 1:00-3:00 PM
Greg Maguire, presenter



Gregory Maguire received his Ph.D. in English and American Literature from Tufts University. His work as a consultant in creative writing for children has taken him to speaking engagements across the United States and abroad. He is a founder and co-director of Children's Literature New England, Incorporated, a non-profit educational charity established in 1987. The author of numerous books for children, Mr. Maguire is also a contributor to *Am I Blue?: Coming Out From the Silence*, a collection of short stories for gay and lesbian teenagers. Since *Wicked* was first published in 1995, millions of readers have discovered Gregory Maguire's Oz, a world filled with characters both familiar and new, darkly conceived and daringly re-imagined. In the much-anticipated third volume of the *Wicked Years*, we return to Oz, through the eyes of the Cowardly Lion—the once tiny cub defended by Elphaba in *Wicked*.

MSLA Awards and Buffet Dinner

Sunday, 5:30 PM
Mitchell Chester, Honoree Janet Allison, Honoree

Mitchell Chester is the Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is charged with the responsibility of ensuring improved teaching and learning in all of the Commonwealth's public schools. A Connecticut native, Chester began his career as an elementary school classroom teacher and has worked at the state level in Connecticut and Ohio. In this role as Senior Associate State Superintendent for the Ohio Public Schools, he worked closely with Ohio State Superintendent Susan Zelman, and was responsible for education policy development, the state's accountability systems, alignment of federal and state policy and strategic planning for the agency.



Janet Allison is the Interim Director of the Commission on Public Secondary Schools (CPSS) for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) where she has served for more than twenty years. Previous to her work with the Commission, Janet was a Social Studies teacher and an assistant principal in New Hampshire and Georgia public high schools. She earned her Masters of Education in Administration from Northeastern University and her BA from the University of New Hampshire.



Sunday Evening 7:30 - 9:00 PM: Job Alikes

Groups: Elementary, Middle, and High School

Have an after-dinner discussion with your colleagues on issues that are unique to your level. Share your best practices, ask questions and come away with some great ideas.

MONDAY KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**“Here Today, Gone
Tomorrow?
Key Challenges Today for
Tomorrow’s
School Libraries.”**



Dr. Ross Todd is associate professor in the School of Communication, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers. He is Director of the Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL), at Rutgers. CISSL fosters the transformative role of school libraries in 21st century schools. His primary teaching and research interests focus on adolescent information seeking and use. The research is multi-faceted, and includes: understanding how children learn and build new knowledge from information; how school librarians and classroom teachers can more effectively empower student learning; and how the development of information and critical literacies through guided inquiry and constructivist learning approaches lead to deep knowledge and deep understanding. He has published more than 120 papers and book chapters and has spoken at many international conferences, most recently in Sweden, Trinidad, Croatia and Norway.

Conference Schedule

MSLA "Now More Than Ever"

October 4-5, 2009

| Sunday, October 4 | | |
|--|---|---|
| 9:00 - 10:00 AM | Grand Ballroom Foyer | Registration & Coffee |
| 10:00 - 12:00 Noon Concurrent Session I | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | Use the L4L Shift Key to Make the Shift; Paradigm That Is! - Susan Ballard & Valerie Diggs |
| | TECHNOLOGY | Board Gaming and 21st Century Literacies - Beth Galloway |
| | AUTHOR / LITERATURE | Books Between Cultures - Mitali Perkins |
| 12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM | Courtyard | Lunch - "Meet & Eat" (by 6 regions) |
| 1:00 - 3:00 PM Concurrent Session II | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | Use the L4L Shift Key to Make the Shift; Paradigm That Is! - Susan Ballard & Valerie Diggs |
| | TECHNOLOGY | Board Gaming and 21st Century Literacies - Beth Galloway |
| | AUTHOR / LITERATURE | Beneath the Moon and Among the Stars: A Novelist takes a Detour from His Wicked Orbit - Gregory Maguire |
| 3:00 PM | Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, Author Fest, & Block Party | |
| 5:00 PM | Grand Ballroom | MSLA Awards & Buffet Dinner Honoree: Mitchell Chester <i>Massachusetts Commissioner of Education</i> Honoree: Janet Allison <i>NEASC Interim Director</i> |
| 7:30 PM | Job Alikes | |
| Monday, October 5 | | |
| 7:00 - 8:30 AM | Foyer & Exhibit Hall | Registration & Continental Breakfast |
| 7:15 - 8:15 AM | Demo Rooms | |
| 8:30 - 9:30 AM Concurrent Session I | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | Media Literacy in 21st-Century School Libraries: Enabling New Teaching Practices & Learning Outcomes for the Information Age - Paul Milhailidis & Valerie Diggs |
| | LITERATURE | What it Means to be Literate in the Digital Age - Carol Gordon |
| | TECHNOLOGY | Creating & Managing Your Online Identity - Beth Galloway |
| | BASICS | The Real Deal: Regional Library Systems - Regional Library System Staff |
| | AUTHOR | Be A Book Bug ...Read! - David Biedrzycki |
| 9:30 -10:00 AM | Exhibit Hall | Exhibit Hall Break and Prize Drawings |
| 10:00 - 11:00 AM | President's Welcome | Gerri Fegan KEYNOTE: Here Today, Gone Tomorrow? Key Challenges Today for Tomorrow's School Libraries - Dr. Ross Todd |
| 11:15 AM-12:15 PM Concurrent Session II | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | You Can't Do That; It's Illegal!: Copyright for School Librarians - Sarah Sogigian |
| | LITERATURE | What's New in Children's Books - Pat Keogh |
| | TECHNOLOGY | Web 2.0 Made Easy (Even a 2nd Grader can use it)! - Katie Cerasale-Messina |
| | BASICS | Become an Advocate for Your Library with the MSLA Advocacy Wiki - Judi Paradis & Pat Fontes |
| | AUTHOR | The Science of Reader's Theater - Melissa Stewart |
| | ALL | AASL, Working for You - Nancy Everhart, AASL President-Elect |
| 12:15 - 1:30 PM | Lunch in Exhibit Hall or Courtyard | Lunch/ Exhibit Hall / Prize Drawings / Demo Rooms |
| 12:30 - 1:30 PM | Demo Rooms | |
| 1:30 - 2:30 PM Concurrent Session III | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons - Valerie Diggs |
| | LITERATURE | What's Hot in Graphic Novels - Robin Brenner |
| | TECHNOLOGY | Find Your Students' Voice with VoiceThread! - Laurie Belanger |
| | BASICS | Making the Connection – Grade 3, Massachusetts Social Studies Frameworks, Literature, Research and a Fixed Schedule – Making it All Work! - Anne-Marie Ross |
| | AUTHOR | Drawing Out Your Inner Illustrator - Ralph Masiello |
| 2:30 - 3:00 PM | Exhibit Hall Break / Prize Drawings | |
| 3:00 - 4:00 PM Concurrent Session IV | | |
| | STRAND: LIBRARY PROGRAM | Fun with Research: Strategies That Work - Donna Guerin & Patricia Carbone |
| | LITERATURE | The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: New Teen Books Fall 2009 Edition! - Sarah Sogigian & Maureen Ambrosino |
| | TECHNOLOGY | My Favorite Tools - Laura Beals D'Elia |
| | BASICS | Storytelling: Giving Your Students Another Way to Succeed - Doris Smith |
| | AUTHOR | Programming from the Massachusetts Center for the Book - Sharon Shaloo |

MONDAY, October 5

8:30-9:30 AM: Concurrent Session I

What it Means to be Literate in the Digital Age

Carol Gordon, Professor, Rutgers
Co-Director of Center for International
Scholarship in School Libraries (CISSL)

What does it mean to be literate in the Digital Age? Literacy is the ability to understand, interpret, create and communicate all forms of information. This presentation examines traditional literacy as it relates to print and electronic text. As students encounter unmediated text in virtual environments, how can school librarians help them develop strategies that enhance their reading comprehension? How do these strategies relate to the Guided Inquiry? Literacy is explored with regard to self-directed learning and its relationship to critical thinking and problem-solving.



The Real Deal: Regional Library Systems

Regional Library System
Administrators & Youth Service
Consultants:

Michael Colford, Carolyn Noah,
Sunny Vandermark, Greg Pronevitz,
Cindy Roach, John Ramsay

Find out what the regional library systems offer. Want to hear how you can use the regional services to enhance the product that you offer to your administrators, faculty and students? Do you have ideas on how the regions could help you? This session will focus on regional services and how they impact what you offer to your schools. The Regional Administrators and Youth Service Consultants bring diverse and strong backgrounds to their positions.



Media Literacy in 21st Century School Libraries: Enabling New Teaching Practices & Learning Outcomes for the Information Age

Paul Milhailidis, Assistant Professor of
Media Studies, Hofstra Univ. and
Valerie Diggs, Department Head of
Libraries, Chelmsford Public Schools

In a world where students are bombarded with media messages on a daily basis, how they are taught to think about these messages is increasingly vital. It is not only important for students to have the skills to critically examine information, but also to make the connections between media and their lives on a daily basis. And how can school libraries help them gain a healthy skepticism of media? This session will provide Library Teachers with the opportunity to actively evaluate a selection from a variety of media sources. Media Literacy will be defined in the context of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. The presenters will lead an active exploration of media literacy outcomes through nuanced analysis of a variety of media messages. Participants will help in the creation of their own definition of media literacy as well as take strategies and curriculum-related ideas learned in this workshop to back to their school libraries.



Creating & Managing your Online Identity

Beth Gallaway,
Library Consultant/Trainer

What kinds of information are risky to reveal online? How does one separate a professional online identity from the personal? What is an avatar, and how do you create one? In this session, participants will discuss identity and how they represent themselves online, review some important safety tips, and preview selected web applications. Discover sites for avatar creation, easy tech programs, community building, and more.

Beth Gallaway was named a Library Journal Mover & Shaker in 2006 for her work in advocating for videogames in libraries. Her book *Game On!* is published by Neal-Schuman (2009).

10:00-11:00 AM

**President's Welcome and
Keynote Address:**

Dr. Ross Todd

***"Here Today, Gone Tomorrow?
Key Challenges Today
for
Tomorrow's
School Libraries"***

Be a Book Bug ...Read!

David Biedrzycki
<http://www.davidbiedrzycki.com>

Acclaimed author and illustrator of *Ace Lacewing*, America's favorite Bug Detective, is on a mission to inspire kids to: "Be A Book Bug...Read, Write and Illustrate." David's travels take him to schools all over the world, during which time he loves picking the brains of school librarians and discussing book ideas and concepts. NOW MORE THAN EVER, David feels school librarians are an integral part of school curriculum and have their hands on the pulse of children's literature. David illustrates entirely on computer and demonstrates how his idea seeds begin with computer sketches. Attendees will have the option to consult on a current book that David is working on.

11:15-12:15AM:Concurrent Session II

You Can't Do That; It's Illegal!: Copyright for School Librarians

Sarah Sogigian, Trainer/Consultant,
Regional Library Systems
“...it's legal in a school.” Are you sure?
Copyright laws are confusing! Join Sarah
Sogigian for an easy to understand and
implement look at copyright and its
importance in school libraries.

What's New in Children's Books

Pat Keogh
Lecturer, Children's Literature
This session will look at fiction and
nonfiction books of the 2009 publishing
seasons that librarians might consider for
purchase.

Web 2.0 Made Easy (Even a 2nd Grader can use it!)

Katie Cerasale-Messina, Library
Teacher, Whelan Elementary, Revere
This session is geared towards
elementary school librarians who have
limited experience with Web 2.0
technology and those who are looking for
new ideas to bring back to their classes
and to adapt for their own lessons. We
will take a look at various Web 2.0
applications and how they can be used in
an elementary school library or
classroom. Librarians will see how using
blogs, wikis, social bookmarking,
podcasting, and open source web sites
can make their jobs a little easier and
their lessons more engaging to our
techno-generation. The presenter will
model how to use at least two of these
applications and attendees will leave with
several ideas on how to use Web 2.0
applications in their libraries right away.



2009 CONFERENCE Monday Sessions

Become an Advocate for Your Library: MSLA Advocacy Wiki

Judi Paradis, Plympton Elem/Waltham
Patricia Fontes, Nashoba Regional HS
<http://mslaplanning.pbworks.com/>
*The MSLA Advocacy Wiki is an important
resource library teachers can use to
advocate for their library programs to
parent groups, administrators, principals,
school boards, local legislators, and
teachers. What material is gathered
there? How it is updated? How can you
use the materials? Judi and Pat have been
co-chairs of the MSLA Advocacy-
Legislative Committee through May 2009.*

The Science of Reader's Theater

Melissa Stewart, Author
<http://www.melissa-stewart.com>
Picture books can easily be adapted
into Readers Theater scripts that children
will love practicing and performing. This
session explains how to choose science
books that are perfect for RT and how to
create scripts that teach meaningful
science lessons and build fluency at the
same time. Melissa Stewart is the award
winning author of more than 100 science
books for children. Her newest picture
book, *Under the Snow*, is a Junior Library
Guild Selection for Fall 2009. Melissa holds
degrees in biology and science journalism.

AASL, Working for You

Nancy Everhart, AASL President-Elect
The theme for Nancy's upcoming term is
"Vision"; she will explain her ideas for the
future of our profession and listen to your
thoughts. As AASL President, Nancy
wants to get the nation focused on what
21st-century school libraries staffed with
certified school library media specialist
leaders can do for student learning.
Towards that goal, she is driving her RV
cross country, visiting outstanding
public/private programs in all 50 states.

12:30-1:30PM: Concurrent Session III

Transform Your School Library into a Learning Commons

Valerie Diggs, Director Libraries K-12,
Chelmsford Public Schools
What does it take to transform a school
library into a Learning Commons? Who
are the key players, and just how is this
done? What is a Learning Commons?
Why should I want to change the name
and image of my school library? How do I
accomplish this change? Do I have to give
up control of my space to those I share it
with? Benefits of a Learning Commons
will be discussed, including benefits to
learners first and to the school
community as a whole. Flexibility and
creativity are key components of the
Learning Commons. This session will also
discuss the concept of empowerment: of
both the learner and teacher. Are you
ready for change that will have an effect
on the entire school community? We are
not talking about large expenditures of
money or massive renovations, but a
change in how space is used.

What's Hot in Graphic Novels

Robin Brenner, Teen Librarian,
Brookline Public Library
<http://www.noflyingnotights.com>
Join local graphic novel and manga
enthusiast (and librarian) Robin Brenner
for a look at what's hot in graphic novels
this year. Discover the elements that
make the format unique, where to find
information, and how to select and
maintain a collection. Receive a core titles
list of both old and new titles. Learn how
to use graphic novels to investigate
different kinds of literacy (visual, textual,
combinations), inspire critical thinking
about literature, and encourage student
creativity. Robin Brenner is the editor in
chief of "No Flying No Tights", the graphic
novel review website, and has written
reviews and features for *Library Journal*,
School Library Journal, *Good Comics for
Kids*, and the *Graphic Novel Reporter*.
She was a 2007 Will Eisner Award judge, a
2008 Eisner Award nominee for her book,
Understanding Manga and Anime, and is
the Chair of Great Graphic Novels for
Teens in 2008.

Drawing Out Your Inner Illustrator

Ralph Masiello, Author Illustrator
<http://www.ickybugman.com>

Are you one of those people who says, "Gee, I wish I could draw"? Do you feel self-conscious when you draw in front of your students? Do you say, "All I can draw is stick-people"? Well, then this is your lucky day! Children's book illustrator, Ralph Masiello (*The Flag We Love, The Icky Bug Alphabet*) has been visiting schools since 1987 and has drawn with tens of thousands of students and teachers all across the nation. Through the years he has seen the struggles of frustrated and intimidated "illustrators". He believes anyone can draw, whether it is for fun or for a living and has created a series of books based on what he has done with school children and teachers. Ralph Masiello's *The Bug Drawing Book, The Dragon Drawing Book, The Ancient Egypt Drawing Book, and The Ocean Drawing Book* will inspire and delight even the most reluctant illustrators. By following simple steps, using simple lines and shapes, anyone can be an artist! Come have fun and plenty of laughs while learning more about Ralph, his art, his life, his upcoming books, *Mystic Phyles* and the *Robot Drawing Book*. Let Ralph inspire your inner illustrator! Paper and pencils will be provided. Slide show, drawing demonstration, and door prizes!

Making the Connection – Grade 3, Massachusetts Social Studies Frameworks, Literature, Research and a Fixed Schedule – Making it all Work!

Anne-Marie Ross, Plymouth Elem.

This session will focus on how we can enhance and support the 3rd grade Social Studies Frameworks through literature and research skills using a fixed schedule.



2009 CONFERENCE Monday Sessions

Find Your Students' Voice with VoiceThread!

Laurie Belanger,
Freetown Lakeville Middle School

We will look at a web tool that allows students to learn, collaborate with others and the world, and incorporates many types of media. VoiceThread is free to use and needs no software or downloads. Start doing fun book talks, and book rants. Create class discussions on images, documents, videos that will entice the reluctant learners. This is a tool in your professional arsenal for the visual, artistic, and auditory learner.

3:00-4:00PM: Concurrent Session IV

Fun with Research: Strategies that Work

Donna Guerin and Patricia Carbone
Come, have fun and answer the question, what do real researchers do? The focus is on the skills young students and teachers need to become effective and efficient users, producers and presenters of information. The presenters model the successful strategies they use to teach questioning, searching, note taking, citing, organizing and presenting skills.

Programming from the Massachusetts Center for the Book

Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director
<http://www.massbook.org/>

Learn about the many programs that the Massachusetts Center for the Book sponsors:

- *Letters About Literature, a national reading and writing promotion
- *Massachusetts Book Awards and new Recommended Readings list
- *Literary Map of Massachusetts
- *Literary Landmarking
- *Read This Book! early reading program
- *National Day of Writing, Oct. 20, 2009

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: New Teen Books Fall 2009 Edition

Maureen Ambrosino, CMRLS; Sarah Sogigian, Metrowest and Boston Regions

They're back, with the semi-annual list of what's good, bad, and just plain ugly in new YA Lit. (You may get to hear about some titles before they're even on sale.) This session will present fun and interesting books that will be appreciated by readers in your libraries. Want a sneak peek as to what Maureen and Sarah are reading? Join us on Goodreads.com!



My Favorite Tools

Laura Beals D'Elia, Fay School
Using technology and Web 2.0 tools is a great way to engage students, deliver instruction, and enhance your library web site. I have found a handful of tools that I enjoy using for teaching 21st century skills, making my library web site more interactive and promoting the library. My latest projects include the animated videos "How to Take Good Notes" and "The Library Gadget 3000." Let me show you all of my favorite tools, including blogs, Jing, VoiceThread, and GoAnimate.

Storytelling: Giving Your Students Another Way to Succeed

Doris Smith, Storyteller
Retired Library Teacher

This workshop will focus on techniques and resources for using storytelling in your library. Participants will learn methods that can be used to engage students in the art of storytelling. Doris Smith has been a storyteller for over thirty years telling in many venues from schools and hospitals to playgrounds. She has taught storytelling to adults and to children. No one is ever too old for a good story.

AWARDS!

Know someone who deserves recognition? Don't be shy, or think that you have to be perfect. Library Teachers work hard to make others look good, and to make our programs excellent, but we forget to celebrate our own achievement and service. For more details and deadlines, please consult the MSLA website. **Remember.....SHOUT!**

**NEW! IMPROVED!
APPLY! NOMINATE!**

| | DESCRIPTION / PURPOSE | ELIGIBILITY / CRITERIA | APPLICATION/ NOMINATION | AWARD |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| NEW! School Library Advocate Award | Honors indiv/groups in public eye; demonstrated belief in school libraries | State officials, regional or local educators, teachers, or administrators. In any given year, the award may be given to multiple people/groups | Nomination by current Exec Board member; MSLA Board vote | Plaque |
| NEW! MSLA Lifetime Achievement Award | MSLA member; contributed to profession during 10+ year career. | Member of MSLA 7+ years; state certification as a Library Teacher or w/ MLS; Up to three awards may be given; not contingent upon retirement. | MSLA member nomination; MSLA Executive Board vote | Lifetime MSLA member |
| NEW! Massachusetts Super-Librarian Accolade (MSLA) | One award/MSLA Area may be given, total of 6 awards/year; a "Super" School Librarian | MA library teachers; prof. library degree/ state cert. as library teacher; member of the MSLA past 3 years; Winners may be re-nominated every 3 years. | Nom. from Area; AD may nominate; AD rec to MSLA Exec Board | Certificate |
| NEW! LMC President's Award | One award per MSLA Area may be given; total of 6 awards per year. "Newbie" award | MSLA member; career of 3 or fewer years; significant impact on student learning through a quality school library program; MA library teachers w/ prof library degree/state certification. Sponsored by Library Media Connection. | Nominations from Area; AD may nominate; AD makes rec to MSLA Exec Bd | Certificate; 1 year sub. to Library Media Connection |
| NEW! MSLA Service Award | Recognizes significant contrib. of MSLA member; ldrshp at state/nat'l level | Long-standing record of service to MSLA, leadership @ state/national; has rep. MSLA in advocacy, public relations, worked to make MSLA a leader | Nom letter by MSLA board member; Up to 3 awards yearly | Plaque |
| NEW! Web Seal of Excellence | Recognizes excellence in use of web tools: webpage, ning, wiki, blog, etc. | The online tool(s) created and maintained by the library teacher; MSLA member 2+ yrs; prof library degree / state cert. Evaluated w/ rubric | Certificate plus a Seal of Excellence; up to 5 members per year; | Seal for online use; certificate |
| Ellen Berne Pathfinder Award | Pathfinder Award; celebrates developments in School Librarianship | 3 year MSLA member; state cert/ prof degree as a school librarian. The project /program makes a positive difference on the local/state/national levels | Letter of nomination; Awards committee recommend to Board | \$500 Award |
| Joan Gallagher Legislator Award | Recognizes the efforts of a legislator in Massachusetts | Demonstrated commitment to advancing the role of the school library program; works to introduce or support legislation | MSLA Executive Board nomination and vote | Plaque |
| Audrey Friend Scholarship | MSLA demonstrates its commitment to school librarianship | Massachusetts resident; enrolled in school library certification degree program; financial need. | See MSLA website; Awards committee recommend to Board | \$500; Up to 2 per year |
| Administrator Advocate for Excellence | Honors administrators promoting school library programs and services | City, town, or district school superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals | Nomination form; MSLA member letter; MSLA Board votes | Plaque |
| Research Grant | Grant to aid researchers in School Librarianship | See the MSLA website | See MSLA website | Up to \$3000 |

Annual Reports of the MSLA Executive Board, 2009

Advocacy/Legislation

Pat Fontes and Judi Paradis, co-chairs

The Legislative Committee became the Advocacy Committee this year with the following goals:

- Advocate for school library teachers and programs at the state and local level
- Work to build support outside school library community
- Work to host Legislative Day in conjunction with MLA

Advocate for school library teachers and programs at the state and local level

Our first goal was to develop an advocacy plan for school library teachers that could be used at both the state and local level. One effort involved creating advocacy materials. We did create materials to distribute to legislators and school administrators/school board members. The materials for legislators were drafted by Pat Fontes for use at Legislative Breakfasts and then were included in a packet distributed at Legislative Day (and mailed to each member of the Joint Committee on Education and distributed to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education).

In addition, we worked to maintain and update the advocacy wiki that Kathy Lowe established last year. Finally, efforts were made to create materials to post on our website and distribute to members in response to serious cuts to library programs reported by many members.

Laurie Dias-Mitchell worked closely with the Advocacy Committee to ensure testimony was given at monthly BESE meetings. This monthly advocacy was reinforced during the BESE meeting held at Chelmsford HS in April. Speakers this year included: Katie Baxter, Valerie Diggs, Laurie Dias-Mitchell and students from Dartmouth High School; Carlisle Superintendent of Schools, Marie Doyle; Library Trustee, John Arno. Judi and Pat attended regular meetings of the MLA Legislative Caucus and

specifically worked on campaigns to defeat Question 1 and to attempt a launch of a library license plate.

Our tactical decision this year was to cease our effort to file specific legislation, but instead to focus on lobbying the BESE to



appoint someone with a strong school library background to develop a long-range plan for the standards, staffing and collection development in Massachusetts' school libraries. Due to this shift in tactics, we ended our relationship with our lobbyist Chris Gregory.

Work to build support outside school library community

Our Friends group has grown very slowly and there is still a lack of clarity about how this group will operate. It would be good to see our successors build support here.

We did have some good outreach to the Mass. Teachers Association. MSLA members submitted a resolution in support of school library funding, staffing and planning at the MTA May meeting. In addition, we will present a workshop for teachers at the MTA summer conference in Williamstown in August.

Pat Fontes encouraged active participation by MSLA members at regional Legislative Breakfasts and developed "talking points" for members to use in this effort.

Judi attended the Advocacy Institute at the MLA Spring Conference in April on May 5 and presented a talk on the state of school library programs.

Work to host Legislative Day in conjunction with MLA Our joint Legislative Day with Massachusetts Library Association on April 2 at the Massachusetts State House was a success. Dozens of members attended, along with students and parents who received awards as part of our bookmark contest. We made significant contacts with many new members of the Joint Committee on Education and with the members of the Library Caucus (who followed up our visit with a letter to the BESE requesting they fund a long-term plan for school library programs in Massachusetts). Some specific feedback from those attending included good response to our handouts and coordination of "lobbying teams", and praise for the bookmark contest awards. The students of Danvers Middle School were very appreciative for the author visit by Tui Sutherland, won by library teacher Karen Sekiguichi.

Constitution and Policy Robert Roth, Chair

2008-2009 goals:

Update Constitution and Policy Statement as needed: The Committee is working with the MSLA President and Executive Board to amend the Constitution and Policy Statement provisions concerning the Executive Director position. This is on track for completion in 2009-2010.



Oversee MSLA compliance with its Constitution and Policy Statement: The Executive Board convened as scheduled and took all actions in due course with the appropriate quorum. The President convened, conducted and adjourned the annual meeting in due course at the 2009 MSLA Annual Conference.

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Awards

Carrie Tucker and Karin Deyo, co-chairs

Goals for 2008-09:

Objective 1: Administer awards for annual meeting

Objective 2: Ellen Berne Award—update criteria to reflect changing technology

Objective 3: Legislator Award—consider changing the venue from the annual meeting to the State House Legislation Day

2008 Audrey Friend scholarship winners Laura DuBey, a student at Simmons College, and Jill Holt, a student at the University of Rhode Island, were selected from an applicant pool of promising future school librarians.



The Administrator Advocate award, the Joan Gallagher Legislator Award, the Ellen Berne award, and the MSLA research awards were not granted this year. In each case, we did not receive applications that met the published criteria. As always, MSLA members are invited and encouraged to explore various awards and apply. In addition any prizes, these awards offer positive exposure for our profession as well as for the winners.

This winter the Ellen Berne award was revised to reflect changing technology and promote its creative use in teaching information literacy. Once these changes are approved by the Board we hope the award will serve as a vehicle to attract and publicize examples of the best uses of teaching with technology in our profession.

Curriculum

Kathy Dubrovsky, Chairperson

Objective One: Present Thinkfinity.com at the 2008 MSLA Conference

Objective Two: Thinkfinity Training for members

Objective Three: Online Training; Be trained as an online Thinkfinity trainer and present it to MSLA members



In March 2008, I was trained by DOE/ESS to be a Thinkfinity Field Trainer. July 2008 was my first MSLA Thinkfinity training at the SEMLS computer lab. At the MSLA Conference in November, I co-presented an informational session with April Graziano. During the April vacation, I offered another Thinkfinity overview session to MSLA members at the MetroWest computer lab. It was an opportunity for MSLA to have a dialogue on Thinkfinity, technology and curriculum. Also in April, I attended a 3-day training to be a Certified Thinkfinity Trainer. I offered two trainings during the 2009 summer.

MSLA Forum

Jan Koleszar & Patsy Divver, Co-Editors

Editing the Forum this past year has been both frustrating and rewarding. The rewards were seeing each issue completed and hearing how much they were appreciated from readers. The frustrations were in juggling family, work, and deadlines. We extend a special thanks to Ann Perham for all her work putting the online issues on the MSLA web page, and to the 21 members who submitted articles. All will receive PDPs for their work.

In looking at our goals for 2008, we successfully accomplished two out of our five goals. Those accomplished were:

- Creating and publishing a professional newsletter
- Publishing the FORUM, in PDF format as a download option.



The three goals not met were:

- Expanding the editorial involvement of MSLA members in writing, reading, and suggestion articles for the Forum.
- Reviewing the possibilities of connecting the Forum with blogs, regular topics, listserv topics etc.
- Publishing three online issues and one print issue was impossible this year due to lack of time and articles. As a result, only two online issues were published.

Moving forward, there will be three issues per year. Two will be on line, and the third one will be the printed issue, Forum PLUS, mailed to all members in time for the opening of school. We will continue our efforts to publish a quality, professional newsletter that provides members with timely articles, information, and the “tools of the trade” needed to be more efficient in a 21st Century school library.

Annual Reports of the MSLA Executive Board, 2009

Public Relations

Linda Picceri and Laura Larsson, Public Relations Co-chairs



The Public Relations Committee had two major goals this year, information dissemination and event promotion and planning. In keeping with these goals much was accomplished. As new co-chairs we began the year by updating the display boards to reflect the 2008 Annual MSLA Conference's theme of 'Survivor.' The boards were set up at the Conference along with other promotional literature for conference attendees to look at and take with them. Winning bookmarks from the 2008 contest were also displayed at the Conference.

We also had a presence in the Massachusetts Library Association's Newsletter. The winter edition of the MLA Newsletter featured an informative article written by Linda Picceri about Valerie Diggs the grand opening of the new Chelmsford High School Learning Commons.



A big part of public relations is informing the public about upcoming events and activities of our group. In keeping with this, press releases were written and sent out to publicize various events and activities. Laura Larsson edited a press release from a past bookmark contest (that Gerri Fegan shared with her.) The press release was sent by e-mail to 12 local newspapers within Massachusetts, the Boston Globe and the MLA Newsletter. The press release described the contest, listed the winners and those receiving honorable mention and described our upcoming Legislative Day on April 2, 2009 at the State House.

In addition Linda Picceri contacted the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents regarding our upcoming conference. Linda and Sandy Kelly drafted a press release which was submitted for publication in their newsletter. It is hoped that this action might spark some interest in our conference and lead to support for school libraries on the part of these important administrators.

Standards

Valerie Diggs, Chairperson

The Standards Committee had three objectives for 2008 – 2009:

- **Objective 1:** Revise the "Recommended MA K-12 Information Literacy Standards" to complement and reflect the new AASL "Standards for the 21st Century Learner"
- **Objective 2:** Work with the DOE to include portions of the newly revised standards in the revision of the ELA Framework
- **Objective 3:** Develop a brief document on MSLA Standards for NEASC Visiting Committees



Revision of the English Language Arts Framework

Valerie Diggs was appointed to the role of "Panelist" for the *English Language Arts Review Panel* led by Susan Wheltle, Humanities Chair at the DOES. The ELA Framework revisions are now available online at http://www.doe.mass.edu/boe/docs/0109/item6_frame_work_topic.pdf Page 73 begins the *Research* strand:

Research 8 Generating Ideas and Framing Inquiry; Evaluating and Recording Information; Organizing Research and Preparing to Write These standards refer to the stages of research and planning for writing or media presentation. These standards are to be used in conjunction with the standards on composing informational, persuasive, and literary text and media (9, 10, 11).

This work is now done and awaits the final approval by the BESE in October. Until then, this draft document is open to public comment. This is our chance to voice an opinion about the language and presentation of information literacy in the English language Arts Framework.

NEASC Visiting Committee Document has not been prepared. It is hope that by keeping this objective on the standards committee's 09-10 Action Plan.

Review of the standards document and the completion of the ELA review dominated the year's activities.

Revising our "Recommended MA K-12 Information Literacy Standards This objective has been accomplished. Revisions to the appendices were finalized and the document has been printed for distribution to the members. Many thanks to all who helped with the many revisions and edits, including Sandy Kelly, Gerri Fegan, Kathy Lowe, Ann Perham, and a special thanks to member-at-large Carol Holley for her continued efforts in the development of this document. This document will serve as a guidepost for school librarians across the state to assure acquisition of 21st century skills and in the implementation of AASL's *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*.

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Student Interest Group

Anna Jorgensen, Jessica Shurlow, co-Chairs



MSLA-SIG had four objectives:

- Reach out to more students.
- Provide professional development opportunities for students.
- Continue developing a structured foundation and framework for the MSLA-SIG
- Have fun and learn while doing objectives 1 through 3!

We worked on these objectives while making MSLA-SIG better known to the Simmons community. We met twice a month to try and increase the number of meeting attendees, while continuing to update the MSLA-SIG wiki and promotion through the listserv and on-campus fliers.

We also worked on creating more events throughout the school year that would be applicable to the larger GSLIS community. We had a Banned Books panel which we co-sponsored with the

Progressive Librarian Guild and the ALA Student Interest Group, which was a huge success. There were several service days at Mission Hill Elementary to help them re-organize their library, including our annual Alternative Spring Break volunteer days. The third annual MSLA-SIG conference took place at the end of March, there were six speakers and we had great feedback from all our attendees.

We also expanded our outreach to the School Library Teacher Program by setting up a Facebook group, documenting our events through Flickr, and making our wiki more welcoming through reformatting. Through all of these plans, events, and outreach, we have made ourselves better known to our program community which is extremely exciting. We hope to keep this momentum going through the next year, and have started transitioning our new co-chairs into the council since March. We will also have a ambassador at the Mt. Holyoke campus next year, which we hope will continue to expand our active involvement in the GSLIS community.

Webpage

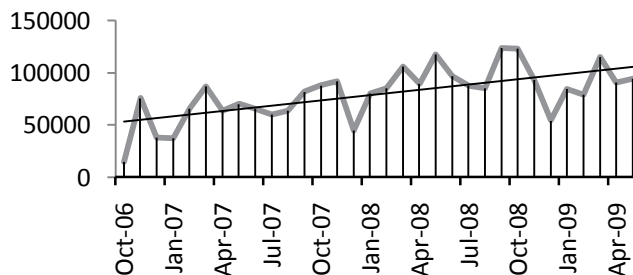
Ann Perham, Webmaster

Goal 1: To “close” the old webpage, mslma.org

Goal 2: To expand the editorial “staff”

For over 10 years, I have been the webmaster for MSLA/MSLMA. When mslma.org ceased to exist in April 2009, it felt like closing the book on an important chapter in our history. It was a good feeling, however, because we have a new webpage and have made the transition over the past 2.5 years. We still own the domain, mslma.org. The main focus of the final transfer was moving the past issues of the online Forum and creating an archive. In doing the project, it was an important trip down “Memory Lane”. I know that saving the issues using a screenshot was primitive but practical for preserving them and our site now has an archive of past issues (2002-2006).

MSLA Webpage: Hits 10/06-5/09



The “staff” of the webpage has been consistent for a few years:

Jobs Editor – LaurieAnn Riley The MSLA Jobs page is consistently up to date and comprehensive, thanks to LaurieAnn’s diligence. Her efforts are appreciated by school librarians - a true service to our profession.



Front page / News Flashes – Kathy Lowe Visitors to maschoolibraries.org are greeted with the top news in the world of school libraries – local, state and national. Kathy keeps the front page current and vibrant. She also posts the membership directory as it’s updated. For our conference, Kathy posts the list of vendors.

Spotlight – Ethel Downey Ethel lines up a new school for the MSLA Spotlight on a monthly basis. This year, we had an issue with information on a spotlight library’s webpage that had not been appropriately credited. We are now posting a disclaimer with the spotlight: “MSLA takes no responsibility for the content of the websites featured. The library teacher/webmaster must verify all links, credits, and permissions for their individual site.”

Webmaster – Ann Perham Major projects this year have included posting the Forum (Summer, Winter, Spring), Advocacy, Conference and the Bookmarks Contest. As webmaster, it is important to stay involved in the many activities of MSLA so that the webpage can be as informative as possible.

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Central Area



Diane Libbey & Cecily Houston, Area Directors

It was a busy year! Both Directors attended the MSLA Conference in Sturbridge and had the opportunity to speak with several library teachers from the Central District.



We hosted a meeting at Westborough High School co-sponsored by the CMRLS to hear Maureen Ambrosini discuss what is new and different in the land of publishing. She also shared information on the various programs that CMRLS has for librarians. It was also a

chance for school librarians to meet each other as there are several new faces in our area.

Throughout the year, we contacted past members of the Region to update membership list, elicit information about change in membership status, welcome new members and encourage lapsed member to renew their memberships.

We participated in a Teaching American History program at Nashoba Regional High School to share the great resources both school and public libraries have to offer young people doing research. Topic was Latino Civil Rights which was well received especially since many in the audience had never considered the need for Latino Civil Rights action.

Both directors spoke at Legislative Breakfasts to encourage the attending representative and senators to fund the MBLC programs and to bring the issues facing school libraries to the attention of the legislature.

Metrowest Area

Robin Cicchetti & Char Sidell, Area Directors

In collaboration with Metrowest Regional Library Network and Sarah Sogigian, the Metrowest area of MSLA had a year full of professional development opportunities:

- A Mock Caldecott session with Melody Allen,
- Graphic Novels and Manga for School Librarians led by Robin Brenner,
- Workshop by Pat Keogh on "Can't Miss Books".

It is fulfilling to tap into the expertise of our school communities, as well as forge professional ties with our public library counterparts. Thanks to Sarah Sogigian for her partnership.



Northeast Area

Linda Friel & Chris Steinhauser, Area Directors

This year has been busy and productive. An ongoing focus was on contacting school librarians who are not members of MSLA to encourage them to join our organization. This was accomplished by e-mail, phone, and snail mail. We shared information with these individuals as to why joining MSLA would be beneficial to them, their students, teachers and school districts. We also communicated with MSLA members whose memberships had lapsed. As in the past, we find that the personal touch makes the difference between joining/rejoining and the status quo.

The Northeast Area continued its MSLA/NMRLS LMS Discussion Series. This year four meetings were held at diverse sites within the region. The attendance was excellent, ranging from 20 to more than 30. Our opening workshop with Kathleen Baxter had a record-breaking attendance number of 55. Susan Babb from NMRLS was instrumental in planning and facilitating these meetings for our MSLA members. Topics for meetings included Book Talking with Kathleen Baxter, Games in the Library with Beth Galloway, Database Practices, and Gadgets and Gizmos with Scott Kehoe. Attendees receive PDPs for attendance and can bundle them and complete a product to accumulate at least 10 PDPs for recertification. MSLA members from outside the Northeast Region are welcome to attend all of our meetings.



We attended and participated in MSLA's joint Legislative Day with MLA. During our time at the State House, we lobbied our legislators to revive and support H564, celebrated the winners of the MSLA Bookmark Contest, and heard testimony concerning the importance and worth of public and school libraries in Massachusetts. We participated in the MSLA Conference committee and created the "Day in the Life of..." (<http://mslapics.pbworks.com>) wiki for the board.

Boston Area

Bruce Cramer & Jeannette Sisco, Area Directors

[No report filed]



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Vendor Representative: Gwen Paquette,

Massachusetts Library Association / YSS: Sue Ellen Szymanski,

MSLA / MLA YSS MA YA Book Award: Mary Ann Rogers,

Noble & Greenough School, Dedham MA 781-320-7230

Scholastic Library Publishing, Chelmsford 978-250-1214

Milford Town Library, Milford 508-473-0651

Locke Middle School, Billerica 978-528-8658

VISION of MSLA

Massachusetts schools will have school library programs that are fully integrated into the instructional program and serve all students regardless of ethnicity, language, income, physical limitations, learning styles or abilities. All school libraries will be managed by credentialed professionals who, in partnership with other educators, provide resources and instruction that promote students' achievement of learning goals.



MISSION of MSLA

MSLA advocates for school library programs that have a significant and measurable impact on student achievement. It supports licensed, highly qualified library teachers at all levels and endorses school library programs that have strong leadership, resources, and instructional components. MSLA provides its members with growth opportunities, research, publications, and public relations activities.

The organization communicates its vision to three groups of stakeholders:

**Members and potential members;
Education community;
General public**

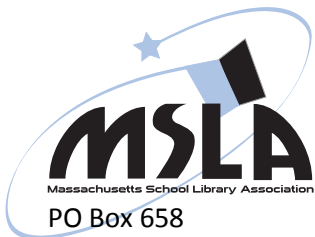
Adopted by the MSLMA Executive Board: January 19, 2005

Check the MSLA webpage for the latest information on the Annual Conference, October 4-5, 2009

READ the online version of the 2009 MSLA FORUM

<http://www.maschoolibraries.org> > Newsletter

~ All web addresses are linked in the online version ~



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