



KASL News

Vol. 6 No. 1

November 2008

Join us in Junction! Expect excellence!

The Kansas Association of School Librarians is proud to announce that we will host our annual state conference and membership luncheon April 1-3, 2009 at the Junction City Courtyard Marriott Conference Center.

“I am excited about our powerful programming for school library media specialists which will feature the AASL Institute *Reading and the Elementary Library Media Specialist*,” reported Cindy Pfeiffer, KASL President.

Here is just a preview of some of the new exciting features for the KASL conference will be a Technology Pre-Conference by Greenbush Presenter, Lisa Blair; a Geocaching Pre-Conference; and an optional Tour of Geary County Military and Historical Sites.

Your favorite sessions will be there, best of the new books for all levels, curriculum, standards, book repair tips, and technology. Plans are in the works for “Dinner with a Local Librarian” choices for Thursday evening, along with a Little Party in the Little Apple bus to Manhattan.

Kimberly Willis Holt will be our special guest for the KASL Author Showcase Luncheon. Ms Holt is a National Book Award Winner for *Waiting for Gregory*. Her books include *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*, *My Louisiana Sky*, and *Keeper of the Night*. Her newest books are *Piper Brown: Navy Brat*, and *Skinny Brown Dog*. Her books appeal to all levels, and you won’t want to miss her presentations!

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Note from the Editor:

I want to apologize for the lateness of this year’s first newsletter. All I can say is that I am extremely blessed. Blessed by a wonderful family and a terrific job — both of which has required a great deal of my time lately. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving and I thank you for your patience.
Susie :o)

KASL ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 1-3, 2009
Co-sponsored by KSDE
Junction City Courtyard Marriott Conference Center

REGISTRATION FORM

Name:
Institution:
Institution Address:
Email:
Phone:

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS – Wednesday, April 1

AASL Institute: (9am to 4pm)		
Reading and the Elementary Library Media Specialist (Includes lunch)	\$65.00	\$ _____
Technology 911 (9am to noon) (mark if attending)	Free	_____
Geocaching Across the Curriculum (1pm to 4pm)	\$20.00	\$ _____
Tour of Geary County Military and Historical Sites (1pm to 4pm) (min. 20 max. 45)	\$10.00	\$ _____
Exhibitors Bash (4pm to 6pm) (mark if attending)	Free	_____
TOTAL PRE-CONFERENCE		\$ _____

SPECIAL EVENTS – Thursday, April 2 (please mark if participating)
 Dinner with a local librarian (You buy your own meal and provide your own carpool.) _____
 Little Party in Little Apple Bus Trip (cost for bus ride is \$5.00 – collected upon loading) _____
 (5:30pm to 9:30pm) (You still buy your own meal.)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION – April 2-3 (Includes breakfast & lunch both days)

Luncheon Authors: Thursday-- John Hall and Friday-- Kimberly Willis Holt

Type	Pre-Registration By 3/13/09	Late Registration 3/14-28/09	
KASL Member	\$125	\$140	\$ _____
Non-Member	\$160	\$175	\$ _____
Join KASL (attach form)		\$30	\$ _____
TOTAL REGISTRATION			\$ _____

***Onsite registration after March 28, 2008**

***Meals not available with on-site registration**

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Send registration and payment to KASL Annual Conference c/o Barb Bahm PO Box 980 Tonganoxie KS 66086

Credit cards may be used. Please include the following information:

Visa/MasterCard (circle one) Card Number: _____

Card Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

No Purchase Orders Please

HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION: 785-210-1500

Conference Rate: \$89 per night

Register Early!

Expect Excellence!

**KASL Annual Conference 2009
Preliminary Program
Kansas Association of School Librarians
Kansas State Department of Education**

Pre-Conference #1

Wed. April 1, 2009 9 am to 4 pm \$65

AASL Institute (Flyer on page 6)

Reading and the Elementary Library Media Specialist

Lunch is included.

Pre-Conference #2

Wed. April 1, 2009 9 am to 12 pm -No Charge

Technology 911

But you must pre-register

Just a few of the topics being presented

Internet Safety K-12; Office 2007; wikis/blogs/podcasts; open source software pros and cons; Hands On!; Technology lessons/website evaluations/ 20 minute tech lessons; Smart Board lessons; tech-funding it/ keeping it working; digital cameras/ document cameras/MP3 Cool Lessons;

Creating a website; Policies; CPS

Pre-Conference #3

GEOCACHING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Pre-Conference April 1, 2009 1 pm -4 pm \$20

Why Geocaching? Libraries need to support our science and math teachers too!

Check out the articles in eschool News about the importance of geospatial technologies. Then, make plans to join KASL for an afternoon of geocaching.

Our session will feature strategies for using GPS in the classroom to meet library and curriculum standards with GPS technology. GPS supports reading, math, social science and science curriculum. Participants will also get a chance to experience hands on lessons with a special KASL cache. As a special incentive, we will give away a GPS to one lucky participant!

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/resources/gis-and-geographic-inquiry/>

Continued on page 4

GIS and Geographic Inquiry

"Geospatial" technologies--which include geographic information system (GIS), global positioning system (GPS), and remote sensing (RS) tools--are becoming increasingly important in our everyday lives. These technologies use "smart" maps that can display, query, and analyze geographic databases; receivers that provide location and navigation; and global-to-local imagery and tools that provide context and analysis.

As these tools become vital to helping community leaders ask and answer questions with both local and global implications, the ability to think spatially is an increasingly important skill for students. Hundreds of jobs--in such areas as planning, law enforcement, environmental management, business, public safety, health, and agriculture--now require key geographic inquiry skills.

Though GIS technology appears in the National Geography Standards, teachers in earth, environmental, biological, and general science also are incorporating geospatial technologies into their lessons. The growing use of these tools in an array of social studies and STEM subjects supports authentic, problem-based instruction, helping students tackle real social and environmental research projects in their communities.

School leaders, too, are using geospatial technologies to help with their planning and decision making. These tools can help districts make more informed decisions related to facilities planning, student transportation, school safety, and more.

With the generous financial support of ESRI, the editors of eSchool News have compiled this special collection of news stories, best practices, and other resources--all designed to help you integrate GIS and other geospatial technologies into your classrooms and district offices.--The Editors

The main Geocaching website is www.geocaching.com. Check it out!

Pre-Conference #4

Tour of Ft. Riley Military and Historical Sites April 1, 2009

1 pm – 4pm

\$10

Tour must have a minimum of 20 participants.

This tour will travel to the Ft. Riley military base. You must have your ID. Participants will have the opportunity to experience the technology used to train our soldiers for duty in Iraq. You will see career opportunities for your students as well as the cutting

Continued on page 5

edge of technology integration. The tour is also scheduled to tour the first Territorial Capitol of Kansas and the Buffalo Soldier's Museum. If your school teaches Kansas History, you'll get material from the primary sources! The Museum has an excellent bookstore and features a title on Haunted Ft. Riley.

Exhibitor's Bash April 1, 2009 4 pm – 6 pm

Marriott Conference Center Free

Let us know if you are attending, so we'll have plenty of goodies!

Opportunity to sign up for Dinner with a Local Librarian! Dutch Treat Dinner is your chance to experience Junction City cuisine.

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Breakfast in the Exhibits 7 am – 8 am Included in registration

Break out sessions: We will schedule approximately 45 sessions.

Planned topics include:

New AASL Standards and Implementation Guides

YALSA Road Show

State Library Databases and Webinars

Text Structure and Reading

Automation User Groups

Best Books for Elementary, Middle School and High School

Handy 5 Research Skills

Teaching and meeting standards with Technology

MTSS and Differentiated Learning

Bullying Books to meet the new mandates

Wax Museum

Career Pathways

Building the Reading Program your school needs

In addition, we are planning committee meeting times, issues discussion for building levels, and district discussions.

Thursday April 2, 2009 11:30 am – 1 pm

Luncheon included with registration

Program: John Hall and Stephen Gilpin, author and illustrator of Bill Martin Jr. Award nominated book, How Do You Get a Gorilla Out of Your Bathtub?

Thursday Evening Option #1 April 2 5:30 pm – 9:30

Little Party in the Little Apple

Join your friends on the bus to Manhattan for dining and shopping. \$5 at the bus door for gas, sign up to reserve your seat!

Continued on page 6

Thursday Evening Option #2 April 2

Dinner with a Local Librarian

You sign up to meet your friends at the restaurant of your choice and carpool.

Friday, April 3, 2009 7 am – 8 am

Breakfast in the Exhibits included in registration

KASL Author Showcase 8:00—9:00

Kimberly Willis Holt

National Book Award Winner

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

Approximately 12 additional breakout sessions.

KASL Membership Luncheon 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Special Guest: State Librarian Christie Brandau

We guarantee that you'll find strategies at this conference to meet the needs of any acronym your school is implementing. Be on the leading edge of MTSS, AYP, NCLB.

Watch the KASL listserv, the KASL website and blog and your KASL newsletter for more information! Make your plans now to attend this amazing conference!



AASL Reading Institute: Reading and the Elementary

Are you looking for a program to develop your professional leadership skills? Consider “Reading and the Elementary SLMS” developed by the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association.

Information Power and Leading Through Collaboration

The AASL Regional Institute: Reading and the Elementary School Library Media Specialist ties into two of the ideas in learning and teaching -- that underlie the vision of library media programs presented in Information Power: Building Partnerships for Learning. Each is integral to every aspect of the library media program and every component of the school library media specialist's role.

The Institute

The instructor will guide your group through this one-day workshop that provides you with an opportunity to increase your understanding of current research on reading instruction, discuss how it informs school library programs, explore reading strategies, and explain what the library media specialist can do to strengthen their role as a literacy leader in their school. Topics addressed in the institute include:

- Legislation, trends, and studies
- Classroom reading instruction
- Reading strategies
- Professional literature
- Advocacy
- Technology and reading



April 1, 2009 9am to 4pm
KASL Annual Conference
April 1-3, 2009
Junction City Courtyard Marriott
Conference Center
Registration: \$65
which includes lunch (\$179 value)
Plan to stay for the Exhibitors Bash
4pm to 6pm

Tricks of the Trade—Tech Tools

By: Susie Whitaker

<http://www.animoto.com>

Looking for a fun way to introduce your next library lesson or a way to showcase some great pictures or titles? *WOW* your teachers and students with Animoto. It's a free site that allows users to create a 30 second movie using their pictures.

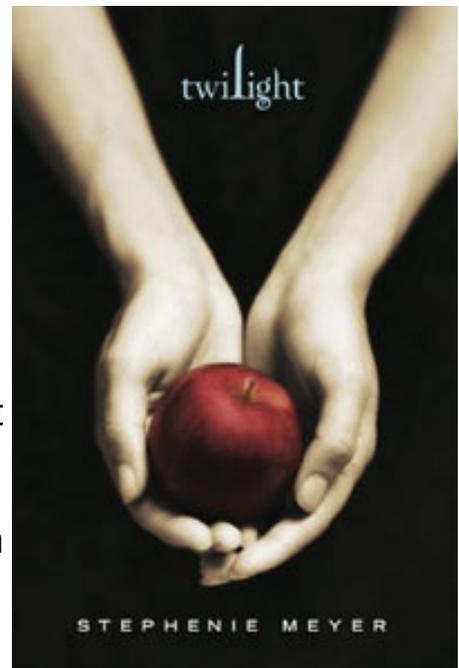
Animoto does the mixing and transitions for you—all you do is add the pics!!! This site also offers copyright free music clips that can be added to your movies. Animoto has recently been upgrade to include text. Play around with this fun tool—it's a great wy to personalize an introduction to library lesson or book-talking session. This is so easy to use and even easier to share!! I promise you will not be disappointed!

** The free version allows for a 30 sec video, the full subscription version (about \$25.00 per year) offers full length videos and possibly some other fun options:)

From the Shelves to the Big Screen!!!

Once again, Hollywood has discovered an Oscar/ Academy Award winning flim right on the shelves of our libraries! Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* will be on the big screen this month and it promises to be a huge hit with fans of all ages.

My high school students can't wait!! In fact, I have staff that are planning *Twilight* parties for their adult friends as they gather to watch the film and then reflect on the differences between the book and the movie. Of course, this will include plenty of discussion regarding the actors that are playing Edward and Jake. From what I can gather at my school — most readers are okay with the film version of Bella—but are holding out on sharing their thoughts on the fellas.



What a great opportunity for a special book club activity or library jeopardy game:) Whatever you do—take the time to celebrate this event!

KASL Officers

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Cindy Pfeiffer
cpfeiffer@usd250.org

Past President:

Laura Soash
lsoash@goddardusd.com

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Executive Secretary

Judy Eller
judell8517@sbcglobal.net



Ronda Hassig (LMS at Harmony Middle School in Overland Park) and Kathy Hill (6th grade communication arts teacher) received the AASL 2008 Collaborative School Library Media Award sponsored by Highsmith, Inc.. The award was presented at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim, CA — this past summer.

Congratulations go out to both Ronda and Kathy for their hard work and outstanding efforts!



**Order from left to right...
Gary Zoeller, Kathy Hill, Ronda Hassig, Joann Proctor**

AASL Standards for 21st Century Learners

These standards are defined by the following nine common beliefs:

- Reading is a window to the world
 - Inquiry provides a framework for learning
 - Ethical behavior in the use of information must be taught
 - Technology skills are crucial for future employment needs
 - Equitable access is a key component for education
 - The definition of information literacy has become more complex as resources and technologies have changed
 - The continuing expansion of information demands that all individuals acquire the thinking skills that will enable them to learn on their own
 - Learning has a social context
 - School libraries are essential to the development of learning skills
- The Standards describe how learners use skills, resources, and tools to
1. inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge;
 2. draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge;
 3. share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society;
 4. pursue personal and aesthetic growth

Each standard includes skills, dispositions in action, responsibilities, and self-assessment strategies for students.

Full color brochures of the standards can be downloaded at

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aaslproftools/learningstandards/standards.cfm>

AASL Region IX Report
2008
by Linda Roberts, Director-Elect, AASL Region IX

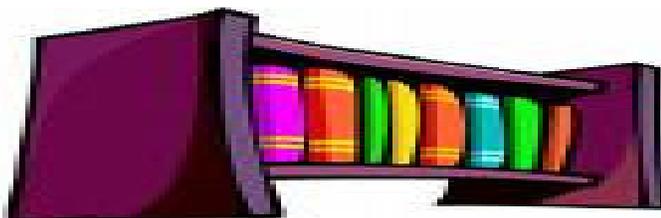
With the election of Linda Roberts to the position of Director-Elect of Region IX, the representation from Kansas on the AASL Board continues. Janice Ostrom completed her four-year term during the ALA Annual Conference held this summer in Anaheim, and Linda attended her first meeting as Director-Elect at the same conference.

There are nine AASL geographic regions each represented by a Director-Elect and a Director. The Director-Elect is the regional communications channel within the Affiliate Assembly and an observer to the AASL Board. The Director is an observer to the Affiliate Assembly and represents the region on the AASL Board. AASL Region IX represents Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Gail Formanack, Omaha Public Schools, is the new Director of Region IX.

Orientation to the AASL Board was conducted by Julie Walker, AASL Executive Director, and Ann Martin, AASL President.

In 2005, AASL adopted its current strategic plan with goals that covered a three- to five-year horizon. In order to evaluate and update these goals, AASL Board members will be meeting an extra day at the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver in 2009. <http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aboutaasl/aaslgovernance/aaslstrategicplanning/spgoals.cfm>

AASL Hotlinks is the official monthly e-mail newsletter of AASL. Members of AASL should be receiving this newsletter. If you need more information about it, please contact AASL Communications Specialist Melissa Jones, mjones@ala.org. Another communication tool is the AASL Blog <http://aasl.ala.org/aaslblog>, which made its debut early in 2008. It provides RSS Feed for AASL press releases and other information announcements through the blog. Please take advantage of these communication tools provided to AASL members!



Bringing Books to Life for All!

Kate Seaton, an energetic first grader at Blue River Elementary School in the Blue Valley School District, loves to read and share books with her classmates. But Kate, who is visually impaired and able to discern only light and darkness in one eye, was limited to a few Braille books when visiting the school library during her Kindergarten year.

Since Kate attended Kindergarten classes only one day each week, the limited supply of Braille library books was not obvious until she started first grade as a full-time student. To ensure that Kate had the same learning opportunities as her sighted classmates and to feel included at school, Mrs. Cherilee Ward, the BRES Library Media Specialist wrote a Fall 2008 grant that was funded by the Blue Valley Education Foundation.

The \$300 grant purchased a shelf-full of Braille books that Kate can browse through and checkout whenever she visits the school library. Her classmates, who are very curious about the "bumpy feeling" books, also love to look through the Braille collection. "With the addition of Braille books to our school library, not only does Kate have an expanded opportunity to fulfill her love of reading but other students are able to experience the Braille language, which is rare even among adults," explained Mrs. Ward.

Several of the Braille books are on the intermediate level, which Kate will be able to use until she leaves BRES after completing the fifth grade. The Braille collection will also be included in the Blue Valley Library Media Center's online catalog, which allows accessibility and lending to other libraries throughout the district and state.

Mrs. Ward, who is in her third year at BRES, is still amazed by the wonderful opportunities provided by the Blue Valley School District for their students and staff. "I was employed as an instructor and media specialist for nineteen years in the Sylvan Unified and Lorraine-Wilson school districts, where I tried to provide the most current library and educational services. But there is no comparison with the services available for students in the Blue Valley School District."

With the expanded Braille collection in the school library, Kate and her sighted classmates will benefit immensely from having access to Braille books.

"It is great to see her classmates intrigued by it and that it is opening a world to them they would not have been exposed to," Ward said.

"I feel so, so, so proud of what Mrs. Ward has done just for me and the library," Kate said. "I think that it is so cool."

"I cannot see very well so I have to touch things instead of looking at them," Kate said. "I just love Braille. I think everything about it is cool."

~~Article
submitted by
Mrs. Cherilee
Ward -



Ben McCall/Sun Photo ... Grace Anderson, 6, watches her friend Kate Seaton, 6, who is visually impaired, read from a Braille book in the library Nov. 11 at Blue River Elementary School. The school's library specialist, Cherilee Ward, is using a grant from the Blue Valley Educational Foundation to increase the number of Braille books in the library.

Quotes and photo from Overland Park Sun Publications

http://www.sunpublications.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=698:blue-valley-educator-builds-schools-braille-library&catid=46:education&Itemid=113

Be the Center! The School Library: Collaborating from the Center of the School Universe

Twelfth Annual, June 11 – 12, 2008

Emporia State University, 1200 Commercial, Emporia, KS USA

Jones Institute for Educational, Visser Hall

Website: <http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm>



News Release by Mirah Dow

School librarians from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and La Paz, Bolivia turned out June 11 - 12 for the annual Kansas Summer Institute for School Librarians held at ESU's Jones Institute for Educational Excellence, Visser Hall.

Research conducted in the U.S. and Canada during the past five years demonstrates that reading enjoyment is strongly and positively linked to student achievement. The school library, long regarded as the cornerstone of school community, is critical to the learning experience and student academic achievement. Research reveals a positive relationship between professionally staffed school libraries and student achievement.

Special guest instructor, Toni Buzzeo, author, school librarian from Buxton, Maine and winner of the 2000 Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Award for her book, *The Sea Chest*, insisted that "literacy is center stage in American schools, American media, and American homes." Buzzeo said, "collaboration and information literacy have remained central to the instructional work of school librarianship." Buzzeo presented standards-based reading, writing, social studies, and science connections to her children's books.

Jane Kurtz, author of twenty-five books for young readers, grew up in Maji, Ethiopia. Kurtz book *Saba: Under the Hyena's Foot* won The 2004 Children's African Book Award and *River Friendly, River Wild* received the 2001 Golden Kite Award in the picture book text category. Kurtz presentation on the second day of the Institute unlocked the mystery of how authors come up with interesting ideas, hunt for vivid details, use words with sparkle and pizzaz, craft sentences and paragraphs that have pleasing rhythms, organize in clear and compelling ways, find their writing personality and revise for big and little changes.

Integrating technology into instruction was also taught by Kansas school librarians Linda Culver, Prairie Trail Middle School, Olathe, KS; Lori Franklin, Olathe East High School; Jessica Karns, Holton Elementary School; and Abby Neiburger, Blue Valley North High School, Overland Park, KS. Carmaine Ternes, School Librarian, Emporia High School, hosted an evening session, "electronic gaming and information literacy skills."

"The attendees were there to learn," said Mirah Dow, Institute Coordinator and Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Management. "Kansas is one of a few States with tough licensure requirements that mandate a teaching license, classroom teaching experience, and a master's degree for school librarians. In addition, Kansas school library media specialists complete a two-year, supervised post-graduate internship in which they provide evidence that they meet State standards for school librarians. Why? Because we want to ensure that potential school librarians are equipped with specific knowledge, skills, and dispositions — not just a transcript with a list of required courses."

The Summer Institute for School Library Media Specialists is an annual event sponsored by the Kansas State Department of Education, School of Library and Information Management, State Library of Kansas, and the Kansas Association of School Librarians. The purpose of the institute is to provide current, best practice information related to school libraries, resources and information literacy instruction.

For more information about the 2008 Institute and the dates and plans for 2009, visit <http://slim.emporia.edu/programs/summerinst.htm>

End



2008 Kansas Notable Books!

It is with great pride that the State Library of Kansas announces the 2008 Kansas Notable Books! This list compiles some of the best writing about or by Kansans in the preceding year. A committee of the KCFB is responsible for identifying the titles to forward to the State Librarian for final decision. This year's Kansas Notable Books selection committee included representatives from academic, public and regional libraries, authors, booksellers, publishers, and the media.

The Kansas Notable Book authors were honored at a reception hosted by the State Library of Kansas late this summer, and again at an evening reception at the Reading Festival in Lawrence on September 27.

The alphabetical list by title of the 2008 Kansas Notable Books follow:

1. American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China, by Matthew Polly.
2. The Boy Who Was Raised by Librarians, Brad Sneed, illustrator.
3. Can I Keep My Jersey? 11 Teams, 5 Countries, and 4 Years in My Life as a Basketball Vagabond, by Paul Shirley.
4. The Curse of Catunkhamun, by Tim Raglin.
5. The Farther Shore, by Matthew Eck.
6. From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White, by Beverley O. Buller.
7. Hellfire Canyon, by Max McCoy.
8. Hunger for the Wild: America's Obsession with the Untamed West, by Michael L. Johnson.
9. The Kitchen Sink: New and Selected Poems, 1972-2007, by Albert Goldbarth.
10. A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution, by David A. Nichols.
11. The Middle of Somewhere, by J. B. Cheaney.
12. The Rest of Her Life, by Laura Moriarty.
13. Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Creatures of the Deep, by Michael J. Everhart.
14. Storm Chaser: A Photographer's Journey, by Jim Reed.
15. Writing in an Age of Silence, by Sara Paretsky.

Thank you for your support of the Kansas Center for the Book!

*** **Special Note:** From Emporia: The Story of William Allen White has been selected as the featured children's book for the Kansas Center for the Book table in the Pavilion of the States at the National Book Festival.

The Festival was held on the National Mall in Washington DC Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008.

"I'm still celebrating. This means a lot to a librarian like me!"

Best wishes~ Beverley Buller

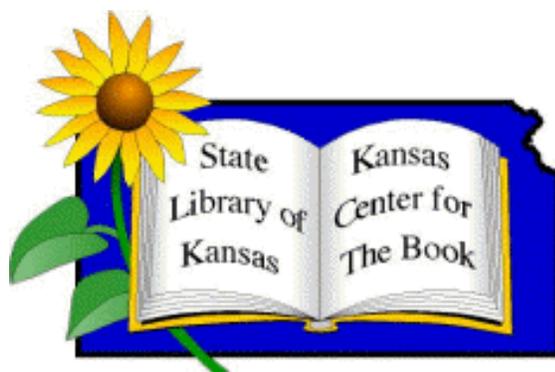
The Kansas Center for the Book(KCFB) at the State Library of Kansas is pleased to sponsor Kansas Reads to Preschoolers November 16-22, 2008. The 2008 theme is health, and the title selected is BEAR FEELS SICK, by author Karma Wilson and illustrator Jane Chapman.

The fourth annual Kansas Reads to Preschoolers...about Health is a project of KCFB with additional sponsorship by Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC), the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), and the Kansas Association of Child Care and Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA).

Designed to highlight the importance of reading to children, this week also promote libraries as a renewable resource of reading material. The goal of the week is to have every Kansas child between the ages of 0-5 years old--all 226,453 of them!--read to. Of course, older children can participate and read it themselves.

Visit the Kansas Center for the Book website, <http://www.kcfb.info> and click on the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers icon for resources, family involvement, a toolkit, to order additional books at discounts, and more.

Roy Bird
Kansas Center for the Book
State Library of Kansas
300 SW 10th Room 343N



THE CENTER FOR THE BOOK

In the
Library of Congress

presents the

Kansas Center for the Book

with the

2009 Award for the Center for the Book Award

For a successful transition to a new home at the State Library of Kansas, and its subsequent development into a highly visible statewide resource program for promoting Kansas books and authors through many projects, including the new Kansas Notable Books list; the Kansas Reads annual one-book discussion project; sponsorship of the Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Project; and increased participation in Letters About Literature after a five-year hiatus.




John Y. Cole, Director
May 12, 2008

The Kansas Center for the Book announces the 2009 Letters About Literature (LAL), a national reading and writing initiative sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target. Letters from students across Kansas and the entire nation will be accepted at Letters About Literature, PO Box 609, Dallas, PA 18612 until Saturday, December 6, 2008.

To enter, young readers write a letter to an author, past or present, describing how that author's work somehow changed the student's view of the world or of him or herself. The project focuses on reader response and reflective writing and has three levels: Level 1 for students in grades 4-6; Level 2 for students in grades 7-8; and Level 3 for students in grades 9-12. Three state winners, one at each level, will receive a cash award, as well as a \$50 Target gift card and advancement to the national level judging. In the past two years, state winners have also been invited to the state capitol to be recognized by Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

For the 2008 LAL competition, over 56,000 students nationally and 1,500 Kansas students submitted letters. This year we would like over 2,000 Kansas students to send their letters in!

Again this year six national winners (two per level) will receive a \$500 Target gift card, plus each will win for their community or school library a \$10,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant. Twelve national honorable mention winners (four per level) will each receive a \$100 Target gift card and a \$1,000 LAL Reading Promotion Grant for their library.

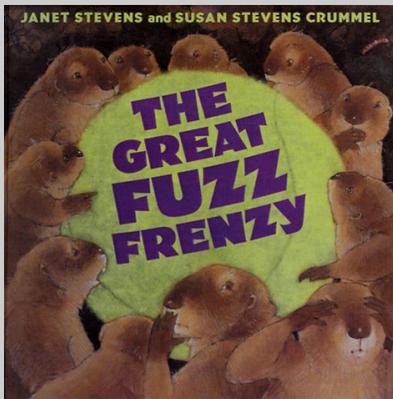
For more information check out the Letters About Literature page on the Kansas Center for the Book website, www.kcfb.info, or

Kansas Reading Association
Community Service Project
Chapman Library Project -

Chapman, Kansas was hit by a tornado in June 2008. The schools sustained extensive damage. KRA Councils are invited to contribute to funds for restocking the library shelves in the elementary/middle school library and the high school library. The deadline for contributions is December 1, 2008. If you are interested in making a contribution to this project send your check to Rolinda Martin, 1848 12th Road, Clay Center, KS 67432. Make checks payable to KRA.

2008

**Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book
Award Winner**



The Great Fuzz Frenzy

Written by Janet Stevens and
Susan Stevens Crummel
Illustrated by Janet Stevens

**Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award
2008-2009 Nominations
Kansas Reading Association**

Rock, Brock and the Savings Shock

Written by: *Sheila Bair*
Illustrated by: *Barry Gott*
Albert Whitman and Company – 2006

Fred Stays With Me

Written by: *Nancy Coffelt*
Illustrated by: *Trisha Tusa*
Little, Brown and Company - 2007

Pest Fest

Written by: *Julia Durango*
Illustrated by: *Kurt Cyrus*
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing – 2007

The Perfect Nest

Written by: *Catherine Friend*
Illustrated by: *John Manders*
Candlewick Press - 2007

How To Get a Gorilla Out of Your Bathtub

Written by: *John Hall*
Illustrated by: *Stephen Gilpen*
White Stone Books - 2006

Library Mouse

Written by: *Daniel Kirk*
Illustrated by: *Daniel Kirk*
Abrams Books for Young Readers 2007

Big Bad Wolves at School

Written by: *Stephen Krensky*
Illustrated by: *Brad Sneed*
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing - 2007

The End

Written by: *David LaRochelle*
Illustrated by: *Richard Egielski*
Arthur A. Levine Books - 2007

**Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight
Became an Inventor**

Written by: *Emily Arnold McCully*
Illustrated by: *Emily Arnold McCully*
Farrar, Straus and Giroux - 2006

The Cheese

Written by: *Margie Palatini*
Illustrated by: *Steve Johnson and Lou Francher*
Harper Collins Publisher - 2007

White is for Blueberry

Written by: *George Shannon*
Illustrated by: *Laura Dronzek*
Greenwillow - 2005

Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf

Written by: *Judy Sierra*
Illustrated by: *J. Otto Seibold*
Alfred A Knopf - 2007

Voting for the Bill Martin, Jr. Picture Book Award will be from April 15 – May 15, 2009.