

Library Services Newsletter

February 2018



Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez!

On Mardi Gras in 1827, a group of students donned colorful costumes and danced through the streets of New Orleans, emulating the revelry they'd observed while visiting Paris. Ten years later, the first recorded New Orleans Mardi Gras parade took place, a tradition that continues to this day. In 1857, a secret society of New Orleans businessmen called the Mistick Krewe of Comus organized a torch-lit Mardi Gras procession with marching bands and rolling floats, setting the tone for future public celebrations in the city. Since then, krewes have remained a fixture of the Carnival scene throughout Louisiana. Other lasting customs include throwing beads and other trinkets, wearing masks, decorating floats and eating King Cake.

To learn more about the history of Mardi Gras visit <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mardi-gras>

February Events:

February is African American History Month

2/5: Online Library User Surveys Begin
2/12-2/14: Mardi Gras Holiday (schools & offices closed)
2/22: Digital Learning Day
2/28: Plans due for Read Across America Day, Teen Tech Week, Freedom of Information Day & Women's History Month

Online Library User Survey Schedule:

2/5-2/23: 2nd graders (primary schools only)
2/19-3/2: 11th graders
2/26-3/9: 7th graders
3/5-3/16: 4th graders

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Reminisces from a Reader—Helen Curol, MLIS, Library Consultant

It seems that we librarians have been forever worrying about education & libraries in the 21st C! This worry has caused us to :

live in a state of bewilderment about what we should be doing from day-to-day;
plan, tweak/re-tweak, even eliminate plans;
learn/unlearn/relearn technology & software upgrades;
remain updated with federal/state/local policies from ESEA (Elem & Secondary Educ Act) to No Child Left Behind to Common Core to the present (ESSA) Every Student Succeeds Act;
relentlessly read such professional literature as A NATION AT RISK (1983) to THE DEATH AND LIFE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN SCHOOL SYSTEM (2010) to EMPOWER: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS OWN THEIR LEARNING (2017) for 30+ years.

Are you now tired?

If so, my advice is to remember what we as librarians are traditionally expected to accomplish:

Promote LOVE of reading by conversing with students well enough to RECOMMEND appropriate books/e-books, magazines, newspaper articles, and databases that will be of interest to them for purposes of broadening their horizons, meeting their life's challenges, and (ultimately) developing a love of literature.

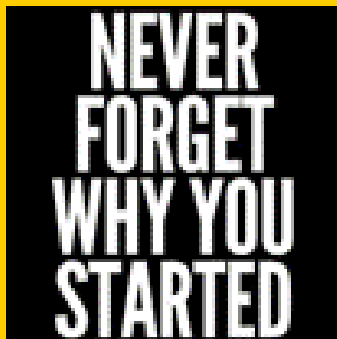
Facilitate equity of service by providing access on-site throughout the day as well as virtually 24/7 to information & leisure reading in a wide variety of formats for all!

Instruct students & teachers how to acquire, evaluate, and use information (including online) so that they are effective users of ideas & information, a lifelong skill.

Collaborate with faculty to mirror classroom lessons when preparing library lessons, co-teach when appropriate, and educate them about librarian accountability.

Become a change agent & leader at schools to engage students & faculty in culture change that includes books in conversations during social interactions, book discussions (in variety of formats), cultivate curiosity, present programs that attract community, and research atypical ideas.

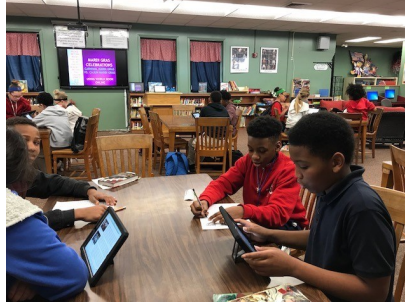
If we forget our traditions (especially “Buzz About Books”) and focus only on each “next phase” to come along – we shall develop a permanent myopia that will cloud our 20/20 library vision.



FK WHITE—TIFFANY BOSS

Students at FK White have been enjoying using new iPads to complete research on Mardi Gras using World Book Online. They are comparing a carnival style Mardi Gras to a traditional Cajun Mardi Gras with a chicken run.

As part of our celebration of MLK day, students answered the posed question "What are you doing for others?". Responses were posted in the hallways.



HENRY HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY—JENNIFER FONTENOT

This month, we had our second AR party! Over 160 students met, or exceeded, their goals! Students had chips and drinks, plus our Partners in Education, The Kiwanis Club, handed out coupons for McDonald's. They enjoyed our nice weather and played outside for an extra treat.

Our second book fair will start the first week of February. Parents will attend during their child's library time and also during our annual "Curriculum Night."



Our 5th graders LOVE, LOVE, LOVED the book Wonder!!! We are now reading Auggie and Me. Fourth graders are loving the book As Brave As You, by Jason Reynolds. The third graders are reading Fish in a Tree, by Linda Mullaly Hunt and they have learned that "everyone is smart in different ways."

R.W. VINCENT—JENNIE DELINO

Students in 3rd-5th grade were given the opportunity to use voting machines to cast their vote. The students were very excited to have this experience. Once they were finished voting, they received an "I Voted" sticker to wear.



Our 4th grade students are also completing a research project on past presidents using encyclopedias and World Book online.

T.S. COOLEY—MARY LANIER

Students at T.S. Cooley are "Reading to Succeed!" during the three weeks before Mardi Gras and competing to be the kings, queens, and royal court members of their classes, as well as meet their individual and class goals. Fourth graders are announcing during morning assembly how each class is doing toward reaching their class weekly goals and the school weekly goal of 534 points. The students went way above and beyond the school goal the first

2 weeks earning 1301 points the first week and 830.8 points the second week. One more week to go!



All royalty members will be announced on February 2nd during morning assembly. All kings, queens, royal court members, and parade marshalls (42 students in all) will reign over the AR Mardi Gras Mania Reading Celebration on Friday morning, February 9, and participate in the school Mardi Gras parade in the afternoon.

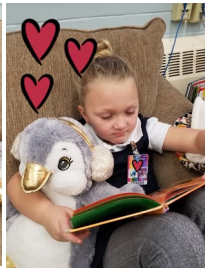
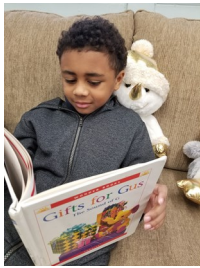


Fifth grade students are researching a famous African American during library class time using World Book Online and creating a PowerPoint slideshow to present to their families and the fourth grade classes to celebrate Black History Month on Friday, February 16.



PRIEN LAKE ELEMENTARY—SARA WALTERS

It's been a cold January, but we have stayed warm in the Prien Lake library with our new snow buddies for the couch. They were bought with book fair profits.



The kids love snuggling up to read with our snowman and penguin friend. AR prizes were given out for the top readers in each grade.

All students who met their AR goal for the second nine weeks were given a yummy treat during their library class. We have winter books and MLK books on display. We are also learning about the history of Groundhog Day. We've explored kids.nationalgeographic.com to learn more about the groundhog and to help identify what makes a website reliable.

Kindergarten is practicing taking AR tests in the library as a class. They will begin testing on their own next week. Letters are going home now about our school's canned food drive. We wanted to get the library involved in this so, if students bring a canned good on their library day, they will be allowed to snuggle up on the carpet with their shoes off when reading their books. We're hoping to collect a mountain of cans to donate.



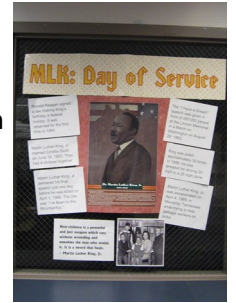
FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY—LAURA MANUEL

January was a busy month at Fairview's library. We were able to celebrate over 40 children who exceeded their AR goals. We studied and are still exploring topics related to Black History. Finally we are preparing and practicing for the Technology Showcase. Students are learning new apps like ChatterPix Kids, Storyline Online, Epic!, Kodable, and QR Reader.



SULPHUR HIGH—SUSAN GARDEBLED & KRISTI TYREE

In January, the Sulphur High Library celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. with a library display and an e-mailed handout for teachers with lesson plans and suggestions for streaming videos in celebration of Dr. King. The library was busy with Mrs. Lozada's English III classes studying 19th century social issues, and Ms. Turner's English IV classes researching contemporary world issues. The library also displayed Mardi Gras floats courtesy of the Louisiana Culture class.



SAM HOUSTON HIGH—SARA JOLIE & VICKIE BARTO

The Bronco Library saw a flurry of activity this wintry January. Between the Louisiana "sneaux days", students were able to create recycled snowflakes from recently weeded library books, fill in a StickTogether Mosaic Sticker Poster, and check out books from our many themed book displays.

We look forward to a productive 2018 filled with fun projects and activities!



KAUFMAN ELEMENTARY—STACY LAVOI

Third, fourth, and fifth graders participated in the Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Award. On January 26th, students used voting machines from the state library to vote for their favorite book. One hundred and eighty-three students in Pre-K – 5th grade met their reading goal for the 2nd nine weeks. They were treated to chips and juice. The Reader Leader of each class went on a field trip to Sam's Club, had a free dress day, and has their picture in the hallway. Students in first through fifth grade have been tracking 100% scores on AR quizzes by placing a piece to a mystery puzzle. Once the puzzle is complete, the picture is revealed and the class earns a free dress day. Teachers say the students are excited about the puzzle and it has really given AR a boost.

J.I. WATSON ELEMENTARY—AMBER SMITH

The students at JI Watson Elementary recently celebrated their AR success. There were 201 students in grades K-5th who made their AR goals. These students were treated with snacks in the library. 54 of those students made 20 or more points for the 2nd nine weeks. These students were also rewarded with an extra recess and treats. We are very proud of our students who continue to strive for excellence and reading goals. We are looking forward to our annual Dr. Seuss day and are anxious to see the creative side of our students and faculty.



MOSS BLUFF ELEMENTARY—JESSICA DWIGHT & MARGARET PARIS

MBE has lots to celebrate in the library! We are busy creating displays & teaching lessons to spotlight Groundhog Day (Feb. 2nd), Louisiana Day (Feb. 9th), and Mardi Gras (Feb. 13th). Pictured are students doing a research lesson about groundhogs using QR codes and the Ipad Qrafter app. Also pictured are book displays for both Mardi Gras and LA Day celebrations. Let the Good Times Roll!



IOWA HIGH—JAMIE MCCAULEY

Iowa High School English teacher Mary Vaughan along with Librarian Jamie McCauley accompanied English 101/102, Dual Enrollment students to McNeese State University. The field trip included a tour of the library lead by McNeese librarians Walt Fontane and Shandi Thibodeaux. Also included was a walking tour of the campus. The trip was a perfect opportunity for instruction on the uses of McNeese library resources in combination with our Parish resources for the students upcoming coursework.



LEBLEU SETTLEMENT—RENEE LELEUX

LeBleu Settlement students have been busy reading and testing. Some students have already met their goal and they get iPad time.



We also had guest speaker, Chyenne Bertrand, from the Iowa Public Library. She introduced the students to the books that are nominated for the Louisiana Young Readers Choice awards. Ms. Bertrand is an amazing speaker and keeps the students engaged. She is always willing to go to schools, so give her a call.

FRASCH ELEMENTARY—JENI ANDERSON

Frasch students took our snowman's advice to "Chill out with a good book!" seriously. Cole B. and Alan M. read over one million words in Accelerated Reader books. Ten other students are close behind with over 500,000 words read. In January our students earned 2,622 AR points with 87.8% comprehension.

Several new centers were introduced in January. Some of the favorites are the IO Block center and OSMO Newton and Pizza. We are looking forward to the addition of augmented reality cards in the iPad center. January lessons focused on using information resources, Martin Luther King, Jr., and snow.



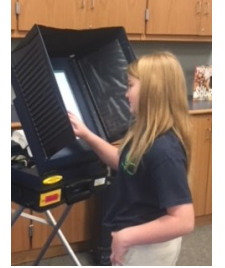
VINCENT SETTLEMENT, KATIE STONE

Library Remodel: We are so excited to finally be in our newly remodeled library! Thanks to several funding sources, we were able to expand the space, replace carpet and ceiling tiles, and repaint all walls. We also purchased new furniture for the library. Our students are very dedicated readers and deserve this new space to enjoy visits to the library.



Lunch Bunch: The second nine weeks “Lunch Bunch” celebration was held recently. Students who met their AR goals for the second nine weeks were treated to a free dress day along with prime seating in the cafeteria and a bag of goodies and treats. We had 208 students meet their goal for the second nine weeks!

LA Young Reader’s Choice Voting: Fifth grade students recently used real voting machines to vote in the Louisiana Young Reader’s Choice Award program. Together, we read several of the picture books and a few students read the chapter book nominees independently. Representatives from the Registrar of Voters office brought the machines and all fifth grade students had a chance to cast their vote. They even received Blue Dog “I voted” stickers when they were finished! This was a great way to encourage students to become civic minded.



CYPRESS COVE, KRISTI FONTENOT

There were **244** students who met all of their AR goals for the 2nd Nine weeks. These students enjoyed a special lunch and treat in the cafeteria. Also, the top AR readers in each grade selected a prize for all of their hard earned work. These students are also recognized in a power point slideshow that is displayed in the school cafeteria.



Each homeroom class with the top AR comprehension in their grade for the 2nd Nine weeks earned a treat and a sign to hang outside their classroom honoring their success. Also, these homeroom classes are recognized in a power point slideshow that is displayed in the school cafeteria.

In library, classes have been working in groups to research biographies and design and create power points to go along with their research.

WESTLAKE HIGH, KRISTAL FONTENOT

My library intern created this cute bulletin board to remind students to turn in overdue books!



COLLEGE OAKS—BRANDI PICKETT

The library is an exciting place full of fun, new technology at College Oaks Elementary. After the lesson, students check out their books and then sign in at one of the stations. Some of the more popular stations include: the ActivTable, the Osmo, and the Sphero



OAK PARK ELEMENTARY—CRYSTAL VANICOR

Oak Park Elementary has had a busy January. Our students have been reading, reading, reading in preparation for the annual AR Mardi Gras Parade. The winners will be announced on February 1st and the anticipation is building. We are also looking forward to participating in the Rowdy Readers program and the February book fair.

BARBE ELEMENTARY—CHRISTINE NICHOLSON

I'm sure we can all agree that January was cold and icy, making for a short school month. We had our AR Party following the 9 weeks end and students enjoyed celebrating their accomplishments! Second graders are working on a Dictionary Man project while grades 3-5 study copyright and other research matters to assist with their Black History Projects. Kindergartners who have a new teacher were especially happy to show her their book selections. We look forward to February and more fun activities at Barbe Elementary!



W.W. LEWIS MIDDLE—JANET RITCHIE

10 student names were drawn to win prizes just for taking an AR test during the month. Students who made their AR goals for the 2nd 9 weeks were treated with Parties in Bags. WW Lewis hosted the annual parish-wide Forensics tournament on Tuesday, January 30. WW Lewis placed 2nd overall.

BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY—CAROLYN HENRY

Foster Grandparent of the Year first runner-up, Mrs. Ethel McCullough. Mrs. McCullough serves at Brentwood Elementary in Mrs. Wilson's Kindergarten class. We are very proud of her and all of our foster grandparents.



Zoodi has gifted Brentwood Elementary Library with 12 iPad cases. Kelly Maicon and her husband Co-owner/Inventor of Zoodi LLC donated the cases to our library. Thank you for your generous donation of iPad cases to the students of our school.