Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year!

Unbelievably, the summer has flown by and fall is upon us. July and August at the School Library System were spent prepping new materials and updating programs/routines to support you as you implement Common Core-aligned lesson plans, match readers to resources, and embark on a brand-new year of leading learners in information-seeking and inquiry!

In August, we hosted a two-day Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (ESIFC) training; earlier in the month, School Library System scholarship winners attended the Carol A. Kearney Leadership Retreat at Cornell University, which focused on librarians’ role in achieving the Common Core. For an overview, see Common Core Connection below.

If you were not able to attend the ESIFC workshops, an ESIFC Binder/USB will be sent to you via courier.

This month we’ve replaced our School Spotlight section with a Media Spotlight to share information about all of the new Media Library resources available to you. School Spotlight will return in October — please don’t hesitate to share some of your exciting back-to-school events with me. I would be thrilled to visit your libraries if you have something noteworthy planned.

I hope the summer months have given you opportunities to refresh, relax, and reinvent—leaving you ready to tackle a new year. We have several PD opportunities coming up in September and October; a full 2013-2014 calendar is on its way to you both electronically and in-print. As always—if there is anything the School Library System team can do to help support you, let us know! Our contact information is on the bottom left. We would love to hear from you!

UPCOMING PD & MEETINGS
9/12: Intro to MackinVia ISC-B, 4-6PM
10/3: Intro to Catalist ISC-C 4-6PM
10/8: SLS Council Meeting ISC-A 8-11AM
10/8: OPALS Users’ Meeting ISC-A 12-3PM
10/11: Library Support Staff Workshop ISC-A, 8AM-3PM

Common Core Connection

Librarians play an essential role in the implementation of the Common Core. Below are two key areas where librarians shine:

INQUIRY and RESEARCH
As inquiry experts, librarians are a perfect fit for the requirements of Shift 5: Writing from Sources, as well as the new “Sub-Shifts” that focus on research, use of technology, and vocabulary. The Empire State Information Fluency Continuum (ESIFC) is a systematic approach to the inquiry process that aligns beautifully with the high school ELA modules. To see how the two inquiry processes align, visit http://tinyurl.com/esifcodeilresearch

ESIFC/EngageNY alignment and applicability are not limited to high school; the scaffolded graphic organizers in the ESIFC can be used to support K-12 domains/modules that many teachers will be implementing this year.

PROMOTING READING
Librarians are masters at connecting readers to books. This white paper from Expeditionary Learning explicitly names librarians as key partners in realizing the reading goals of the Common Core, from increasing the volume of reading, to reading for research, to reading for pleasure:
http://tinyurl.com/leaechg

Got a great read-aloud to recommend? What about a non-fiction cluster that’s working wonders? Share it here!
Media Spotlight

Over the summer, several new items and programs were put in place at the School Library System Media Library.

Keep reading for an overview of all the new resources!

Autoships

The former autoship process has been re-vamped for 2013-2014. By now, you have likely received an email through the SNAP system alerting you to changes. Instead of a physical autoship, we are creating monthly flyers with compiled Media Library resources. Topics include monthly celebrations, historical events, and famous birthdays. For each topic, a variety of resources are compiled and listed for easy searching/ordering through SNAP. To see September’s flyer, visit:
http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/monthly-media-resources/

Digital Books

The Media Library now offers access to Catalist Digital Audiobooks and Mackin Via eBooks.
Catalist Audiobooks can be streamed online at http://www.catalistdigital.com, or can be checked out for offline use via a free app for Apple and Android devices. Audiobooks are single user, but can be played for an entire classroom using external speakers.
MackinVia eBooks are multiple user/simultaneous access, which means that all students in the entire region can access these books at the same time. Mackin eBooks are available online at http://www.mackinvia.com, or can be checked out for offline use via a free app for most devices/eReaders.
To access Catalist and MackinVia, you must log in. Log-in credentials are on your building database lists. For more information on our digital book collections, visit http://btbocessls.weebly.com/digital-bookshelf.html and sign up on My Learning Plan for the informational workshops listed on Page 1.

New Technology

Starting in September, you can borrow iPad Minis and Skype Kits from the Media Library. The iPads are pre-loaded with a number of educational apps. You can find the list of loaded apps here: http://broometiogasls.files.wordpress.com/2013/08/apps.pdf In addition to borrowing the iPad Minis to use the existing apps, you can also request specific apps to be loaded on the device. For more information about our iPad loan program, visit: http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/tutorials/snapmedia-library/ipad-minis/

The Skype kits contain a Logitech HD Webcam with USB install, Blue Yeti USB microphone, and Cyber Acoustics USB-powered portable speakers. Teachers can apply for free Skype group calling at https://education.skype.com. For a list of authors that Skype with schools (as well as other educational Skype activities), visit http://skypeanauthor.wikifoundry.com.

Module Resources

The Media Library has several resources that can be used to support the EngageNY domains/modules. Using the Engage NY PK-12 Text List as a guide [available at http://www.engageny.org/resource/text-list-for-p-12-ela] the School Library System has purchased and aligned a number of eBooks, audiobooks, book sets, and companion videos to the ELA Modules.

You can find the alignment in chart form, divided by grade level and unit, here: http://broometiogasls.wordpress.com/aligned-module-texts

On this chart, exact-match texts are bolded. The guidance for text selection and use on EngageNY states that certain texts are “not required, but recommended”. To this end, additional resources with a similar subject/theme are included, as well links to related TeachingBooks.net pages.
Surveys and Scholarships

The School Library System is looking for your feedback! Please let us know how we're doing through these short surveys. If you've already submitted your feedback, thank you! We greatly appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts and help us improve.

Annual School Library System Survey:
August 19th Workshop Survey:
http://tinyurl.com/august19esifc
August 20th Workshop Survey:
http://tinyurl.com/august20esifc

Are you interested in attending the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) National Conference?
The Broome-Tioga BOCES School Library System is offering a scholarship! If you are interested in applying, please secure the permission of your administrators. Then, fill out the application form found here:
http://fs6.formsite.com/

Conferences, Workshops, and Webinars

Booklist offers several free webinars throughout the year. In September, there are two webinars related to new youth titles:

If you are unable to attend the live webinar, registration provides you with access to the archived content. To register, visit: http://www.booklistonline.com/webinars

The 2014 NYLA-SSL Conference Committee is looking for submissions for workshops, poster sessions, and other multimedia presentations. To apply, visit http://cnysl.weebly.com/2014-ssl-conference.html

Have you found a great online resource or upcoming webinar? Let me know and I'll share it here!

Award Opportunities

Enter to win a signed set of Lois Lowry hardcover books here:
http://www.mymackin.com/surveys.php?id=27
[Deadline: September 30, 2013]

Win $1,000 from Westinghouse to help bring your STEM project to life:
http://www.westinghousenuclear.com/Community/EducationalGrants.shtm
[Deadline: November 15, 2013]