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School Library Month (SLM) is the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) celebration of school librarians and their programs. Every April school librarians are encouraged to create activities to help their school and local community celebrate the essential role that strong school library programs play in a student's educational career. Read about the history of School Library Month.

The 2012 theme is You belong @ your library®. The AASL School Library Month Committee is busy planning activities and creating resources to help school librarians celebrate. Check their website (http://www.ala.org/aasl/aaslissues/slm/schoollibrary) often for new materials.

Selfishness must always be forgiven you know, because there is no hope of a cure. ~ Jane Austen
QUICK FACTS ABOUT GEORGIA PUBLIC EDUCATION

Total Number of Public School Students: 1,633,596 (2010-11) 1,639,077 (2011-2012)

(2011-12)

Race/Ethnicity  Number  Percentage

- White        723,476  4.1
- Black        605,878  37.0
- Hispanic     199,252  12.2
- Asian        56,312   3.4
- Other        54,159   3.3

Other Facts  Number  Percentage

- Eligible for free/reduced lunch 988,394  58.7
- Special Education 169,954  10.4
- Limited English Proficiency 83,965  5.1

- Students Transported (2010-11) 1,015,103  61.9
- Advanced Placement Enrollment (2010-11) 81,560  17.2*
- Dual Enrollment 5,072  1.1*
- Enrolled in Georgia Virtual School 1,938  0.2*

Total Number of Schools: 2,288 (2010-11) 2,289 (2011-12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of schools</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>791,883</td>
<td>48.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>485</td>
<td>371,118</td>
<td>22.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>High School</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>473,371</td>
<td>28.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>K through 12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2,705</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>137,423</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages of advanced placement and dual enrollment are calculated based on the total number of high school students, and percentage of students enrolled in Georgia Virtual School is based on the total number of middle and high school students.
Live that your friends can defend you, but never have to.
~ Arnold H. Glasow

The 2012 Exemplary Library Media Program information is now available on the GaDOE website. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2012. Some of the requirements (as well as the GaDOE website) have changed this year so be sure to read the directions carefully.


Advocacy Tip

Increasing visibility within your school community can be as simple as posting a thought-provoking question in an all-school or PTA bulletin or the school's reader board. Suggestions include:

- Are your students sometimes frustrated by the volume of information they must weed through to find their research answers?
- Are your students spending more time filtering or authenticating rather than reading and absorbing research?
- Does your child know how to dig for the truth in research?
- Does your child know where to research first for unbiased information?

There are some places you love with your heart, and there are some places you love with your mind....the places that you love with both are called libraries. ~ Frank Delaney
Peachtree City students win Atlanta Hawks’ Poetry Slam

Two Peachtree City students took first and second places in a regional poetry contest sponsored by the Atlanta Hawks.

A student from Peachtree City, Malcolm McLachlan, who attends The Campus in Peachtree City, won first place out of all 15 participants.

In second place was Morgan Ritson of McIntosh High School in Peachtree City.

These 15 students from 10 different schools in eight different counties throughout Georgia presented their poems in the final round of competition.

The theme for this year’s Poetry Slam was “I Was Born This Way” and finalists were judged on connection to the topic, overall message and originality/creativity.

The Hawks hosted their 4th annual Poetry Slam March 22 at Atlanta’s Hard Rock Cafe. Nominations for the Atlanta Hawks Poetry Slam were accepted through Feb. 24, 2012 and open to high school students in grades 9-12 who attend school within 75 miles of Philips Arena.

“These high school kids were so very impressive with what they spoke about,” said Alison Sawyer, director of corporate communications for the Atlanta Hawks and Philips Arena.

Judges were Willie Green, Atlanta Hawks guard; Judy Serritella, coordinator of Library Media Services, Fine Arts, and Literacy Support for the Georgia Department of Education; Devika Rao, Atlanta-based writer with a weekly column, Doing Good, in the AJC; Trent North, principal of Carrollton Middle School North.

Winners:

1st – Malcolm McLachlan: The Campus in Peachtree City

2nd — Morgan Ritson: McIntosh High School

3rd — Cinnamon: Temple High School

From The Citizen: newspaper of Fayette County
IT’S TIME...to celebrate!
Honor this timeless classic by hosting a party for your students, library patrons, or book club!

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary

Before the Party
Get your event kit!
E-mail us at KidsSchoolandLibrary@macmillanusa.com to receive a FREE event kit that includes a poster, T-shirt, bookmarks, activity and party ideas, and more!
(While supplies last.)

At the Party
Show the video!
Play video clips from the special NYC anniversary event! Check it out now:
• Author Panel with Rebecca Stead, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, and R. L. Stine
• A reading by actress Jane Curtin
• A scene performance by high school students

After the Party
Post about it!
Don’t forget to tell us how you celebrated the 50th anniversary!
Join the Facebook fan community and the year-long conversation on Twitter #Wrinkleat50.

Are you attending TLA?
Join Madeleine L’Engle’s granddaughter for a special anniversary program on Tuesday, April 17th, 1:00–1:50 pm!

mackids.com

FSG Books for Young Readers
SQUARE FISH
Imprints of the Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group
In September, Kingston Elementary School received an Exceptional Library Media Program Award, which, according to the Georgia Department of Education's Judy Serritella, "honor[s] and recognize[s] outstanding library media programs and the library media specialists who create a nurturing environment, a place for learning outside of the classroom, and are educators in the true sense of the word."

On Friday the media center opened its doors to parents and community members to see the role the center plays at the school.

"[Lori Pilgrim] not only takes the role of media specialist, but she's a certified teacher as well," Principal Stefany Howard said.

Howard explained Pilgrim works with teachers and the school's technology specialist to help provide supplemental instruction to students while also meeting the various media-related needs of students and teachers.

"[Pilgrim and the media center] are the hub of this building. ... Without her, it wouldn't be possible," Howard said. "She's definitely got her hand in every academic aspect."

Students greeted guests at the open house and provided a tour for the various stations at the media center, which include a self-check out, computers for Accelerated Reader testing and a studio for producing WKES, the school's televised morning news show.

The students present during The Daily Tribune News' visit to the center were positive about the role the center plays at the school.

(continued on next page)
"Actually, the media center is my favorite place to be. I love to read," said fifth-grader Breana Waynick.

Fifth-grade student Hallie Howard said she likes how Pilgrim teaches lessons that help with what she's learning in class.

"She goes over vocabulary and stuff with us and it's really great," Howard said.

Students like fifth-grader Lindsay Worthington work behind the scenes of the WKES morning announcement show, which informs students of the day's lunch menu, upcoming school activities, humor and trailers for books.

Fifth-grader Gyllian Thomas also works on the set and said using props like a director's clapper board, funny hats and glasses help the group reach younger students.

"We like to add the humor in because then all the little kindergartners and first-graders like it," Thomas said. "It gets the point [across], but it's fun and everything."

Throughout the library is the theme “Driven To Read” in which students are encouraged to read up to one million words during the school year, with the books being marked with their word count.

"The Driven To Read books are really easy to find because they have a yellow label," fourth-grader Joseph Forsyth said, adding he has read one million words.

Teachers echoed Howard's statements about the role of Pilgrim and the media center being the hub of the school.

"Whether it's a unit or thematic unit, I can call [Pilgrim] and say, 'we're doing a unit on bugs,' and then when we'll come to the library she'll either have something through the Promethean board or story or activity to support our Georgia Performance Standards and those type of things," said kindergarten teacher Dana Moore.

Fourth-grade teacher Ginger Land said while the center provides technology resources, Pilgrim also continues an emphasis on reading.

"She has expanded [Accelerated Reader] into all different Lexile forms, different levels of books she can use, she incorporates it to where the students become aware of where they're at and how they can grow," Land said, adding Pilgrim has helped students become comfortable with finding items at the library. "... They are very knowledgeable of where they can find material, not just here, but where they can find it at the community library and that expands from the classroom to community."

Pilgrim said while she appreciates the media center receiving state recognition, she wants parents and the community to see the value and role of media centers in schools.

"The award was nice, but my goal with today too was to show people in our community and our board of education what goes on in a media center nowadays," Pilgrim said. "We used to have libraries, now we have media centers and everything we do supports the curriculum in some sort of way and so many people are unaware of what goes on in here and that's why I asked the students to show [visitors] what they're learning."

"A lot of people think we sit at a desk and check books in and out all day and that's just a small part of what goes on in here."

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart. ~ Alexander Solzhenitsyn
Sequoyah High School and the Sequoyah High School Media Center
Jan Reed and Elease Franchini, Media Specialists
Cordially Invite You to the 2011-2012
Exemplary High School Media Program Open House
April 24, 2012  1-3:00 PM (Presentation and Q&A at 2:00)

Sequoyah High School is located at
4485 Hickory Road, Canton, GA 30115
770-345-1474
Please email Jan Reed or Elease Franchini for directions if needed.

Learn More About:
- Thinking Big in a Small Library
- Coping Without Clerical Help
- Library Without Walls
- QR Codes and Book Trailers
- Library Web 2.0 Tools
- LibGuides Pathfinders
- Library Social Networking Sites
- Library on Wheels
- Collaborative Efforts with Teachers
HEARD COUNTY MIDDLE OPEN HOUSE

Students challenged administrators in a Words With Friends Tournament Thursday, March 15 at Heard County Middle School. The tournament was part of the media center’s open house festivities. From left: Heard County Commissioner June Jackson, Riley Curbow, Anna Sims, Rep. Randy Nix, Carmen Elrod, Heard County School Superintendent Jerry Prince, Elexus Spradlin and Ashlyn James.

Media Program ‘Exceptional’ at HCMS

Professional educators from as far away as Americus, Georgia and Montgomery, Alabama came to Heard County Media Center’s open house Thursday (March 15). The HCMS Media Center is one of three middle school library media programs to be selected by the Georgia Department of Education as an “Exceptional Library Media Program” for 2011.

More than 60 visitors, including Rep. Randy Nix, Heard County Commission Chair June Jackson and Heard County School Superintendent Jerry Prince attended the event. Educators from Carroll County, Pike County, Haralson County, Troup County and Alabama were among the guests who attended the event.

The event was hosted by HCMS Principal Mike Roberts, Media Specialist Glovis South and Media Assistant Janet Scott. Barnes & Noble, Follett Library Resources, Galileo, Renaissance Place, Scholastic and Surpass (library software company) were featured in professional learning stations set up in the media center. Visitors were able to scan QR codes for links and information and were able to ask questions to representatives from B&N (J.C. Barb), Follett (Ben Myers) and GALILEO Support Services (Courtney McGough). A special learning station was set up with iPads and eReaders for a Words With Friends tournament between the top student

Continued on next page
Professionals from as far away as Forsyth, Georgia, Montgomery and Auburn, Alabama visited the media center during the Exceptional Media Program Open House. Dawn Lanca, media specialist from Pike County, won the Barnes and Noble Gift Basket. (Shown with J.C. Barb/Newnan B&N).

readers and administrators. Visitors were particularly interested in procedures for checking out eReaders (Nooks, Kindles) to students and how iPads are being used to teach technology and information literacy skills. For information about the media program at HCMS, go to http://bravesread.net. Follow Mrs. South @BravesRead and Mr. Roberts @MikeRoberts1973 on Twitter.

Auburn High School Media Specialist Nikki Robertson (@NikkiDRobertson) posted these comments on her blog: “When I arrived at Heard County Middle School I immediately understood why Heard County Middle School received such a distinguished award. The office staff greeted me with such warmth and kindness. Then I arrived at Glovis South’s (@Bravesread) exceptional library and saw students playing Words With Friends on iPads (acquired with a grant) with principal, Mike Roberts aka: @mikeroberts1973, school superintendent Jerry Prince and Representative Nix. Students can earn access to the Internet Cafe located in the library where they can play games on iPads, enjoy beverages and other perks. …”

Prizes, including a gift basket from B&N, were given throughout the day. Scholastic donated an autographed hard cover book by Brian Selznick. The school’s news crew members and WWF team spoke to visitors throughout the day about the media center’s reading and technology elements.
Managing:
Make your library appealing to all who enter.
Don’t put up with broken, scarred, wrong size mismatched furniture and shelving
Improve your signage.
Take some hints from public librarians.
Merchandise your collection.
Weed your collection.
Change displays, bulletin boards, exhibitions frequently.
Be sure you help students learn about continuing their educations.

Teaching:
Work with teachers and students making the teaching job easier for teachers and the learning job easier for students.
Meet with teachers informally and formally and plan.
Teach, with their teachers, things students need to learn.
Teach your teachers all the new bells and whistles technology has to offer.
Take all teachers with a smile.
Share with your teachers new articles from your professional collection.
Dream up new ways to approach same old same old.
Be especially helpful with new teachers or things new to a teacher.
Encouraging reading has always been our assignment.

Public Relations
Copy Wal-Mart’s greeter scheme.
Watch rules.
Watch and remove rules that limit students.
Make sure the students understand it is their library.
Overcome overdues.

Continued on next page
Forget fines.
Resist broadcasting any negative messages over the public address system.
Resist negative reminders in the library.
Have great programs.
Encourage students to volunteer in the library.
Keep the principal informed of exciting things going on in the library.
Maintain a great web site where you have links to great information.
Keep your principal informed about what is new in the professional literature.
Have an advisory committee for the library.
Provide at least one event in the library each semester to show parents.

**That extra effort**

Watch for opportunities for proposal writing.
Find out about contests in which your students can participate.
Find out about field trips.
Don’t miss school events.
Show your worth.
Keep records of your successful experiences.
Conduct “real” research.
Make frequent reports.
Visit your legislators.
Invite the school board to your school.
Invite your legislators to visit your school.
Volunteer to provide a session at your state conference.
Volunteer to write for a professional periodical.
Bring in the media as often as you can.

**In closing,**

Make sure students understand Frances Henne’s description of the ultimate in information literacy: “For some students, and in certain schools, this may be many students, the only library skill that they should have to acquire is an awareness imprinted indelibly and happily upon them, that the library is a friendly place where the librarians are eager to help.”

Think before you whine, then don’t.

Most of all, enjoy your job, all day, every day. The contribution you are making to the teachers and students in your school cannot be measured.

Smile.
Vanishing Georgia comprises nearly 18,000 photographs. Ranging from daguerreotypes to Kodachrome prints, the images span over 100 years of Georgia history. The broad subject matter of these photographs, shot by both amateurs and professionals, includes, but is not limited to, family and business life, street scenes and architecture, agriculture, school and civic activities, important individuals and events in Georgia history, and landscapes. The wide variety of the collected visual images results from efforts by archivists from the Georgia Division of Archives and History who sought, between 1975 and 1996, to preserve Georgia’s endangered historical photographs. Designed primarily for preservation, the project located, selected, and copied historically significant photographs held by individuals who wanted to share their pieces of the past with future generations. The Georgia Archives joins with the Digital Library of Georgia and GALILEO (Board of Regents, University System of Georgia) to present the Vanishing Georgia images as part of the Georgia HomePLACE initiative. Support for the project is provided by a Library Services and Technology Act grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Georgia Public Library Service.

To err on the side of kindness is seldom an error. ~ Liz Armbruster

Addison Elementary School and Peggy Creighton, Media Specialist Cordially invite you to the 2011–2012 Exemplary Elementary Media Program Open House Monday, April 30th 8 AM – 2 PM
Librarians can be the unsung heroes who provide personal attention, improved relationships with adults and engaging curriculum to students who are at risk of dropping out.

That's according to Jami L. Jones of the Department of Library Sciences at East Carolina University. In "Dropout prevention through the school library," Jones offers a research-based framework to improve graduation outcomes by engaging school librarians in the fight to keep students in school.

In this installment of Research Weekend, they look at how librarians can be the tipping point when students are choosing whether to stay in school.

Noting the importance of resiliency to graduation outcomes for at-risk students, Jones emphasized the role librarians can play in building caring and supportive relationships, setting high expectations and creating opportunities for meaningful participation.

To create supportive relationships, librarians should be accessible, encourage conversation with students by asking for their input and provide developmentally appropriate instruction.

Librarians can create high expectations by creating “challenging and engaging lessons requiring students to stretch cognitively and intellectually” and by sending messages that leave no room for excuses. Students can become engaged in meaningful participation by joining the library board or working on projects overseen by the librarian.

To help school leaders think about these roles, Jones created the Library Ladder of Resiliency. Its five rungs are:

- **Making connections** — students engage with a mentor.
- **Reading** — Students who read well by grade four are much more likely to graduate than their less-literate peers.
- **Problem-solving skills** — Students who participate in after-school activities that teach critical thinking are more likely to stay in school.
- **Social skills** — Making and keeping friends increases a student’s resiliency.
- **Hobbies and Interests** — Librarians should encourage students to pursue their interests.

That’s not all librarians can offer at-risk students. Research shows that quality teaching helps keep students engaged in school — and Jones argues that doesn’t just happen in the classroom. But just like good classroom teaching, library-based instruction must offer students solid research-based curriculum, challenging goals and individualized instruction.

*Are you a part of your school's strategy for keeping at-risk students engaged?*

---

*Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.* ~ William Shakespeare
Media Specialist Jim Randolph and illustrator Mike Wimmer at the Georgia Children’s Literature Conference.

Author Jody Feldman and student Hanna Lee (who rode her bike to the conference to hear her favorite author speak).

UGA Professor and Director of the Georgia Children’s Literature Conference Joel Taxel with one of the many attendees.

People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing. ~ Will Rogers
From your parents you learn love and laughter and how to put one foot in front of the other. But when books are opened, you discover you have wings. ~ Helen Hayes

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it. ~ William A. Ward

A very happy parent (on left) attended the Open House.

Loved this display idea!

Open House at Ridgeview Charter Middle School!
Loved these ideas. The book has map of Georgia and the year the title was a nominee. There is also a small sticker on the spine that indicates the nomination. The flowers were a table direction and if you look closely you can tell they are handprints of the students.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April Fool's Day!</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hans Christian Andersen born: 1805-1875</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pony Express established: 1860</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Where was the 1st African American chartered college? Hint: 1854</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>What is Element 101?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret. ~ Ambrose Bierce