The Halyard

May 6, 2005

Charlie's Chatter

American Libraries is a publication of the American Library Association. The subscription is included as part of the ALA membership. Each month there are articles about all types of libraries. Some feature school libraries, some public, and some very specialized.

This month's issue features articles on reading. Last week's Halyard provided information about several ways to spark and encourage readers in your buildings.

Many educators fear that we are losing a generation of readers but according to reports by Amazon and other online book sellers, book sales are climbing. This is good news. In a letter to the editor a Massachusetts resident wrote this about librarians and reading. "Nothing can dampen a librarian's love of books and reading, or their joy at playing a part in or being witness to the transforming magic that can occur when the right book finds its way into the hands of the right reader at the right time."

I think that pretty well sums up the how and why most of us love our jobs. You have the power to help students develop the creative areas of their brain that allow the imagination to run free and explore new opportunities for learning.

Another recent study has shown that everyone loves to be read to. Check out the articles on reading to high school students in this newsletter.

Linking Libraries and Academic Achievement

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml

Generation M Multitaskers

A recent study indicates that children pack more that 8.5 hours of media content into just 6.5 hours! The Kaiser Foundations examined the habits of 8-18 year olds and their use of TV, music, video games, computers, movies, and print. The study found that children are able to interact with multiple mediums at one time. They watch TV while on the computer, or they listen to music while on the computer or while reading.

The study also found that 3 out of 4 students read for pleasure each day but students without TVs in their rooms or with parents who limit the TV time read for longer periods of time. The academic achievement of the readers was also higher than among the non-readers.

Special Events This Week

- *May 8 Mother's Day*
- *National Stuttering Awareness Week*
- *National Tourism Week*
- *May 8 World Red Cross Day*

Quotes to Think About

"I think that the first thing we ought to do is can those 'media centers' in the schools, replace them with libraries, and leave the media specialists to the cable talk shows."

Steve Otto, from "Does Anybody Still Employ the "L" Word?", Tampa (FA) Tribune, March 16.

Shenandoah University Summer Children's Literature Conference

Each summer for the past 20 years, there has been an exciting event taking place at Shenandoah Univeristy that is eagerly attended by librarians, classroom teachers, and reading specialists. This year will be no exception. This summer program provides an opportunity to receive graduate credit in either a writing or literature course that focuses on children's literature. The conference will be held June 27-July 1 at Shenandoah. Registration information may be obtained by contacting jmille3@su.edu.

This year's featured authors are:

- Michael Pressley
- Vera Williams
- Jean Craighead George
- Richard Peck
- M. E. Kerr
- E. B. Lewis
- Pam Munoz Ryan
- Patricia MacLachlan
- Coleen Salley
- Johanna Hurwitz

Tips for Reading to High School Students

The April issue of **School Library Journal** has an article on *"Reading to Kids Who Are Old Enough To Shave"* by Candy Blessing. Here is a condensed version of that article.

- You'll want to start by selecting the right book.
- The first time you read to teens, you'll want to explain that you're reading aloud to them so that everyone can share the experience.
- If your students haven't been read to lately, you may want to start small—with a poem or short story.
- The best time to read to kids is at the beginning or the end of class.
- Our teachers read to their students for 15 to 20 minutes, once or twice a week.
- Oscar winners Hilary Swank and Jamie Foxx rehearse their lines, and so should librarians and teachers—
- Kids like to kick back when they're listening to a story.
- Our teachers usually follow their readings with a class discussion.

Audio Books Anyone?

According to the Audio Publishers Association, the number of books transformed into sound recordings has increased 350% in the last 15 years. In addition to being available on cassettes and CDs, these recordings also vary in their style of presentation. Both abridged and unabridged works are available. Many books are read by a single narrator, but recordings that feature a cast may have as many actors as story characters. Even film stars have added their voices as narrators, and on rare, often wonderful, occasions an author will read his or her own book.

Listening to books is a great way to attract readers of all ages.

Activities and Ideas for Parents and Kids to Do over Summer Vacation

1. Write numbers from 1 to 100. **2.** Find an object in your house that begins with each letter of the alphabet. **3.** Write 5 sentences. Use a number word in each sentence. **4.** Make something in the kitchen involving the use of measuring cups. **5.** Go outside and find something yellow. **6.** Write a story about your pet or a pet you would like to have. 7. Write a letter to someone. **8.** Write the names of five friends, now make as many words using the letters of their names as you can. **9.** Write the long vowels on a sheet of paper. Think of a word for each vowel sound. **10.** Make a scrapbook of animal pictures. You might want to choose a animal you like. See if you can find some old magazines or calendars to look for the pictures. **11.** Read a story to someone. **12.** Count the money in your wallet or ask mom or dad to give you some coins to count. **13.** Keep a journal of what you do during the summer. Write in it at least 2 times each week. **14.** Write numbers from 101 to 200. **15.** Write the alphabet three times in your best printing or cursive writing. **16.** Go outside. Find things for the sense of touch, things that are smooth, rough, prickly, sharp, hard, soft, dry, wet, etc., 17**.** Correctly spell as many color words as you can, try some of the harder ones too like turquoise and burgundy. **18.** Write numbers by 5's to 100 and then to 200. **19.** Make little signs to name things in your room. Put them up in your room. **20.** Draw a picture of something outside. Write 5 or more sentences about it. **21.** Write all the number facts that will add to 10. (6 + 4 = 10, etc) **22.** Go on a nature hike. Collect things and put them in a picture. **23.** Pretend you are a giant. Write a short story about it. **24.** Write numbers from 201 to 300. **25.** Cut out words from the newspaper - one for each letter of the alphabet **26.** Use the letters in the word MISSISSIPPI to write as many words as you can. **27.** Write all the number facts that will add to 7. **28**. Find a recipe that uses a color word in it's title and help your mom or dad make it. **29.** Count out loud to 1000 **30.** Write 5 sentences. Use a color word in each sentence. **31.** Write numbers by 2's to 100 (2, 4, 6...) **32.** Have your mom or dad register you in a day camp program with your community league or a church. **33.** Write a fairy tale. Then read it to someone younger than you. **34.** Write the short vowels on a sheet of paper. Think of a five words for each vowel sound. **35.** Write a poem about the weather, an animal or a plant. **36.** Plant something outside or help take care of a garden. **37.** Imagine that you have an alligator as a pet. Write a story about it. **38.** Cut apart the squares of a comic strip. Mix them up. Rearrange them in the correct order and then rearrange them into a funny mixed up story. **39.** Compare your bike with a friend's bike. How are the alike? How are they different?

Encourage reading this summer!

Virginia is a Technology Leader!

Virginia is among the best in the nation at using technology in the classroom and giving students access to that technology, according to a national survey.

The state is in a class by itself in one of the survey categories, capacity to use technology, and sits among the top 10 states in two other categories measured in the Technology Counts 2005 report by Education Week magazine.

A state technology authority attributes the high marks to a series of factors, including introducing technology in schools with a clear goal for achievement. The state is embracing technology in a number of ways. For example, a majority of Virginia's

Laptops are a common sight in most Virginia schools

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We can not control the wind, but we can adjust the sails.

Reminder of the upcoming Gale training:

Carroll County Intermediate School, May 20

9:-11:30 for elementary/middle

1:-3:30 for middle/secondary

If you are interested in attending, please contact Charlie Makela at mailto:Charlie.Makela@doe.virginia.gov

VIRGINIA IS A TECHNOLOGY LEADER

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high school students now take Standards of Learning tests online. Of the roughly 850,000 tests administered at the high school level last year, about 700,000 of them were taken online.

Lan Neugent, assistant superintendent for technology said that in the not-too-distant future, middle and elementary school students will take the test online as well.

Most of the Education Week survey results group 10 states together in categories, but when it comes to capacity to use technology, Virginia occupies the top rung by itself. Virginia also landed in the top 10 in access to technology, with an instructional computer for every 3.2 students in 2004 and an Internet-connected computer for every 3.5 students.

The ratio was about half as good for computer availability to students in the classroom -- an instructional computer for every 6.3 students, and Internet-connected computer for every 6.5 students.

Virginia also secured a spot among the top 10 states in use of technology. Among the factors considered: the fact that the state has technology standards for students and offers computer-based assessments.