

MEMO's M/T News

NEWS for School Media & Information Professionals

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A publication of MEMO's Information Technology Special Interest Division

Reflections of a Co-President: Leveled Libraries

Gina Light, MEMO Co-President
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Leveled libraries are libraries separated from the "media center" with books that are marked according to reading level. They can be marked by Lexile level, DRA level, or Fountas and Pinell level. There is some correlation between DRA and Founts and Pinnell (FP), but it is still a little foggy with Lexile. The theory with guided or leveled reading is that it is best for a child to be reading at her level than to have books too challenging or too easy. However, the leveled books work well for reading during block time, but are not used as high interest. The media center's collection supplies the high interest for the students to continue to want to read.

In our school the leveled library is separate from the media center collection. Teachers check out a bag of six books to use for a few days and then return it. They have a check out sheet and nothing is bar coded. We have a school wide literacy committee which is in charge of making up-to-date spreadsheets of the books, finding missing copies, following up when teachers do not return books in a timely fashion, and ordering new sets. They take inventory at the end of the year. It is working well to not be in the media center but in a private area where teachers can discuss books or browse.

The down side has been that some of the money for the media center has been diverted to the leveled books. They are expensive and paperback. They last only about two to three years. The upside is that the teachers are letting students pick out books from the media center that really interest them.

Last year, I completed my Advanced Literacy Certificate and during many chats discovered that many experts in literacy (Jan Turbill, Brian Cambourne) believe that children should only be reading at their level for forty-five minutes a day. The rest of their reading should be things that interest them and can be lower or higher than their level.

"Reflections" continued on page 2

Inside this edition...

Fall Conference Information	Page 2
MEMO Calendar	Page 2
Podcast/Blog for Media Specialists	Page 3
SmartBoard Institute	Page 3
Minnesota Internet2 Day	Page 4
Legislative Information	Page 4

M/T News is a MEMO publication.

Articles may be submitted in most common word processing formats, or as text or PDF files. Please submit to Marc Johnson, editor, for publication in November or March.

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“Reflections,” continued from page 1

If having a leveled library is what is best for kids, then I am all for it. I am glad that it is managed outside me area, though.

REFERENCES:

- Fountas, I. & Pinnell, G. S. (2006). Fountas and Pinnell leveled books. Retrieved March 26, 2007 from <http://www.fountasandpinnellleveledbooks.com/>
- Scholastic (2007). Leveled books to engage students every step of the way. Retrieved March 26, 2007 from <http://teacher.scholastic.com/products/leveledbookrooms/>



MEMO Fall Conference Information

The 2007 MEMO Fall Conference will be held at Cragun’s Resort near Brainerd on October 4– 6, 2007. The registration form for the conference is now available on the MEMO website. Additional information will be added soon including; lodging information; “Golf with the President” information; and optional Saturday “hands-on” sessions. The entire registration packet will be mailed in April.

See the conference website for more details:

<http://www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/conference.html>

MEMO – MEMO-IT Calendar

April 14	MEMO Executive Meeting, 10 am - 2 pm, District Media Services, St. Cloud, MN
April 14	2007 Fall Conference Planning Committee - District Media Services, St. Cloud, MN 2 pm
April 20	MEMO Tech SID Meeting
October 4-6	MEMO Fall Conference, Cragun’s Resort, Brainerd

Call for Presenters – 2007 MEMO Fall Conference

Laurie Conzemius, Pine Meadow Elementary, Sartell
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Proposals are being accepted for breakout sessions at the MEMO 2007 Fall Conference where we will be “Creating a New Literacy Landscape.”

Conference breakout sessions (45 minutes in length) are being sought on the topics of Reading/Literature, Information/Technology Literacy and Technology Management. Vendor sessions are also available and will be labeled as such in the program: vendor sessions require a school media or technology staff person as a co-presenter.

Proposal deadline is May 25, 2007. Notification of acceptance of proposal will be made no later than June 15, 2007. The proposal form is available from the MEMO website at:

<http://www.memoweb.org/htmlfiles/conference.html>



TIES Technology Coordinator Conference Draws 90

Kathy Guthrie, Communications Dir., TIES
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TIES February 8-9 Coordinator Conference in St. Cloud set a new attendance record. Everybody responding to the evaluation gave the conference positive ratings. Learning, listening and networking with many of Minnesota's technology professionals is always a highpoint.



Podcast and Blog for School Library Media Specialists

Kathy Guthrie, Communications Dir., TIES
Kathy.Guthrie@ties.k12.mn.us

St. Cloud State University has stated to host a podcast for school library media specialists. To subscribe, please visit <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/schoolmediapodcast/podcast.xml>

Once a month, a new guest such as a practicing media specialist, professor, educator, or Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO) member shall be featured. Each participant will discuss trends in the field or best practices, and listeners may post their comments on the site the form of a blog or podcast. Visit the Web site to listen and/or subscribe to the

podcasts at <http://web.stcloudstate.edu/schoolmediapodcast/>.

If you have a suggested topic you would like to see addressed, would like to comment, or would like to be a guest, send an e-mail to schoolmediapodcast@stcloudstate.edu or leave a voice mail message at (320) 308-3072. We would love to hear from you.

SmartBoard Institute in August

Lisa deRoy, Education Consultant, SMART Technologies Inc.
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Many of you know that I'm developing a SMART educator conference for the summer (August 13-15th). I've had a number of people inquire about it and although the materials and website are not quite ready, I wanted to send you a preliminary SAVE THE DATE postcard. Please consider putting aside the 14th and 15th as district SMART PD (the 13th is a pre-conference day - SMART Master's Training for PC and Mac). The conference will take place in a metro area school district, is very reasonably priced and there will be a discount for TIES and Southeast Service Coop.

This conference will be offered to SMART educators in greater MN, Twin Cities metro area and Western WI. I have no doubt there will be a waiting list so as soon as you get the official word, (later in the month) please register ASAP. The conference is appropriate for administrators, tech coordinators and their staff, classroom teachers, media specialists, special education, Title I, ELL and specialists.. It will only be successful if you and your colleagues participate - apply to be panelists for lunchtime panel discussions, present breakout sessions and workshops. Please consider taking part in this event!



**Minnesota
Internet 2 Day
April 17th**



**Legislative
Information**

Kathy Guthrie, Communications Dir., TIES
Kathy.Guthrie@ties.k12.mn.us

TIES and four partners, including Mankato, Cambridge, Osakis and Badger invite educators to participate in a daylong video teleconference to explore ways to expand Internet2 in Minnesota schools.

Topics will address:

- New national K-20 Internet2 initiative
- Current Internet2 applications in the classroom, including virtual field trips
- Schools use of remote instruction, such as the SeaTrek Videoconference from the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL
- Regional discussions about what's happening locally and what more can be done

For more information or to register, go to:

http://www.ties.k12.mn.us/internet2_day.html

Web 2.0 YouTube Video

Tami Brass, Tech4Learning

A video by Michael Wesch, Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Kansas State University will help people understand Web 2.0

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLIgopyXT_g

Elaine Keefe, Capitol Hill Assoc.
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The House omnibus K-12 Education Finance has been released. It includes a substantial amount of new money for libraries. Here is a summary:

Regional Library Basic System Support:

Funding for RLBSS will increase by \$5,180,000 over the next two years. RLBSS will rise from the current \$8,570,000 per year to \$9,182,000 in FY 2008 and to \$13,138,000 in FY 2009 and in subsequent years. This is an increase of \$612,000 in FY 2008 and \$4,568,000 in FY 2009.

Regional Library Telecommunication

Aid: Funding for RLTA will increase by \$2,090,000 over the next two years. RLTA will rise from the current \$1,200,000 per year to \$2,190,000 in FY 2008 and to \$2,300,000 in FY 2009 and in subsequent years. This is an increase of \$990,000 in FY 2008 and \$1,100,000 in FY 2009.

School Telecommunications Equity Aid:

Funding for school telecom aid will increase by \$8,865,000 over the next two years. It will rise from the current \$3,750,000 per year to \$7,622,000 in FY 2008 and to \$8,743,000 in FY 2009 and in subsequent years. This is an increase of \$3,872,000 in FY 2008 and \$4,993,000 in FY 2009.

“Legislative Info” continued on page 5

“Legislative Info,” continued from page 4

Multi-County, Multi-Type Libraries:

Funding for the multi-types will increase by \$754,000 over the next two years. It will rise from the current \$903,000 per year to \$1,260,000 in FY 2008 and to \$1,300,000 in FY 2009 and in subsequent years. This is an increase of \$357,000 in FY 2008 and \$397,000 in FY 2009.

School Technology: The bill includes \$29,025,000 in one-time funding to provide \$30 per pupil to assist school districts in meeting statewide technology standards. The standards are to be established by a task force comprised of school technology experts to be convened by the Department of Education. MEMO is among the organizations that will be represented on the task force.

Hennepin County/Minneapolis Library

Merger: The bill includes a one-time appropriation of \$4,500,000 to assist with the cost of the merger. If the merger does not take place, the appropriation will be added to the RLBSS appropriation for FY 2008.

Library Structures Study: The study that was proposed in the Governor's budget was not funded. It was not funded in the Senate E-12 bill either, so it will not go forward this year.

General Education Formula: The bill increases the general education formula by 3% in each of the next two years. This is the funding stream that funds school media centers.

A Continuing Education Summit

Thursday, May 31, 2007

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MN Department of Education
Conference Center A - Rooms 13 & 14

Keynote Speakers: Nancy Bolt & Jody Howard,
Nancy Bolt & Associates, Denver, CO

Evaluation Consultants and Authors of

An Evaluation of the Minnesota Voluntary Certification Program

Program review and discussion of recommendations for Voluntary Certification, Career Renewal, discuss future continuing education programs for Minnesota library staff, and ideas for continuing education options within the new MN Library Services and Technology Act Five-Year State Plan – 2008 to 2012. Program's open to all members of the Minnesota Library Community. Watch for further program developments and program registration.

Northwest and West Central MEMO Regions to Meet

Glenn Heinecke, Roseau Schools
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The Northwest and West Central MEMO regions will have a combined MEMO meeting at Mahnommen High School on April 16, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.