Top 10 things first year teachers should know about Library Media Specialists

Dear First Year Teacher,

Welcome to school. It’s ever so nice to see your fresh, smiling face. I hope some of your eagerness and enthusiasm rub off on the rest of us, who’ve been here awhile. (A couple of us still yearn for the days of the one-room school.)

I’m the school media specialist. Or librarian, if you prefer. I answer to both. I recognize that your teacher preparation may not have given you much information about, or experience with, working with me or effectively using a library’s resources. There’s also a pretty good chance that the school library you used during your own school days was different from the program here.

To help us begin with a positive spin, here are a few things I’d like you to know about the library, our program, and me that can help us form a great partnership.

The librarian doesn’t own the library; you and your students do. You can recommend materials and have a voice in library policy making. Volunteer to become a member of our school’s library advisory committee.

The library should be considered an “intellectual gymnasium.” It is not a student lounge, study hall, or babysitting service. The students in the library, including the ones you send, should have a reason for being there. Whether for academic purposes or personal use, students should be in the library because they need the library’s resources, not just because they need to be somewhere.

The best resource in the library is the librarian. I can help you plan a project, solve a technology problem, find professional research, give insight into an ethical problem, or answer a reference question. And if I can’t do it, I’ll help you find someone who can. I can help find inter-library loan materials that aren’t in the school library itself. Helping others gives me a huge sense of satisfaction, so please never hesitate to ask me for assistance.

Continued on page 8
This coming school year (and probably for years to come) will be filled with challenges. Statewide Library Media Expenditure controls have been removed. In many systems Library Media Specialists positions were reduced and LMC paraprofessionals were eliminated, and untold changes await all educators while we wait for the economy to improve.

Library Media Specialists, I know and I hope, will rise to the occasion.

Joe Brown said that a challenge is an opportunity to prove your ability to yourself and others. Limited or no funds will influence the purchase of print and non-print materials, time for collaboration will be at a premium, and flexible scheduling may be tested. It has always been vital to be a part of the leadership team at your school, to meet regularly with subject and grade level teachers, to know the Georgia Performance Standards (and now the Common Core Standards), and to reach out and teach every student, every teacher, every administrator at your school. But now it is more important than ever before.

We are not going to change the Exemplary Library Media Rubric to make it less effective and powerful. We will need to find alternatives and workarounds to meet the goals and to keep our Library Media Centers the heartbeat of our schools.

A good library will never be too neat, or too dusty, because somebody will always be in it, taking books off the shelves and staying up late reading them. ~Lemony Snicket

House Bill 908 signed in April by the Governor states:

"(f)(1) For school years 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, and 2012-2013 only, the expenditure controls contained in subsection (a) of this Code section relating to direct instructional costs, media center costs, and staff and professional development costs shall be waived and shall not apply to nor be enforceable against a local school system.

What does this mean? The purpose is to allow systems to take the funds originally earmarked for library media materials and use as the system sees fit. My hope is that administrators are aware of the impact that an up-to-date, well staffed, adequately funded library media center can have on schools and students.

We need to continue to remind administrators and legislators that if children are to be prepared for their future, they must have access to information and learn to use it in meaningful and productive ways. Recommendations of the American Library Association include:

- All school library media programs should be adequately funded to ensure that they include up-to-date collections in both print and electronic formats.
- All students should have the benefit of a trained school librarian who can guide them in learning to use and understand a wide variety of information sources.
- The school library program should be integrated with classroom curriculum so that students learn to make connections between subject areas, retrieve information, and think independently.

The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries. ~Carl Sagan, Cosmos
If you tell the truth you don’t have to remember anything. ~ Mark Twain

True False

The 2010 Exemplary Library Media Programs are:

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The Exceptional recipients are:

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Congratulations to all schools, systems, and especially the Library Media Specialists. The recipients of the Exemplary award will be honored at the August State Board meeting.

Some of the wonderful readers/judges of the 2010 Exemplary Library Media program. Thanks to everyone who donated their time, talent, and energy.

Five years from now, you’re the same person except for the people you’ve met and the books you’ve read. ~ John Wooden
Check out the wonderful Paul D. West Middle School Media Center webpage at:
http://www.fultonschools.org/school/westpauld/media/media_about.html

How is your Library Media Center webpage? Do you have a presence on the school page? Want to share your page with others? Send me the link and you may wind up in the spotlight.

Rose Phillips is the Media Specialist at Paul D. West Middle School in Fulton County.
Cloud computing is a growing trend in information technology as organizations look for ways to save money and add flexibility to their operations. Cloud computing, while still an evolving service, provides on-demand network access to a shared pool of computing resources such as networks, servers, storage, and applications. The pooling of resources allows the provider to rapidly scale to meet changing customer demands. The service is typically provided through a large data center. Cloud computing can be divided into three types: Software as a Service, Platform as a Service, and Infrastructure as a Service.

- **Software as a Service (SaaS):** Provides ready for use web-based applications such as email that are maintained centrally by a provider (e.g., Gmail, Salesforce.com).

- **Platform as a Service (PaaS):** Provides programming languages and tools that can be used by application developers to create and deploy applications on the web.

- **Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS):** Provides computing resources, like virtualized servers, whose usage is rented from a provider (e.g., Amazon EC2, Windows Azure).

In addition, cloud computing can be private, available for a single organization/group of users, open to the public, or some combination of these models.\(^1\)

The growth in cloud computing is fueled by economies of scale. Cloud computing allows users to pay for what they need, when they need it.

**What are the Security Concerns with Cloud Computing?**

There are security and privacy concerns that must be considered before moving to cloud computing, including the following:

- **Vendor Security:** Cloud computing customers rely on providers to implement appropriate security measures to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data. Be wary of providers who are reluctant to share details of their security architecture/practices with customers.

- **Isolation/Segregation:** Users access cloud computing resources via a virtual machine hosted on an unknown physical machine.\(^2\) The physical machine may be shared with other users. Providers must ensure that multiple customers do not interfere with each other, maliciously or unintentionally.

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We have the Bill of Rights.  
What we need is a Bill of Responsibilities. ~  
Bill Maher
Data Location: Providers may have data centers located in other countries. Be sure your vendor contract stipulates any restrictions you may have on the physical location of where your data is stored.

Management Interface: Customers access the cloud management interface via the Internet, thus increasing exposure to potential attack.

Reputation Sharing: Bad behavior by one cloud customer may impact others using the cloud. For example, a customer engaging in spamming may cause a common cloud IP address to be blacklisted.

Provider Viability: What happens to your organization’s applications and data in the event that the provider goes out of business?

Compliance: Placement of data in the cloud does not eliminate an organization’s need to meet legal and regulatory requirements such as FERPA, HIPAA, or PCI. Organizations will need timely assistance from cloud computing providers to fulfill investigation/audit requirements.

What Should Organizations Do?

Organizations should fully research the risks and benefits of cloud computing before moving to that environment. It is critical that security requirements are addressed in contractual agreements in advance. In addition, there are steps organizations should take when using cloud computing:

• Data Classification: Consider the sensitivity of your data before making a decision of whether or not to put it in the cloud.

• Encryption: Encrypt sensitive data before placing it in the cloud.

• Authentication: Consider requiring multifactor authentication for access to cloud computing resources.

• Vulnerability Assessment: Include a requirement for a security review or vulnerability assessment as part of the service level agreement with the provider.

• Monitor: Require close monitoring of cloud computing resources by providers for unauthorized activity.

• Backup: Ensure that your backup data is not commingled with other customers.

• Notification: Require providers to provide timely notification of any potential data security breach.

Additional Information:

http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/SNS/cloud-computing/


Cloud Security Alliance: http://www.cloudsecurityalliance.org/

From the 1901 Annual Report on Georgia Schools:

These remarks are taken from the speech of Mr. Jos. S. Stewart, President of the North Georgia Agricultural College delivered in Augusta on May 20 and 21, 1902.

It gives me real pleasure to appear before you this morning to present the question of rural school libraries. I know that each of you is anxious to do what you can for the betterment of the children of your county. To my mind, there are few things that will do more for the betterment of the school and the enlightenment of the people than the school library, and I shall try this morning to present this question in a practical way, and to offer a few suggestions as to the future.

A man without the love of books and without access to books, can know no more than those about him can tell him, or than he himself can see and hear; but with books he can project his life a thousand years back, aye, four thousand years back, to the very beginning of time. He can dwell with all men and have them for his companions.

Oh, the isolation of our Georgia rural boys and girls! No companions but those about them—no eyes but their own; no books to bring them in touch with the past. No books! They have learned to read, but have nothing but the county paper or a book bought from a stray book agent.

...twenty-nine States out of the union are appropriating money every year for the support of the rural school libraries; ...nine Southern States are doing nothing. ...our boys and girls are starving for that literary food that it is their right to have.

Governor McDaniel told me the other day that he believed the use of this money, say $10 for the school library, would be better for the schools than to increase the school appropriation $100,000.

Oh, the time has come when we must give to our children that bread of life, and I appeal to you to help pass a law in Georgia that will make it certain that year after year we will have books, not dependent on the charity of some lady or some gentleman, but they shall come as regularly as the sun shines forever, and after ages will bless you...
Planning is a good thing. Advanced planning with me will greatly increase your and your students’ chances for success with projects that require information resources. A well-planned research unit or technology project will greatly decrease frustrations for everyone involved. With my experience, I can let you know what strategies work and don’t work.

Recognize that the library provides access to both print and electronic information. I can determine which one best suits your and your students’ needs. Students don’t always realize that print resources are best for many purposes. It breaks my heart to watch a student spend a frustrating hour trying to find the answer to a question on the Internet that could have been answered in minutes by a print resource.

The librarian can help evaluation information found on the Internet. One of the greatest challenges of using the Internet is determining whether the facts and opinions found there are credible. I have the training and tools to do just that. And it’s my mission to teach students effective evaluation skills.

The librarian can help create assessments for your students’ projects. The findings of research projects presented in electronic form, conclusions drawn from primary resources, and research that calls for higher-level thinking to be demonstrated, all call for good, authentic assessment tools rather than a simple gut-reaction comment or an objective test. I can help you find examples of, or create, these sorts of tools, as well as help you and administer them. Let’s work together to make your students’ learning experiences as meaningful as possible.

The librarian can be your technology support center. I can help you and your students with technology applications. Need to use a scanner or a digital camera? I can show you how. Need to create a multimedia presentation? Let me give you a quick lesson. Looking for effective ways to search the Web? Ask me. And even though I’m not a technician, I can sometimes help you locate that kind of help, as well.

The library can help improve your students’ performance on standardized reading tests. Research has proven that children become more adept at reading by extensively practicing reading. The library contains a wide range of material in print format that students can use to improve their reading skills. And I can help match just the right book or magazine with each reader. If you need a book talk for your class or if a student needs help to find something of interest, just say so.

The librarian will be your partner when trying new things. It’s been said that during some teachers’ careers, they teach one year, 30 times. Can you imagine how long those 30 years must have seemed? If you need someone to share the glory or the shame of a new unit, activity, or methodology, I’m the one. I hope your next 30 years will be exciting and gratifying. They should be, because you’ll be influencing the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of kids in incredibly positive ways.

I’m here to help you and your students do things you can’t do alone.

Again, welcome,

Your library media specialist

This article was reprinted with permission of the author, Doug Johnson, Director of Media and technology at I.S.D. 77 Mankato (Minnesota) Public Schools and with permission of Marlene Woo-Lun, Publisher and President of Linworth Publishing, Inc.
May 11) -- The *Oxford English Dictionary* got it wrong, and it took 99 years before anyone noticed.

Siphons don't work, it turns out, because of atmospheric pressure, as the *OED* has been saying since 1911. It's all down to that law Isaac Newton figured out when an apple hit his head: **g-r-a-v-i-t-y**.

Siphons work by drawing fluids from a higher location to a lower one, not always an easy thing to do, as anyone who's tried to empty a car's s tank would confirm.

"It is gravity that moves the fluid in a siphon," said Stephen Hughes, a physics lecturer at the University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.

So he was stunned when he noticed the *OED* had made a mistake, telling *The Daily Telegraph* of London, "We would all have an issue if the dictionary defined a koala as a species of bear, or a rose as a tulip."

Hughes said he discovered the error when he visited a huge siphon that transfers enormous amounts of water from a river system to a depleted lake in South Australia.

Hoping to use the project as part of an education paper, he researched the word and found "that almost every dictionary contained the same misconception" about atmospheric pressure being what pushed liquids through a siphon.

He then wrote to the *OED*, whose research team said it would correct the mistake in its next edition, the Telegraph reported.

A spokesman for the dictionary told the newspaper that the definition was written "by editors who were not scientists."

And when is a koala bear not a bear? When it's a marsupial.

Even the *OED* gets that one right.
Laura Bush Foundation for American’s Libraries

The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries announced that 188 school libraries are being awarded $1,098,634 in grants for 2010. The schools receive grants of up to $6,000 to expand, update, and diversify their library book collections. Further information is available at www.laurabushfoundation.org

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With the possible exception of the equator, everything begins somewhere. ~ C.S. Lewis

Sandi H. Dennis, Ed.S. is thrilled to be returning to a media center after 10 years as an Instructional Technology Specialist. Sandi was the former media specialist at Goshen Elementary in Richmond County and The Walker School in Marietta. Her new location is Glennwood Academy in the City of Decatur system and she will serve as the media/tech specialist. Glennwood is an International Baccalaureate serving grades 4 and 5.
The best morals kids get from any book is just the capacity to empathize with other people, to care about the characters and their feelings. So you don’t have to write a preachy book to do that. You just have to make it a fun book with characters they care about, and they will become better people as a result. ~ Louis Sachar
To the High School Library Media Specialists from Georgia Public Broadcasting:

**Georgia Public Broadcasting; Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company; Georgia Natural Gas;** and the **Georgia PTA** are excited to announce the continuation of the **Academic All Star Athletes Program** after its successful first year. We know that it takes a lot of work from the school, from the parents, and from the community to nurture outstanding student athletes. **Together, we want to continue to celebrate your success by recognizing achievement.**

The **Academic All Star Athletes Program** once again will spotlight the best and the brightest senior student athletes in Georgia. These exemplary students are the pride of their schools, their communities, and their families. Celebrating what is right in Georgia education and athletics – **recognizing the Student and the School** – will continue to inspire others to perform at their highest levels in sports and in the classroom.

**Please help us continue this successful program!**

1. Nominate one (1) Senior Woman and one (1) Senior Man with the following credentials:
   - Must have lettered in one or more varsity sports
   - GPA of 3.7 or higher
   - 1 Advanced Placement® class where they received a score of 3 or better
   - SAT combined score (reading, math and writing) of 1880 or better or ACT 28 or better out of a possible 36.

2. Submit your recommendation on a nomination form – one student per form. (forms were emailed on June 22 via the GaDOE Library Media List Service)
   - Return it via e-mail, including a non-returnable photograph in electronic form (jpg).

3. Print, sign, scan, and include the release form for each nominated student. (forms were emailed on June 22 via the GaDOE Library Media List Service)

4. Submit nomination package electronically by 5:00 PM, Thursday, August 12, 2010 via e-mail to:
   - AcademicAllStarAthletes@gpb.org

Nominees will be reviewed by an objective panel using the criteria listed on the Nomination Form. The top 36 men and top 36 women will be the 2010-2011 award winners. Each winning scholar-athlete will receive a plaque of recognition, along with an additional plaque for his/her high school.

One Senior Woman and one Senior Man will be recognized each week on air on Georgia Public Broadcasting television and radio. Additionally, information about and a photo of each scholar-athlete will be posted on http://www.gpb.org/academic-all-star-athletes and the information will be archived.

There are student athlete success stories across Georgia and together we will shine a spotlight on the very best in Georgia. **Thank you for your timely response to this request for nominations.**
You are educated when you have the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence.
~ Robert Frost

Do you have a subscription to the GaDOE Library Media List Service? To keep up to date with events, laws, conferences, grant opportunities and more... join the GaDOE Library Media List Service. Send a blank email (nothing in the body or subject) to: join-doemedia@list.doe.k12.ga.us

You will receive a confirmation email to which you will need to respond in order to be fully subscribed.

Tired of emails? Don’t forget to unsubscribe. Directions for unsubscribing are at the bottom of each email sent to the List.

If I’m not having fun in class, no one is having fun.~ Albert Cullum (Teacher/author)
I heard about Keith from Janice Acuria who is the Assistant Director for Youth Services with the Clayton County Public Library System. Keith performed for one of their summer events and was a huge hit.

Keith Karnok, Ph.D., has taught at the University of Georgia in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences for the past 28 years and at Ohio State University for 6 years prior to that. He is a past president of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. He has received the designation of “Fellow” in four scientific associations including the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Fellow is the highest honor bestowed by a scientific society. Dr. Karnok has received 25 honors and awards for teaching excellence, including the “Josiah Meigs Award for Excellence in Teaching,” which is the University of Georgia’s highest teaching honor. Websites: [www.keithmagicman.com](http://www.keithmagicman.com) and [http://mulch.cropsoil.uga.edu/~kjkarnok/](http://mulch.cropsoil.uga.edu/~kjkarnok/)

Keith’s article is below.

Although I’m not a media specialist, as a teacher for more than 34 years, I have first-hand knowledge of the importance of reading not only for our youth, but for people of all ages. As most teachers have found, getting and maintaining the attention of students is a significant challenge. Research has shown that the average attention span of an adult is between 15 to 20 minutes after the beginning of a lecture. It becomes much shorter as the lecture continues. Obviously, the attention span of children is much shorter. In some cases, the attention span for children is measured in seconds rather than minutes!

As a teacher at the college level, I have found that the attention span of most college students probably ranges somewhere between the typical pre-schooler and a fully engaged adult learner. In this day and age, people are used to almost constant visual and audio stimuli.

With that in mind, many years ago, I started using magic and ventriloquism in my lectures to help maintain student’s attention and to help drive home important points. Magic when coupled with educational content can certainly achieve that. Over the past 5 years, my success at the college level lead me to try it at the pre-K through elementary school level when discussing with young people the fun and importance of reading. Again, the response has been tremendous.

You rarely have time for everything you want in this life, so you need to make choices. And hopefully your choices can come from a deep sense of who you are. ~ Fred Rogers
To discuss a book an author or even a concept in an entertaining way is what has been termed “edutainment.” The challenge is to keep a balance between the fun and laughter and the educationally significant information being presented.

Still, the fact remains, people remember more and for longer periods of time when their funny bone or emotional senses are triggered. This certainly has been the case this past summer as I traveled throughout Georgia performing a magic and ventriloquism show as part of the state’s library summer reading program “Make a Splash...Read!”

Library managers and children’s librarians have told me the number of children signing up for the program following my show in which I discuss a variety of books has been tremendous. My reading shows at the elementary school level have been equally successful. Children (and adults) are fascinated by the magic and mesmerized by the ventriloquism portion of the performance.

One principal stated "... "The magic show was excellent! The references you made to reading had an effect on the children. The media specialist told me that about "200" children had requested your magic book as well as some of the other books. . . ."

In addition to reading, I am using magic and ventriloquism to present information on “Bullying,” “Five Pillars of Character,” “Say No to Drugs,” “Preparing for the CRCT,” and other timely topics a school might like me to address.

It’s my opinion that the use of magic in teaching is as close as one can get to experiencing "real" magic.

The Valdosta ETC is hosting its annual Fall Media Conference on Tuesday, September 14th from 8:30 until 3:15.

Tony Vincent will be the keynote speaker and also he will be presenting during break-out sessions.

You can find more information and the registration form at: http://tiny.cc/mediaconf
SAT Online Prep Course

The College Readiness unit at GaDOE regrets to report that the FY11 state budget did not include an allocation for the SAT Online Prep Course. Students and teachers with active accounts will only be able to work in this valuable resource until July 30. Since we know that students in the Georgia Class of 2008 who worked in SAT Online averaged 48 points higher on the SAT than their peers who did not work in SAT Online, you may want to consider a school subscription or have your students consider individual subscriptions to this valuable learning resource.

For information about school or system subscriptions, contact Mr. Chris Parente, Associate Director for SAT Online Prep Course, at 212-713-8128. GaDOE is working with College Board to provide attractive pricing options for Georgia systems and individual Georgia high schools.

For individual subscriptions you may go to: https://satonlinecourse.collegeboard.com/SR/login/splashSecondEditionConsumerLogin.jsp

Sophomore PSAT, status of statewide program

Detailed analysis of the FY11 budget indicates that the funding provided by the General Assembly is not sufficient to provide PSAT testing for any sophomores in October of 2010. The GaDOE continues to believe that the PSAT is extremely valuable. The Summary of Answers and Skills report available to each school provides the only nationally normed data on an entire grade level. Our schools use this report, as well as the individual student data from PSAT, to define the instructional needs of our high school students and enrich school improvement plans with well-defined skills information. Our high schools also rely on AP Potential, which utilizes PSAT data, to identify talented students for AP courses. Use of AP Potential in Georgia high schools has produced amazingly positive results for our students.

GaDOE has been working with College Board to promote pricing advantages for systems and individual high schools. A number of systems have already entered into agreement with College Board to continue the valuable sophomore testing program. College Board will provide systems and schools with all the reports that have been traditionally provided through the state funded program. If you need assistance contact Becky Chambers, 404-463-5098, rchambers@doe.k12.ga.us.

Advanced Placement Exam Program Status

Detailed analysis of the FY11 budget indicates that while funding is not sufficient to support the full Georgia AP Exam Fee Program, GaDOE has identified funds to provide one (1) AP exam for our Option 1 students (those who qualify for the reduced exam fee) for the May 2011 AP administration. GaDOE and the State Board of Education are working with the Governor’s office to determine if additional support can be identified and we will notify systems in advance of the May 2011 exams if this occurs.
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<td>Birthday of Sara Teasdale: 1884-1933</td>
<td>9 Birthday of Jose Aruego and Seymour Simon What did P.L. Travers write?</td>
<td>10 1846: Smithsonian Institute created (Have you been there?)</td>
<td>11 Birthday of Joanna Cole: 1944</td>
<td>12 Thomas Edison invents the phonograph: 1877. Where was Edison born?</td>
<td>13 The Berlin Wall is started: 1961. When did it come down?</td>
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<td>29 Hurricane Katrina slams into Gulf Coast: 2005</td>
<td>30 1983: 1st African American in space. What is his name? Donald Crews born: 1938</td>
<td>31 1803: Lewis and Clark start their expedition from Pittsburgh at 11 A.M.</td>
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In summer, the song sings itself. ~ William Carlos Williams