Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools, shows off the wonderful display for nutrition books that will soon be sent to all elementary school library media centers in our state.

Thanks to the staff in the Nutrition Division of the Georgia Department of Education who have provided this heavy duty display and the many books they have purchased for the elementary Library Media Centers over the past several years.

Don’t miss the story on Fred Newman on pages 12 through 15.
Children’s Services Annual Conference 2008

CSAC will be held at the Macon Centreplex on Monday, February 4 from 9:00am to 3:30pm. Like last year, CSAC will be free to attend, but is limited to the first 450 registrants. They have a great conference planned—dynamic breakouts, fantastic presenters from across state, and a fabulous featured speaker, storyteller Donald Davis.

For complete details and to register online, please go to: http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/child/csac2008/. If you have any questions or additional information, please do not hesitate to email or call Elaine Black.

E.B. Black
Director, Children's Services
Georgia Public Library Service
1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
(404) 235-7127 tel.
(404) 235-7201 fax
eblack@georgialibraries.org
www.georgialibraries.org

National Board Certified!

Four members from Georgia recently joined the ranks of the 1,895 Nationally Certified Library Media Specialists in the United States who have worked hard for this honor.

Congratulations to Amy Altman of Bulloch County, Juliana Anglada from Gwinnett County, Teresa Kent of Cobb County, and Marilyn Wilson Media Specialist in Atlanta City Schools.

Georgia now has 110 National Board Certified Library Media Specialists. Congratulations to all of you!
GLMA Mabel Wyche Underwood Grants are available for the 2008-2009 school year. You can find the application on the GLMA website under Awards and Grants (http://www.glma-inc.org).

Grants are judged on six criteria:
- Quality
- Innovativeness
- Clear objective
- Benefit of project to students
- Budget
- Evaluation plan

Three grants will be awarded in the amount of $300 - $500 and the deadline for submitting the application is May 15, 2008.

In order to apply for a grant, you must be a current GLMA member and have been a GLMA member last year as well. Grant recipients must agree to participate in a concurrent workshop along with other grant recipients at the COMO convention to share the merits of their projects.

Joan Abraham, NBCT
Princeton Elementary School
Joan_E_Abraham@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us

Peach Award for Teen Readers

Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie

by David Lubar

Scott Hudson chronicles the ups and downs of his eventful freshman year in high school, as he joins the newspaper, works as a stage manager for the spring play, learns a lot from his outstanding English teacher, tries to help a student who attempts suicide, is beaten up because of a girl, and goes to the spring dance. Along the way, he discovers that his mother is pregnant, and he writes a series of insightful letters to his soon-to-be sibling.

Check out all of the titles on the GLMA website at: http://glma-inc.org/peachaward.htm

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
A Friendly Look for Different Grade Levels: GALILEO Gets a New Look

GALILEO will become a friendlier place for students during the week of December 17 when three new age-appropriate GALILEO interfaces roll into production, along with two others for the other GALILEO communities. The five new user views include High School, Teen, and Kids (K-12), Scholar (academic), and Library (public library). The new interfaces were developed on the principle of user-centered design. To achieve this, Community Customization Working Groups composed of librarians and media specialists worked with GALILEO teams in the development of new interface prototypes that have been revised in an ongoing usability testing process, including usability testing with students from Georgia elementary, middle, and high schools.

You don’t have to wait until mid-December to get a look at the new user views; just click on the “Preview the new, improved GALILEO” link on the current GALILEO homepage (http://www.galileo.usg.edu). Functional and design refinements will continue as feedback from users and usability testing is addressed.

User View Features

✦ Each view accessible to all audiences through user-tested flow model
✦ Each view has unique user-tested labeling and categories
✦ Each view has unique presentation of searching and resource discovery features, currently in testing
✦ Fast page loading speed
✦ Every page book-markable per institution
✦ Subject-based browsing of both databases and ejournals
Quick-searching opportunities contextualized throughout the interfaces by subject and type.

For more information on the GALILEO upgrade, go to http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/upgrade/redesign/phtml

Read article on following page for more current information

Georgia Department of Education
GALILEO Upgrade Update

GALILEO is pleased to announce the upcoming release of four new interfaces for each of the GALILEO user communities: Scholar (academic), Library (public library), High-School, and Teen. The initial designs have been available for review and testing in beta since early October. During that time, revisions have been prototyped based on the findings of usability testing, development for these revisions has been in process, and critical issues uncovered in beta testing are now being addressed prior to the production release.

The majority of the usability findings addressed the need to further clarify differences in navigation between the user views through color and design; functionality will not undergo major changes. Screen shots of the final designs are available for review at: http://www.usg.edu/galileo/about/planning/projects/upgrade/redesign.phtml

We had hoped that the release would occur at the transition between Fall and Winter school calendars in order to have the lowest possible impact on users, given the year-round services libraries provide, and had been aiming for the week of December 17th. Work continues to prepare the four new interfaces to appear in production within that window; however, the revisions will not be ready until the first week of January; a fifth interface intended to replace the Kid's interface now in production is being revisited based on feedback from usability and K12 stakeholders; the current Kid's interface will continue to be in use through January.

Thank you for providing help and assistance with this release and the many positive comments you have shared – we hope that the timing of the release will be acceptable and appreciate your understanding.

Lauren Fancher
Director, GALILEO Support Services
Library Services
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia
2500 Daniells Bridge Road, Building 300
Athens, GA 30606-3539
Phone: (706) 583-2138 Fax: (706) 583-2294
mailto:lauren.fancher@usg.edu http://www.galileo.usg.edu
Let the secret out
Stephen Krashen

Reading was the “secret” of Dr. Ben Carson’s success at school (“A school’s special place for bookworms,” Washington Post, November 8, 2007) and his experience motivated him to set up Ben Carson Reading Rooms—pleasant, comfortable areas with lots of good reading material.

Ben Carson Reading Rooms are a great idea. They should be available at every school and available to all students all the time. And it shouldn’t be a “secret” that reading was the cause of Dr. Carson’s success as a student.

It shouldn’t be a secret that when children have access to lots of interesting books and a place to read them, that they read a great deal.

It shouldn’t be a secret that when children read more, they read better, write better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and better control of grammar.

It shouldn’t be a secret that better libraries staffed by credentialed librarians result in more reading and better reading by children.

Researchers in language education have know all about these secrets. It is about time the secret got out.

Stephen Krashen is professor emeritus at the University of Southern California and is a linguist, educational researcher, and activist.
NoveList: Read-Alikes

Have you already read everything by your favorite author? NoveList can help you decide what to read next! Readers Advisory Specialists from NoveList are continuously adding entries to their Read-Alikes section. They include a brief discussion of why readers like their work and other authors you might also enjoy reading. You will find the Author Read-Alikes under the FOR READERS tab.

If you like Patricia Cornwell’s Kay Scarpetta, you might like Kathy Reichs’ Temperance Brennan. Clive Cussler fans would also enjoy the adventure fiction of Ted Bell. After reading Diane Mott Davidson’s culinary mystery Killer Pancake, you might try Susan Albert’s Thyme of Death. There are entries for Ursula Le Guin, Anne McCaffrey, and many more.

Rebecca Amerson, Media Specialist
National Board Certified Library Teacher
Woodstock High School

NoveList is available on GALILEO!

New Web Site Spotlights Adolescent Literacy

AdLit.org, a new Web site that targets educators and parents of adolescent readers, was recently launched by WETA Learning Media. Building on the success of sister sites ReadingRockets.org, ColorinColorado.org, and LDONline.org, the new service focuses on helping students from 4th through 12th grades to read and write better.

For further information, visit:
http://www.adlit.org

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
CNN Student News

CNN Student news is a way to help students learn about current events via a multimedia-rich resource. The 10-minute, commercial-free newscast covers major news stories in an engaging format Monday-Friday. There are free curriculum materials that include a transcript, discussion questions, learning activities, and news quizzes.

You can sign up to receive the CNN Student News Daily Education Alert to get a preview or other free CNN broadcasts. You can also subscribe to the CNN Student News podcasts. They will be downloaded to iTunes automatically. The webpage has step-by-step instructions. Try out the new technology possibilities!

Try something new in the new year! Share this information with others that might be interested!

http://www.cnn.com/studentnews/

Rebecca Amerson, Media Specialist
National Board Certified Library Teacher
Woodstock High School

The 39th Annual
Conference on
Children’s Literature

This wonderful conference hosted by UGA in Athens begins on Friday, February 29, 2008.

Special guests include:

Ian Ogilvy
Cynthia Kadohata
Brian Pinkney
David Wiesner
Mo Willems

More information: http://www.coe.uga.edu/gcba/
Druid Hills High School Media Center
Exceptional School Library Media Program 2007

Join us for an

Open House

Thursday, January 24, 2008
8:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Presentations at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Hosted by:
Kathleen Disney & Betsy Razza, Media Specialists and
Marlene Aronoff & Julie Jordan, Media Secretaries
1798 Haygood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30307

RSVP
678-874-6335 or
kathleen_r_disney@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us
betsy_razza@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us
Check out these Georgia Library Media Center WebPages!

Want to add pizzazz and information to your current webpage? Check out these outstanding pages.

**Donna Milner** of **Sugermill Elementary in Camden County** has a super website with a lot of links for parents and students.

http://ses.camden.k12.ga.us/media_center.htm

Check out **Annie Norton’s (Bryan County Middle School)** wonderful Media Center webpage.

http://www.bryan.k12.ga.us/bcms/Media_Center/mcindex.htm

**DeDee Bowen, Tina Graham, and Debbi Lotti** of **Union Grove High School** in Henry County have an outstanding webpage. Take a look at:

http://schoolwires.henry.k12.ga.us/16502091016383710/site/default.asp

The Union Grove High School Media Center has evening hours twice a week. Thank you ladies for all you do.

Is your Media Center website awesome? Let us know at: jserrite@doe.k12.ga.us

---

**For a smile visit this site featuring the students in Effingham County:**

http://www.wsav.com/midatlantic/sav/home.html

Click on the link, then Video, then Celebrating Children's Book Week.
The Character Education Film Clips (Volumes 4, 5, and 6) were mailed to all K-12 schools in December 2007. This is the second set in the series.

Several media specialists emailed or called to say they did not receive the first set that was sent in April 2007. Many emails and articles have been written about this wonderful resource, but it seems some media specialists were not aware of this Character Education DVD set until the 2nd set arrived at their school.

After checking with FedEx to see if the DVDs had actually been sent to the school we were able to send a set to most of those who had been inadvertently left off of the mailing list.

At this point, the GaDOE does not have any extra sets, but you may purchase them at www.filmclipsonline.com. There are also two additional volumes available (Volume 7 and 8) that GaDOE will not be able to provide to schools.

The DVDs are $25.00 each.

---

**DON'T GET LEFT OUT!**

Do you subscribe to the GaDOE Library Media List Service? No?

You may be missing out on notifications about conferences, special events, grant opportunities, newsletters, and much more. Join over 1,000 of your colleagues by subscribing.

Send a blank email to: join-doemedia@list.doe.k12.ga.us

You will receive a confirmation email to which you will need to respond. The confirmation email will include directions on how to unsubscribe.

---

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
When Fred Newman walked into the media center at West Side Magnet School this month, he was flooded with memories.

He had come home for Thanksgiving - and to film a television segment for the Georgia Read More project, produced in association with Georgia Public Broadcasting.

Newman is an author and voice actor who appears regularly on the “A Prairie Home Companion” radio show with Garrison Keillor. He also appears as host of “Between the Lions” for the Public Broadcasting System and was a host of the “New Mickey Mouse Club” for the Disney Channel (the show that launched the careers of Britney Spears, Christina Aguilara and Justin Timberlake).

Home in LaGrange, he was prepared for the filming - but he didn’t expect to be swept into the past.

Memories

Newman grew up in LaGrange and says he learned the beauty of storytelling by sitting on the steps of a neighborhood store, listening to patrons swap tales. He taught himself how to make funny noises and how to tell a story. He said his first audience was Dorothy “Dot” Woodyard, the Newman’s maid.

“It’s not very politically correct these days, but back then, maids were like second mothers to our generation,” he said. “It was really the only way to draw black and white families together. And I felt like our family and Dot’s family were intertwined.”
Newman’s mother, Claire, remembers that Woodyard went everywhere with the Newman family.

“Everywhere we went, Dot went, too,” she said. “She went with us to Washington, D.C., and New York City. One of her favorite trips was to Orlando, where we stayed in Jim Henson’s (creator of the Muppets) mansion.”

Newman said her son often would send a plane ticket to Woodyard so she could visit him. “She told me once that Fred had her riding bicycles through New York City,” Newman said. “Dot loved that.” And the Woodyard family has fond memories of the Newman family, as well.

Dot Woodyard’s brother, Robert Woodyard, 74, said he grew up with the Newman children.

“I knew them all,” he said with a smile. “But to Dot, Fred was special. She just loved him to death.”

When Dot Woodyard died in 1995, Fred Newman delivered her eulogy - and produced a documentary about her for the Woodyard family, including photos and film from both families.

“So many of the stories I tell now are stories Dot told me,” he said.

The halls of West Side

Newman attended West Side when it was a junior high school. And it was a special place, he said.

“West Side is a particularly magical school for me,” he said. “Coming back is a very layered experience. I wish I could have snapped my fingers and stopped time.”

He credits one particular teacher for igniting the love of reading for him.

“Professor Sam Hornsby taught seventh-grade English three doors down from where the media center is today,” he said. “It is very touching to be here today, so close to where all of this began.”

Newman said he vividly remembers his first encounter with Hornsby.

“He came in holding a yardstick and he was waving it around while he talked about the English language and literature,” Newman said. “The yardstick got caught up in an electric fan and shattered. But it didn’t faze Professor Hornsby - he just kept right on talking. I knew then it was going to be a wonderful ride of a year.”

It was the first time the young student saw how exciting education could be, he said.

“Before that, it had been very passive,” Newman said. “But Professor Hornsby brought it all to life for me.”
Setting it up

Newman said he was approached about being part of the Georgia Read More project earlier this year when “A Prairie Home Companion” was broadcast from the River Center in Columbus.

“There were some people there from the Georgia Department of Education, and they contacted me after the show to see if I would do a segment for the program,” he said. “It all came together kind of magically.”

Georgia Read More is a literacy program aimed at third-graders, implemented by the state Department of Education. In it, dignitaries and celebrities read a children’s book aloud to a group of students and the reading is taped for future broadcast. The reading is accessible for viewing by students, parents and teachers via Georgia Public Broadcasting, Web cast and on DVDs distributed to Georgia’s 1,200 elementary schools. A photograph of the celebrity reader with the book is used to create a poster that has been distributed to all the public elementary schools in Georgia.

Some of the guest readers are former President Jimmy Carter; Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools; Mary Perdue, first lady of Georgia; pitcher John Smoltz of the Atlanta Braves; country music star Travis Tritt and NASCAR driver Bill Elliott.

Scholastic Books, Peachtree Publishers and other publishing companies have provided books and copyright permission for the project.

Newman said he received several books from Peachtree Publishers so he could make his choice, but his decision was easy.

“‘Railroad John and the Red Rock Run’ by Tony Crunk jumped out at me,” he said. “It was not unlike the stories I grew up with.”

Bringing it all together

Jacque Hornsby is media specialist at West Side, and the wife of Newman’s favorite teacher, Sam Hornsby, now retired from LaGrange College. She helped organize the filming.

“Fred will be reading to a group of 12 third-graders,” she said before the shoot. “Each of our four third-grade teachers selected three students to participate in this project.”

But fate stepped in for a serendipitous twist.

One of the students chosen was 8-year-old Jennifer Woodyard, Dot Woodyard’s granddaughter.

“When Jennifer was selected to participate in this project, we knew nothing of her connection to the Newman family,” Hornsby said. “It still gives me sweet chills to think how beautifully chance has handled this.”
Newman said he was a bit overwhelmed by the emotions and memories that flooded him during his morning at West Side.

“First, it was so wonderful to be back in this school and to see Jacque,” he said. “And then Professor Hornsby walked in and said hello, and then beside me is Jennifer Woodyard, Dot’s granddaughter. It kind of took my breath away.”

**Lights, camera, action**

Before the cameras actually started rolling, Newman talked with the children, teaching them how to make some sound effects.

“Now, I’m going to need you to help me when I read the book,” he asked them. “Do you think you can do that?”

Twelve heads nodded as the children practiced their new skills. As Newman demonstrated some of his acclaimed vocal sounds, the children began to give him requests. But there was one little boy who thought he had that “impossible” idea.

“Can you do a truck on fire?” he asked with a mischievous grin.

After a moment’s pause, Newman launched into a complicated series of sounds - loud pops and crashes, accompanied by the wail of an approaching fire engine. All of this accompanied by the giggles of the children.

Pippy Rogers, principal at West Side, watched with pride as her students took their turn in the spotlight.

“We didn’t tell the children ahead of time that the reading was going to be filmed for television,” she said with a smile. “They went crazy when we told them this morning.”

Meanwhile, Newman was telling the children about the importance of books and reading.

“When I was coming along, things like books were so important,” he said. “Now you have TV, the Internet and movies that take you away from books. But you know what? All those things start with words first. So don’t forget the magic of books.”

After the filming, Newman took several minutes to meet Jennifer Woodyard and to visit with her parents, Jackie and Roger Woodyard. Claire Newman stood off to the side, catching up with Robert Woodyard.

At one point, Fred Newman turned to Jackie Woodyard and said, “You know, Jennifer looks a lot like Dot.”

Roger Woodyard replied, “Your mother just said the exact same thing.”

To which Newman said, as he smiled at the student, “She has the same gentle, lovely demeanor of her grandmother.”

He then grinned at his mother, with tears in his eyes, and said, “What a wonderful day.”

Reprinted with permission from the LaGrange Daily News

Kathy Cox, State Superintendent of Schools
ROBERT BURCH of Fayetteville, GA, died December 25, 2007 after an extended illness. Funeral services were held at Fayetteville First United Methodist Church on Friday December 28th. After graduating from Fayette County High School, he served in the U. S. Army during World War II along with his five brothers, and was stricken with wanderlust after being stationed in New Guinea and Australia. After completing his military stint, he earned a degree from the School of Agriculture at the University of Georgia. He worked as a civilian with the U. S. Army in Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan, and then returned to the United States on a Danish freighter that stopped at ports in the Orient, North Africa and Europe. He spent the next eight years in New York City where he took writing courses as a hobby. When one of his instructors suggested that he take up writing as a profession, he did so. Two years later, in 1962, Viking published a picture story for young children called "A Funny Place to Live". Since then, Mr. Burch has published 18 other children books. He quickly established himself as one of the most popular writers for young people, and his books have earned numerous awards and citations. Queenie Peavy, selected as a Notable Book by the American Library Association, was also the winner of the 1966 Children's Book Award for the Child Study Association, the Seventeenth Annual Literary Achievement Award of the Georgia Writers Association, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award for 1976, and 1971 Georgia Children's Book Award. Skinny was awarded the Georgia Children's Book Award in 1967, and in 1970 Burch was named Georgia Author of the Year for Joey's Cat. In 1974 he received the George C. Stone Center for Children's Books Recognition of Merit Award and the Georgia Children's Book Award for Doodle and the Go-Cart. In 1976 he received the Georgia Children's Book Award, once again, for Two That Were Tough. Ida Early Comes Over the Mountain proved so popular that it served as the basis for a NBC television movie entitled "The Incredible Ida Early" that aired in 1987. On November 5, 2007 he was the first recipient of the W. Porter Kellam Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Georgia. Robert Burch was a very notable author, but his passion was a heartfelt interest in people. He was a southern gentleman who made everyone seem extra-special. In an article written for the AJC in 1983 Burch said "I've spent interesting years in other parts of the country, other parts of the world, but there was always Fayette County to come back to. Unlike some writers, I can go home again. Although I may not have chosen to live all my adult life in Dixie, I've never considered dying anywhere else".

From the AJC Obituaries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.**  
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*