

Newsletter

Issue 3 Aug 2004

Hello everyone,

It's Term III again and in case you hadn't noticed the Olympic Games are in full swing once more (how quickly four years fly by) and it's almost Book Week. If you've been snowed under by paperwork and had no time to dream up fantastic competitions and activities try the following:

The August 2004 issue of The Literature Base has a Book Week Quiz in it as well as a puzzle about doors and their physical components. For some reason there are only 27 quiz questions, which seems rather an odd number to me so I have added another three to mine to round it up to 30 and given it out to our Senior School staff who are quite competitive. We are also running a competition for students to guess the number of doors in our library. As that includes cupboards it's quite a challenge!

Run a Knock Knock joke competition - there are lots of jokes in these books: What a Giggle by Phillip Adams and Patrice Newell, 1001 more cool jokes with Glen Singleton. Like this one:

Knock knock

Who's there?

Liz.

Liz, who?

Lizen carefully, I shall say this only once!

If you missed the opportunity to set up a whole Reading Olympics programme try just a few events such as these and award points or prizes accordingly:

TRIATHLON - Read 3 books by the same author,

100 METRES - Read a book at least 100 pages long,

SPEED SKATING - name at least 10 Australian authors in one minute,

MARATHON - read a book at least 400 pages long.

TRIPLE JUMP - read three books in a series or trilogy

Good luck!

Jan Nicholls
Editor



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Please address general correspondence to:

AISWA LIBRARIES
P O BOX 943
NEDLANDS WA 6909

Email items of interest for the newsletter to
jnicholls@stmarys.wa.edu.au

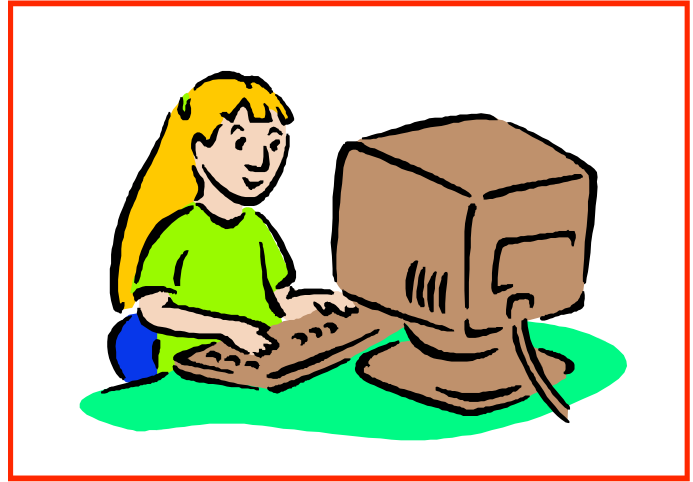
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RECENT STAFF CHANGES

Kelsey Thompson who was working part-time in the library at St Mary's Junior School has joined the staff at St Brigid's until the end of the year.

St Stephen's School, Carramar Campus are looking for a part time teacher librarian for 2005. If you are interested see the school website
www.ststephens.wa.edu.au
<<http://www.ststephens.wa.edu.au>>

Please notify the Editor of any staff changes in your library so that they can be included in the next issue...



We're looking for a new editor...

Could this be YOU?

Position Vacant

APPLY NOW!

At the end of this year I shall be retiring from the committee and therefore my position as Newsletter Editor. I have been a member of the committee in one capacity or another for at least the past 12 years and feel it is time for a change. If you would be interested in taking on the role of Newsletter editor or finding out what the job entails I'd love to hear from you.

It's a great learning experience and, whilst I still have a long way to go, my desktop publishing skills have improved enormously since I took over from the previous editor.

If you can use Word you can do the job! I use Quark software (because I also edit our school magazine) but it is not a pre-requisite if you prefer another software package.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Jan Nicholls
Newsletter Editor
jnicholls@stmarys.wa.edu.au

AISWA Libraries Professional Development Session

EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

INTERNET, INTRANETS AND VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORKS...

Another successful AISWA Libraries PD afternoon was held at Hale School on 6 August. Thanks and congratulations must go to all involved in the co-ordination of the event, particularly Pam Buselich and Robin Wake. In light of the recent provision to schools of broadband telecommunications services, the PD focused on using the internet, intranets and virtual private networks for secure information access and distribution and interactive learning, with a particular emphasis on how school libraries can best utilise the technology to maintain and extend their reach.

In the first session CEO consultant Moira Curtain gave us an overview of myinternet, the software and support service which has been adopted by the Catholic Education Office to provide a centrally managed internet platform for all Catholic schools in WA.

In addition to basic essential services required to manage the internet usage within schools, such as user accounts, content filtering, disk space management, traffic monitoring and anti-virus protection, myinternet also provides a school or system with secure access to a wide range of collaborative and access tools. Features include mydesktop which provides an intranet-like communication channel between teachers, students and the outside world through such facilities as webmail, calendars, noticeboards, discussion foyers and moderated forums. Through myclasses, a teacher can store and index data, search and create class and personal home pages. Fully integrated with mydesktop and myclasses, myportfolio provides a means by which both students and teachers can create personal electronic portfolios. All facilities and information are made accessible on the desktop through "properties"; areas which hold specific information on a topic and/or clickable links and myinternet allows access to the information from both within the school and from a physically separate location, such as a student's home.

Moira was followed by David Hewitt, manager of the AISWA Learning Net (ALN), which is currently under construction. The purpose of the ALN is to provide secure access to a school's online learning

environment from anywhere at any time. The establishment of the ALN is supported by a State Government grant which has obviated any need for member schools to contribute to the cost. The ALN will operate as a virtual private (telecommunications) network (VPN), linking member schools. As such it can be tailored to provide specific services and benefits to its users, (such as free phone calls within the network). It will be modular in design, allowing each member school to selectively subscribe to the components best suited to its situation and requirements. The interface between the user and the VPN will be in the form of a portal which will provide access to a wide range of in-school and outside facilities and information, and which will be customisable to the particular needs of the school.

An important function of the ALN will be providing access to Learning Objects created by the Le@rning Federation, an initiative of a joint venture of education.au limited (<http://www.educationau.edu.au>) and Curriculum Corporation (<http://www.curriculum.edu.au>). Supported by State and Federal governments of Australia and New Zealand, the Le@rning Federation is developing online interactive curriculum content specifically for Australian and New Zealand schools. Through ALN, teachers will be able to use BeLTS (Basic e-Learning Toolset), a software package designed by the Le@rning Federation to create online curriculum materials incorporating Le@rning Federation Objects.

Robin Wake was the final presenter in the first session and told of her experience of the impact of the intranet, and particularly facilities like class server, on the library's ability to be involved in the initial planning of research assignments. She found that teachers readily adopted class server. They welcomed the opportunity to web-author their own assignments without having to co-write the assignment with the librarian to ensure that the information process steps, which they perceived as overly complicated, prescriptive, linear and threatening, were embedded into all research work. Initially disillusioned, Robin has since found that teachers have become dissatisfied with internet searching and its results, and more keen to utilise the library's guid-

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ance in this area. With a changed approach – less prescriptive, less linear, with simpler instructions and allowing more choice, a more effective role for the TL has been arrived at. Robin's experience illustrates the importance of flexibility in our role. We need to keep learning and embrace change in order to remain relevant and meet the needs of the school community as they fluctuate and evolve.

Following a very nice afternoon tea, during which I managed to spill my coffee, two concurrent second sessions were held. The session that I attended was presented by Stephen Carley and Adrian Teraci, Teacher Librarian and Year 7 teacher respectively, at Infant Jesus Primary School (IJ). Adrian was the ICT Coordinator at IJ for five years, and Stephen has also worked in this role. Together they demonstrated what myclasses actually looks like and how they individually and collaboratively use myclasses to create links between the library and the classroom. From his traditional method of consulting with the teachers to find out what they were doing so he could make his library lessons more relevant, or asking what resources the teachers would like, Stephen now locates relevant websites and creates links to them within a property on myclasses. He provides teachers with "virtual resources", as he would have previously done with textbooks. He now has online access to the students' set work, as of course do the students. They obtain what they have to do from myclasses via a property called e-learning portfolios, then submit the finished work through myclasses.

An interesting feature is that when the students obtain and submit their work through myclasses, their visits to websites the teacher has recommended are recorded, so the teacher can see whether or not the students are using them. As it allows the use of graphics, myclasses has enabled Steve and Adrian to create a colourful and stimulating library resource for the students, complete with photos and animated gifs, with links to general information resources, discussion foyers, reading links, children's authors, online games, the Olympics, the Class Book, fun websites...the list goes on. One problem that is foreseen is that the site may become overloaded with properties to scroll through, so periodic updating will be required.

Leonie McIlvenny was the other presenter in this session. Leonie is very experienced in the areas of Teacher Librarianship and ICT and is currently the

Director of the Learning Centre at Aquinas College. Leonie's focus was on the use of online collaborative learning facilities, with an emphasis on discussion boards. Pointing out that existing websites and "old generation" collaborative activities on the net, such as same-time chat and e-pals, are seldom found to be useful or relevant enough, Leonie provided us with some good ideas, examples and resources for creating online collaborative experiences specific to our students' needs. One of these resources is Think.com, (www.think.com), a free service provided by Oracle Corp. designed for ages 7-14. which provides email across the school population or network, facilitates collaboration and also contains many tools for students to use, including an easy webpage creation tool. Leonie recommends that students be introduced informally to such facilities as think.com and that time be provided for playing and developing familiarity.

The online learning environment is not linear, but provides options, such as graphic forums and bulletin boards, which students should be allowed to use. One of the strengths of the online learning environment is that learners can do things in their own time. For this reason discussion forums are popular, but parameters such as cut off dates must be set.

Discussion boards such as the free Nicenet, (www.nicenet.org), and Amazing Forums, (amazing-forums.com), when used by students to discuss big questions, post ideas and add relevant links, can serve as a record for assessment purposes. They often provide excellent evidence of critical thinking. Leonie suggests a good way to introduce the use of online discussion is to make the posting of an idea or opinion on the discussion board a requirement of an otherwise relatively traditional assignment. There is no need to try to create the definitive online resource, if it's your first time!

The entire PD afternoon was very useful. Thanks must go to all the presenters for generously sharing with us their knowledge, experience and expertise.

Cathy Dale
Penrhos College



AISWA PD - CONCURRENT SESSION 2.1 KRISTY BROOKES, IONA BARBARA COMBES & JAN RING, ECU

After enjoying a much needed and delicious afternoon tea, those who elected to join Kristy Brookes, Jan Ring and Barbara Combes in session two, were treated to a feast of ideas to incorporate in their online learning programmes.

Kristy Brookes is a Teacher Librarian and teacher of Society & Environment and Technology & Enterprise at Iona Presentation College. With much enthusiasm, Kristy walked us through how she uses myinternet, mydesktop and myclasses to enhance her teaching and enthuse the students. She showed us the benefits of using myclasses as a virtual learning environment by developing specific pages for year groups, subjects, extra curricular activities or as a pastoral page. This not only gave ownership to the students, but allowed parents of boarders or those who could not attend events, to have access to what is happening within those areas. Within the library, Kristy has used it to enhance reading programmes and add stimulation to the Literature Circles programme, by setting up an online discussion forum which has proved to be both positive and popular with the students. A very creative and inspiring presentation, it is easy to see why Kristy was recently presented with an Outstanding New Educator award.

Following Kristy's presentation, Jan Ring from Edith Cowan University gave us an insight into how she has recently spent her time in Singapore, working with ICUS a leading corporate eLearning company. Jan has designed and taught a variety of online programmes within the corporate world. These programmes, using images and titles of real people within a department and simulation of real tasks, have made what would normally be a dry learning task, interesting. This has provided a stimulating interactive experience for employees within the corporate learning environment.

Barbara Combes, although now employed at Edith Cowan University, has been a Teacher Librarian at Sevenoaks Senior College. Barbara managed the Library and Information Centre, acted as Webmaster and WebCT Administrator, collaborating with staff to develop a range of online curriculum modules, to support the curriculum at the College. Barbara

showed us how they had managed to turn what had been perceived by the students to be boring topics, into stimulating online experiences. These online programmes had not only actively engaged the students but had given them a sense of feeling in control and responsible for their learning. Despite the fact that the programmes are heavily scaffolded and facilitated students still felt they were learning independently. One of the many positives that Barbara mentioned about online learning was that it provides the opportunity for enhanced learning experiences and it has the ability to cater for different learning styles.

These three very different presentations of ideas on how interesting online learning can be, certainly had us engaged and we thank Kristy, Jan and Barbara for sharing their creative talents and stimulating ideas with us.

Sue Cameron
All Saints' College



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EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Internet, Intranets and Virtual Private Networks

On Friday 6 August, Hale School hosted a PD afternoon that was well attended by a range of people interested in delivering information and learning online. Feedback has indicated that the speakers provided a comprehensive overview of what is happening in our schools, as well as demonstrating practical applications. The format of an afternoon lasting for 3 hours has worked well for the last two AISWA Libraries events, however, please continue the feedback and suggestions for future events.

For those who were unable to attend, or who would like to pass this article to others in their school, here is a brief overview of the speakers in the first session.

Moira Curtain, CEO consultant, described MyDesktop, a portal to the Internet for all Catholic Schools.

Mydesktop includes:

- A state notice board
- Ability for each school to add its own administration information
- Access from home for students and parents
- Calendar, URLs, activities, bookmarks
- A files box for current personal files

MyClasses:

This is a facility for specific groups and classes. It is used for classroom management, shared information, online learning and storage of work for parents to view.

MyPortfolio

This is under development and will provide an area for students to store their own work.

David Hewitt, Education consultant, AISWA, is currently developing aiswalearningnet, a portal that will enable teachers, parents and students access to their school's online learning environment. It will provide a range of applications and managed services and access to the Learning Federation.

David pointed to the advantages of creating an online community of practice, thus allowing an unprecedented sharing of resources, interschool collaboration and a choice of modules related to a particular school's needs and interests.

Some concerns that were explored and discussed were:

- Management and retrieval of shared online content
- Quality assurance
- Intellectual property rights

Robin Wake, Head of Library, Hale School, spoke about the evolving nature of the role of the library in providing access to online resources. Robin was responding to constructive criticism from both teachers and students about how prescribed search strategies should be and how to provide more flexible pathways that are not overcomplicated.

She suggested considering a model of negotiating with teachers and departments to find out their needs and delivering at point of need, rather than overwhelm them with information. Hence there is a constant need to re-evaluate the role of the library and the role of the teacher-librarian and question what is unique about our role.

Pamela Buselich
Head of Library
Iona Presentation College

WA SCHOOL LIBRARY CONFERENCE 2004

18 - 19 June

Held at St Stephen's School, Duncraig

This year's conference was outstanding in every way; a feast of sessions which addressed current library issues in depth and breadth. I'm sure everyone reading this will take their hat off to the organisers who developed the programme and the large array of our colleagues who gave up their time to present their ideas with such clarity and professionalism.

BOOK LAUNCH

The conference precursor drew lots of excitement and interest as conference delegates packed the Harbour Suite at Rendezvous Observation City Hotel on Friday morning for the launch of Norman Jorgensen's latest book- "A Fine Mess". The relocation of this event due to such a large audience was testament to the high esteem with which local West Australian library personnel hold Norman and the huge success he is having in this stage of his writing career.

Norman's humour which weaves itself throughout the book was obvious when looking around the room at the table arrangements of garden gnomes in various poses and gifts of fireman's hats to special contributors to the book, which young adults will no doubt find humorous and down to earth. We enjoyed a reading rendition from St Stephen's students and tucked into a sumptuous and tasty breakfast.

This was a great way to begin our conference; showcasing local talent for pleasure; while celebrating the launch of another successful book!

BUS TOURS

Many delegates like myself were fortunate to be a part of a bus tour either to a primary or secondary school. This is a wonderful tradition of sharing our ideas and is especially helpful to delegates from around the state who rarely have an opportunity to see other school libraries and to discuss issues which arise during the day. The primary school tour visited Carramar Public School Library with TL Gail Sherbourne where there was a lot of discussion on work practices and timetabling for such a large population of students. The "Reading Tree" was a conversation piece which many delegates loved; a place where children can sit and take themselves off to other lands in stories.

Our next stop was Perth College Junior School where TL Robyn Valli discussed the history of the school and the process of accommodating the library into a renovated old house which even has its own ghost stories. Robyn also shared a few components of her program in quite an entertaining way. Our lunch break consisted of a restful browse around Westbooks bookshop while munching on tasty morsels. Thanks to Westbooks and the two schools for hosting us. It was an interesting and inspiring day in many ways.

The secondary school tour visited Carine Senior High School where they were warmly welcomed by TL Diane Piruk and particularly admired her jelly bean shaped tables and inspirational posters. A delicious lunch and a relaxing browse at Westbooks followed and from there it was on to Chisholm Catholic College for an address by TLs Cally Black and Ingrid

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Chidlow including a potted history of the school's recent amalgamation from two campuses into one. Cally's paperbag book review idea was eagerly snapped up and many people also appreciated the opportunity for an in-depth look at the BOOKIT system.

CBC WINNERS IN CONVERSATION

The Friday night panel session, hosted by Lesley Reece from Fremantle Children's Literature Centre gave insight into three amazing authors Norman Jorgensen, Catherine Bateson and Marcus Zusak. A real highlight was hearing each of the authors read their own unique style of writing with passion and the audience was nothing short of captivated.

To put the icing on the cake our evening ended with champagne and jazz in the foyer and it was hard to drag oneself away to prepare for an early start on Saturday.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

These were well chosen both in terms of quality of presenter and the way in which the topics complemented each other.

LYN HAY : SCHOOL LIBRARIES: LEADING LEARNING AND POLICY IN SCHOOLS

Lyn discussed emerging technologies, along with literacy standards and ways to maximise student achievement, matters of Independent Learning and Social Responsibility. She mentioned the work of Ross Todd and the Ohio Study and went on to look at the importance of policy, support of school principals and Information Leadership. Knowledge Management, protection of Intellectual Property and Copyright are central to new developments in Information Usage. Her challenge in closing was that library staff should be involved in a leadership team which identifies the core issues of learning within the school, to create a vision of ways to develop an information literate community.

This keynote address can be found at

<http://ispg.csu.edu.au/members/lhay/waslc/keynote/ppt>

PRU MITCHELL : PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE @ YOUR LIBRARY

Pru gave a very informative and comprehensive keynote on professional excellence. She discussed standards of excellence within our profession, along with research and statements on the Code of Ethics, shared core values and issues in the developing education sector. She referred to career guides such as "myfuture" and the work by ALIA on policies and core values and sited research by ACER on the "Impact of School Libraries on School Learning".

What should we do with our knowledge, skills and right attitudes?... celebrate and contribute to the profession through contributions to professional magazines and websites, celebrate Book Week and International Library day or nominate someone for Australian Teacher Librarian of the Year. In short.....be involved, informed and pro active. Pru's power-point presentation can be found at the following URL.

<http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/page 2893.html>

SHAUN TAN

Shaun used his art work to discuss his thoughts on "Venturing into New Forms of Visual Story Telling". He discussed his earlier picture books, indicating that they were not produced with any particular audience in mind; hence the appeal to adults and children alike. He is currently working on a graphic novel and is investigating video and film connections to his art work. His keynote address brought a visual focus to end the conference, which catered for all forms of story. This was certainly a pleasant and absorbing session; a fitting end to a challenging and inspiring day.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

There was certainly a huge range of topics on offer, ranging from Policy Development and Information Leadership to working with Student Outcomes, Online Curriculum and creating a reading culture; developing writing skills, graphic novels, literature circles and author sessions. The feedback I received was very positive and people came away from these sessions commenting that they could have spent twice as long exploring the issues. We are so fortunate to have had the value of the expertise and generosity of these presenters; teachers, authors, education practitioners and book sellers who gave of their own free time to share their ideas for the benefit of Librarianship in WA.

OTHER

The trade display was on offer as were the wonderful examples of library activities in the foyer to peruse. These were well supported and well organised to give delegates access to new resources and ideas.

THANKS

must go to our conference convenor Sue Stopher who gave an enormous amount of time and energy to make this year's conference so successful. Sue is a person who is always very dedicated to the task at hand and so we send a huge thankyou from our members for her leadership and to the committee with delegates from AISWA and WASLA who worked tirelessly to organise and present a superb WASL Conference 2004.

Thank you

Mary Hookey

President, AISWA Libraries

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AISWA Libraries Committee Membership 2005

AISWA libraries is open to all those interested, who are employed in an independent school or college. We provide a networking opportunity for members, publish newsletters, hold public meetings and organise conferences, seminars and professional development workshops. We liaise with and lobby employer groups and other organisations as needed.

We administer the Jean Rhodes Award for Excellence, which recognises the exemplary work of a colleague in the field of teacher librarianship in an independent school or college. We rely on the support and assistance of all those employed in independent school libraries. In numbers there is strength. Please consider joining us. Positions on the committee include general member, treasurer, secretary, president and newsletter editor. As our constitution limits the term members may serve in certain positions some people will need to resign at the end of this year and new committee members are urgently required for 2005.

If you would like to nominate an AISWA Libraries member for a position on this committee please complete the nomination form below and post to: AISWA Libraries, P O Box 943, Nedlands WA 6909 before 1 October 2004.

AISWA Libraries Committee Nomination Form

Nominate _____

from (name of school) _____

for the position of _____

signed
(nominator) _____

signed (nominee) _____

New members are always welcome. If you would be interested in joining the committee please complete the form below and post to: AISWA Libraries, P O Box 943, Nedlands WA 6909 before 1 October 2004.

Expression of Interest Form

I am available to join the AISWA Libraries committee for 2005.

Name: _____

Employed at: _____

I would be prepared to serve in the following roles if elected by the membership (please circle) committee member, treasurer, secretary, president, newsletter editor.

I have/have not been a previous committee member.

Signed: _____

JEAN RHODES MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

This award is presented to librarians or those employed in a school library or resource centre who, in the estimation of their peers have fulfilled the following criteria:

- * Improved the services of the library
- * Provided students with an environment which is conducive to learning and information gathering
- * Improved communication within the school community
- * Provided support to professional colleagues
- * Highlighted an image of the best professional service which should be received in all libraries

Rules of nomination

1. Only members of AISWA Libraries are eligible.
2. No current member of the executive may be nominated.
3. The proposer must submit evidence to support the selection criteria as outlined above.
4. The decision of the Committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
5. The award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Nomination form

Full name of nominee

Position held

Name of school or college

Address of school

.....

.....

.....

Phone number

Email address

Please attach a written statement giving examples of the way in which the nominee has fulfilled the above criteria. Testimonials from others in the school and library community, to support the nomination, are encouraged.

CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS: Friday 1 October 2004

Nominations to be submitted to: Mary Hookey OR Marie Green
Christ Church Grammar School Newman College
Queenslea Drive 216 Empire Ave
Claremonts Churchlands
WA 6010 WA 6018

Phone enquiries: 9442 1722 9204 9444