

# Between the Lines

- King 8th grader, Ja-Lene Scott-Dottin wins top honors in Mass Letters About Literature
- Author Jarrett Krosoczka visits with first graders on March 26
- Author Chris Abouzeid met with Amigos students to discuss his book Anatopsis on Feb. 12

## Fun Facts About Our Library

- **16,469 volumes** (includes English, Spanish and Chinese)
- **369 videos and DVDs**
- **In one week an average of 471 books are checked out**
- **10 computers**

## Shhh! Young Researchers at Work

It's that time of year. Carts of books about animals, planets, states, and famous abolitionists await the hands of the young researchers. Classes have settled into a routine and teachers are ready to begin the research process with their students. What does research look like in the King/Amigos library?

It begins with a discussion between the librarian and the teacher about the topic students will be researching. They discuss what materials are needed, what lessons will be taught in the library, how long the project will last, and what the final project will be (a written report, a PowerPoint, a monologue, etc.) Sometimes the teacher and the librarian decide to make materials available for students to use independently, as in the case of Ms. Looney's students' research of Ancient Rome and Ms. Collins students' research of volcanoes. Or, as in the case of the research with the third and fourth graders, students are presented with a number of library mini-lessons: how to use the table of contents and index, how to use encyclopedias and atlases, how to use online databases such as Kids InfoBits, and how to take notes and to cite works used for a bibliography.



Simmons student Elisabeth Zimmer works with 4th graders.

Ms. Conlon's fourth graders are completing PowerPoints of their research on the solar system. Ms. Fetter's students used their research findings to make books about the 50 states. Ms. DeLeon and Ms. Goffredo's second graders have begun animal research which culminates in a family event.

The Amigos sixth graders are involved in a Collaborative Design team project. The librarian, the technology teacher Mr. Ralph Collins, science teacher Ms. Ferhani and social studies teacher Mr. Batt are all supporting students' production of a wiki. Wiki, which means "quick" in Hawaiian, is a collaborative website. The students are contributing information on the ecosystems of locations they visited in the Fall. Next, they worked in the library and computer lab to research the history and

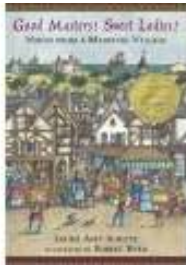
geography of these locations.

Students involved in the many steps of the research process need a lot of adult support. The library is thankful to all the volunteers who have helped classes with research. We are especially thankful for our strong relationship with Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Every year we have wonderful practicum students. Their work here enables us to do many more collaborative projects and to try out new teaching techniques.



Learning to use maps

## The Best of the Best: 2008 Award Winners



Each year, the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes the most outstanding books for children by awarding the Newbery and Caldecott Medals. The Newbery Medal is given to an author, and the Caldecott Medal is given to an illustrator of a picture book. The ALA also awards Newbery and Caldecott Honor Medals to other excellent books that were contenders for the medals.

The 2008 Newbery Medal winner is *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village* by Laura Amy Schlitz. It includes 21 stories told by different people living in long-ago England. The book also provides information on what it would have been like to live so long ago.

The Caldecott Medal winner is *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. It is unusually long for a picture book—it has more than 500

pages! About 300 of those pages are black-and-white pictures. Neither the words nor the pictures tells the whole story; the reader must pay careful attention to both to follow the action. This book is set in the 1800s in a French train station. Hugo, an orphan, works hard to complete a mysterious invention his father began. As he works, he meets a toymaker with a secret past and another orphan about his age, and he uncovers a deep, secret mystery.

## Runners-up for the 2008 Medals

### Newbery Honor Books:

- \* *Elijah of Buxton* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- \* *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt
- \* *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson



### Caldecott Honor Books

- \* *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad* illustrated by Kadir Nelson, written by Ellen Levine
- \* *First the Egg*, written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro

### Seeger

- \* *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*, written and illustrated by Peter Sís
- \* *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*, written and illustrated Mo Willems

### Tips for reading with your children from the National Education Association:

- Keep reading to your child even when he can read. Or, take turns reading—you can each read a chapter.
- Ask what part of the story or book your child liked best and why.
- Ask if your child liked the ending of the story. Why or why not?
- Encourage any reading. Enjoy yourself and have fun. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is communicate that reading is valuable and enjoyable.

## Read Across America Day: March 3rd, 2008

On March 3, 2008, the library led the celebration of Read Across America Day! Read Across America is the largest reading celebration in the United States. It began on March 2, 1998, and schools all across the United States participate. The celebration happens on March 2 in honor of the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. This year, some students got a very special visitor on Read Across America Day: The Cat in the Hat came to their classroom!

Dr. Seuss was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on March 2, 1904. His mother

Henrietta often sang him to sleep with rhymes she remembered from her youth. Dr. Seuss later said that his mother's songs inspired his love of rhymes.

He wrote his first children's book, *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, in 1936. Even great authors sometimes have trouble in the beginning—publishers rejected the book 27 times before they published it! However, Dr. Seuss' big break came in 1954. A publisher asked Dr. Seuss to write and illustrate a children's book using only 225 vocabulary words that would

be easy for new readers to understand. With this challenge in mind, Dr. Seuss created *The Cat in the Hat*, his signature book. Before his death in 1991, Dr. Seuss went on to write and illustrate 44 books for children. They have been translated into more than 15 languages and are loved by children around the world.



Mrs. Basile's class meets the Cat