

October, 2012



Briefings...



A publication of the Youth Services Interest Group of the California Library Association

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New Horizons

There is so much talk these days about telling your library's story. It's nothing children's and teen services librarians haven't heard before. We know how. But taking precious time away from programming for storytelling is another matter. Quantifying library activities with hard data can be uncomfortable. Marketing and publicity are not primary goals, though they certainly help. Our main focus lies in enrichment, activity and inspiration for children and families.

The October issue of Briefings has so many amazing events happening in California libraries! From Rancho Mirage Library's Simply Irresistible story times, where words and songs are projected on the wall for optimum parent interaction, to stuffed animal sleepovers and zombies marching through the stacks, libraries are incredibly busy places. It's no wonder some cannot stop to tell their own stories.

And yet, in addition to rolling up sleeves, so many of you take the time to record your wonderful events. Photos get uploaded, videos are produced and announcements go out on social media. There are other kinds of stories here, too—such as Monterey Park's Reading Rockets program that saved local families an estimated \$11,000 in tutoring bills. Don't miss Rancho Cucamonga's Robotics Workshop program that teaches STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) concepts beyond the classroom--two fine examples of how public libraries are bridging the gap between school and home.

Thanks to everyone who sent me such impressive stories. I hope each one finds its way into city/county council board rooms, goes viral on the web and plants seeds in the hearts and minds of voters.

Celeste Steward, Collection Development Librarian

Alameda County Library, Fremont, CA

Meet the Author

“Where We Can Get to Know California Authors and Illustrators of Books for Children and Teens”

by Penny Peck

Dave Keane



California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group

This issue, author/illustrator Dave Keane was kind enough to do an interview by email: <http://www.mrdavekeane.com/>

Q. Congratulations on your new series of easy to read books, “Monster School” published by HarperCollins. How did you come up with the idea?

Thank you. It’s been doing very well so far, so I’m just thrilled about the book’s reception.

The idea for the book sprang up out of the desire to write a book about going to school. As a kid, I loved monster movies. I read books about monsters. I loved the idea of vampires, mummies, werewolves and swamp things—I still do! And since I love fish-out-of-water stories, I thought it’d be a fun idea to combine all these ideas together. So, I wrote a story about a boy who is nervous about fitting in on the first day at his new school. As luck would have it, he doesn’t fit in, because everyone at the school is some kind of a monster, and he’s just a normal kid. (In fact, his name is Norm!)

Q. For the “Monster School” series, you both write the text and do the illustrations. What media do you use for your artwork?

I scanned my pencil drawings into the computer, printed out the sketches on watercolor paper, then I used watercolors to paint the printouts. I did just a bit of colored pencil on top of that. It worked pretty well, but I essentially made up the process as I went along. I’m a self-taught illustrator, so I’m sure if I’d had taken art classes I would have had a more sophisticated approach, but I’m real happy with the final result. The illustrations have a disarming, warm and handmade quality that I think work for the book’s tone and humor.

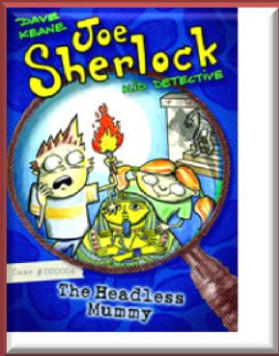
Q. How many books are planned for the “Monster School” series?

As of now, we’re planning to do two books for the series.

Q. For some of your other books, you use a different person as illustrator. For example, for Bobby Bramble Loses his Brain (Clarion, 2009), David Clark is the illustrator. For your Joe Sherlock chapter books, you are the illustrator. How do you decide?

First, I don’t think I’m the right illustrator for most of my manuscripts, simply because my style is not a good match for the story. I will say, however, that the choice of illustrator is usually the publisher’s domain. When I sell a manuscript, I’m usually not asked for my opinion and they just hire who they think is right. That’s pretty typical and I understand going in that’s how it works.

As I mentioned above, I’m a self-taught illustrator, so the Joe Sherlock series was really my first professional job. Talk about pressure! I told them I wanted to do the artwork, so when I submitted the manuscript I included some sample illustrations. I guess they were good enough. The publisher wanted over 50 illustrations for each of the first four books. Yikes! It was a real sink-or-swim situation, but I love to draw and it was an absolute blast to figure it all out.



**California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group**

Meet the Author: Dave Keane cont.

Q. Do you have a favorite "classic" illustrator of children's books that inspires you?

I admire and respect so many illustrators I wouldn't know where to start. Sometimes I'm even jealous of their talent. But one thing I've come to understand is that so many styles of illustration can work to tell a story. It's important to understand and embrace your illustration style and not try to be something you're not. For example, I remember being moved by *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein. It's one of my all-time favorites and I consider it picture book perfection. I would not have been the right artist for that manuscript by any stretch of the imagination, but it did serve as an inspiration. Then you read James Marshall's books and his style fits the "George and Martha" humor perfectly, too. The magic is when the right story and the right artist come together. That's inspiring.

Q. The "Joe Sherlock, Kid Detective" series has been compared to Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" and R.L. Stine's "Goosebumps" books – very high praise! What did you think when you read that?

I think to myself "Man, I wish I had their sales figures!" HA! But seriously, those two have gotten hundreds of thousands of boys to read books. I know their books aren't always lauded and held up as "good" literature, but they are great at getting boys in the door as readers. Nobody can argue with that. If I've helped in any way in that regard, I'm thrilled and proud.

I'll also add that it's extremely gratifying to get emails from kids and parents who are fans of the "Joe Sherlock" books. It can be humbling, too. But it's a thrill to provide laughs and entertainment to people I'll probably never meet. It's really the best part of being an author. A lot of kids send me their fourth-grade book reports about the "Joe Sherlock" mysteries. They make dioramas, dress up as the characters, or even write their own "Joe Sherlock" stories. I mean, does it get any better than that?

Q. How did you get your foot in the door of the publishing industry? What was your first published book?

Hmmm. I got some early help from picture book author Karen Beaumont, who happened to live in my area. She helped me get started. I had checked out and read at least 30 books from my local libraries about becoming an author, and that helped me understand the business, but meeting another author made it all seem possible. She was a great help and provided very timely encouragement.

My first sale was the first chapter book I ever wrote: *Joe Sherlock*. It sold to HarperCollins. They didn't just want to buy the book I wrote, they asked for four of them. Wow, that was some phone call from my agent! I think I was in shock, especially after trying to sell picture books manuscripts for so long—it was starting to feel impossible to get published.

Q. What were some of your favorite books as a child?

I remember reading Richard Scarry books all the time. And Dr. Seuss, especially those tongue-twister books. I also remember a book called "Journey Cake, Ho!" It was by Ruth Sawyer and illustrated by Robert McCloskey. I think it was done in just two colors, or perhaps three colors. It made a big impression on me. It was kind of haunting and weird and strange, but riveting at the same time. My brothers and I literally wore that book out.



"I used to run to the drugstore...and read all the newly arrived comic books...I would pretend to be choosing which one to buy very carefully, but really I was just reading all the comic books I couldn't afford."

California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group

Meet the Author: Dave Keane cont.

Q. What was the public library like when you were a kid growing up in San Jose, CA?

My mom would occasionally take my brothers to the Cambrian Branch Library in San Jose. It smelled like old books there. One of my brothers told me you'd get arrested if you didn't return your library books, so I was very selective and nervous the whole time I had a book at home. And, truthfully, I was more into comic books than "book-books." During the summer, I used to run to the drugstore at the nearby Hacienda Gardens Shopping Mall on Tuesdays and read all the newly arrived comic books while standing or sitting in the aisle. Man, the workers in that store were certainly tolerant. I usually only could buy one of two to take home, so I would pretend to be choosing which one to buy very carefully, but really I was just reading all the comic books I couldn't afford.

Q. Did you attend San Jose State University? Many of our readers attended SJSU for their library degrees.

I actually went to San Diego State University. (Go Aztecs!) While there, I served a two-year sentence there as an acting major (HA!), then switched to English. During college, I fell in love with books and reading. I seriously just went ga-ga for books of all kinds and was never without a book in my hands. I guess I was a late bloomer in that way. Better late than never. So... if you know any young boys who don't like to read, don't give up hope!

Q. I read you were the middle child of seven boys. That reminds me of Jon Scieszka's story (he was the second of six brothers). How did living with all those boys influence your books?

I was always the "creative" brother. Let's just say that house was lively. Oddly enough, I write more with my own kids in mind than my brothers, but I do recall everything from when I was young, very detailed stuff. I always thought everyone remembers details from their childhood like I do, but apparently not. Someone once told me that children's book writers remember vividly what it feels like to be a kid, and that is certainly true in my case.

Q. I read you were a theatre major in college, then switched to English, and that you like "The Three Stooges" and "Sherlock Holmes" films. Are you a Moe, Larry, Curly, or Shemp? And who is your favorite on-screen Sherlock Holmes?

If I could get all the time back in invested in watching "The Three Stooges" I think I'd have three PH.Ds! HA! I was always worried that Shemp got short shrift. He seemed to have so much potential!

I have always liked Sherlock Holmes movies and books. Jeremy Brett, who played Sherlock Holmes in the PBS television series, was always my favorite. I was watching that series when I got the idea for "Joe Sherlock."

Q. You also were in the advertising business. How did that influence your books?

I am still in the advertising and marketing business. I guess you could say the influence on my books is that being a copywriter taught me how to write concisely, which is what you have to do when you write. It also made me a better speller. As a kid I was always a preternaturally miserable speller. I couldn't spell a lick until someone started paying me to spell correctly.

Meet the Author: Dave Keane cont.



California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group

Q. Do you visit schools and public libraries to talk to kids about your books?

Yes, I have probably visited hundreds of schools and libraries. I did a lot of stand-up comedy when I was in high school and college, so doing an assembly at a school with 350 kids in the audience feels a lot like doing the comedy circuit, only the crowd is much shorter. I think it has a big impact on the kids to meet an author and an illustrator.

Q. If so, how do librarians contact you for visits?

The best thing to do is to email me through my website, which is www.mrdavekeane.com.

Q. Any funny experiences at a school or library visit? Nearly every author or illustrator has a story about the visit that went awry!

I did a two-week book tour for "Sloppy Joe" with the book's very talented illustrator, Denise Brunkus, who is famous for illustrating the "Junie B. Jones" series. We had such a blast travelling around the country together, but we'd only be in a city for a day and then fly to the next city and visit schools and bookstores all day long. After about a week, we had no idea where we were or where we were going. We became travel zombies. Thank goodness the publisher handled all the travel arrangements. I think we had a case of the giggles for the last three days. It was exhausting but exhilarating at the same time (if that makes any sense!).

Q. Anything else you would like our readers to know (do you have an upcoming book you want to mention)?

I'm busy working on a seventh "Joe Sherlock" book, which I'll probably release as an ebook soon, like I did with the sixth "Joe Sherlock" book. I've also got several other projects going on right now, too; it's really busy for me these past few months. If you'd like to track what I'm up to and see all my latest news and releases, "like" my Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mrdavekeane or follow me on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mrdavekeane.

Thanks to Dave Keane for such an insightful interview on what it is like to be an author/illustrator!

Penny Peck

Pikly@aol.com

Youth Services @ CLA 2012



Programming for the Male Customer:

Tween to 20-Somethings

Do you have trouble getting young male customers into your library? Do you need some great programming ideas to reach this reluctant group of library users? Then please join the Youth Services Interest Group at CLA Annual this year for the presentation *Programming for the Male Customer*.

The event will be held on **Sunday, November 4 from 2:45-4:15pm.**

Presenters Anna Hartman, San Diego County Library; Rachelle Lopez, Ontario City Library; Edwin Rodarte, Ontario City Library; Bill Sherwood, San Leandro Public Library will discuss ways to create programs specifically for the Tween, Teen, and “20-Something” Male customer. Participants will walk away with innovative ideas on how to develop, implement and evaluate programs for male users.

Youth Services Interest Group Annual Meeting

The Youth Services Interest Group will be hosting their annual meeting at CLA Annual Conference this year. If you are interested in joining the group, learning about YSIG activities and how you can get involved, or have some really great program ideas to share with other youth services librarians throughout the state of California, then please join us on **Saturday, November 3 from 1:00PM-2:00PM** (Marriott Willow Glen Room I).

We look forward to seeing you at CLA this year!!

Julie Zeoli, Librarian

Yorba Linda Public Library

18181 Imperial Hwy

Yorba Linda, CA 92886



2013 Summer Reading Training Workshop in Southern California

Thursday, November 15, 2012

10:00am-3:30pm

Burbank Public Library, [Buena Vista Branch](#)

300 N Buena Vista Street

Burbank, CA 91505

Registration information:

- Registration fee: \$20 to cover lunch and refreshments
- Registration link: <<https://m360.cla-net.org/event.aspx?eventID=61154>>
- [Register now!](#) All checks and credit card payments must be received by Friday, October 26, to ensure you have a space at the workshop
- Registration fees are non-refundable
- Your registration for this workshop constitutes permission to utilize photos taken of you at the event for news, promotion, and similar purposes.

Reading Is So Delicious!

Please join us at CLA's southern California summer reading training workshop which will be full of original and affordable ideas for decorating the library and programming for children, teens, tweens, and adults. We will also provide in-depth training in how to design and present an outcomes-based summer reading program and how to reach out to targeted groups in the community. And attendees will have the opportunity to participate in small-group discussions and exchange ideas with colleagues.

Questions? Please email Natalie Cole: ncole@cla-net.org

Event page on our website: <<http://www.cla-net.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=503>>



Stuffies, Babies and Books, Oh My!

Great Stuffed Animal Sleepover

We had our first pajama story time and stuffed animal sleepover last month. Fifty-five people came along with twenty-two “stuffies” who stayed overnight. It was very successful and every participant left with a certificate complete with a group photo with all their new friends. Each stuffie had a name tag, made by his/her special friend. Then the friend made a “wishing star” – what his/her hopes were for their stuffie’s library stay. See photos of their antics on our website, <http://www.ranchoiragelibrary.org/>.



Book Babies Too!

Nearly two years ago, I took InfoPeople’s 4-week course, “Simply Irresistible: Story times for 2 and Under” with Colleen Willis, from which a wildly successful “Book Babies” story time for babies birth to twelve months old and caregiver(s) evolved. Our weekly attendance is usually from 10 to 15 but last week I had 25 babies along with 16 adults!

Initially I planned it as an eight-week course with registrations, name tags, and lots of other time-intensive activities. Now it is open and works really well. I prepare the program as a PowerPoint presentation and project it on a large, flat-screen monitor in the story time room. All the words and motions to songs, fingerplays, and rhymes are easily readable. I include material from *Every Child Ready to Read* so that the theoretical material supports the activities of story time. We have a lively time followed by free play – a great time for parents to network, share information, and marvel at the growth and development of the babies.

Mim Gottschalk, Children’s Librarian
Rancho Mirage Public Library
760-341-7323
miriamg@ranchoiragelibrary.org



An
estimated
1500 teens
enjoyed the
lock-in
festivities
and author
visits.

**California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group**

2012 Nationwide Teen Zombie Lock-In: A Late Night Hit!

This summer, more than 70 libraries in more than 25 states, collaborated to host a zombie-themed, after hours, nationwide teen lock-in event. Jennifer Lawson, of San Diego County Library, spearheaded the August 3rd nationwide extravaganza, which was part of California Library Association's 2012 Summer Reading Program.



With the help of web conferencing, librarians planned a host of activities and author visits that allowed teens, living hundreds of miles apart, the chance to interact, socialize, and be inspired together. Participants enjoyed live web visits with highly acclaimed, young adult authors, Jonathan Maberry, Carrie Ryan, and Ilsa Bick. Teens also got to compete against one another in online gaming tournaments, scavenger hunts, and a Minute-to-Win game. They were even able to take part in an online "Thriller" dance lesson! Libraries also planned their own on-site activities. Zombie costume and makeup contests were all the rage. Zombie-themed baking and food decorating, and the zombie-fying of used stuffed animals, Barbies, and assorted toys were popular activities nationwide. At the conclusion of the program, one teen stated in his evaluation that it was the "best day of my life!"

An estimated 1500 teens enjoyed the lock-in festivities and author visits.

A list of participating libraries and photos from the lock-in events are on the California Library Association website [2012 Nationwide Teen Library Lock-in page](#). Plans are in the works for another lock-in night this coming summer. Feel free to contact Jennifer.Lawson1@sdcounty.ca.gov if you have additional questions.

Trish Garone, Summer Reading Program Assistant

California Library Association



What Stuffed Animals Do at Night

This summer, more than 60 libraries across California hosted sleepovers for the beloved stuffed animals of their youngest patrons. The program was part of California Library Association's 2012 Summer Reading Program. Hundreds of children headed to their local libraries for story times with their favorite stuffed animals in tow. At the conclusion of the story time, children bid farewell to their plush friends and wished them a good night. For the stuffed animals their night at the library had just begun! The evening consisted of more story times, late night snacks, board games, races, hide and seek, movies, online gaming, craft projects, campfires, gymnastics, and more. Library staff and volunteers documented all the events in photographs.

The next day, young patrons returned to the library to pick up their stuffed animals, and in many cases, were able to enjoy another story time. They were treated to photo displays of the evening's activities, and some were sent home with photos of their own stuffed animal in action. Many of the libraries also posted photos on their websites and Facebook pages featuring the stuffed animals' various late night escapades. Animals and their owners received certificates of completion, and everyone really seemed to enjoy this program. An unanticipated bonus was that many of the staff and volunteers responsible for choreographing and photographing the activities seemed to have just as much fun as the kids who participated. The program was modeled on a similar program run by Anna Hartman at San Diego County Library.



A list of participating libraries and many of the Sleepover photos are posted on the California Library Association website's [Dream Big! The Great Stuffed Animal Sleepover](#) page.

Trish Garone

Summer Reading Program Assistant

California Library Association



**California Library Association
Youth Services Interest Group**

Fallen Author Visits Ovitt Family Community Library



Author Lauren Kate talks about her plans for a new series.

Lauren Kate, bestselling author of the young adult series, *Fallen* visited the Ovitt Family Community Library on September 12, 2012. We had a packed house of teens, tweens and adult fans of young adult literature. Ms. Kate started her visit with a reading from the first chapter of *Rapture*, the final title in the four-book series. Next, she shared the path that she took to become an author.

Audience questions included calls for another series (Ms. Kate is currently working on an unnamed project), as well as questions about the publication process. Mrs. Nelson's Toy and Book Shop was on hand to sell Ms. Kate's books, and a portion of the sales will benefit teen services at the library. All attendees received specialty *Fallen* bookmarks.

Ms. Kate is one of several teen authors that we've hosted at our library in recent years. We hope to continue to do so in the future. We look forward to our next large author event--Teen Book Fest coming to Ontario on May 11, 2013.

Courtney Saldana, Young Adult Librarian
Ovitt Family Community Library
csaldana@ci.ontario.ca.us



Where in the Library are the Zombies?

Ojai Library, part of Ventura County Library, participated this summer in Zombie Lockdown 2012, a nation-wide program. Dozens of libraries across the country were doing the same thing, but not all were as brave as Ojai's children's librarian, Julie Albright and children's support staffer, Tanya Villasenor and have them spend the night.



At 5:00 pm the event started and Julie called the Ojai Police Dept. to let them know that 18 Zombies would be spending the night in the library and that at 10:00 pm there would be a Scream Contest. After the officer realized that Julie was truly a sane person he asked her how she was planning to stay awake all night. Julie's answer was simple, "Sugar, plenty of sugar!"

So, you ask yourselves, what do you do with 18 'Zombies' for 15 hours. Plenty!!! Plenty of games, activities, movies and plenty of food!!! Before the event, community volunteers knitted 20 blank zombie dolls. Then kids finished the creation of their zombie dolls. There were some pretty ingenious zombies. Later it was discovered that they were *flying* zombies, when a group of boys decided to see if they could catapult them into the rafters. Some zombies are still on the missing list. This sounds like the beginning of another program—scavenger hunt for the zombies or zombie geocaching or a take-off on *Where in the World is Waldo?* to *Where in the Library are the Zombies?*

Part of the games, were 7 Minute-To-Win-It competitions. Out of the 7 games, the kids actually managed to finish 3 tasks under a minute, but what a blast it was! Who knew stacking plastic cups was so hard.

The highlight of the night was the Scream Contest. Everyone participated in the Scream Contest and ears were ringing for about an hour.

Well, it only took about 1 hour to clean up, and all were picked up, yawning, tousled and slightly bemused by 8:00 am. Only a couple needed to be carried out.

Susan Mikula, Children's Services Coordinator

Ventura County Library

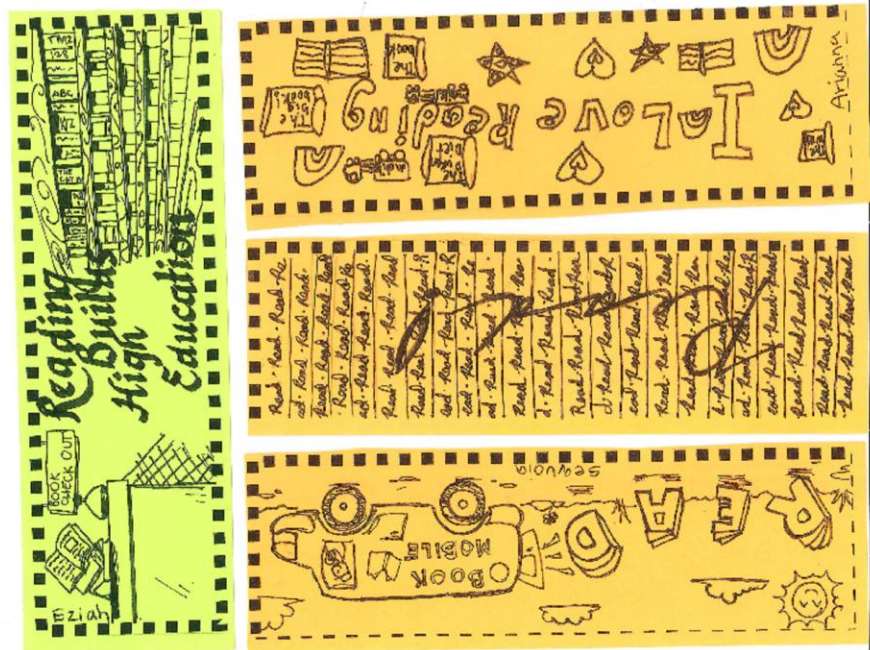
5600 Everglades, Suite A

Ventura, CA 93003



Richmond Library Hosts Bookmark Design Contest

We do a bookmark program every year on the Richmond Bookmobile. Lately it has grown very popular (400 entries). The bookmobile visits elementary schools every week in Richmond. The program involves children making a bookmark design. The flyer is the application. The rules are simple, it must fit in the lines and it must be in black and white, no color (the printing is too expensive). We prefer a library/reading theme but they are free to draw anything. The upper age limit is twelve for this contest.



We start handing out the flyers the month before spring break in our local schools. The participants may turn the applications in at once, but they can have up to three weeks to work on the design. Some of the better entries took loads of time. My staff divides up the entries by age; like age compared to like age and we pick a winner. Each age has a winner; a \$10 gift certificate from Barnes and Noble, fifty copies of their winning bookmark, and a certificate in a nice folder for their wall. We have a raffle of all the winners for an iPod shuffle.

Children love this contest. Parents love this contest. I had a mom tell me that we were so kind to do a drawing contest, her daughter loves to draw.

Odette Batis, Bookmobile Librarian
Richmond Public Library
325 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804
510-307-8089



Teen Multimedia Creation Lab Opens in East Oakland



Thanks to an Innovation Funds grant from the Bay Area Library and Information System, the 81st Avenue East Oakland Community Library of the Oakland Public Library system opened the doors to its Teen Multimedia Creation Lab on September 26. This “pop-up” lab contains state-of-the-art multimedia equipment, including 9 Apple Mac Book Pros loaded with the latest Adobe Creative Suite and Final Cut Pro software. The branch is hosting an intense 9-week multimedia workshop for a select group of neighborhood teens, with an instructor from Oakland’s Youth Uprising, a “transformation center” that provides recreation, job preparation, and work study opportunities to teens and young adults in East Oakland. At the conclusion of the workshop, the teens will screen their short multimedia films for the community. The branch will host a second series of workshops in the spring of 2013, and hopes to utilize the lab for a wide variety of youth-created media projects in the future.

Susan Maldonado, Teen Services Librarian

81st Avenue Branch, Oakland Public Library

1021 81st Avenue, Oakland, CA 94621

(510) 615-5812



Reading Rockets Combats Summer Slide in Monterey Park

This summer the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library held an extremely successful reading tutoring program for children entering grades 2 through 6. The program, which we dubbed Reading Rockets, was designed to combat summer slide by providing extra help to students during the summer.



Tutor and UCLA student Kenneth Drennon reads to a group of students.

Reading Rockets was made possible through a partnership with Project NEO, a Monterey Park non-profit which works to provide educational opportunities to local youth. For six weeks during July and August, students were tutored in small groups by college students who had been specially trained to help kids build their literacy skills. Our tutors and children worked on reading and writing, played games and also used Scholastic's Bookflix database to strengthen vital literacy skills.

During the program, we provided a total of 372 hours of tutoring to 24 children! At the market rate of \$30 per hour for private tutoring services, this represents a value of over \$11,000 to the community of Monterey Park! The partnership and program was so popular and successful that we are currently preparing to launch another session which will begin in early October and run through the duration of the 2012-2013 school year.

Diana Garcia, Children's Services

Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

626-307-1358



Robotics Workshops Teach STEM Concepts at Rancho Cucamonga

Rancho Cucamonga Library Services has recently started offering STEM Education: Robotics Workshops. Through an LSTA grant issued by the California State Library, 12 LEGO WeDo and 12 LEGO NXT robotics kits were purchased and used to teach children ages 7-13 about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) concepts. Staff developed a curriculum that walks children through the steps of creating a robot while learning about mathematical probability, physics and computer programming. The best part is children have to work in groups and use problem solving techniques to make their robot dance and navigate through obstacles. Part of the workshop includes working with community partners such as the Etiwanda High School Vex Robotics Team who help children learn the robot making process.



If you think your library can't offer this then think again! The LEGO WeDo robot kits have software that makes it easy for you and your patrons to build and program robots using a fun story and intuitive interface. You can create up to five different robots with each kit. The kits include gears, pulleys, motors, and sensors. Best of all, this program can be offered over and over again once the kits are purchased.

This is a fun and exciting way to get children engaged in STEM learning and we are having a great time offering it.

Wess Garcia, Programming Librarian,
Rancho Cucamonga Library Services

909-477-2720 ext. 5073



Teen Volunteers Run Science Programs at SLO Library

This year, the San Luis Obispo Library received an amazing opportunity through a grant from the Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust. The award allowed us to hire two local teen interns, Gwendolyn Wensloff and Noran Rahim to work with adult mentors to create and present unforgettable science activities for children.

The activities included programs on: animal communication with dog “clicker” training, gardening for kids, owl pellet dissection, a demonstration of the ever-amazing shake down of earthquakes using Slinkys, Jello and marshmallows, and the science of ice cream making. From these presentations, the library created circulating science kits for check-out by organizations, families and schools.



Left to Right: Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer, Gwendolyn Wensloff, Noran Rahim

Noran and Gwendolyn had an incredibly good time working with each other, the mentors, and Head of Youth Services Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer. The teens brought a level of enthusiasm and perspective to the projects that can't be duplicated by adults trying to think like teens. Sounds obvious, but this is often overlooked by groups serving young people. The students felt respected for their ideas and gained confidence working with library staff members.

The process involved a lot of fun on the way to creating publicity, goals, outlines and activities. These young women built skill sets, from research to public speaking which will serve them well in higher education. They learned to work as a team, not only with each other but also with the local scientists who helped present the programs. It was a fabulous experiment for our whole library community!

Margaret Kensinger-Klopfer, Head of Youth Services

San Luis Obispo County Library



Blind Date @ Orinda Library

Many libraries across the country have ran successful "Blind Date with a Book" programs the last few years, and now it's Orinda Library's turn! We will be offering this program for Valentine's week in February 2013 for kids, teens, and adults to help celebrate the holiday.



The library will have displays offering books for each of the three age groups. Each book will be wrapped in plain brown paper to hide its identity and color-coded for its respective age range. We will have book review forms for patrons to tell us how their 'date' went. Patrons can go on multiple dates and turn in reviews of each of their dates. Reviews will be entered into drawings for prizes for their age group.

Our goal is for patrons to try a book which they normally wouldn't think to check-out. We hope to have fun in the process! Feel free to contact us after February to see how the program went.

Lin Look (Youth Services Librarian)
Ruth Boyer (Adult/Teen Services Librarian)

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://cla-net.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=25>

Announcements

ALSC Fellowship Opportunity

The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)'s Special Collections and Bechtel Fellowship Committee is now accepting applications for the Louise Seaman Bechtel Fellowship. This fellowship provides a \$4,000 grant to a qualified children's librarian to spend a total of four weeks or more reading and studying at the Baldwin Library of the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida, Gainesville. The Baldwin Library contains a special collection of 85,000 volumes of children's literature published mostly before 1950. The fellowship is endowed in memory of Louise Seaman Bechtel and Ruth M. Baldwin. **The deadline is December 30, 2012.**

You may find more information, as well as a link to the online application, at this site: <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/profawards/bechtel>

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## Free Webcast Series on Common Core Standards

Tune in for *School Library Journal's* FREE webcast series on how the new Common Core education standards are impacting your library, your school, and your students.

In these three (3) one-hour webcasts, library, literacy, and education experts from across the country will explore how to effectively implement this nationwide initiative. You will emerge more able than ever to navigate the Core's challenges, to make the most of the opportunities it brings, and to be a leader in your institution.

**PART 1: October 18, 2012 - *Getting Real: Marc Aronson and Sue Bartle***

**PART 2: November 20, 2012 - *Librarians, the Secret Weapon***

**PART 3: January 17, 2013 - *Making the Text Connection***

***More Information and a Link to the Registration:***

<http://www.slj.com/webcasts/commoncore/#>



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**California Library Association  
Youth Services Interest Group**

## Request for Submissions/Upcoming Topics

Interested in contributing to the next issue of Briefings? Want to share some wonderful and successful programs and partnerships at your library? Do you have any pressing topics you would like to read about in *Briefings*? We want to hear from you!

We are especially looking for new and interesting programs going on at your library or any successful collaborations/partnerships. Please send submissions for upcoming issues to the editor at [csteward@aclibrary.org](mailto:csteward@aclibrary.org)

We look forward to hearing from you!

***Help to contribute to YSIG by taking part in the  
Briefings Newsletter!***



A special "THANK YOU" to all those who submitted articles for the October, 2012 issue of BRIEFINGS!!!



