

Learning Resources and Technology

Newsletter

October 2001

LRT Newsletter On-line

Future editions of the Learning Resources and Technology Newsletter will only be available on-line on the State Department of Education web site. Look for a new newsletter every other month in the Curriculum section.

Shadowmakers Needed

The third cohort of students in the Advanced Alternative Program to Prepare Teachers to Become Library Media Specialists will begin their program this month. One aspect of the school-year portion of the program requires each student to shadow certified library media specialists. If you would be willing to have one or more of the students shadow you for a day, contact Betty Goyette at (860-713-6760) or by e-mail: betty.goyette@po.state.ct.us

Many thanks to those who helped last year's students learn about daily life in the library media center. The shadowing experiences were extremely valuable.

Instructional Television Schedule

The *Instructional Television Schedule and Resource Guide* for the 2001-2002 school year will be distributed using each district's Learning Resources and Technology Facilitator. The guide also is available on the State Department of Education web site:

<http://www.state.ct.us/sde>

Click on the Curriculum button and look under library media/instructional television.

Summer Reading Challenge Tally

Tally sheets for reporting your school's participation in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge have been sent to school principals. If students in your school read during the summer, encourage them to contribute their numbers to the state total. The back of the reporting form is available for your suggestions and comments to improve the program. The tally sheets are due by October 19, 2001. They may be mailed to Governor's Summer Reading Challenge, State Department of Education, Room 304, P.O. Box 2219, Hartford, CT 06145, or faxed to: 860-713-7005.

iCONN

Over the summer, additional databases have been added to iCONN, Connecticut's Digital Library. Among the new resources available to schools are:

- The Gale Discovering Collection
- Expanded Academic ASAP
- The *Hartford Courant*
- The *New York Times*
- Wilson Biographies Plus

Watch for workshops on using iCONN at your regional educational service center.

Onsite school access to iCONN is provided using IP authentication from licensed institutions that have registered their IP address (see HELP on the web site if you need assistance with this). Remote access is provided by using a public library card number. Visit iCONN at: <http://www.iconn.org>

Resources for Dealing with the Tragic Events of September 11, 2001

ALA's Association for Library Services for Children has posted a list of books, web sites and

other resources to help children, parents and educators cope with and discuss the terrorist attacks that took place in New York and Washington, D.C. These materials are available at:

http://www.ala.org/alsc/dealing_with_tragedy.html

U.S. Secretary of Education Paige announced "Helping Children Understand the Terrorist Attacks," a new web page that suggests ways adults can talk with children about the attacks. The web page also offers suggestions for educators, and provides links to additional resources that may be helpful to parents, teachers, and other adults who work with children. The web page is available at:

<http://www.ed.gov/inits/september11/index.html>

Reacting to the Terrorist Attack

The Education Development Center has responded to the September 11 tragedy, and subsequent attacks on Arab-Americans, by creating a mini-curriculum, "Beyond Blame: Reacting to the Terrorist Attack." The 3-lesson, 25-page curriculum, for middle and high school students, focuses on issues of justice, fairness, and mislaid blame. It is available for free on the EDC website.

The curriculum, which is co-sponsored by The Justice Project and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAFA), was designed by a team of EDC researchers and curriculum writers who were concerned that the terrorist attacks have created a hostile climate for Arab-Americans-much like the climate Japanese-Americans faced following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The web site address is:

<http://www.edc.org/spotlight/schools/beyondblame.htm>

CTCurriculum.org

The State Department of Education is developing a web site that will provide high-quality, instructional tasks based on the Connecticut Frameworks. The purpose is to illustrate how the standards can guide and energize student learning. The site also provides teachers with a means to share their own curriculum successes with other teachers by entering tasks for review and posting.

CTCurriculum.org is still under construction, but work is underway to populate the site with good tasks. Library media specialists and other teachers are invited to submit high-quality tasks that are related to state content standards for consideration. The "help" section of the site provides guidance for submitting information.

There is a section related to the Learning Resources and Information Technology Curriculum Framework. Library media specialists are encouraged to submit authentic student tasks that show how the LRIT content standards can be integrated into content area instruction.

Connecticut Children's Book Fair

The 10th Annual Connecticut Children's Book Fair will be held on November 9-11, 2001, at the University of Connecticut. The Book Fair features prominent children's authors and illustrators, activities and events – all to foster enjoyment of children's literature. A list of authors and program highlights can be found at: <http://bookfair.uconn.edu>

Know it All

Know it All is a series of 13/15-minute instructional television programs that promotes information literacy for students in Grades 3-6. Based on the national *Information Power* standards for student learning, the programs illustrate the importance and use of information literacy skills for successful learning in academic subject areas.

Programs include nine episodes for students and four teacher topics. Tapes of individual programs, and teacher guides, are available for loan from both the Middletown and Willimantic Library Service Centers. Programs also air as part of the State Department of Education instructional television schedule.