

School Corps Quarterly

A publication of the Multnomah County Library School Corps — an outreach program connecting students, teachers and media staff with public library resources

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www.multcolib.org/schoolcorps/scq/

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Summer Programs for Educators

By Jackie Partch

Novel-ties!: New Fiction for Literature Circles

Do you lead book discussion groups or literature circles for students? Come to this workshop to learn about hot, new discussable fiction for fourth through eighth grades. We'll provide copies of the featured books for you to borrow after the event, and we will serve refreshments.



Where and When:

- Wednesday, August 13, 2–4 p.m., North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St.

Gotta Read This:

New Books to Connect with Your Curriculum

Tired of using the same books with your classes every year? Come to this workshop to learn about new books you might integrate into your language arts, social studies, math, science or arts curriculum. We'll briefly introduce the books, provide copies of our booktalks, and have the books available for you to borrow after the event. Refreshments will be served.

Where and When:

For K–5th grade educators:

- Thursday, August 7, 2–4 p.m., Midland Library, 805 S.E. 122nd Ave.
- Tuesday, August 12, 2–4 p.m., Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. (in the U.S. Bank Room)

For 6th–12th grade educators:

- Wednesday, August 6, 2–4 p.m., Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th Ave. (in the U.S. Bank Room)

Registration required for all workshops. To register, visit www.multcolib.org/schoolcorps/gotta.html or contact School Corps at 503.988.6004 or lib.school.corps@multcolib.org by **August 1, 2008**. You may be able to obtain in-service credit for attending this workshop; ask for details.

Wikipedia – Use it or Lose it?

By Cathy Camper

As professionals in the teaching field, it's our job to teach students how to do research. Bottom line, we are all held responsible for what's published under our names. Mistakes have been found on Wikipedia, leading people to question its validity as a reference source. Whether we use Wikipedia or not, it's our responsibility to find verifiable information from the best sources available.

Some things to consider:

-Wikipedia verifies its information by requiring posters to quote from source material. But the legitimacy of these sources may be questionable. Also, this rules out posting primary source information — people can't just write about their experience; they can only quote what's appeared in other places.

-Are you getting an unbiased view? A while ago, Microsoft wanted to hire people JUST to post on Wikipedia, so that the material on Microsoft would be "correct." But since all posts are anonymous, readers don't know what's missing (for example, Apple's viewpoint), or if the information provided is factual, or promotional.

-Wikipedia is monitored by other users. One study found false material was corrected in about three hours. We ask students if it matters that it was incorrect. One student said "When I do research on the Internet, I NEVER go back to recheck if that fact has changed."

False information can also encourage plagiarism and slander. Here are some articles on those issues:

- John Siegenthaler Sr. was slandered on Wikipedia: www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2005-11-29-wikipedia-edit_x.htm

-An excellent article about plagiarism:

www.slate.com/id/2186029/?GT1=38001

-Mob action online:

<http://tech.msn.com/news/article.aspx?cp-documentid=6247087&cid=tg6247087&>

School Corps offers a program on Internet safety for students called Think Before You Click, as well as a presentation on searching for and evaluating websites. We also offer a program for parents called Safe Space, about social networking sites. Contact us if you would like to schedule one of these programs.

Booktalk: *After Tupac and D Foster*

By Lee Catalano

Is it easy to mark the moments when your life makes an important turn? Can you remember that first time when things became before and after? That person or event that you understood changed you forever? Jacqueline Woodson can, in this book that seems so redolent of personal memory that I can only think she is writing about herself.

The unnamed narrator and her best friend and neighbor Neeka hang out on the stoop in their quiet Queens neighborhood. Their mothers don't let them go beyond the block, and – at 11 years old – the girls are chafing under the restrictions. One evening, a stranger comes around the corner, walks up to them and says "hi." She is D Foster, and she spends her free time wandering the city – far from the not-so-watchful eye of her foster mother. The three girls discover a mutual love and appreciation of the gansta rapper Tupac Shakur, who – that summer – while on trial for rape, is shot. Far from being a predator, the girls think Tupac is a hero to African Americans as he uses his music to call attention to the racism and inequitable treatment of black people in American society.

Over the next two years, the girls grow closer and more adventurous – ultimately disobeying their mothers and taking off with D Foster to see more of New York City. "Even then," the narrator says, "we didn't know much about D – she didn't talk much about herself." But one day, D disappears. And not long after that, Tupac is shot and killed. And Neeka and her friend know after Tupac and D Foster, their lives will be different somehow.

After Tupac and D Foster by Jacqueline Woodson.

Mark Your Calendars! Caldecott Honor winner Bryan Collier to exhibit, visit MCL in October

The library is proud to exhibit original artwork from Caldecott Honor winner Bryan Collier this fall in the Collins Gallery at Central Library. Collier will also visit the library October 23-24, meeting with school groups and giving a public presentation. Self-guided tours of the exhibit will be available from late September through early November. More details will be available on the library's website this summer.



School Registration Packets

Would you like to include Multnomah County Library card applications inside your school's student registration packets? Contact School Corps at lib.school.corps@multcolib.org or 503.988.6004. Forms are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian and Vietnamese. Completed library card applications can be mailed to us; we'll make up the students' cards and return them to you.

NOTICE

Beginning September 2008, *School Corps Quarterly* will go to electronic format only. You'll receive it as an e-mail from the person who distributes the paper copy now. Contact School Corps with any questions.

SUMMER READING STARTS JUNE 13!

www.multcolib.org/summer

Teachers, visit the Summer Reading teachers' page to find everything you need to excite students to read this summer!

www.multcolib.org/summer/teachers

