

Community Connections



**News for the Schools
from the Monson Free Library**

October 2009

A Note from Hope...

Welcome back to a new school year! We knew you were busy getting settled in during September so we held off publishing our newsletter until you had time to read it!

We are here to support your efforts so tell us what you are studying, give us those homework assignments in advance so we can gather information, and be sure to let us know what you need from us. We are available for classroom visits, library tours, training and library card registration drives.

We have "tweaked" our limited hours to support the students and families after school. If you need to access the library when we are not open, please contact me...we can always work out a solution!

Looking forward to another great year!

Acceptance Mural on display at Granite Valley

Thanks to an ADL "No Place for Hate"® grant awarded to the Monson Community Relations Committee, with matching funds provided by the Monson Free Library and the Monson Arts Council, student artists from Granite Valley dedicated part of their summer to creating and painting a mural depicting the theme of "Acceptance". The mural was unveiled at a ceremony at the end of August and I urge all of you to stop by and take a look at their impressive creation.

Congratulations to all the very talented students that participated in this project!

Celebrate the Freedom to Read! We are promoting Banned Books Week...all month!

According to www.bannedbooksweek.org

" More than a thousand books have been challenged since the creation of Banned Books Week in 1982. The challenges have occurred in every state and in hundreds of communities. People challenge books that they say are too sexual or violent. They object to profanity and slang, and protest against offensive portrayals of racial or religious groups--or positive portrayals of homosexuals. Their targets range from books that explore the latest problems to classic and beloved literature.

ALA's Banned Books Resource Guide outlines some reasons books have been challenged:

- "Robert Cormier's ***The Chocolate War*** was removed from the Grosse Pointe School District in 1995 because it "deals with gangs, peer pressure, and learning to make your own decisions".
- "Shel Silverstein's ***A Light in the Attic*** encourages children to break dishes so they won't have to dry them."
- John Knowles' ***A Separate Peace*** was challenged 4 times between 1980-1996 in various school districts because it was a "filthy, trashy sex novel" and contained "offensive language".
- E. B. White's ***Charlotte's Web*** was banned in 2006 because talking animals were considered blasphemous.

We can get multiple copies at your request for a lesson plan or book discussion group.

Databases of the Month This month we are featuring **ABC-CLIO on-line resources.**

We subscribe to six ABC-CLIO on-line resources that are appropriate for middle and high school students and teachers. Listed below is a brief description of each:

State Geography: Transform your students understanding of cultural and physical geography with thousands of primary and secondary sources, interactive statistical tools, breaking news and detailed state profiles.

World Geography: In-depth understanding of the world, its landforms, weather systems and resources and human cultures.

American History: From the first explorers in the New World to the developments in today's headlines, this authoritative American History database investigates the people, events, and themes of our nation's evolution.

Issues: Go beyond the headlines and opinions to gain a real understanding of today's most pressing current events.

World History-Ancient to Medieval: Explore human history in all corners of the globe from prehistoric times to the Renaissance. Authoritative primary and secondary resources plus in-depth explorations and profiles.

World History-Modern: Explore such topics as the evolution of modern Europe since the Renaissance, developments in Asia, Africa and the Islamic World, impacts of the Industrial Revolution plus the last 100 years of conflict and cooperation.

Note: Teachers, you can log on as "staff" to these databases and create resource lists for your students to access plus there are a few other features...give it a try! When you follow the directions below, your user name and password will be monsonstaff.

Visit our website, www.monsonlibrary.com , click "On-line databases" then select ABC-CLIO. You can choose any one of their titles. Once you type in your password you can access all of the ABC-CLIO resources and toggle between all of them, if you wish.

Did you know Monson is turning 250??

The Town of Monson was established and held its first town meeting in 1760. Next year marks the town's 250th birthday! We know there are many interested individuals and organizations that want to mark this momentous event. We need to coordinate our ideas and work together to make this a spectacular year-long community celebration.

So let's get together and plan this party! There is an initial meeting of all town departments, organizations and individuals that want to participate in this celebration on **Thursday, October 29 at 7:00 pm at the Monson Free Library**. We need to work together in the planning and fundraising for this celebration to make it the best that it can be! Come out and show your community spirit! Anyone with interest, ideas, or enthusiasm is welcome to attend.

Please RSVP to the library to reserve a seat at 267-3866.

RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS

- Check out this newer book to our collection, **The First-Year Teacher's Survival Guide: Ready to Use Strategies, Tools, & Activities for Meeting the Challenges of Each School Day** (second edition) by Julia G. Thompson.
- Elementary school teachers - check out the six-part series "**Sounds Like Reading**" by Brian P. Cleary for your beginning readers. Children will learn vowel sounds with consonant blends and digraphs through rhyme, repetition, illustration and phonics.
- The Library has received the National Endowment for the Humanities "**Picturing America**" grant. This program helps to teach American History and culture by bringing great American art into the classroom. The library was awarded 40 large, quality art reproductions plus a comprehensive teacher's resource book to facilitate the use of these works of art for all grade-levels in core subjects such as history, language arts, literature and civics. These reproductions are available for teachers to borrow. Please call the library for more information. Also, visit the Picturing America site at <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov>.
- Don't forget, new **anti-bullying resources** are now available at the Monson Free Library!

Reading suggestions for 9-12 year olds:

George's Key Secret to the Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking

Follows the adventures of a young boy and his neighbor friend as they travel through a computer portal into outer space, where they explore such mysteries as black holes and the origins of the universe, while trying to evade an evil scientist.

Rick Riordan's **Percy Jackson and the Olympians series**. Beginning with **The Lightning Thief**, this 5 book series follows the adventures of Percy Jackson and his demigod friends as they fight mythical monsters.

Mary Pope Osborne's **Magic Tree House Research Guides**. Kids love the Magic Tree House series! These non-fiction companion research guides help the students explore topics that have been highlighted in the novels. Examples include: **The American Revolution Research Guide is the companion to Revolutionary War on Wednesday** or the **Space Research Guide partners with Midnight on the Moon**. A great way to explore history and science!

Current Library Hours and Contact Information:

Monday Closed

Tuesday & Thursday 2:00—8:00

Wednesday 10:00-6:00

Friday 10:00— 2:00

Saturday 10:00—2:00

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