

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! - Promoting Reading for Middle and High School Students

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

LesleyF joined the room.

LesleyF: The topic for the day is PR for MS and HS students. What are your burning questions or first thoughts?

LesleyF: The focus is reading...

KathyBu: Brook, what has been your experience at your site with this?

BrookB: We have an incredibly busy center. I see about 250 students per day

LesleyF: And how do you promote reading there?

LesleyF: And what's your student age range?

BrookB: In a variety of ways - I have monthly contests

BrookB: grades 6-8

BrookB: I do book talks

LesleyF: That's a perfect time to promote reading; I think it's easier than HS.

BrookB: Display books on every surface

StanleGuest1: What are the reading level of your students.

LesleyF: I've also done banners, footprints, ceiling posters...

BrookB: 3 to 12

LesleyF: How have you folks used technology to promote reading?

BrookB: my pre library background is as a reading specialist so I spend a lot of time matching levels to students

LesleyF: Do you use online/electronic diagnosis tools?

VickyYC left the room.

BrookB: We also had Accelerated Reading in 6th grade for the past 4 years, next year the principal has decided that we will switch to Reading Counts and I will promote it grades 6-8 and manage it through the media center

BrookB: Our students take a MAP test every fall and Spring from which they are assigned a Lexile range

LesleyF: So there's the angle of providing material that's at a good "success" rate for the students; how do you address interest?

StanleGuest1: in the elementary school that i taught @ we used the SFA reading model.

What is your take on that model guys.

LesleyF: SFA: explain

BrookB: We have 20.000 books so there is something for nearly everyone - I also provide a "We Need This" List from which I order books at intervals through out the year

StanleGuest1: Success For All, is a reading (whole School Reform Model) that was dev.@ John Hopkins U.

LesleyF: Right -- just didn't remember the acronym. Thanks

LesleyF: Do you promote materials by genre or subject matter? If so, how?

KathyBu: One way I've used technology to promote reading with elementary is to put students on various authors websites.

BrookB: One of the contests I devised that I use every year is very good for promoting books be genre

LesleyF: Good! Yes, there are some very rich individual and group sites. There are also sites for youth writers -- especially teens.

LesleyF: Just as reading and writing are linked, so too is authoring a good way for young people to get more involved in reading.

DonnaH: There are 2 gifted English teachers:)

StevenFe: highly gifted

DonnaH: the other teacher teaches a second class of 5th and 8th; and the 7th grade class:)

LesleyF: OK, yes, that's popular. I've seen it done as young as second grade. Big celebration, author signing, etc.

KathyBu: A fourth grader in our district just did a great Powerpoint to help students successfully produce a Young Author book.

LesleyF: Do students use computers to write/illustrate their works?

LesleyF: Was PPT used as a template?

KathyBu: Yes, or they can do any kind of print or handwriting as long as it is only their work, no adults.

BrookB: Our "Passport to Reading" involves students choosing a genre to read, then do variety of activities to enrich the reading experience - including: a character interview, character scrapbook, alternate ending, booktalking in another classroom, making a visual representation of the book or shooting an iMovie to advertise the book.

LesleyF: Do students ever incorporate photos into their work?

LesleyF: Yes, iMovie is getting more popular for that.

KathyBu: Not a template for the story but for the process of creating a story, re-writing it and taking it into the publishing stage.

StanleGuest1: What type of support mechanism is in place for the low achiever.

LesleyF: How long are the movies? Could they be streamed from the library portal?

BrookB: The iMovies are broadcast every Friday morning right after our school news.

For each Genre Page of the passport a student completes they get a passport stamp. - just like going to a country

LesleyF: Good question, StanleGuest1. What are you referring to? Reading support or promotion attention?

LesleyF: Are the movies archived?

StanleGuest1: reading support.

BrookB: yes

KathyBu: How do you make an imovie?

LesleyF: Hmm. Well, there are books online that can be "read" aloud, and OCR scanning enables one to upload text, enter it into SimpleText (Macs) or Narrative (PC) and read aloud. There are also books on tape.

LesleyF: iMovie is software that comes packaged with newer Macs. PCs now have MovieMaker. Basically, one imports the images, sounds, etc. and then edits them together.

BrookB: I have a reading workshop that is a class students can take for a short period of time - I figure out what reading piece they are missing and we work on specific

techniques to meet their particular need - once the student and I feel they are ready they take another class

LesleyF: I agree that specific interventions are more effective.

LesleyF: Since our main topic is PROMOTION, let's continue talking about that element -- by both the students and the teachers/librarians.

BrookB: I have done 1 minute iMovies with 1st graders - the learning curve is practically nonexistent

KathyBu: I have iMovie on my home Mac. I haven't used it yet to create.

LesleyF: Even simple things like posting a book of the week/day onto a library portal or used as the desktop image is a quick way to push a book.

LesleyF: Brook, what happens to the movies? Are they kept and shown again?

LesleyF: Note, when I say posting a book, I mean the book cover.

LesleyF: Do you include student book "testimonials" on your library portal?

KathyBu: Does library portal equal website?

LesleyF: Do you have pictures of students reading displayed in the library -- building on the ALA READ posters? Photoshop makes it easy?

BrookB: Yes we do - I tape them several times a year for broadcast weekly

StanleGuest1: that helps to enhance skill mastery, and a unique level of confidence among your students.

LesleyF: Well, usually. A portal acts as a gateway to other sources. Some Web sites provide info without linking elsewhere -- which is rare for library web pages.

LesleyF: Yes, when students can publish/broadcast their work to authentic audiences, it really makes a difference.

BrookB: Students bring in props and costumes - since it is just us and the camera in the studio - there is very little of the stage fright

LesleyF: Do you ever have students take digital pictures of other students reading?

LesleyF: I really like the tone here -- where students are producing, not just receiving PR passively.

KathyBu: Wow, Brook! You are really doing some fantastic activities with students!

BrookB: yes - we have a TV monitor in one of our media center windows that show out into the hall with a constant show of digital pictures

LesleyF: Very cool!

StanleGuest1: that's wonderful, in addition to the movies the amount of social skills that are being dev. is great

LesleyF: Have you considered getting those aired on local public access TV (with parental permission, of course) or sharing them with the public library?

BrookB: I am lucky to be in a school where I have the freedom to be creative

LesleyF: that's very important...

BrookB: we have most of the iMovies on our school website, but have no local access channel - we are too far out in the sticks :Grin

LesleyF: So local can be a three hour drive?

LesleyF: So you have room to be creative -- literally...

BrookB: exactly - i drive 56 miles to work each day

LesleyF: Now I'm curious -- where is your work?

BrookB: I work and live in northern Minnesota

LesleyF: My dad was raised in Grand Marais... (even if that's off the topic)

BrookB: we are about 2 hours south and 3 hours west of there

BrookB: just at the edge of the woods - on the woods side - 2.5 hours east of Fargo

LesleyF: Let's get back to Kathy's PowerPoint approach. Another way to use powerpoint or Hyperstudio/KidPix is to create a virtual setting with hyperlinks to reading-related files/documents.

LesleyF: I saw Garrison Keillor a couple of weeks ago, Brook.

BrookB smile - local boy makes good!

KathyBu: Speaking of student participation, the Top Ten on the YALSA site is a great promotion. Have the kids read and vote on their favorite.

BrookB: When I taught in a k-6 school we used KidPix for all kinds of support activities

LesleyF: Here's the idea. A photo of a student's room -- or ideal place. Let's say the ultimate game room. Each item could be linked to a book or reading: a tree could link to The Growing Tree poem, Clouds could link to dreaming about a good fantasy -- or weather.

BrookB: that is cool

LesleyF: The concept is that reading connects one to the world.

KathyBu: Wow! Or you could theme books to a genre like that. Have a woods scene and connect to books which are set in the woods.

KathyBu: Castle, dragon fantasy links

LesleyF: I can't take all the credit. My HS son did that kind of thing -- for a multimedia portfolio. But I have to put a reading spin on that. I think could actually be an interesting YA "reading" publication -- can you see a set of short stories, poems, imaginary interviews, etc. on a CD -- sprinkled with iMovies?

LesleyF: This could also be a collaborative project.

BrookB: I had a book club that met 2xs per month - those kids designed stickers for the book club books, promoted our book club choices in their classrooms and devised a book vote each year for the "Top Pick"

LesleyF: I've also used circulation records to find out what the most favorite books checked out are. It's a big misleading if you don't have enough copies to meet the demand, but it does get kids interested...

LesleyF: Yes, the more that you can have the students doing the promotion, the better.

LesleyF: Another way is to involve parents. There are now mom/daughter and father/son book clubs. Jon Scieszka is especially big on the latter.

BrookB: I wonder if I can ask an off topic question?

LesleyF: And mentioning Jon, have you all read "Summer reading is killing me?"

LesleyF: Sure, Brook.

BrookB: want your ideas

BrookB: posted by BrookB Today, 4:09 PM ?? reply

BrookB: I am looking for novel lesson ideas for teaching Fiction - Nonfiction and Biographies that use Presidents. Any ideas?

KathyBu: Can you comment on if you see any variation in age as to the success of these with parents?

LesleyF: Quick answer, Kathy, seems best for 5-7grade.

LesleyF: Brook, do you have access to lists of F/NF that involve Presidents?

LesleyF: There are a couple of books about Presidents' children -- particularly Lincoln's. Of course, they're usually "downers" if they tell the truth...

BrookB: I have done some title searches and have some, but since the target audience is elementary , I am really looking for what other people do LesleyF: So you use Jean Ferris a lot? (I think that's the author)

LesleyF: A fun idea is coin and money books...

BrookB: Are you talking about Fritz?

LesleyF: Yes

LesleyF: There's a book about a girl's letter to Lincoln too. BrookB: Yes- I have several of her books on my list

KathyBu: What about political cartoons, including having kids design some about Bush or earlier Presidents?

BrookB: but I am looking for a novel activity to illustrate it for kindergarten or first grade

BrookB: that's a good idea - thanks!

LesleyF: ooh, ooh, you could link it to American Memory pictorial artifacts.

KathyBu: Have you seen the Weston Woods video on the Caldecott presidents book?

LesleyF: What about stamps that have president's pictures?

BrookB: this is great - thanks so much!

BrookB: I am writing an article for a magazine so I am gathering ideas

KathyBu: I wondered where you were hiding the Kinders at your middle school.

BrookB smiles

LesleyF: Also artifacts associated with Presidents: Teddy Roosevelt teddy bears, Cleveland or Rutherford's daughter Ruth -- became a candy bar, Dolly Madison's egg roll...

ArleneP: Actually, I am new to Tapped In and have no clue what you are talking about.

LesleyF: Ah, this is a session that links technology (generally) and librarians. Teachers are more than welcome. Today's topic has been reading promotion ideas for MS and HS students.

ArleneP: Hmm..my husband the librarian is snoozing downstairs. I, the reading professor, am goofing off when I should be writing my book.

LesleyF: Maybe you'll find an idea you like. I finished writing two books in the last 3 months...

BrookB: yes and everyone was kind enough to go off topic to give me some ideas for a 5 page article I am writing - Lesley I want to hear more about the egg roll later

ArleneP: What were they about?

BrookB: My first book is coming out in Sept. or Oct. from UpStart

LesleyF: I think you can scroll above.

LesleyF: Brook -- what's the article and book?

LesleyF: Do we get credit?

KathyBu: So many kids are into art, what about having them redesign the cover of their favorite book. You could use those on a website without permission, except from the student. Congrats on finishing the two books, Lesley!

BrookB: the book is Called "What happened to Marion's Book" and is for Librarians to use during the first week of school to teach book care

LesleyF: ooooh, I have to tell you about MacBeth.

KathyBu: Alright!

ArleneP: In my former school, the librarian had students make new covers for ugly books. It was actually one of the few food ideas I saw there.

ArleneP: good ideas, not food ideas, sorry. couldn't get paid to type.

KathyBu: Lesley, which two are done? I'm waiting for the LU one.

LesleyF: We had a "special" student who couldn't write well, but was super at drawing. To show he understood the play, he drew MacBeth's portrait for each act, and pasted in the quotes around the head that justified the facial expression. It was a bigger-than-life size 6-"page" folio.

BrookB: The article is for a new magazine called: "library Sparks" and will be a compilation of what librarians are actually doing in the trenches - so that others can, perhaps glean some ideas

ArleneP: I will tell my husband about Library Sparks. Where do you get it? Is it hard copy or online?

BrookB: It is from UpStart Books a division of Highsmith - I'll get the url
ArleneP: Thanks.

LesleyF: My books? Action Research for School librarians; and "Student Success and Library Media Programs -- what the research says." Also one on "Technology-Infused Instructional design-- for librarians working with adults.

LesleyF: Gee, writing abounds here!

KathyBu: Arlene, what is your book? Remember, librarians promote books
BrookB: wow - where can we find those?

LesleyF: Yes, we need to do more PR with our publishers to show the impact...

LesleyF: Action research -- American Library Assn.

LesleyF: Instruction design--Scarecrow Press.

LesleyF: Student success-- Libraries Unlimited.

BrookB: how about I give you the url to my book and there is a hot link on the last page of the "story to UpStart

BrookB: <<http://marionsbook.com/>>

ArleneP: My book will be about a rich suburban school that is too mundane for words. Everyone does the same thing and it hasn't moved past literature anthologies and workbooks. They think their high test scores are caused by the instruction in classrooms. Not so.

LesleyF: Other ways to do art: collages, character sketches, cartoons, anime...

LesleyF: Also word art...

KathyBu: So, Lesley, when are you going to have an author's webpage?

LesleyF: Comic strips would be cool too...

LesleyF: Actually, I should have my son do the WEB page -- he did one for my artist husband...

LesleyF: For now, you can see a couple of things via www.csulb.edu/~lfarmer

ArleneP: Thanks. I will copy the url from the transcript they E-mail me. I have that right, right?

BrookB: this looks nice: is this an ALA certified program?

LesleyF: Just want to leave you with the Jon Scieszka name -- put it in google and it should lead you to his web page on books for boys. Big issue. In fact, that can be next month's topic.

LesleyF: NCATE accredited.

KathyBu: Brook, I want to keep in touch with you after this. I've got lots of ideas to suggest. My writing is more the fictional kind and I'd like an outlet for ideas.

LesleyF: I encourage email swapping...

BrookB: excellent - booklady@unitelc.com

KathyBu: owlness@rcsis.com

LesleyF: Did I tell you that my fantasy is to write YA novels??

KathyBu: Awesome! Have you started?

BrookB: I have an idea for a YA novel too

LesleyF: ten books in my head.

KathyBu: Lesley, you are amazing!

LesleyF: So, want to "push" on boys and reading next time?

LesleyF: We can also focus on girls and technology..

BrookB: actually, I am doing a workshop this fall at our Minnesota Education Media Organization called some thing like - So, I have written a book - now what?

LesleyF: What's your pleasure.

KathyBu: Okay, what's our date BJ?

BrookB: sounds good!

LesleyF: Date will be July 16.

LesleyF: Which topic do you want??

BJ: don't forget that July 16 is the TI2 Launch Festival!!!!

BrookB: I will be at a conference that day - so I'll have to check archives LesleyF: That's why I'm hoping to get a good turnout ----

KathyBu: Both.

BJ: it will be over 12 hours of events...including Targeting Librarians KathyBu: Party down!

BJ: absolutely, Kathy...plus...

BJ: if you register for three events, you get a certificate of participation KathyBu: How about in future, assisting teachers to use technology.

BrookB: I like that topic

LesleyF: How about helping teachers to use technology to promote gender equity.

BJ . o O (some districts will accept the certificates for continuing ed credits)

KathyBu: Yes!

KathyBu: Any or all three topics sound good to me.

LesleyF: I've even done conference presentations on that so it should be a rich discussion. Got it, BJ?

BrookB: I will definitely try to get to a computer on that day - hmmm wonder what the computer connections will be like

LesleyF: then there's speed equity...

KathyBu: Should we read your book on it first, Lesley?

LesleyF: Well, there's "Informing Young Women: Gender Equity through Literacy Skills" from McFarland.

KathyBu: Yes, that one.

LesleyF: But also read "Summer Reading is Killing Me"!

KathyBu: I've read it!

LesleyF: I heard/saw Sciesszka reading from the printer galleys. Hilarious!!

KathyBu: Also read Dark Lord of Derholm and Year of the Griffin by Dianna Wynne Jones.

LesleyF: I review SF and fantasy for Kliatt...

BrookB: Oooow my dream job!

KathyBu: You do- wow how exciting!

LesleyF: Thanks, Brook, for providing good creative ideas -- you're modeling super library programs!

KathyBu: Fantasy and SF are my prime directives.

LesleyF: Note: my sister in law is the head of the Minneapolis school board...

BrookB smiles thanks it is fun to share - that's why I write KathyBu: Thank you, Brook. You've helped me in my YA Lit course.

KathyBu smiles

LesleyF: Thanks to all of you for staying around till I got on.

LesleyF: yes, Kathy, next time we'll get the rest of the gang online.

BrookB: I would like to hear feed back from "Marion" too

KathyBu: Always a pleasure,

LesleyF: Kathy, on June 25 we'll be doing a virtual chat with Patrick Jones at 7pm.

KathyBu: I'm planning on it.

BrookB: I can be here for that one!

LesleyF: tomorrow I'm off to Toronto.

KathyBu: I've got lots of questions. Have a good trip!

LesleyF: Well, Brook, it's on my YA course online class. Want to be a guest that day?

Email me at lfarmer@csulb.edu

BrookB: Love to

KathyBu: Yes, do Brook! It would be great!

LesleyF: Good discussion, ladies. See you in July or sooner!

KathyBu: Talk to you after the conference, Lesley.

KathyBu: Bye, Brook. Thanks, BJ.

BrookB: See you later - thanks for the great discussion!

LesleyF: BTW, a term I've liked lately for females is femmes. What do you think? Of course, I'm a francophile.

KathyBu: Femmes fatale, that's us!

BrookB: I like it - tres jolie

LesleyF: bien sur!

KathyBu: au revoir!

LesleyF: a bientot!

LesleyF: cherchez la femme...