

MEDIA MUSINGS

FEBRUARY 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

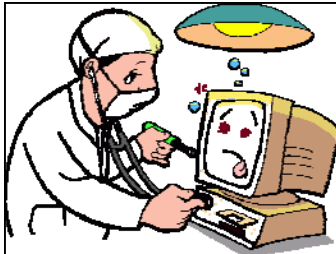
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK IS COMING 2

BIOGRAPHY RESOURCE CENTER 2

ONLINE SHOPPING 2

WEB 2.0 3

POSTING TO THE WEB 3



Help us cut down on "computer doctor" bills

CARE AND FEEDING OF COMPUTER LABS

Our students are extremely lucky with the amount of computer access they enjoy here at RB. Although we have not adopted a "one-student-one-laptop" model, we rarely have to turn away students seeking a computer during their study period. And (unheard of in recent years!) we've heard no complaints this year from teachers unsuccessfully trying to find a time to schedule a class into a lab.

Does availability lead to complacency? Are we beginning to take these learning tools for granted?

Our department has

received complaints which reflect careless if not malicious treatment of our computer lab facilities, and we are asking for help in eliminating the need for such reports. Some incidents have been:

- Gum in the carpet
- Keyboard keys missing, switched to different positions, or jammed (from backpacks being placed on them?)
- Chair backs unscrewed
- Switching keyboards to different computers (so it appears that the keyboard isn't working)
- Grommets missing from

computer table tops

When you take your students to a lab, please explain to them the importance of caring for our equipment so that it will work well for ALL who use it. Remind them of possible consequences for mistreating the space or equipment—which could include banishment from the labs, detentions and parent contact, or legal prosecution. Please be vigilant as you roam around the room monitoring the students and offering assistance.

Thank you for your partnership in this endeavor.

DID YOU KNOW . . . (AV EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES)

.. About all the AV equipment available for teachers to check out?

- Digital cameras
- Video cameras
- Microphones
- Cassette Recorders
- Wireless slate (portable

SMARTboard)

- Turning Point student response system

.. About the video services Gary Prokes will provide for you?

- Tape a show in the studio (panel discussions, "talk show," green screen for later editing, etc.)

- Tape a lesson or presentation in your classroom
- Tape a program from satellite or cable (see Gary for listings)

Contact Gary at ext. 2118 if you have an idea of a video project you'd like to do with your students.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK ACTIVITIES LIBRARIES: A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS

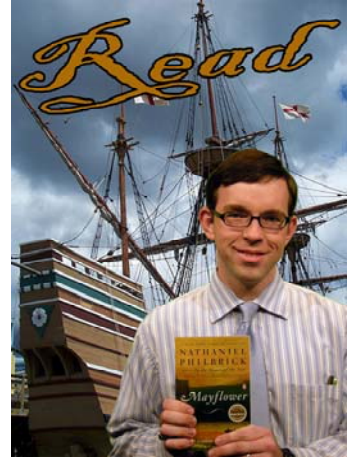
April 12–16 will once again find the west end of the second floor bathed in smells of movie popcorn (Monday, Thursday, and Friday)—and we encourage you all to “pop” into the library! Bring your classes to select an independent read.

We especially want you to

stop by to let us celebrate YOU on Wednesday April 14. A school library is made effective by its partnerships with teachers, and we want to thank you for all your support for our curriculum: research, information literacy, and pleasure reading.

The Poetry Slam will be our special event on Tuesday, April 13th.

We are inviting members of our community (authors and others) to offer special programs. Stay tuned for more announcements and invitations to participate.



If you'd like to be featured in a READ poster this year, call Doreen at ext. 2117

HIGHLIGHTING A NEW DATABASE



New to RB in January, this database integrates award-winning biographies from respected sources with related full-text articles from hundreds of magazines and newspapers, as well as tens of thousands of images and links to

vetted websites. Search for people—both current and historic from all eras and fields of endeavor—based on name, occupation, nationality, ethnicity, birth/death dates and places, or gender, as well as keyword and full text. Or, combine search

criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search.

Regularly-updated “spotlight biographies” focus on people in the news (this week it’s Shani Davis). Miep Gies (Anne Frank’s protector) was featured in January when she died.

“Sure beats Wikipedia for reliable biographical information. And good links to websites, too!” - *an avid researcher*

INTERNET SAFETY TOPIC OF THE MONTH: ONLINE SHOPPING

You can shop online safely if you follow some basic precautions:

- Keep your firewall, anti-virus, and anti-spyware up to date with the highest level of security that still lets you function.
- Check sellers out before you buy (phone numbers and addresses on website to allow for follow-up? Online reviews of company?)
- Install browser and operating system updates as they become available to make you less vulnerable to hackers.
- Before you buy, make sure you’re on a secure site—closed padlock on browser address bar? Or URL address should be shttp or https (site is secured).
- Use safe payment options: credit cards (can get credit if product not delivered). Or use Paypal.
- Turn computer off when done shopping to avoid follow-up scammers, spammers, and phishers.
- Be wary of emails requesting information. Legitimate businesses will not solicit confirmation or account information this way.
- Keep a paper trail: print and save records

WEB 2.0

Are you feeling left out of all the Web 2.0 fun that the “17 Things to Chew On” group has been having all year? Or does it all sound too overwhelming?

Check out the progress at the 17 Things blog: <http://www.17thingstochewon.blogspot.com/> You can click on all the participating members’ blogs from links along the bottom right. Or download a spreadsheet that

summarizes everyone’s progress.

Whether you’re going for “credit” in the program or not, you might be intrigued to try one of the Things — like Online Book Cataloguing (**GoodReads**, **Shelfari**, or **LibraryThing**), or maybe you can see a use for **Flickr** to share your digital photos with your family.

Even if 17 things seemed like

too much to bite off, maybe you can imagine one or two that would work well with your students — like **Google Documents**, for example. Why collect mountains of papers to haul home to grade if you could just open your students’ work up on your computer, make notes right on the document, and then students could continue to edit, and then let you know when they’re done?



You might want to chew on just 1 or 2 things!

YOU AND THE RBHS WEBSITE

How many webpages can you maintain? And why should you? There are pros and cons for each of your options:

Skyward:

- You can post your own updates (fast and efficient!)
- You can attach worksheets for students who were absent, or for students who have lost their first copy
- It’s a private audience; only your students and their parents can see what you post; doesn’t have to be quite as polished.

RBHS website:

- Your audience is much bigger. Anyone with Internet access and a search engine can find what you post.
- Updates may only be posted by the webmasters, Alicia Duell and Doreen Fritz.
- Posted assignments can contain more than a single worksheet; — you can outline the entire process and include hyperlinks to other websites, and to posted documents (worksheets, etc.) WebQuests, for example, work best on a website rather than in Skyward.

Create-Your-Own Website for free:

- Use Yola.com or Weebly.com to create your own professional-looking website
- You have control and can make your own updates or edits
- Alicia or Doreen can link to your site from RB’s website

Christine Stiel, Melissa Gordon, and all of Bridget Wilmot’s creative writing students have made Weebly websites.

One of the pages in Chris Stiel’s website:

<http://creativewritingrbhs.weebly.com/>