



Teen Read Week is
October 12–18

Media Musings

Students finish early in the Lab? Keep it educational with Freerice.com

Sometimes students finish an assignment early, and they may have 5-10 minutes at the end of a period when they want to just surf the web. Since computer use during the day should be educational, we encourage students to visit freerice.com and play a game that will help to feed the hungry.

The site launched in October 2007 as a vocabulary-building game that coincidentally also raises money to buy rice for the hungry — advertisers on the site agree to pay for 20

grains of rice for each correct answer. This past August more categories were added, such as chemical symbols, foreign language, math, multiplication tables, and English grammar.

John Breen is a computer programmer from Bloomington, Indiana who created

Freerice.com both to provide an educational game and to fight poverty and hunger. The game increases or

decreases the difficulty of the questions as players either successfully answer questions or miss the answers. The site counts donations at each step. The sponsors pay the United Nations' World

Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Uganda, and Bhutan. As of August 2008, 1,918,976,960 grains of rice had been donated.

So—encourage your students to stretch their minds, make good use of “extra time,” and donate to a good cause — all at the same time!



There is a direct link to Freerice.com on both the main Edline page, and on the Announcements page of the RB website

Food Programme directly, and the WFP distributes the food. So far donations have gone to Bangladesh,

Lab Sign-up Policies

To try to be fair and equitable for everyone trying to gain access to our limited computer lab times, please follow the guidelines for signing up:

- No more than one month in advance;
- No more than 3 days in

a row;

- No more than 5 total days in a 10day period.

If you have an assignment that require you to violate these guidelines, please see Doreen Fritz to hash out an exception.

Also, please include both

the number of computers you will need AS WELL AS a brief description of the assignment. Lab aides will be better-prepared to assist you and your students, and library media specialists may offer assistance or support for a research-based assignment.

Reminder: if you want to share a YouTube video in your classroom:

- Download a Video Request Form from the Library Dept. webpage.
- Complete the form, and turn it in to any Computer Lab Assistant.
- Supply the CD, DVD, or flash drive for the video, or pay us \$1 to burn you a CD

Read for a Lifetime & Abe Lincoln Award library reading programs

RBHS has adopted reading as a school-wide improvement goal. The library supports this goal, of course, and we are participating in two state-wide reading programs during this school year. Teachers are invited to encourage their students to participate.

To receive recognition in the Read for a Lifetime program, students must read just four books from a list of 25 possible choices. Completion reports are on the honor system — there is no test.

Students merely sign up to participate, and then report in March how many they have read. Many students discover that they've already read some books from the list.

The Abe Lincoln Award is awarded annually to the book voted most outstanding by high school students, based on a list compiled by a committee of



The RB Library has ordered all books for both programs; watch for displays

students and school librarians. Last year's winner was Stephanie Meyers' *Twilight*. *Uglies*, by Scott Westerfield, won in 2007; *My Sister's Keeper*, by Jodi Picoult, in 2006; and *A Child Called It*, by David Pelzer, in 2005. To participate, students read books on the nomination list, and then vote for their favorite.

Teachers book purchase program

In partnership with Borders Books in LaGrange, the RB Library is sponsoring an offsite "Book Fair" for teachers on Sept. 30—Oct. 5. You are invited to buy a book for our library — on our dime. Just pick a book that we don't have (or don't have enough copies of) that you think high school students would enjoy reading, and take it to the check-out desk. Show them

Build a reading bridge with your students by selecting a book for the RBHS Library—and then recommend that your students come check it out.

your RBHS ID card, and they will charge that purchase to our corporate account. The next day just bring the book AND the receipt to us in the Library, and we'll catalog the book, including a note inside the front cover indicating that the book was

chosen by you. During Teen Read Week, all the new books will be displayed, along with a matching game for students to guess which teacher selected which book. Thanks for participating! Questions? Ask Alicia Duell, ext. 121.

Library PLC = Big6 research

The research process — information literacy — independent problem-solving — whatever you call it, our students must be proficient at finding answers to their information needs by the time they leave RB. Whether at college, on the job, or in their day-to-day lives, they will need to be able to find, interpret, and evaluate information from a variety of sources.

The focus of the library's PLC curriculum is the focus on academic

research. The **U.S. History** team has already embraced our vision, and has embarked on a series of increasingly-independent research assignments that all juniors will complete. The **English 9** team is also working with the librarians to introduce the research process during 1st semester. The **Science Department** is making the connection between their term "scientific process" and the more general term "research process," so that students will see continuity and consistency in their

learning. The **Wellness Department** is adapting one of

their alternative assignments, the Article Summary," to comply with the school-wide research process standards.

Want to get on board? Call Doreen or Alicia in the library to create a research assignment—or to adapt an existing assignment to incorporate the Big6 process for research.

