

Community Connections



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

November 2009

November is Family Literacy Month!

To celebrate, the Monson Free Library is hosting a fun-filled evening with storyteller and musician, **Mary Jo Maichack** as she performs "**Books are Celebrations**". To entice you, I have copied her description of the show from her website www.maryjomaichack.com which reads, "Books Are Celebrations' is really a one-person variety show co-created by the audience in celebration of books. ("Books Are Celebrations of everything in the world...In everything, there's a story, waiting to be unfurled.") The program entertains all ages with a mix of songs and folktales led by Maichack, and includes audience-participants in a dance, a costumed play, even kids on puppets. Maichack sings catchy, original songs about the fun of the library and power of reading."

This **FREE** family event will take place on **Thursday, November 19 at the Monson Free Library at 6:30 pm**. The show is designed for children Pre-k through 4th grade and their families.

Mary Jo is a treat for all ages. She is a nationally award-winning storyteller and musician and the library has hosted her shows many times to rave reviews. Please help us promote this great program with your students and families. Literacy can be fun!

New Book now available at your Library!

Here is a new book we purchased that may be of interest. ***How to Walk to School: A Blueprint for a Neighborhood School Renaissance*** by Jacqueline Edelberg and Susan Kurland.

The review from *Library Journal*: "This is a fascinating account of the collaboration between a public school principal, Kurland, the parents of young children considering her elementary school, and the community that transformed a failing public school into an outstanding and revitalized one. In the face of disastrous, widespread public school system failures across America, parent dissatisfaction, and teacher despair, the Chicago-based Nettelhorst School's success story is a beacon. Edelberg, one of the Nettelhorst parents, and Kurland offer educators hope that change *can* happen in *any* public school, given the right mix of parent-teacher patience, willpower, community involvement, pluck, creativity, collaboration, and ability to overcome adversity. They provide a blueprint that schools can use for revitalization projects, detailing, for instance, how to procure donations from area businesses and to ask questions that will get answers about difficult educational problems such as coping with dysfunctional and unsatisfactory teaching.

VERDICT: This book is essential reading for all elementary school parents and teachers, especially those who have lost their faith in the American public school system and are looking for ways to improve it. Here are solutions and inspiration.

We are always available for class visits and library card registrations!

Databases of the Month

This month we are featuring **The Testing and Education Reference Center**

Peterson's is a leading name in quality education resources. Here they provide over 100 practice tests, on-line study books, a family college planning center as well as career help. Students can practice for PSAT's and SAT's. Fill out college resume applications. Search for scholarships. And much more!

I will admit, it does take a few clicks of the mouse to get there (why make it easy!) but once you are there it is worthwhile!

- First, go to www.monsonlibrary.com and on the left side, click on "On-Line Databases".
- Pan down the page and find Testing and Education Reference Center. Click on it.
- Type in your Monson library card number.
- Click on the General One File icon.
- On the next page, at the very top, click on "Change Databases"
- Go down to the end of the list and click on Testing and Education Reference Center"
- Whew...you made it! Now search and test to your heart's content!!

This database is paid for by the Monson Free Library.
Please let us know if it is a valuable resource for you.

Need help with databases? Ask us! Or ask Alan Morin, High School Librarian and great resource!

New Video of the Month:

Stuttering: Straight Talk for Teachers

This 20-minute DVD distributed by The Stuttering Foundation of America, is a great resource for teachers. Interviewing students who stutter, experts answer questions and deal with classroom issues such as:

- How to respond to a child that stutters.
- What happens in speech therapy.
- How to handle teasing and bullying.
- How to deal with oral presentations.

Reminder:

Special Town Meeting is Monday,
November 16 at 7:00 pm at Granite Valley.

We offer a video put out by the Massachusetts Moderator's Association titled ***Town Meeting and You***. A great way to teach your students about local government and civic duty!

For additional information, visit the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website:

Citizen Information Service

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us./cis/cistwn/twnidx.htm>

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

Phone 413-267-3866

Fax 413-267-5496

Hope's email: hbodwell@cwmar.org

Website www.monsonlibrary.com

Blog <http://monsonfreelibrary.blogspot.com>