

# MEDIA AND TECH TALK

by Sharon Kubica



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## PARKVIEW MEDIA STAFFING CHANGES

After 15 years of service to Parkview Schools and the Media Program, Pat Lavolette has retired to enjoy new options centered around family, friends, and travel. Her dedication to students and staff and her creativity will be greatly missed. She has encouraged, supported, entertained, and led everyone to become better readers and users of media resources and technology. She will be missed by one and all. We wish her the very best.

Jennifer DeGroat, Elementary Media Specialist, began working in the Parkview Media Center January 4. She is a certified teacher with a BA in education from Saginaw Valley State University and a Masters in Library Information Science from Wayne State University. As she manages the Parkview Media Center, she will work with staff and students to use the Media Center resources and deliver the elementary Media Curriculum to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Her assignment through June also includes spending limited time at Galewood working with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and their teachers to integrate the elementary Media Curriculum. We are grateful to have her expertise, talent, and enthusiasm for this position. Please make her feel welcome!

## TECHNOLOGY TRAINING SCHEDULE

A technology training schedule is being developed for February and March. Topics for sessions will include: BlackBoard; Graphic Organizers; The Big 6 Problem Solving Model; United Streaming; Using the Classroom Performance System; Curriculum Support web sites; and others. If you have a specific request for training, please contact Sharon at ext: 5751 or [kubica@charlottenet.org](mailto:kubica@charlottenet.org)

## BLACKBOARD

BlackBoard is a course management solution available to all Eaton County teachers through a partnership between Eaton ISD and REMC #13. It provides "anytime, anywhere access" for teachers and students to course materials and information. It contains a number of features including: login and password secured access for students and parents; on-line storage for course content and materials; secured discussion boards; on-line assessments; and assessment and survey options.

Charlotte staff at all levels has begun to use this resource. Watch for BlackBoard training options in the near future. If you have questions or interest in learning more about this resource, please contact one of the following people: Karen Anderson (ext: 5731); Jeff Haston (ext: 3946); Larry Bourland (ext: 3876); Judy Entenman (ext: 3252); Sharon Kubica (ext: 5751).

## AUTHORS TO VISIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN FEBRUARY

February 8 and 9, 2006, authors, David Anthony and Charles David will be visiting the Charlotte Elementary Media Centers to provide a program for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. These authors have created the *Knightscares* series of books for upper elementary students. More information about their visit will be provided by Media Specialists, Dian Leckrone and Jennifer DeGroat in the near future. Watch for this information to get your class signed up for the program.

## **REMC TEACHER'S WORKSHOP AT EATON ISD**

Mark your calendars for the annual visit of the REMC Teacher's Workshop to Eaton ISD. March 6 – March 16, Monday through Thursday, the workshop will be open for business from 2:00 – 7:00pm. You will have access to numerous Ellison Dies, a badge maker, a poster printer, and other resources. There will be a slight charge for supplies you use. Specific questions should be direct to: Grethel Bradley at 517-224-1471 or <http://remc13.org>

## **GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

Graphic organizers are an excellent way to help student organize their thoughts for writing and research. Galewood School staff has created 6 basic graphic organizers they are willing to share that are being used with students in their building. An electronic file for each of these organizers has been created and posted in two locations: 1) the Teacher\_Place in the Technology area under Forms, and 2) on the shared server space where videos from United Streaming are kept in a Graphic Organizers file.

**Kidspiration** (elementary) and **Inspiration** (middle and high schools) are both graphic organizer programs that are available for use with students. Kidspiration is available in each elementary computer lab. A limited number of Inspiration licenses have been ordered and will be available in specific labs in the high and middle schools in the near future. Contact your building tech or media staff for information and assistance in using these programs with students.

## **SCHOOL LIBRARIES WORK**

“A multitude of evidence strongly supports the connection between student achievement and the presence of school libraries with qualified school library media specialists. When library media specialists work with teachers to support learning opportunities with books, computer resources, and more, students learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without good libraries.”

*Reprinted from: School Libraries Work! Research Foundation Paper, Scholastic, 2006.*

## **WHITE BOARD CARE AND USE**

The elementary and high schools have a special “whiteboard” surface that was placed over the existing chalkboards nearly 6 years ago. In a couple of locations throughout these buildings, the surface is showing wear and tear. The following tips will help keep these boards at peak performance:

- 1) Use only Walltalker or Expo or Expo2 dry erase markers.
- 2) Use a clean, dry marker eraser, soft cloth, or soft wipe to erase markings during use. Never use dirty erasers or wipes because they will smudge.
- 3) Use plain water and a soft cloth to clean the board on a daily basis.
- 4) Use a glass cleaner and a soft cloth to remove difficult markings. Rinse with water to remove the film that will be left.
- 5) Be careful not to scratch, dent, or puncture the whiteboard skin material.
- 6) Only use round magnets since they will not cut, scratch, or damage the surface.
- 7) If the board has a “smudgy” look or markings become difficult to remove, it is time to replace your erasers or wiping cloth, and to clean the board with a glass cleaner and water.
- 8) Never use a “whiteboard cleaner” or a harsh cleaner on this surface since it will damage the surface.
- 9) If you feel that the board is not performing well, please contact Sharon Kubica at ext: 5751.

The middle school has ceramic white boards that should be cleaned as instructed by the manufacturer. If you have questions about these boards, please contact your custodian or building engineer.

