

# Media Matters

## Inside this issue:

An AR Idea	2
Poem	3
Copyright Web Site	3
National Technology Plan	4
Book Reviews	5
Dewey Need to Get Organized?	6
Calendar	8

## President Carter is the latest reader for Georgia Read More project!



On January 26th President Jimmy Carter read his book Little Baby Snoogle Fleejer to a group of children for the Georgia Read More project. The reading was filmed at the Carter Center and will be available in the near future to all public elementary schools in Georgia. State Superintendent Kathy Cox and First Lady Mary Perdue have also read books and are a part of this program. Future readers include John Smoltz and Travis Tritt.

President Carter told the children that he had written 19 books, but Little Baby Snoogle Fleejer was his favorite. He introduced himself by saying "I'm Jimmy Carter and I'm an author. " Later he told the group " Oh, and I was President of the United States."

Little Baby Snoogle Fleejer has been turned into a play and was performed on January 29th at the Alliance Theatre.



## An AR Idea

Dale Lyles, Newnan Crossing Elementary, Coweta County

Instead of using the more usual method of placing colored dots on the spines of books, I decided several years ago to catalog each book with its book level as a subject field in its MARC record. I use the 650 tag, with the syntax of <AR> <space> <book level>.

A student looking for a book at the 3.2 level would then type in "AR 3.2" and click on the subject search button. OPAC would then put him in the subject list, and he'd then click on the Select button to view the titles. He picks his book, then uses the call number to find the book on the shelf.

It was a lot of work to do, but keeping up is not too difficult. The advantages are numerous. First, students learn how to use the OPAC to find books to their liking. The AR(tm) search is the first search they're taught, but we make the transfer to actual subject searching almost immediately. They learn to read a book record for the information therein, like the number of pages and the book summary. And most of all, they learn to use a call number to locate a book on the shelf. Another advantage, from the student's point of view, is that they're able to target a specific book level without a lot of time spent wandering up and down the shelves.

We keep small baskets with call number slips next to all the computers. The slips have a box with the Section and Author lines, followed by a line for the Title. They have simple instructions on them: "Look for the Section, the Author, and then the Title, in that order."

The results are pretty remarkable. While I haven't done a formal study, my observations are pretty consistent: students who come from other schools do not know how to use a call number to find a book, even fourth or fifth graders! My assumption is that they have spent their youth looking for a colored dot. My principal was floored by two special ed boys who were able to explain the system in detail for her. Around the same time, a new kid and his mother (and a friend who already attended here) came in to find a book. Our student showed the new student how to look up a book and immediately went to find it in the nonfiction section. Both boys were third graders, and the mother was amazed that our students already knew how to do that.

For AR(tm) levels 0.4 through 1.9, we do put yellow dots at the top of the spine. This is so that students too young to read well don't have to use the OPAC to track down a book. That's a wide range, of course, but they learn to look in the book to evaluate it. As soon as they start to become proficient in reading, however, they are eager to learn how to use the computer to look up their own books. By the end of the year, we have quite a few first graders and a handful of kindergarteners who can look up a book and use the call number to find it!

I know a lot of media centers have thousands of AR(tm) books and it would be a time-consuming task to convert to my system. I was fortunate to start with a very small AR(tm) collection in a school that wasn't really even using the program. I didn't have to retrain my staff or students to stop looking for colored dots, because there weren't any to begin with. However, if I were deep in colored dots today, I'd still have to give the new system some serious thought, because its benefits are very real.

## Surprise

Beverly McLoughland

The biggest  
Surprise  
On the library shelf  
Is when you suddenly  
Find yourself  
Inside a book—  
(The hidden you)  
You wonder how  
The author knew.



### Georgia Department of Education

1952 Twin Towers East  
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Phone: (404) 657-9800  
Fax: (404) 657-6822  
Email: [judy.serritella@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:judy.serritella@doe.k12.ga.us)

**We will lead the nation in improving  
student achievement.**



### Copyright Web site

This site contains an easy-to-read chart developed by the Jefferson County (Colorado) school system. The chart shows “Permitted” and “Not Permitted” topics. The information is clear and concise.

Download your own copy at:

<http://jeffcoweb.jeffco.k12.co.us/plmc/copyright.html>

Seen at a reference desk:



I fully realize that I have not succeeded in answering all of your questions... indeed; I feel that I have not answered any of them completely. The answers I have found only serve to raise a whole new set of questions, which only lead to more problems--some of which we weren't aware were problems. To sum it all up...in some ways I feel we are as confused as ever, but I believe we are confused on a higher level and about more important things.

## National Technology Plan

From the news release: U.S. Dept of Education

"American education is being bolstered by the increasing use of educational technology, greater accountability, and growing new partnerships between tech-savvy students and teachers, according to a report released today by the U.S. Department of Education."

Full Text of Report is at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/os/technology/plan/2004/index.html>

OR

<http://digbig.com/4cjxd>

**AASL's response to the National Technology Plan**

**This statement is also available on the ALA Web site at**

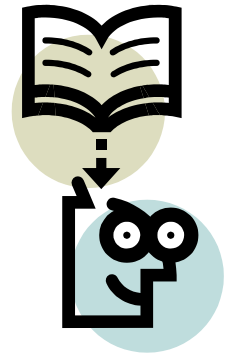
**<http://www.ala.org/ala/pressreleases2005/january2005a/vaughnstatement.htm>**

## Grammar Tip

"The English language has the worst system of spelling of any major language. Since English spelling is so hard, it is used as a test, a rather unfair test, of a person's carefulness and literacy. Check every word that looks phunny."

Robert C. Pinckert, Pinckert's Practical Grammar

## Take my advice...and buy these books



For nearly 20 years, the most popular and most circulated books at my school have been those by author Lurlene McDaniel. Her theme is death and dying. While that instantly causes raised eyebrows, once you fully understand where she's coming from you see the value of her writing--and why she's so popular with young adults.

One of Mrs. McDaniel's two sons was diagnosed at the age of three with juvenile diabetes. While spending time with her son in hospitals, she became aware of the health problems facing so many young people. She found her writing voice by creating stories of young people facing real situations of disease, dying, and death. While her books are realistic and sad, they also are hopeful, inspiring, and life-affirming. They enable young adults to understand and be able to cope with issues that may come their way.

Much more information is on her Web site: <http://www.lurlenemcdaniel.com>. If you don't have these books, GET THEM! Your students, especially middle and high school girls, will thank you!

Tommy Tatum  
Adairsville Middle School

*Great books for high school kids : a teacher's guide to books that can change teens' lives* / edited by Rick Ayers and Amy Crawford.-- 1st pbk.ed.-- Boston : Beacon Press, c2004.ISBN 0807032557

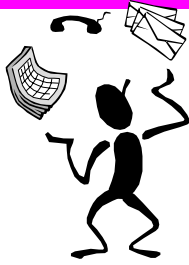
This resource offers lists of titles (fiction and nonfiction) by subject, author and title as well as brief descriptions for most books listed. It is very current and extremely useful to media specialists and teachers. I have loved it!!

Kathleen Disney  
Druid Hills High School

*I Face the Wind*, part of Vicki Cobb's Science Play series, illustrated by Julia Gorton, Published by Harper Collins, 2003 - Recommended ages: 4-10

All kids are curious. Why is water wet? How much does air weigh? How does gravity work? The Vicki Cobb Science Play series of books answers these questions (and more) in creative and fun ways. My favorite is *I Face the Wind*. Cobb's story makes a scientist of any reader. She lists the tools the experiments require, making them easy and fun and gets you ready with prompts right in the text such as "Before you begin reading this book to your child, have on hand the following..." It's the kind of book kids will not only want to look at when they are in your library but will take home for further exploration.

Cathy Puett Miller, The Literacy Ambassador  
[cathypmiller@comcast.net](mailto:cathypmiller@comcast.net)



## GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Tips from J'aime Foust, Knowledge Quest September/October 2004, p. 44

(From the book *Dewey Need To Get Organized? A time management and organizational guide for School Librarians*, Linworth, 2002)

### 1. Keep only two lists

- a. **Master list** where you write down everything in one place instead of multiple lists or scraps of paper
- b. **Daily-to-do** list where you transfer items from your master list. Only transfer what you think you can accomplish that day

### 2. Priorities

- a. Rank tasks by order of importance
- b. Break big tasks into smaller pieces
- c. Watch the master list to track patterns of when the pressure to complete tasks increases or decreases so you can avoid the dreaded last minute rush

### 3. Calendars and Time

- a. Use only one calendar for everything! Experiment to find the one that works best for you. Wall calendar, desk top, electronic, purse sized, an organizer containing calendar, address book, and other vital data are all options to consider.
- b. Watch your time—if you are always late, write down an earlier time for a meeting to increase your chances of being on time. Use an electronic alarm to remind you when to begin getting ready or to remind you to leave for your destination.

### 4. Throw it away!

- a. Decide immediately what needs to be done with the item
  - i. Critical—deal with now on the calendar, task list, address book, etc.
  - ii. Throw away the paper once you have recorded it in its appropriate category

- b. Maintain only two filing systems
  - i. Long term
  - ii. Short term
- c. Ask yourself—why am I keeping this?

**5. Look at your work space**

- a. What works—keep it or improve it
- b. What doesn't work-change it
- c. Do a little straightening each day

**6. Learn to say NO**

- a. Adjust and live with the mess
- b. Allow time to complete the task
- c. Say no—rather than stress over getting the job done
- d. Tomorrow may have no more extra time that today did

**7. Values and Goals**

- a. Post them where you can see them-but change their location frequently or else you won't see them because they will eventually blend in to their surroundings.
- b. Focus on what is important
- c. Compare tasks on master list to your values and goals—Review, revise, renew, discard as needed

**8. Facing the demons**

- a. Identify the stressors
- b. Identify the pitfalls and bad habits
- c. Identify your “button pushers” and plan ways to circumvent them

**9. Accounting**

- a. Keep your methods of tracking your bookkeeping simple
- b. Develop a filing/accounting system that accommodates easy access to information

**10. Laugh**

- a. At yourself!
- b. With colleagues
- c. With students



# February 2005

GaDOE Library Media Services



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
		<b>1</b> Langston Hughes born: 1902-1967	<b>2</b> Birthdays of Ayn Rand, James Dickey, James Joyce and Rebe- cca Caudill	<b>3</b> Birthday of James Michener: 1907- 1997 Sidney Lanier born: 1842-1881	<b>4</b> Charles Lindbergh born: 1902-1974	<b>5</b> Birthday of Hank Aaron: 1934																																																																																																									
<b>6</b> Birthday of Babe Ruth: 1895-1948	<b>7</b> Charles Dickens and Laura Ingalls Wilder were born.	<b>8</b> Boy Scouts found- ed: 1910	<b>9</b> Alice Walker's birthday: 1944-	<b>10</b> Boris Pasternak: 1890-1960 Charles Lamb born: 1775-1835	<b>11</b> Thomas Edison born: 1847-1931	<b>12</b> Birthday of Abe Lincoln: 1809-1865																																																																																																									
<b>13</b> Eleanor Fajjeon: 1881-1965 William Sleator: 1945-	<b>14</b>  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Birthday of Susan B. Anthony and Cyrus McCormick.	<b>16</b> LeVar Burton born: 1957-	<b>17</b> Chaim Potok born: 1929-2002	<b>18</b> Birthday of Toni Morrison: 1931-	<b>19</b> Amy Tan born: 1952-																																																																																																									
<b>20</b> John Glenn orbits the earth: 1962	<b>21</b> W.H. Auden born: 1907-1973	<b>22</b> Birthday of George Washington: 1732-1799	<b>23</b> W.E.B. DuBois born: 1868-1963	<b>24</b> Birthday of Winsl- ow Homer: 1836- 1910	<b>25</b> Renoir born: 1841- 1919	<b>26</b> Sharon Bell Mathis born: 1937- World Trade Center bombed: 1993																																																																																																									
<b>27</b> Birthdays of John Steinbeck and Henry Longfellow.	<b>28</b> Birthday of Donna Jo Napoli: 1948-	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">January</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					January							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18	19		20	21	22	23	24	25		26	27	28	29	30	31	March							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17		18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29		30	31				
January																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
	2	3	4	5	6	7																																																																																																									
	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																									
	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																									
	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																									
	26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																									
March																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																									
	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																									
	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																									
	18	19	20	21	22	23																																																																																																									
	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																									
	30	31																																																																																																													

**There is a wonder in reading Braille that the sighted will never know: to touch words have them touch you back. Jim Fiebig**