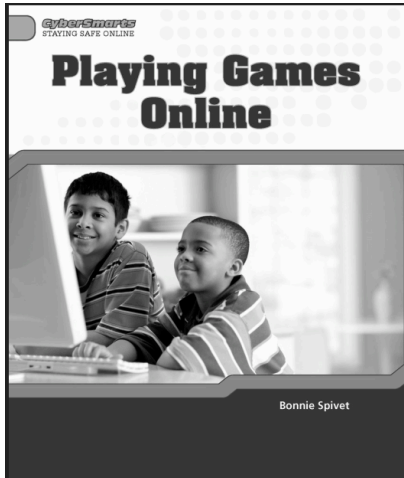


# Geneseo Elementary Libraries

School Board Meeting handout (2-9-12)

## Internet Safety

ISAIL Standard #5: *Understands and practices Internet safety when using any social electronic media for educational or leisure purposes.*



The online world of Social networks and easy access to information is not always kid friendly. This year, we introduced a series of lessons to teach students to be aware of the importance of internet safety and to be cautious of strangers they meet on gaming sites and facebook.

We used an interactive ebook “Playing Games Online.” As students read the book, chat messages pop up presenting a real life situation. Students choose the correct response and are told immediately if they answered correctly.



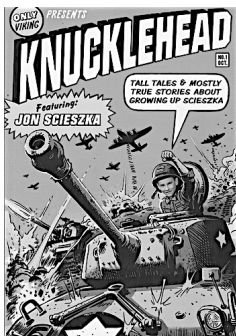
## Finding a "Just Right" book independently for personal reading

ISAIL Standard #4: *Appreciates literature and other creative expressions of information and pursues information related to personal interests and aesthetic growth.*

We are constantly looking for interesting books in a wide variety of reading levels to stimulate a love of reading. This year I used the Illinois Bluestem Award titles to enhance our selection of age appropriate materials.

Two of the student favorites are:

1. Adventures in Cartooning by James Sturm - This graphic novel is a combination of “how to draw comics” and an exciting story about a princess who with the help of a magical cartooning elf, learns how to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near-death by drowning, and into her very own adventure!



2. Knucklehead: tall tales and mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka, by Jon Scieszka. - A humorous book about growing up in a house of 6 brothers during the 1950's. Born in 1954, the second of six brothers, he writes about school, buying gifts, chores, hand-me-downs, and family car rides—all familiar experiences related with the specific Scieszka twist.

Geneseo Middle School and High School Librarian's Report  
February 2012 Board of Education Meeting  
submitted by Jeanne Brucher

**Common Core Stresses Mastery of Information Literacy Skills**

In 2011-2012 the focus for the middle and high schools has been to build greater capacity and consistency for information literacy/research skills. A 6-12 scope and sequence of information literacy skills will be necessary to address the Common Core learning standards addressing the students' abilities to "Research to Build and Present Knowledge." Currently, research skills are expected in classes in a variety of content areas and grade levels. I am working with teachers to develop a sequence for the introduction, reinforcement, and mastery of these skills so it will be clear to teachers and students what skills to expect at each level.

**GMS Research Work**

We are using the Big6 research model as a meta-cognitive framework for developing research skills. Just as Six-Traits gives a common lingo to the process of writing, Big6 gives a common vocabulary to research skills. I introduced middle school faculty to the Big6 during fall in-service activities:

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Task Identification            | 4. Using the Information             |
| 2. Information Seeking Strategies | 5. Synthesis                         |
| 3. Locating and Accessing Sources | 6. Evaluation of Product and Process |

I have mapped a tentative template of sub-skills for each of the Big6 and am working with teachers to develop activities that are age-appropriate and build mastery. We have used a variety of topics (such as mummies, pirates, or Greek myths), but the skill focus has been on:

- locating information within a source (i.e. using an index or Find tools)
- identifying basic bibliographic information for a book or web site
- examining the authority of a web site
- taking notes on organizers that identify facts relative to sources

The focus at the middle school level is identifying the strengths and weaknesses of different sources and understanding the importance of always identifying the source of the obtained information. I thoroughly enjoy working directly with the teacher teams and students to find resources and plan lessons.

## **GHS Research Work**

I have also worked with the high school language arts teachers who developed Common Core power standards to develop a sequence of literacy skill mastery at the high school level. By the time a student leaves GHS, he/she should be able to both efficiently and appropriately locate, use, and cite a variety of sources in order to address an information problem. Sources at the high school level include books (including interlibrary loan), electronic databases such as SIRS, videos, web sites, etc.

At the high school level, the focus is on using more complex resources and the incorporation of proper citation methods (including the ethical use of material obtained electronically) within the body of a work, not only as a bibliography.

## **eResearch Skills**

The majority of student research today is done online. Because of this, the high school library has purchased a school subscription to EasyBib. EasyBib Premium School Edition allows students to use any web-enabled device to:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Research Beta | -see what popular sources people are using for the topic  |
| Notebook      | -copy and paste to create, sort, and organize electronic note cards and then drag those cards into an outline |
| Bibliography  | -copy ISBN's and URL's to create citations and link to cards  |
| Paper         | -link bibliography and notes to a Google document   |

This resource is much more efficient than the traditional paper note card research you may remember and cuts down on the printing of articles which is better economically and environmentally.

## **A Note on eBooks**

Particularly with the addition of Overdrive at the public library, students and teachers are wondering how soon our school libraries will be able to offer similar ereader downloads. The current ebook options for school libraries are still very experimental. I am following the possibilities so that we may be able to make frugal and effective choices as more library resources move online. I would be happy to speak to any of you in person about ebook options for libraries.