



KY School Library Media News



Laura Younkin

2009 KSMA Outstanding School Media Librarian

Laura Younkin, a library media specialist at Ballard High School in Jefferson County, was named the 2009 Kentucky School Media Association's Outstanding Librarian at the group's annual Fall Conference in Louisville.

Laura has been in education since 1992. She started at a K-8 Catholic school, was a long-term sub at a middle school and has been at Ballard High School in Louisville since the fall of 1994.

"I have always been a school librarian and was never a classroom teacher," said Laura. "I believe belonging to and supporting professional organizations is important." She is a past-president of the Jefferson County School Media Association, and this year, won the Outstanding School Library Media Specialist Award from the Kentucky School Media Association.

"I don't dream of retirement or of finding fulfillment in another job. I love what I do. I'm lucky to get to be a librarian. Teenagers are so much fun -- so intense, so funny, so frustrating, so kind. I know Oprah is going through a big phase now of helping people find out what they're supposed to be doing with their lives. I don't mean to be smug, but I already know. And I love it!"

Beth White

\$30,000.00 Steele-Reese Foundation Grant Winner

Beth White, library media specialist at Johnson Elementary School in Laurel County, is beyond excited about the huge grant her library received from the Steele-Reese Foundation for nonfiction books. This is Beth's second year at Johnson Elementary School, and she has been busy working to update the collection. This grant will certainly help her accomplish that task!

Beth applied for the grant in March, had an interview with a New York City attorney who is the overseer of the grant in April, then received the news about winning the award in July. The books were shipped on October 9th, and the school planned a huge celebration.

The Steele-Reese foundation makes grants to charitable organizations operating in the western states of Idaho and Montana, and in the southern Appalachian mountain region of eastern Kentucky.

Professional Organizations for School Librarians*

Kentucky School Media Association
www.kysma.org

Kentucky Library Association
www.kylibasn.org/

American Association of School Librarians
www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aas/

American Library Association
www.ala.org

Kentucky Reading Association
www.kyreading.org

*Others are available, too – get involved!

Information and Updates

The Kentucky Bluegrass Award



Visit the KBA Web site at <http://kba.nku.edu/> to get information about this annual award for the best books as chosen by the students of Kentucky.

Who is KDE's library media consultant?

The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) library media consultant position is part of a Memorandum of Agreement with districts each year. A school library media specialist is "on loan" to KDE for up to three years but still remains an employee of the district from which he or she came. This year the position is paired with the position of textbooks coordinator.

The library media consultant provides advocacy for school librarians at the state department level and as a representative of KDE around the state through a variety of committees and associations that relate to school library work.

The current library media consultant is Kathy Mansfield. She was an elementary school library media specialist with the Jefferson County school district for 12 years and with the Shelby County school district for six years. She has served on the boards of JCSMA and KSMA, and served as a KSMA 5th District president for two years.



Kathy Mansfield
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New National Standards

Did you know that the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has new standards for school library media programs? You can access or purchase copies of the new standards and guidelines by going to this URL:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/index.cfm>. Look for the following documents:

- *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs*
- *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*
- *Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action*

Kentucky School Librarian Openings

Media Specialist
Mountain View Elementary School
Leslie County
Posted: October 6, 2009

Media Specialist
Kenneth D. King Middle School
Mercer County
Posted: October 19, 2009

Professional Resource Highlight

Jennifer Wetzel, library media specialist at Hendron-Lone Oak Elementary School in McCracken County, published a book that features library lesson plans and units for the elementary school library. *Live Up Your Library: Creative and Inexpensive Programming Ideas* is available from Upstart Books at <http://www.highsmith.com/upstartbooks>