

Instructional Technology Services

Richland County School District One

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Winter 2008

SPECIAL POINT OF INTEREST: ▼

The 2008
S.C. Book Festival
will be held
at the
Columbia Metropolitan
Convention Center,
1101 Lincoln Street,
Columbia, SC
on
February 22-24, 2008.

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Annual Technology Fair

Instructional Technology Services, in cooperation with district schools and departments, will present the district's annual Technology Fair during the week of February 18-22. This year's theme is "Take Flight with Technology." The technology fair is an exciting opportunity for schools to showcase the many ways that technology is used to support teaching, learning and management.



Tony Vincent, a pioneer in handheld technologies, will be the special guest for the technology fair. He will participate in a special panel discussion for parents on Wednesday night, February 20 in the Olympia auditorium. Mr. Vincent will be joined by members of various law enforcement agencies to discuss Internet safety. This program will also provide an opportunity to recognize student "technology stars" from each school. Everyone is invited to join us at Olympia for this program.

Individual schools are planning events for parents and community members to visit schools to see displays, participate in using the technology in classrooms and labs as well as special demonstrations from students. In addition to school announcements, newsletters and websites, parents can consult the Instructional Technology Services website for a full listing of events. Please see <http://www.richlandone.org/its> for specific dates, times and locations of school activities and events.

READ Posters a Big Hit with Administrators



Richland One administrators were given the opportunity to pose for their very own READ poster! The READ posters campaign began as an initiative of the American Library Association to promote reading by inviting celebrities to pose with their favorite books. Richland One's administrators are key partners in promoting reading and literacy and will help spread that message through their posters. Be sure to look for them when you visit schools and departments. Thanks, administrators for participating in this project.

A make-up date has been scheduled for anyone who missed the first photo shoots. Interested persons can schedule a time to be photographed at the ITS-Olympia offices on the following dates: **February 26 from 9-12 and 1-4 or March 6 from 9-12 and 1-4.** Please call 231-6803 to reserve a slot and remember to bring your favorite book. The photo shoot will take less than 10 minutes.

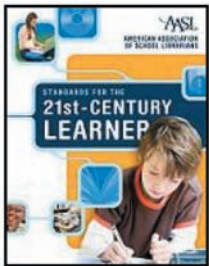
From The Director

IDA W. THOMPSON
Director



Now, more than ever, it is important for today's learners to be given every opportunity to achieve - not only today, but into the future. The types of skills, resources and expectations for learners will only escalate, necessitating that they be prepared for these challenges. To that end, the American Association of School Librarians recently released *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*. The standards are organized into common beliefs and four broad categories that detail the abilities students will need in order to use skills, resources and information tools in all formats.

Development of the standards involved many professionals across the country to ensure a focus on quality school library media programs for every student. "The new AASL 'Standards for the 21st-Century Learner' are both a reflection of the current landscape and a vision for the future," said Gail K. Dickinson, task force co-chair. "Good standards have to be practical enough to teach today but flexible enough to be able to teach tomorrow."



Locally, information technology specialists have received copies of the standards and began discussions on a district wide implementation plan. The standards must be integrated into daily instructional activities that provide opportunities for research, critical thinking and problem-solving, reading for pleasure and information as well as appropriate and ethical use of information. We welcome a dialogue on the best strategies for achieving a workable solution that will make these new standards an integral part of the learning experiences we provide.

Limited copies of the standards are available from Instructional Technology Services. They can also be viewed online at www.aasl.org.

Renaissance Place Enterprise Debuts



Enterprise version of Accelerated Reader.

Richland One students and teachers now have the opportunity to take their reading practice and enrichment activities to another level. All district schools now have access to the Renaissance Place

teacher and independent reading options. Enterprise is web-based, affording enhanced technical support and speedy upgrades.

District staff, including information technology specialists, CRTs, literacy coaches, consultants, principals and media assistants participated in training sessions in November, December and January. Trainers Rhonda Dickerson, Marie McCollom and Deb Allen led these training sessions. Support from E-rate reimbursements, along with funding from the Office of Instructional Technology Services, Information Technology and Dr. Cash-Greene were used to acquire this valuable learning tool. A special word of thanks goes to Doug Bennink, District Network Operations Manager, who spearheaded the many technical issues in making the conversion possible.

Additional training sessions and user support group sessions will be scheduled throughout the summer and fall.

Special Announcement

District Library Media Consultant Retires

The Instructional Technology Services staff joins the district's information technology specialists in recognizing **Wayne Martin** for his dedicated service as district library media consultant. Wayne retired in November after nine years in Richland One, having worked as information technology specialist at Sanders Middle, Southeast Middle and Hand Middle, then as technology educator for the Dreher cluster before joining the department as consultant. Wayne was a true asset to the district's library media programs and will be missed as he embarks on a next phase of his life. The department hosted a retirement celebration in his honor on December 7.

Photos from the retirement reception can be viewed at http://picasaweb.google.com/RCSD1TechEd/WayneS_retirement1207

People and Places



Monica Simmons, author of a series of books on South Carolina history, visited Gadsden Elementary on December 14. Following her presentation, each student, faculty and staff member at the school received a copy of The Midlands Child. Additional copies were distributed to elementary schools across the district.

In keeping with State Department of Education guidelines, the **Richland One District Library Media Advisory Committee** continues its work as advocates for quality school programs. A major focus this year is support for overall library funding. Mr. Michael Bobby, Chief Operations Officer and Ed Carlon, Budget Director, were special guests at the committee's January meeting. Officers are: Alexzena Furgess, Chairperson, Helen Fellers, Vice-Chair and Mary Vicks, Secretary. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for mid to late April.



The five ITS technology educators have completed pre and initial Smart certified masters training. By March 15, they will have completed the post certification assignment to complete this process. SMART masters' training certification goes beyond the basics with extensive hands-on training that enables them to train others effectively. The credential they will receive gives them the required skills to deliver high-quality training for Smartboard interactive whiteboards.

We are pleased to welcome **Peggy Cwiakala** as the new information technology specialist at Burton-Pack Elementary School. Mrs. Cwiakala is settling into her new duties with enthusiasm and vigor. She is married to Dr. Martin Cwiakala, science instructor and advisor for the Robo Raiders at Keenan High School.



Members of the **Richland One Board of School Commissioners** were the special guests of the Instructional Technology Services staff on January 28 in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. Board members participated in a distance learning class, used the electronic whiteboard and received updates on a number of technology and library media initiatives. They each received a gift bag from the staff in appreciation of their continued support.



Ida Thompson and the Instructional Technology Services staff hosted the winter meeting of state library supervisors on January 16. **Martha Alewine**, State Library Consultant, led the meeting which took place at Olympia. Thanks to our Chief Academic Officer, **Renee Mathews**, for bringing greetings and representing the District One leadership team.

The staff has been on the go learning and sharing with colleagues at a number of national conferences and events. **MaryAnn Sansonetti** and **Julia Davis** attended the SMART Users Group of South Carolina that met at the Blue Ribbon Schools Conference in North Charleston this past December. They each presented SMARTboard lessons that are being used in Richland One. Julia and MaryAnn were also chosen by Discovery Education to represent South Carolina at the Florida Technology Conference (FETC) in January.

Elizabeth Kohut led a national eChalk webinar on February 5. This online session showcased how the department is utilizing eChalk to facilitate and promote district-wide technology professional development opportunities.

Ida Thompson attended the Mid-winter conference of the American Library Association in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania representing the South Carolina Association of School Librarians at the association's Affiliate Assembly. Ida has been nominated to run for Council-at-Large of the American Library Association. She was also invited to attend the National Conference on Accelerating Learning in Orlando, Florida in February. This provided her an opportunity to increase the knowledge base needed to ensure effective transition to Enterprise and help school-based staff and administrators embrace best practices with this resource.

Special thanks to **Beth Cheslak** from the AT&T Office of External Affairs for copies of the 2008 South Carolina Black History Calendar. In addition to the calendars, all schools received copies from the State Department of Education of Cecil Williams' new book, Out-of-Box in Dixie. These resources will greatly enhance students' research and study of Black History.



Calendar OF Events

DATE	EVENT
February 18	Technology Fair begins
February 20	District Technology Fair – Panel Discussion and Recognition of Technology Star Students, Olympia 6:00pm
February 22	S. C. Book Festival Begins (Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center)
February 25	VLF Puppetry Entries Due
February 26	School Board Meeting, Lewis-Greenview, 7:00pm
February 27	High School Bowl Competition, ROTV 10:00am
February 28	TIPS Session #5 for Information Technology Specialists
March 2	Read Across America Celebrations
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Begins (“Spring Forward”)
March 12	SCASL State Conference (Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center)

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