



Spotlight on Educators

An S.O.S. for Information Literacy Online Publication



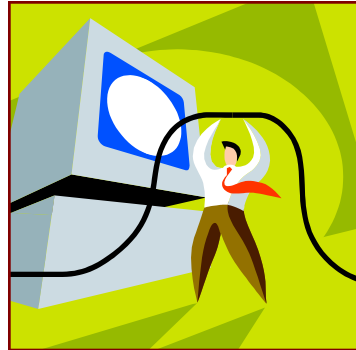
Fall 2005

Inside Features

- **Plagiarism is a big issue that educators address.**
- **AASL Resources**
- **National Leadership Grant Awarded**
- **A New Look!**

S.O.S. for Information Literacy Launched

S.O.S. for Information Literacy Launched! During the AASL 12th National Conference and Exhibition held in Pittsburgh, PA, S.O.S. will be launched to all! Officially, the event will be October 7th at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. This is exciting as K-8 educators nationwide and beyond have been waiting to access S.O.S. Up until now, S.O.S. was accessible to a



group of approximately 150 educators who have pioneered the development of the resource and provided a core of lesson plans to help initiate the database. Now it is up to you to help fill S.O.S. with terrific lesson plans and related materials to share with colleagues. October is a month of celebration for all those who have worked so hard on this project!

S.O.S. Salutes Rita Moltzan

A yearning for far-away places takes this library media specialist on an overseas adventure that became a way of life.

**Written by MariRae Dopke-Wilson
Spotlight Feature Producer**

As S.O.S. for Information Literacy launches this fall as an Internet resource for educators worldwide, what better time to recognize overseas school library media specialist and lesson contributor, Rita Moltzan. She works at the Caltex American School, Rumbai, Pekanbaru, Sumatra, Indonesia. Helping students find information about foreign lands and different cultures is a role Rita Moltzan takes to heart. You see, her personal yearning for far away places lead her on an overseas adventure that's become a way of life! After teaching three years in Whitecourt, Alberta Canada, Rita and her husband became interested in teaching abroad as a way to work and travel at the same time. "We were intrigued with



living in a foreign country and learning more about the culture and customs of a far away place. Initially, we applied only to schools in Saudi Arabia as we had heard about schools there, but we then learned of other international schools through International Schools Services (ISS) in New Jersey. My husband, Lyle, and I went to a hiring fair and accepted our first job in Amman, Jordan. We loved it there- the people, culture, school, archaeological sites, food, everything." Initially, the Moltzan's planned to teach for two years and go home to Canada to start a family. However, they loved their new lifestyle so much that they decided the benefits of an international upbringing and education would be perfect for raising children. After four years in Jordan, the Moltzan's moved on to Johannesburg, South Africa, where they started their family. "We have two sons now- Jordan (named after our first overseas home), 5, and Taylor, 3. Both sons now go to our school here in Sumatra. Jordan's in kindergarten and Taylor's in preschool. They truly love the Indonesian culture, and even can speak a little of the language. The opportunities for our children our

Spotlight Feature...

endless- dedicated, worry-free child care, a global education, sensitive to differences in others." In addition to being her school's librarian, Rita teaches 5th grade Language Arts and Social Studies. Her husband, Lyle, is a Math teacher. At the Caltrex American School, the Moltzan's enjoy smaller classes, a well-resourced library and classrooms, and a diversified group of motivated students. "Depending on the countries, students can be quite a mix; often we have diplomatic children, some local children, and children of expatriate families working in various industries: multi-national corporations, financial institutions, export/import, etc. Here in Rumbai, the majority of our students are children of Chevron employees. We also teach children of Chevron contractors, Malaysian students, and Singaporean children." While life and teaching is much different overseas, Rita employs the same Information Literacy standards for lesson planning. "Our schools' adopted Information Literacy curriculum was derived from the following sources: Educational Communications and Technology's Information Literacy Standards, Kansas, and Clarkstown Central School District, and 'Information Power' [AASL/AECT, 1998]. One objective from our curriculum is to foster an appreciation of literature and other creative expressions of information. Our School-Wide Learning Expectations include analytical and creative thinking, effective communicating, and collaborative work. I have found and used many lessons from SOS and love it!"

Rita's S.O.S. Lesson: iMovie "Where the Wild Things Are"

One of Rita's professional goals is to help students foster a love of books and learning. Her S.O.S.

lesson, "Where the Wild Things Are," combined a 'Reader's Theater' approach with student narration, sound effects and custom artwork resulting in an iMovie as the final class product. Her lesson addressed several national information literacy standards and integrated art, technology, and early literacy skills. "This lesson was with my grade 2 library class, but this project would work well with all gif different literature were used. Older students would also be able to do more of the editing and compiling of the art and video in computer class. I collaborated with our art and computer teachers on the artwork. The students painted pictures for different parts of the story in art class, and in computer class they designed pictures on the computer using Kid Pix. Photographs of the paintings were scanned in, and I used iMovie to compile the storytelling video with the graphics. Finally, with the students' help and suggestions, the computer teacher and I added sound effects, the titles and subtitles, and the credits page." The project was a huge success and Rita says she'd 'do it again in a heartbeat.' Its success can be credited to two important factors: student motivation and teacher collaboration. "The parents, grade 2 class, other students, and my colleagues all loved the project. It was helpful having the art and computer teacher to work with to cut down on time spent on the project. While the project was time consuming and a lot of work, it really paid off and was worth all the effort."

Rita believes it's extremely important for library media specialists to collaborate with teachers and other staff to

accomplish important information literacy goals. The small size of her school helps to make this easy. "We just need to meet in the hall and make a plan! I view it as critical and try my hardest to collaborate with all teachers. So far I have been very successful collaborating with all our elementary teachers and our specialist teachers: art, music, computers, and Bahasa. Sometimes it is more difficult with our middle school teachers as we have our own curricula. However, I am integrating information literacy skills in my LA/SS class and will collaborate with our science teacher for science fair this year. I haven't been able to collaborate with our Math teacher yet, and he's my husband! We'll see!"

Philosophy: Teach Self-directed Learning Preparing students to be lifelong learners is a common goal for Library Media professionals everywhere. At the Caltrex American School in Rumbai, teaching students how to research and think on their own is key. "I feel we need to teach students to be problem solvers and to know how to think their way through problems. Thinking skills are crucial, and I try to help kids produce knowledge rather than reproduce it. In any research project, I promote creative thinking in the students so that they have ownership of their learning. They use the information literacy skills as tools to research and find facts, but then they construct something original and meaningful with it. Also, what they know is not as important as what they do when they don't know something. We do a lot of thinking out loud and sharing our strategies- what works and what doesn't, so hopefully it will rub off on each other."



This issue's featured library media specialist, Rita Moltzan, used a dome tent as a seasonal prop to enhance story-time at the end of the school year. The picture of Rita in the tent reading to children conveys a sense of comfort as she and the kindergarteners kick off their shoes, get cozy, and listen to the read aloud books that connect to eagerly awaited summer activities. The simple tent ties it together. Halloween and the holidays are fast approaching. How will you transform your story corner?

Future Plans: Nearly 11 years after beginning their Indonesian teaching adventure, Rita Moltzan and her family have no immediate plans to return home to Alberta, Canada. "For now, we plan to stay overseas as long as possible and get our children through school internationally. Perhaps we'll retire in Canada."

Rita's iMovie lesson can be found in the S.O.S. Information Literacy lesson database by doing a lesson plan search and/or entering her name in the author's field.

Motivational Strategies That Work

Plagiarism is a big issue that educators address. It can become complicated especially when it isn't intentional; sometimes it is a result of careless paraphrasing, poor citations, too much quoting and a simple failure to use the students' own words. If you are tackling this topic with your middle school children, Laurie LeFever has designed a lesson entitled "Preventing Plagiarism" that includes an excellent downloadable Powerpoint presentation you might find useful. It defines plagiarism in an easy to understand manner, provides lots of examples and strategies for maintaining academic integrity. Access the lesson on the S.O.S. for Information Literacy site (www.informationliteracy.org) by typing "Preventing Plagiarism" in the keyword search field or type Laurie's name in the "author" search field.

AASL Resources

By Marilyn Arnone

In conjunction with the official launch of S.O.S. at the AASL 12th National Conference and Exhibition, the Spotlight on Educators page will devote a section to AASL. Also, you will now be able to link directly to AASL Resource Guides which are web-based bibliographies of resources on a variety of school library media and education topics with links to sources such as journal articles, books, and Web sites. They are arranged alphabetically by topics in the field. Whether you are interested in advocacy, intellectual freedom, or looking for sources of practical advice on any number of topics from collection development to technology, AASL's web-based guides will steer you in the right direction. Keep in mind this is a work in progress and AASL staff will be continually revising and updating. This column will let you know about interesting new resources that AASL has added to this valuable section of their Web site. You can visit it at: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/resources>

News and Updates

National Leadership Grant Awarded:

As if the launch itself were not news enough, there is more! On September 20th, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) announced that the S.O.S. project was one of the awardees of the 2005 National Leadership Grants. This NLG will be used to extend development of S.O.S. to the high school and college levels. We welcome Dr. Joanne Silverstein and Abby Kasowitz-Scheer to the expanded team. We will be looking to a core of high school and college educators for guidance and to new pioneers who are willing to contribute their ideas to these two new works in progress.

A New Look:

The Spotlight on Educators page has served as a way to keep the pioneers (those educators who worked with S.O.S. in its early stages) connected to the project during its development and implementation. Now that the project is publicly launched, the Spotlight page will continue for everyone. However, plans are underway for a whole new look for the online publication. Be watching for it in the Winter issue!

S.O.S. for Information Literacy

Questions or comments?
Contact:
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S.O.S. for Information Literacy is a dynamic web-based multimedia resource for educators, that promises to make a significant contribution to enhancing the teaching of information literacy skills to children. At no time in history has the ability to locate, organize, evaluate, manage and use information been more critical for today's learners. These skills, collectively referred to as information literacy, lay the groundwork for success in every phase of a student's life both in and out of school.

<http://www.informationliteracy.org>



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