

Upcoming Events

March 19: Birchwood 1000
Book Kids Kickoff event, 6pm

April 15 – April 21: Glencliff
Elementary Book Fair

April 24, 2015 Local Author
Elizabeth Rosner will visit
Niskayuna High School to
discuss her latest book,
Electric City (*Electric City* Book
club meeting dates: 3/25; 4/1;
4/15)

April 30: Beauty and the
Beast Storytellers visit
Birchwood Elementary

Niskayuna Libraries

Winter 2015 Newsletter

KEEP
CALM
AND GO TO THE
LIBRARY



Recommended Reading/Viewing

2015 Youth Media Award Winners

Caldecott Award Winner (picture book)



The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend, written and illustrated by Dan Santat; The Adventures of Beekle is the story of an imaginary friend who goes in search of a child who needs him. Author and illustrator Dan Santat says, "I found it interesting that no one had ever taken the approach from the imaginary friend's point of view." - NPR.org

Newbery Award Winner (middle grade novel)



The Crossover, by Kwame Alexander; His winning novel is a story about twin brothers who love each other and basketball in equal measure. Alexander knew a story about sports would attract reluctant readers, especially boys. And he wrote the novel in verse because he started out as a poet. - NPR.org

Michael L. Printz Award Winner (young adult novel)



I'll Give You The Sun, by Jandy Nelson; At thirteen, Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. Something has happened to wreck the twins in different and dramatic ways . . . until Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy, as well as someone else—an even more unpredictable new force in her life. The early years are Noah's story to tell. The later years are Jude's. What the twins don't realize is that they each have only half the story, and if they could just find their way back to one another, they'd have a chance to remake their world. - Excerpt from JandyNelson.com

Birchwood Library Highlights

Mrs. Kirkpatrick



On Friday, April 24, Author **Elizabeth Rosner** will visit Niskayuna High School. She will present to students in large and small group settings, and she'll be back in the evening for Java Jive! Students can pick up a copy of Rosner's latest book, **Electric City**, in the Niskayuna High School Library. Our book club will meet to discuss the book on the following dates: Wed. 3/25; Wed. 4/1; Tues. 4/15.

At Birchwood - Reading Is Our Thing: We have been busy in the Birchwood Media Center! Right now we are having our "At Birchwood-Reading is Our Thing" winter reading celebration. The whole school, including students and staff, are busy keeping track of their reading for the month leading up to Dr. Seuss' birthday!

Preschool PE and Library Program: Our pre-school PE and Library program has begun. What a great way to let our future students become a part of the Birchwood community!

Kindergarten Illustrators: Kindergarteners are learning to use the illustrations in a story to help them read, and they are really becoming strong readers!

Grade 1 Coders: We are very excited to have introduced Scratchjr, a coding app, to our first graders. They will be coding their way through How-To nonfiction on the iPads!

Grade 2 Study of Fairy Tales: In second grade we studied the fairy tale genre and had a great time writing a fractured fairy tale based on *The Three Little Pigs*.

Grade 3 Folklore Study: We have been studying the wolf in literature across the third grade, which helps us understand the elements of a fable.

Grade 4 Iroquois Unit: Our 4th graders extended their Iroquois unit by studying Iroquois pour quoi stories, and then they partnered up to write their own creative versions. If you stop by Birchwood you might see Sacagawea or Paul Revere! That's because we're sharing our biographies!

Grade 5 States Research: 5th grade has just wrapped up their research on the 50 states. What a great job they did, from the awesome artifact boxes, to understanding why it is important to cite your sources.

Hillside Library Highlights

Mrs. Ubriaco



To celebrate National "Read Across America Day", Hillside hosted award-winning author and illustrator Laura Vaccaro Seeger on March 2nd. She shared how she creates her books at two assemblies, signed copies of her books with students, ate lunch with second graders, and led an illustrator workshop for 4th and 5th graders. It was a great day for all! [Photos](#)

Hillside first graders did their first research project of the year using the WISER research process, learning about the Sun, Moon and Earth. When investigating to find answers to their questions, they explored the PebbleGo database on the iPads, which features a read-aloud option for younger students. After the research was done, they shared their learning with each other and the Hillside community.



Rosendale Library Highlights

Mrs. Carboni

Rosendale students are chasing away the winter doldrums with plenty of good books. The children are very excited by the growing number of boxes of new books arriving weekly!

Our first graders have recently discovered Mo Willem's *Elephant and Piggie* series. You will often hear an upsurge of laughter and giggles erupting from the picture book room as they delight in Willem's hilarious style of humor.

Our third grades have just finished researching different forms of extreme weather using print and online resources. Mrs. Neufeld and Mr. Mott's classes recently shared their findings with parents and family in a classroom presentation. Other third graders are using iPads to create movie trailers following their reading of *Gooseberry Park*. They will share their book recommendations with their classmates later this month.

Fifth grades are currently reading *Esperanza Rising* by Cynthia Rylant and they have been working in the computer lab to gather background information on Mexico, the Dust Bowl, and the role of child labor in American agriculture.



Rosendale students set up their friends for some happy reading!

Craig Library Highlights

Mrs. Sogoian

Author Visit with Matthew McElligott: The incredible, amazing, and downright awesome author and illustrator, Matthew McElligott, inspired Craig students and staff on Friday, February 6th! He actively engaged our 4th and 5th graders in the writing, editing, and publishing process as he took them on the journey of creating his book, *Benjamin Franklinstein*. He regaled our 2nd and 3rd graders with the tale of how *Backbeard and the Birthday Suit* came about. Finally, he amazed our Kindergarten and 1st graders with his monster illustrations using Photoshop from his book *Even Monsters Need Haircuts*. Students and Teachers alike were impressed with his presentation. This library-sponsored event was even featured in the Your Niskayuna News for the week of February 9-13. Read it here!

<http://yourniskayuna.com/blog/2015/02/12/author-shares-magic-writing/>

Preschool Story Time has begun at Craig School!

Preschool Story Hour is a program offered at Craig for children who will be coming to school in the fall. We want them to feel comfortable with Craig and to have a great first experience here. The preschool story program is designed to introduce your child to the school by familiarizing them with the school atmosphere and staff. During this time, parents attend informational presentations by various speakers from the Craig staff, along with having questions answered. It is one day a week for about an hour. The children are welcome to take out books and videos from the library (with parents!). We all have a great time and hope you choose to bring your child!



Craig Elementary students enjoy time with visiting author, Matthew McElligott.

Glenclyff Library Highlights

Miss Mitchell

Visiting Author: On Tuesday, March 3rd, Glenclyff hosted visiting author/illustrator, Laura Vaccaro Seeger. The two-time Caldecott Honor winner gave two incredible presentations on her wonderful picture books, teaching students about the work that goes into creating each story. Afterward, she held a book-signing, followed by lunch with a few lucky students.

Second Graders are beginning a project where they will be creating books in the style of Laura Vaccaro Seeger's *Lemons Are Not Red*.

Third Graders are using *World Book Kids* and *CultureGrams* to complete their country research projects.

Fourth Graders are learning how to write book reviews using Google Docs.

Fifth Graders are beginning their Mock Caldecott project. They will be creating multi-media presentations promoting a picture book published in 2014 as a contender for the Glenclyff Mock Caldecott.

Middle School Library Highlights

Mr. Wolfort and Mrs. Kirkpatrick

The middle school libraries have been exciting places to be these past few weeks. Sixth graders learned about the different genres of fiction books and how to search for a particular genre within the library. Seventh graders have been learning how to search the Internet effectively, evaluate websites for quality information, and the benefits of using online databases for their research. Several of Mrs. Farina's English classes have come into the Media Center to take advantage of the television studio, and they recorded persuasive videos, voicing their opinions on various topics. The library also hosted a speaker to talk with Mr. Jesep's 7th grade Social Studies classes about the Armenian Revolution.

Literary Lunch Bunch at VA Love to read? Love to learn about different authors and genres to help you decide what to read next? Then join us every Monday during your grade's lunch to talk about all things book-related!

High School Library Highlights

Ms. McAndrews

Grade 9 Biography Research and Balloon Speeches: Mrs. Werther's 9th grade English classes worked in the library to prepare "Balloon Speeches", which charged them with the task of convincing a panel of judges that their selected character from history is so important that he/she should be the sole person to be taken off a desert island by balloon. The premise may sound crazy, but students take this life or death situation seriously! They read a full-length biography about their character and research their opponents using the *Biography in Context* database. After careful research, they write and present a convincing speech detailing how their character, if saved from the island, will continue to benefit society.

Grade 10 Revolution Research: Mrs. Millet's 10th grade English classes are exploring current revolutionary ideas and movements. They are learning about a variety of valuable database resources, such as *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*, *Student Resources in Context*, *Gale Power Search*, and *EBSCO Ultra Online Suite*. Students have also learned about the importance of examining websites for credibility, and how to cite their sources using Noodle Tools.

Grade 11 Padlet Presentations: Students in Dr. Moore's 11th grade English classes worked together using **Padlet** to prepare presentations on Transcendentalism. Padlet is an online bulletin board that allows users to add text and images quickly and easily. Students can work together on a single Padlet and share it as a presentation or use an online link.

Grade 12 Career Exploration and Literary Analysis

Mrs. Weidman's 12 grade students recently learned about an excellent tool for career exploration offered by the NYS Department of Labor. [CareerZone](#) is an online database that links your skills, talents and interests to information about relevant careers and jobs.

Students in Dr. Moore's 12 grade English classes are using library databases such as *Student Resources in Context* and *JStor*, as well as books from our own library and area university libraries, to synthesize a broad literary analysis of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

What.A.Read Book Club

Our book club continues to read voraciously! Our next read, *Electric City*, will prepare us for our meeting with visiting author Elizabeth Rosner on April 24th.

Featured Artist Exhibitions

The library display case in the C-wing has been dedicated to monthly exhibitions featuring a Niskayuna High School artist. Our first exhibition featured the work of photographer Beca Piascik. Don't miss March's exhibition showcasing the work of Anabelle Apa!



Students congregate in the Niskayuna High School Library before school to connect with friends and prepare for the day's classes.



Students record persuasive videos in the Iroquois Middle School television studio.

