

# Check It Out!

HARLINGEN CISD LIBRARY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

1ST NINE WEEKS  
2011-2012

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## READY, WILLING, AND ABLE!

**By Laura Sheneman**  
**Coordinator of**  
**Library Services**

The librarians of Harlingen CISD are proud to introduce a library services joint newsletter tailored for the faculty and staff of the district. Throughout the course of the school year, all of the district librarians will be sharing their expertise in different issues of the quarterly newsletter.

This newsletter is designed to showcase the services of the library and to highlight information we think you should know. There will be

certain features you can count on seeing each nine weeks: book author/series/genre articles, book award descriptions, technology tips, collaboration ideas, and digital citizenship.

We hope you find ideas that appeal to you and entice you to try new ideas with the students in your classroom or in collaboration with your campus librarian.

Your librarian is ready, willing, and able to work with you in a multitude of ways. This year we are showcasing three areas we are specifically trained in:

Teaching for Learning, Literacy, and Instructional Technology. As a group we are all at different levels of development in these areas but are striving to serve you and the students in the best way possible.

We hope you had a fantastic first quarter as we head in to the second.



## New Arrivals!

- 1 [Manners with a library book](#) 9/20/2011
- 2 [Happenstance found](#) 9/14/2011
- 3 [Amazing faces](#) 9/14/2011
- 4 [The 10 most unforgettable shipwrecks](#) 8/16/2011
- 5 [The 10 most dangerous geographic locations](#) 8/16/2011



## Lamar Students are AWESOME!

- Lamar students have read over 15,245,678 words. Wow!
- 3596 books were circulated during the month of October.
- 3299 books were circulated during the month of September.
- Scholastic Book Fair November 14-18.

November is Family Stories Month.  
Our next Lamar Library Night is on  
November 21, 2011 from 6-7p.m.  
Featured story [The Family Book](#) by T. Parr.

# 5 Things You Should Know About DIGITAL CHEATING

From NetSmartz.org

The Internet has created plenty of new opportunities for children, including opportunities to cheat in school. Learn about the problem of digital cheating [here](#).

Cell phones are one of the devices most commonly used by students to cheat. Read about the various ways [these teens](#) have used technology to cheat.

According to a [recent study](#), social networks and educational sites are students' top sources for plagiarized content.

Teachers aren't the only ones who need to be concerned about digital cheating. Get parents involved with [these resources](#) from Common Sense Media.

Digital cheating doesn't stop at high school graduation. A [recent survey](#) suggests that "cyber-plagiarism" in college is on the rise.



## Teacher Librarian Collaboration

By Catherine Saldana at Harlingen High School

Librarians are an invaluable resource on a campus. They are well-versed in the curriculum for each subject as they have to ensure that the resources in their library compliment what is being taught in the classroom. Librarians are often referenced as resource specialists because they specialize in supporting all areas of curriculum. Unfortunately, they are not always used to their fullest potential.

Primarily, only English Language Arts and Social Studies instructors use the librarians at the secondary level. This typically happens when research activities occur. Librarians can do more than this. Teachers might be interested to know that they can brainstorm projects and

teaching approaches with the librarians as well as share the burden of assessing grades. Librarians used to be in the classroom, and the library should be regarded as a large classroom, allowing for multiple users and purposes.

Librarians can assist teachers in the instruction of students with technological tools such as wikis, Prezis, PowerPoints, etc... They can also teach students to use databases and online resources effectively as well as the various citation forms. Many students are required to use the APA format when they attend college, but it is not as stressed as MLA is on some district campuses.

“...if they (librarians) do not know an answer, they definitely know how to locate one.”

Librarians are competent in all manners of citation, and if they do not know an answer, they definitely know how to locate one.

I encourage all teachers to contact their campus librarian and develop a lesson together. Not only will you have someone with whom to share the joys and frustrations of teaching, but you'll have the most current and reliable information available to you! Librarians understand where you are, where you need to go, and how to accommodate the varying needs of the learners in your classroom. You will not regret investing your time and energy into developing a lesson with a librarian that you can re-use each year, adjusting to the current trends and technologies.

## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Elementary  
Video and Game Site  
(click the picture)



Middle School  
Games  
(click the picture)



High School  
Video: Your Photo Fate  
(click the picture)



## Children's Book Award

By Yvonne Gonzales  
at Zavala Elementary

Since 1979 the mission of the [Texas Bluebonnet Award \(TBA\) Program](#) has been to promote The Texas Bluebonnet Award. The award is a "children's choice award" that is designed to promote pleasure reading among Texas children in grades 3 -6, although Texas children are not required to participate.

The goals of this award are to introduce children to a variety of current quality books, develop critical reading, identify their favorite books, and to honor and encourage imaginative authors.

"This program gives students the opportunity to choose the winner..."

This program gives students the opportunity to choose the winner of this well-regarded award. The new TBA Master List officially begins each year in February and concludes on January 31 the following calendar year. Children are not required to read all 20 of the nominated titles. The motto of TBA is to read five books and then decide. Students vote for their favorite book by the last Friday in January of each year through a registered site. The registration form and the cost are available at the TBA site. Voting can be done two ways either electronically at the

site or final tallies can be mailed into the TBA offices by January 31.

The winner of the book receiving the most votes statewide will be announced shortly after the due date. The author and the illustrator are presented with the Texas Bluebonnet Award at the annual Texas Library Conference by 10 students who are selected from across the state.



## Accelerated Reader

By Laura Sheneman

### WHAT IS A.R.?

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a daily progress-monitoring tool in wide use by primary and secondary schools for monitoring the practice of reading. It was created by Renaissance Learning, Inc.

### A.R. Results

Renaissance Learning has developed a great booklet titled *Getting Results with Accelerated Reader*. This is a free pdf available to everyone. <http://doc.renlearn.com/kmnet/r003975403gg965f.pdf>

**However, students should be allowed to check out other books purely for pleasure.**

This quarter's highlight is:

### READING FOR PLEASURE

p. 71

**Sometimes a student wants to read outside his ZPD (zone of proximal development). Is that okay?** Yes. If students are selecting books based on their interests, they may occasionally

want to read one that is below or above their ZPD.

### Implications for HCISD:

For books that are intended for A.R. purposes, the student should read and test in their zpd. However, students should be allowed to check out other books purely for pleasure reading. These book choices are not tied in to zpd, but are tied to interests of the students. These books should not be tested on by the students.

**Let's build life-long readers together.**

## Tech Tip

By Sheri Durham  
at Treasure Hills Elementary

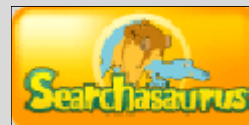
Our school district provides free access to online [databases](#) for both teacher and student use. Staff members can use these databases to find complete TEKS aligned lesson plans for all grade levels, authoritative resources that support research strands, professional journals and online self-paced training modules.

Your students can depend on these databases to be a trust-

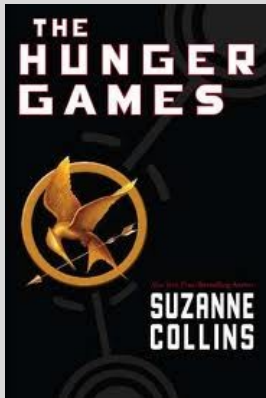
worthy environment in which to look up articles, primary source documents, photos, maps, biographies, and much more. In addition, Britannica provides excellent learning games and activities to help students build math, reading, and science skills.

You can find these databases on our school district's webpage under the virtual library link. Ask your librarian for usernames and passwords.

Here are a few examples:



## Books Worth Reading



By Laura Sheneman

[The Hunger Games](#) trilogy is an excellent choice of reading for both you the educator and for secondary students. This young-adult science fiction novel was written by Suzanne Collins. In this trilogy sixteen year-old Katniss Everdeen, lives in a post-apocalyptic world in the country of Panem, previously known as North America. All power is wielded from the Capitol where the government is located.

Book 1 introduces the reader to the annual televised event where the Capitol selects one boy and one girl aged 12 to 18 from each of 12 districts. These unfortunate children are sent away to the Capitol for a colossal televised battle which allows for only one survivor.

**Winning means fame and fortune. Losing means certain death. The Hunger Games have begun..."**

Book 2 is titled *Catching Fire*. Fire becomes symbolic throughout the series as it is used in all of Katniss and Peeta's costumes. The fire later represents a situation that is out of Katniss' control. In book 3, *Mockingjay*, the reader discovers how a simple mockingjay pin acquired in book 1 leads to a change in the society.

Stay tuned! This book is set to release in [film](#) March 23, 2012. This would make a great activity to follow up for a **book club for teachers or students.**



### Virtual Library

<http://www.hcisid.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=702>

By Elvia Gritzner  
at Wilson Elementary

[Pete the Cat,](#)  
[Rocking in My School Shoes](#)

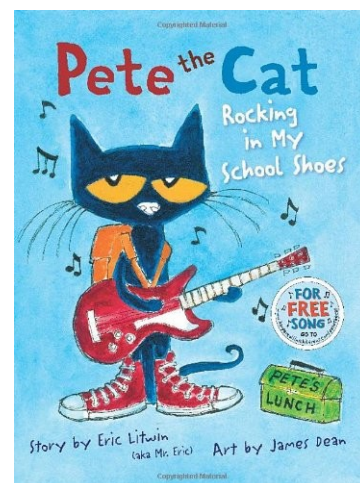
Description:

Pete the Cat is back—and this time he's rocking in his school shoes. Pete discovers the library, the lunchroom, the playground, and lots of other cool places at school. And no matter where he goes, Pete never stops moving and grooving and singing his song . . . because it's all good.

I read this book to my Pre-K, Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. They loved it! It is a very positive story about enjoying school and having fun. You can download

the song on the publisher's website for free!

Recommended Reading Level:  
Minimum Age: 3  
Maximum Age: 6  
Minimum Grade Level: Toddler  
Maximum Grade Level: 1st Grade



**OUR CHILDREN,  
OUR FUTURE,  
OUR WORLD!**

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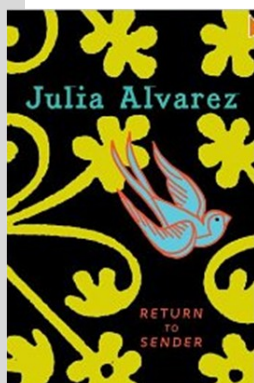
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## Hispanic Heritage Month Selections

### By Irene Leos at Harlingen South

#### The [American Library Association's Pura Belpré Award](#)

established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library.



#### *Return to Sender*

by Julia Alvarez

Return to Sender is an immigration story told through the viewpoint of two eleven

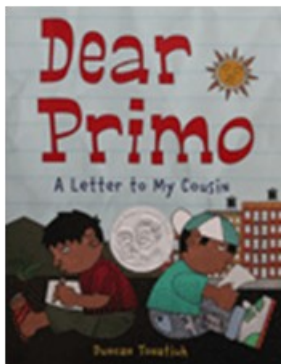
year olds -Tyler and Mari. After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, their family is on the verge of losing their Vermont farm. Their only recourse is to hire Mari's family who are illegal immigrants from Mexico. Mari's family consists of her father, her two uncles and her two sisters. During the course of a year, the two families become close. Mari's fears and worries are revealed in the unmailed letters she writes to her mother and in her diary entries. Mari's mother traveled to Mexico to see her dying mother. On her return to the United States, she disappears. Is she being held for ransom by "coyotes"? Is she being abused? Return to Sender puts a young adult's perspective on the illegal immigrant issue. Return

to Sender is the 2010 winner of the Pura Belpré award and the Americas Book Award.

Pura Belpré 2011 Illustrator Honor Books

#### *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*

, illustrated and written by Duncan Tonatiuh, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an im-



print of Abrams

*Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin* depicts the lives of two cousins who live in the U.S. and Mexico. Tonatiuh's mixed-media illustrations, influenced by ancient Mixtec art, show the universality of childhood experiences across borders.

#### Pura Belpré 2006 Winner

#### Medal winner *The Tequila Worm*

By Viola Canales  
(Wendy Lamb Books, a division of Random House, 2005)

From [Booklist](#)

\*Starred Review\* Gr. 6-9. From an early age, Sofia has watched the *comadres* in her close-knit barrio community, in a small Texas town, and she dreams of becoming

"someone who makes people into a family," as the *comadres* do. The secret, her young self observes, seems to lie in telling stories and "being brave enough to eat a whole tequila worm." In this warm, entertaining debut novel, Canales follows Sofia from early childhood through her teen years, when she receives a scholarship to attend an exclusive boarding school. Each chapter centers on the vivid particulars of Mexican American traditions --celebrating the Day of the Dead, preparing for a cousin's *quinceanera*. The explanations of cultural traditions never feel too purposeful; they are always rooted in immediate, authentic family emotions, and in Canales' exuberant storytelling, which, like a good anecdote shared between friends, finds both humor and absurdity in sharply observed, painful situations--from weathering slurs and other blatant harassment to learning what it means to leave her community for a privileged, predominately white school. Readers of all backgrounds will easily connect with Sofia as she grows up, becomes a *comadre*, and helps rebuild the powerful, affectionate community that raised her.

Gillian Engberg

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