

# Check It Out!

HARLINGEN CISD LIBRARY SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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2ND NINE WEEKS  
2011-2012

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<a href="#">Online Scams</a>	2
<a href="#">Collaboration</a>	2
<a href="#">Digital Citizenship</a>	3
<a href="#">TAYSHAS Award</a>	3
<a href="#">Dolly Parton - free books</a>	4
<a href="#">Tech Tip</a>	4
<a href="#">Books Worth Reading</a>	5
<a href="#">Virtual Library Link</a>	5

## 21st Century Learning and the Library

**By Laura Sheneman**  
Coordinator of  
Library Services

The term 21st century learner has been a popular buzz word for some time now. But what exactly does that mean? Some define it in terms of what students do, for example collaborate, think critically, problem solve. Others define it using environmental characteristics such as connectedness, 24/7 access, and rich media.

Your school library helps support both definitions of 21st century learners. However, this year Harlingen CISD libraries have been working more on the characteristics associated with the 21st century learning environment. School libraries build connectedness by offering a

place for the faculty and students to gather in small groups and in larger numbers. In both elementary and secondary libraries, small groups are readily visible hovering together around tables or computer stations. They are working collaboratively on classroom assignments or a shared common interest they are pursuing on their own outside of class work.

Connectedness is a big part of learning, feeling a part of something bigger. Libraries have resources to help connect classroom learning with the world outside of the school walls.

24/7 access has been another focus. Through the databases purchased through Region

One, the library has made access to information available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Students and faculty have unlimited access to research and information *anytime, anywhere and from any device* with internet access. Talk to your librarian if you need your campus' username and password.

Another 24/7 availability is Destiny Quest. This app allows you to search through your campus' library collection from any device with internet access. You can also access your library's collection through the regular library website. You can even put items on hold to pick up when you return to the campus. Again, talk to your librarian to get instructions on using this app. What a great

tool for lesson planning when you are away from the campus!

We are constantly looking for ways to better serve our patrons, both faculty and student. As we strive towards creating a 21st century learning environment, let us know how we can help meet your and your students' needs.



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## LIBRARY SUPERSTARS

- During the 2nd Quarter, our library circulated 5,001 books.
- Austin librarian serves approximately 400 students on a weekly basis.
- Austin librarian has 22 library classes per week.
- Austin students have read over 2,861,524 words this 2nd Quarter of school. We are going to beat this number for the 3rd Quarter.



**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR IS COMING**  
**MARCH 19TH-23RD**  
**FAMILY NIGHT—MARCH 22ND**

## 5 Things You Should Know About ONLINE SCAMS

From NetSmartz.org

Criminals use a variety of methods to trick people online. Check out [this list](#) of some of the most common online scams.



“Swatting,” a new and dangerous twist on the classic prank call, involves Internet pranksters getting SWAT teams to surround the homes of their unsuspecting

victims, like in [this case](#).

If you've been a victim of an online scam, you can report it to [IC3](#), the Internet Crime Complaint Center.



Challenge your teen to test his or her Internet surfing habits with

this [quiz](#) from the McAfee security company. Then, take it yourself and compare your scores.

Do you avoid in-store shopping by shopping online? Then you may want to read this article about some common methods of [identity theft](#) and ways to protect your family.



## Teacher Librarian Collaboration

By Windy Flores  
at Crockett Elementary

Did you know that your librarian is more than just a story teller or someone who can help locate resources? Librarians can help teachers in cooperatively teaching lessons.

Librarians should be invited to attend grade/department level planning sessions to help teachers incorporate resources and extend classroom learning into the library.



Ask your librarian what resources could be used to incorporate into your lesson. This will allow you to bounce ideas off another professional.



Librarians can assist you in finding creditable websites to use for research, saving the teacher valuable planning time.

Librarians can help you teach students how to evaluate websites.

**Librarians can help teachers in cooperatively teaching lessons.**

Librarians can assist in research at any level. Librarians have extensive knowledge in computer skills.

So the next time you find yourself planning for lessons, remember that your librarian is a valuable resource who can help you create and implement 21<sup>st</sup> century lessons.



## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

### Elementary

Video: Be Safer Online  
(click the picture)



### Middle School

Games  
(click the picture)



### High School

Video: Survivor Diaries  
(click the picture)



## TAYSHAS—High School Reading List

By Norma Zamora  
at HHSSouth

### A BIT OF HISTORY...

The name TAYSHAS refers to the Caddo Indians who were considered the most advanced of the East Texas Indian cultures. They lived around present day Nacogdoches. Tejas is the Spanish spelling of the Caddo word which means "those who are friends". It is pronounced "Te-haas". Although the Caddo Indians were known for their superb hunting skills, they were also crafted potters.



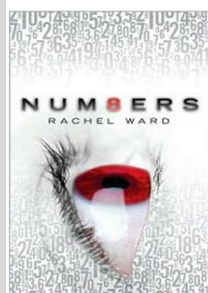
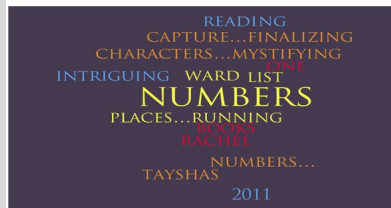
### TAYSHAS Reading List

**MISSION...** When selecting books for acquisition for a library's collection, one of the most prominent book lists used by Texas secondary librarians is the TAYSHAS reading list. This list is compiled by the TAYSHAS High School Reading List Committee under the umbrella of the Texas Library Association. **The TAYSHAS project's mission is to encourage "young adults to become lifelong readers and to participate in the community of**

**readers in Texas."** The organization serves as a reading incentive program for Texas young adults in grades 9 through 12 who read for pleasure.



**MANY GREAT READS** are listed in the 2011 TAYSHAS Reading List. Two great reads are: *Numbers* by Rachel Ward and *An Unspeakable Crime: the prosecution and persecution of Leo Frank* by Elaine Marie Alphin.



### *NUMBERS* by Rachel Ward

Jem, a fifteen-year-old foster child, finds trouble everywhere she turns. She does not trust others and does not build rela-

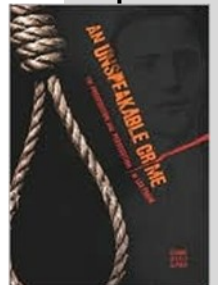
tionships well. She fears attachment to others as her special gift allows her to see the date of someone's death. Like a walking time bomb, her gift incites fear, regret and recklessness.

### *An Unspeakable Crime: The Prosecution and Persecution of Leo Frank*

by Elaine Marie Alphin

Leo Frank was a Jewish American factory worker who was convicted of murdering thirteen-year-old Mary Phagan. Later he was kidnapped from prison and hung by a mob.

In Atlanta, Georgia, on April 23, 1917, Mary Phagan was on her way to a parade when she stopped at the National Pencil Factory to collect her weekly paycheck. Never to be seen alive again, wild accusations and raw emotions ran rampant throughout Atlanta. The factory's superintendent, Leo Frank, became the prime suspect in a murder case that created a two-year media frenzy. Anti-Semitism distorted the crime investigation which led to the subsequent prosecution of Leo Frank and his ultimate death.



## Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

By **Gabriela M. Diaz**  
at **Milam Elementary**

During great financial times, parents would love to purchase books for their children but find that it is not possible because there are too many household expenses. How wonderful it would be if there was a program that could provide free books to children. There is one!

The United Way of Northern Cameron County has joined forces with Dolly Parton to provide free books to children under the age of five. All a parent has to do is fill out an official registration form, and in a few weeks, the child will begin to receive a



free book every month until the age of five. The books are mailed to your home free of charge. The eligible zip codes are 78550, 78552, 78583, 78586, 78592, 78593, 78580, 78590, 78569, and 78559. For more

information, please contact the United Way of Northern Cameron County at (956) 423-5954.

Thanks to the United Way for purchasing books from the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and for paying the shipping and handling, your child can begin to build his own personal library full of wonderful books. Mom and dad can read a bedtime story to their child and keep the book! It does not matter how many children are at home, each child can receive a book as long as he is under the age of five. Thank you, United Way of Northern Cameron County, for helping us promote literacy!

## Tech Tip

By **Ana Cavazos**  
at **Houston Elementary**

In a time when the world is shock full of technology and a child's view of the world is like a busy tablet of apps or a graphic novel layout, we must brace ourselves and teach in the same manner. Gone are the days of floppy disks, compact discs or even pen drives. Readily accessible online tools with links to videos, audio, websites, widgets, blogs, and an array of other technology and multimedia virtual tools are the latest "things" which both students and staff need to keep up with the learners of today.

[Glogster EDU](#) is a collaborative online learning platform for teachers and students to use to create a glog. A glog is an interactive poster which students can use to create a project versus the traditional book report or PowerPoint. A glog places everything you need online and available to you, such as sound bites, videos, lessons, and links. Students can work on glogs from their own account either at home or at school.

Yet another great tool for the 21<sup>st</sup> century educator is Edmodo. Edmodo is a secure social network, which has a user interface such as that of Facebook but is strictly man-

aged by the teacher. The teacher creates the classes or "groups" and invites only certain students to join. Assignments can be posted directly on the wall of this online tool, and students will then submit them as they are completed.

For more information visit my glog at <http://hcisdlibrary.edu.glogster.com/edit/houston-library/> or contact Keys Academy for a tour of their classrooms that are using Edmodo with their students. It is truly a great example of the integration of technology into lessons which engage today's learners.

## Books Worth Reading

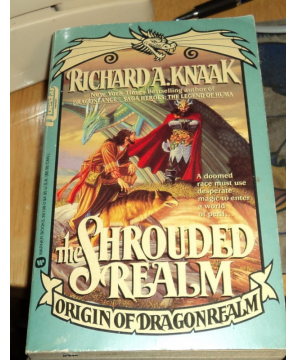
By Travis Walther  
Student at Gutierrez M.S.

### *The Shrouded Realm*

By Richard Knaak

The Shrouded Realm is the fifth book in a series called Legends of the Dragonrealm, written by Richard A. Knaak. Knaak is the best selling fantasy author of over forty novels and novellas. In my opinion, his experience shows through complicated characters, an intricate plotline with many mini-climaxes that always keep you on your toes and guessing even when the story is over, and much more.

You may have asked yourself why I am starting off with book number five rather than book number one. Knaak wrote this very much like Star Wars. He started with an adventure in book one that was not the true beginning of the story. Book five is the true beginning that starts off basically at the starting point of when all the Vraad's (human's) lives go awry.



The Vraad are basically the humans in this story. Basically, I say, because all of the Vraad have near god-like magical powers and can live for millenia. They moved mountains, quite literally in fact,

and now Nimth, the world they're living in, has become hostile. While Nimth is turning more treacherous by the second, they see a shadow of another world intruding into theirs. Now the individualistic Vraad must work together, something previously unheard of, to save themselves from dying Nimth.

It is a tall order even for the powerful Vraad. Even if they do make it to the shrouded realm, will it be safe or will they find a danger even more threatening than the last? This is just the first (okay, fifth) book of one of my favorite series to date.

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



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

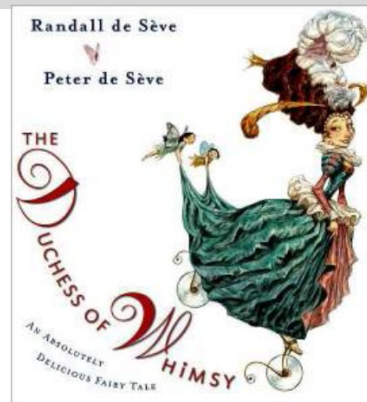
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By Kelly Trolinger  
at Travis Elementary

### *The Duchess of Whimsy*

By Randall de Seve and  
Peter de Seve

Sometimes it is the simple things in life that make us the happiest! This is the message in Randall de Seve's *The Duchess of Whimsy*, a Bluebonnet nominated book for 2011-2012. As her name implies, this fairy tale duchess loves the finer things in life with all the frills and festivities possible. She has no interest in the Earl of Norm, a very simple man who prefers ordinary things, until he sits down to eat a simple grilled cheese sandwich. The



Duchess couldn't believe that something so ordinary could look so great. As a result, the Duchess of Whimsy saw the Earl of Norm differ-

ently. In true fairy tale fashion, the story has a happy ending.

Peter de Seve, the author's husband, contributes to the whimsical mood with his ornate illustrations of royalty life. He is an acclaimed illustrator for several animated feature films, including *Mulan* and *Finding Nemo*; however, his wife's children's story is his first picture book to illustrate.