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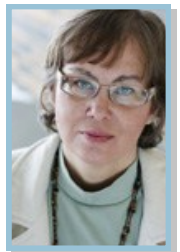
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Spring is when you  
feel like whistling  
even with a shoe full  
of slush.

- Doug Larson

## Writer-in-Residence: Karen Bass

From March until May, award-winning young adult author and former Hythe Library Manager, **Karen Bass**, will serve as writer-in-residence for the Peace region. As writer-in-residence, Karen is available to consult with budding and experienced writers, in addition to providing workshops throughout the region. This opportunity is made possible with funding support from the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Writers Guild of Alberta**, and the **Library Association of Alberta**.



Before Karen started her term as writer-in-residence, she took some time to answer our questions.

### Your latest novel, *Drummer Girl*, was released this past fall. Can you tell us a bit of what it's about?

A contemporary teen novel, *Drummer Girl* is the story of Sid, who wants to be a drummer in a band, and how far she'll go to get the gig.

### Why is writing so important in this age of visual stimulation?

Writing - and reading - stretches the imagination in a way that visual media never will. It also allows the expression and exploration of emotions that goes deeper than visuals (which can strike emotional chords, but rarely in the multi-chord, symphonic way of a beautiful piece of writing). Even when it's a straightforward recording of, say, a family history, writing becomes an exploration of self, which inevitably leads to a deeper understanding of yourself and the world around you.



Above: Karen speaking at the October 1st launch of her latest book, *Drummer Girl*, at Grande Prairie Public Library.

### What kind of things should people expect when they come to visit you? If they can't come and see you in person, what's the best way to get a hold of you?

My focus will be on trying to meet the needs of whomever comes to visit, whether it's a discussion of general writing practices, publishing, or a critique of work where I'll endeavour to suggest a few ways to improve the work (and we all need that kind of critique, even the well-established pros). If they can't see me in person, I'm hoping to connect with writers via Skype, phone or email, whatever is convenient for the writer. All the information is on the writer-in-residence blog site: [leapintowriting.wordpress.com](http://leapintowriting.wordpress.com). The easiest ways to reach me are by email ([leapintowriting@gmail.com](mailto:leapintowriting@gmail.com)) and phone message (780-357-7480), by dropping in at GPPL when I'm there, or snagging me when I'm doing a workshop at any number of PLS libraries.

### What types of topics will your workshops cover?

All the workshops are listed on the events page of the blog site. I'll be covering basics like character, plot & world-building, plus editing, memoir writing, and of course, the ever popular publishing. At libraries other than Grande Prairie, I'll be compressing and combining topics so we can cover more ground.

### What are the main things you want people to take away with them from your workshops or visits?

You know, if a writer comes away from a workshop with even one more tool for their writing toolbox, then I'm happy. Mostly I want to encourage writers to keep working at their craft, and to persist, because that's what people need to do to achieve their goals, whatever they might be. I'd also love to connect writers with other writers, because being plugged in to the writing community is a huge source of encouragement.

### What's the hardest thing you find about writing? What's your favourite thing?

The hardest thing about writing for me is starting, just sitting down at the computer and opening the file. I'm a wonderfully proficient procrastinator. A close second to that is revising. My favourite thing is getting so caught up in the story I'm writing that I lose all track of time.

### What are you working on right now?

I'm toying with a contemporary fantasy, hoping it sucks me in soon so I can make more progress. A time-travel one is on the back-burner. Researching memoir writing has made me go "hmmmm." There's never a shortage of ideas.

# From the Director

By Linda Duplessis, Director, PLS



Happy New Year everyone! We're looking forward to a busy but productive year at Peace Library System. In addition to the regular "stuff" that we do to enhance library services in the region, watch for some new developments as the year unfolds.

There are a number of provincial happenings that you may find interesting. Most of the discussions are at the hypothetical/planning stages so please watch for further updates in future newsletters.

## Integrated Library Policy

Public consultation on a provincial Integrated Library Policy took place in September 2011. This cross-ministry policy that deals with library services in all sectors is being prepared by a committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers (ADMs) from various provincial departments. In the summary of responses and feedback, stakeholders in attendance agreed that the idea of an integrated provincial policy on library service is positive and could improve how library services are delivered to Albertans. However, more work needs to be done on the policy rationale, definitions of terms, and representation of multiple sectors in the policy. The ADM committee will revise the integrated library policy based on the feedback, and will send it forward to the Government of Alberta for consideration this spring.

## Provincial Technology Plan Update

One of the recommendations in the provincial public library Technology Plan is "seamless access" for Albertans, and this has been identified as a priority by the Minister. Discussion has begun on the possibility of a provincial OneCard/AnyCard. This would mean that library cardholders who physically visit another public library could use their own library card to receive the same privileges as local cardholders. A small working group has been struck by APLEN to look at the technical requirements for implementing this concept and make recommendations for implementation. The provincial resource-sharing policy must also be revised. We are waiting to hear the next steps and will let member library boards know if there are any financial or policy implications.

Another Technology Plan recommendation is to streamline and make optimum use of the SuperNet. Toward this end, Axia has been engaged to evaluate SuperNet connectivity and configurations in libraries across the province and provide a report to the government. We'll keep you posted on any impact this might have on Peace region libraries.

## RISE Proposal for Videoconference Expansion

The Directors of Chinook Arch, Shortgrass and Marigold library systems, who manage the RISE videoconferencing network in the south of the province, have submitted a proposal for a pilot project to extend the network. This would initiate work needed to accomplish other recommendations in the Technology Plan. The project would extend use of the RISE videoconferencing bridge to all other library system headquarters, larger public libraries (including Grande Prairie Public Library), and selected rural libraries. The pilot libraries would be able to participate in library programs and training offered by other RISE partners, and also develop and share their own programming. We will wait to see if the pilot is approved and then advise member libraries of the next steps.

## And on a national note – what's happening with the Library Book Rate?

In early February, I alerted member libraries and councils via e-mail that Bill C-321, an Act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act (Library Materials), had been introduced to the House of Commons. It received first reading before Christmas and will be debated further in February. The Bill guarantees a reduced postal rate for libraries to provide books to Canadians. It also moves to increase the access to all library materials, including magazines, CDs, DVDs, etc. I encourage you to use some of the ideas in the Canadian Library Association (CLA) toolkit that was attached to my e-mail. In particular, please contact your MP in support of Bill C-321 (Library Materials). This rate is especially important for our large geographic region as we are financially unable to offer full van delivery service and must rely on Canada Post for delivery to many communities. The current Library Book Rate saves us thousands of dollars a year in postage reimbursement costs to libraries; if all library materials were included, it would save us even more.

## System News Bits



- **Carole Laboucan** has retired after 10 years at the **McLennan Municipal Library**. **Maureen Fisher**, pictured on the right, is the new Library Manager.
- **Dawn Silver** is the new Director of **Grande Prairie Public Library**. She brings with her many years of experience from holding senior management positions at Fraser Valley Regional Library, Okanagan Regional Library and Orillia Public Library.
- **Michele Kettles** is the Library Manager for **Bonanza Municipal Library**, and **Shauna Kuhar** is the Library Manager for **Woking Municipal Library**. Both libraries are located in **Saddle Hills County** and both opened their doors to the public for the first time on December 17, 2011. The official grand openings will take place on March 16 at 1:00 pm for Woking, and March 17 at 1:30 for Bonanza.
- **Sylvia Gula** has retired from **Menno-Simons Community School**. The new school librarian is **Jeanne Lawrence**.
- **Padmini Ramaswamy's** husband, Barry, passed away in January after a brief battle with an extremely aggressive cancer. Our thoughts are with the Ramaswamy family.



# New Additions to PLS Audio Blocks

By Rae Weniger, Library Clerk, PLS

All of the PLS audio blocks have been "refreshed"! The books on cassettes have been moved to the main stacks (still circulating) and have been replaced by new books on CD (titles below). Consider borrowing one or two of the blocks to augment your audiobook collection. To request a block, contact **Rae** at [rweniger@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:rweniger@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca).

If you have never borrowed block of audio books, here's the process: order a block from Rae, and when you receive the box, check in all the items. Circulate to your patrons and other ILL patrons as you do your own collection. After three months, return the items not circulating! Items that are signed out will find their way back home to PLS when they're checked back in. Simple as falling off a log! Large print blocks work the same way, but their loan period is six months.



**10th anniversary** (Patterson, James)

**44 Charles Street: a novel** (Steel, Danielle)

**127 hours** (Ralston, Aron)

**1022 Evergreen Place** (Macomber, Debbie)

**1105 Yakima Street** (Macomber, Debbie)

**The abduction** (Gimenez, Mark)

**The abundance paradigm** (Vitale, Joe)

**The accident** (Barclay, Linwood)

**Apologize, apologize! [a novel]** (Kelly, Elizabeth)

**Artemis Fowl. The Arctic incident** (Colfer, Eoin)

**Artemis Fowl. The eternity code** (Colfer, Eoin)

**At home [a short history of private life]** (Bryson, Bill)

**Beatrice and Virgil: a novel** (Martel, Yann)

**Blacklist** (Paretsky, Sara)

**The border lords** (Parker, T. Jefferson)

**Born in fire** (Roberts, Nora)

**Canyons of night** (Castle, Jayne)

**Chesapeake Blue** (Roberts, Nora)

**Counterfeit magic** (Armstrong, Kelley)

**Courage and consequence my life as a conservative in the fight** (Rove, Karl)

**Crescent dawn** (Cussler, Clive)

**Decision points** (Bush, George W.)

**Edge [a novel]** (Deaver, Jeffery)

**Everyone communicates, few connect what the most effective people do differently** (Maxwell, John C.)

**Exclusive** (Michaels, Fern)

**The fifth witness: a Lincoln lawyer novel** (Connelly, Michael)

**Four card draw; Get out of town; One for the pot** (L'Amour, Louis)

**The good karma divorce avoid litigation, turn negative emotions into positive actions, and get on with the rest of your life** (Lowrance, Michele)

**The grand Sophy** (Heyer, Georgette)

**Happy birthday** (Steel, Danielle)

**Hell's corner** (Baldacci, David)

**The hidden reality parallel universes and the deep laws of the cosmos** (Greene, B.)

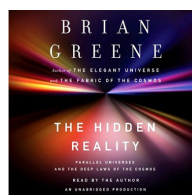
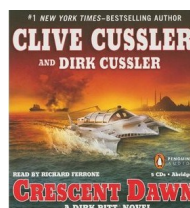
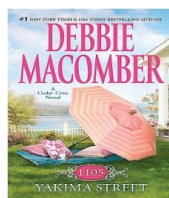
**Honor bound** (Griffin, W. E. B.)

**How to start a conversation and make friends** (Gabor, Don)

**I still dream about you** (Flagg, Fannie)

**Ice cold** (Gerritsen, Tess)

**The ideal man: a novel** (Garwood, Julie)



**Identity theft** (Sawyer, Robert J.)

**I'll walk alone** (Clark, Mary Higgins)

**In fifty years we'll all be chicks** (Carolla, Adam)

**Jump!** (Cooper, Jilly)

**Lakeshore Christmas** (Wiggs, Susan)

**Late edition** (Michaels, Fern)

**Lavender morning** (Deveraux, Jude)

**Linchpin are you indispensable?** (Godin, Seth)

**The lobster chronicles life on a very small island** (Greenlaw, Linda)

**A love that multiplies [an up-close view of how they make it work]** (Duggar, Michelle)

**Marrying Daisy Bellamy** (Wiggs, Susan)

**Master your metabolism the 3 diet secrets to naturally balancing your hormones for a hot and healthy body!** (Michaels, Jillian)

**Minding Frankie** (Binchy, Maeve)

**More brains than bullets; The road to Casa Piedras; West of Dodge** (L'Amour, Louis)

**Natural health, natural medicine outwitting the killers** (Weil, Andrew)

**The neighbor** (Gardner, Lisa)

**Never look away a thriller** (Barclay, Linwood)

**No time for goodbye** (Barclay, Linwood)

**Obama's wars** (Woodward, Bob)

**On the anvil** (Lucado, Max)

**The path to tranquility** (Dalai Lama XIV)

**A red herring without mustard** (Bradley, C. Alan)

**The reversal** (Connelly, Michael)

**Robert Ludlum's The Bourne dominion** (Lustbader, Eric)

**Safe haven** (Sparks, Nicholas)

**The secret mistress** (Balogh, Mary)

**The sweetness at the bottom of the pie** (Bradley, C. Alan)

**Tales of the otherworld** (Armstrong, Kelley)

**That used to be us: how America fell behind in the world it invented and how we can come back** (Friedman, Thomas L.)

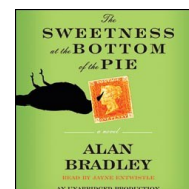
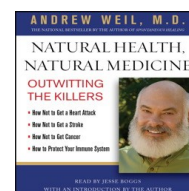
**Then came you: a novel** (Weiner, Jennifer)

**The truth of valor: a Confederation novel** (Huff, Tanya)

**The Viking funeral** (Cannell, Stephen J.)

**www:watch** (Sawyer, Robert J.)

**You raising your child: the owner's manual from first breath to first grade** (Roizen, Michael F.)







## News 'N' Notes

Your quarterly professional guide to news, services and connection with the staff at PLS.

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## Spring 2012 Author Tours



British Columbia author, **Karen Autio**, will be visiting local libraries and schools as part of Peace Library System's annual spring author tours. During the fully scheduled four day tour, Karen will provide learning opportunities and entertainment for children in Grades 4 to 6 as she talks about being an author, researching Canadian history and the immigrant experience, and answers questions about her exciting books and characters.

From April 16th to 19th, Karen will visit the communities of Berwyn, Bonanza, Cleardale, Fairview, Grimshaw, Hines Creek, Rycroft, Silver Valley, Spirit River, Woking, and Worsley. This is Karen's first tour with Peace Library System.

Returning this year for the eastern tour is Saskatchewan author, **Dave Glaze**. Dave was originally scheduled to tour with Peace Library System last year, but due to the wildfires in the Slave Lake region his tour had to be cancelled.

Dave is best known for his book, *Pelly*, about a pelican that spends its winter in Saskatchewan. However, over the last several years, Mr. Glaze has been working on his historical adventure series, "The Mackenzie Davis Files." Set in the Canadian prairies in 1912, the stories feature young Mackenzie Davis from Saskatoon. He is faced with mysteries to solve in an era when people could experience both unlimited opportunity and great hardship on a daily basis.



From May 14th to 17th, Mr. Glaze will be sharing his writing talents and experiences with nine different schools and libraries. He will visit the communities of Calling Lake, Flatbush/Fawcett, High Prairie, Kinuso, Red Earth Creek, Slave Lake, Smith and Wabasca. This will be Dave's second tour with Peace Library System.

These tours are made possible with funding from the **Canada Council for the Arts**.

## Rural Libraries Conference 2012



This year, the Rural Libraries Conference will be held on September 20 and 21, 2012 at the **Grande Prairie Inn**. This is a change of venue, as for the last several years the conference has been held at the Holiday Inn. The venue switch comes as a result of feedback from delegates and needing more space to hold sessions.

The theme of this year's conference is **Libraries: We All Fit Together**. This is to focus on the fact that libraries are not only inclusive but interconnected, as well. We share with each other, we help each other, we work with each other and we strive to make everyone feel welcome.

The sessions are still in the process of being confirmed, but the keynote speaker will be author **Lorna Schultz Nicholson**. Lorna may be familiar to some, as she has been to many member libraries as part of the Peace Library System author tours. Lorna is a dynamic and energizing speaker, and will be sure to motivate everyone! Our Friday morning author has also been confirmed. **Troy Wilson**, best known for his children's superhero book, *Perfect Man*, will talk about his experiences as a writer of children's fiction and adult fiction and non-fiction.

Sessions will be held on topics such as programming, YA collection development, emergency preparedness, EBSCO databases, small library promotion, Polaris, censorship, policy and bylaw review, Video-streaming for school libraries, ORC, learning commons and much, much more!

More information, please visit the Rural Libraries Conference website at [www.rurallibrariesconference.com](http://www.rurallibrariesconference.com). The website will be updated as details are confirmed.

## Slave Lake Library Celebrates Grand Opening!



Above: A mother and child colouring in the children's section.

On February 11, 2012 - nine months after the devastating wildfire that destroyed 40% of the Town of Slave Lake - the doors were officially opened at the temporary location of the **Rotary Club of Slave Lake Public Library**. Many were on hand to celebrate the important event, including staff from **Strathcona County Library**, who so generously donated the Bookmobile that was used by Slave Lake residents throughout the summer. As people walked around the library, they browsed shelves full of books, purchased library cards, looked at the display of books donated and signed by the authors themselves, and drew on the art wall.

**Councillor Ed Procyshyn** provided greetings and best wishes on behalf of the Town of Slave Lake. **Reeve Denny Garratt** addressed the crowd on behalf of the M.D. of Lesser Slave River, acknowledging the countless hours of dedicated service spent in the rebuilding of the library by volunteers, library staff, board members and Peace Library System. **Darcie Acton**, Library Board member and master of ceremonies, read a letter

on behalf of **Minister Doug Griffiths**, who was unable to attend. Ministers Griffiths wrote, "Our public libraries are hubs of our communities. They inspire discovery, advance education, and promote lifelong learning that helps build strong communities. In fact, 67 per cent of households in Alberta have used a public library in the past 12 months. This library will support the information, education, and recreational needs that enhance quality of life until it, too, is replaced by a permanent facility. I congratulate each of you on re-establishing your library."

Peace Library System Director **Linda Duplessis** spoke of the labour of love that System staff undertook to assist Slave Lake library in the journey to reopen. She acknowledged the generous support of the Government of Alberta by providing funding to cover the cost of cataloguing and transporting the donated items. Linda presented a clock on behalf of Peace Library System to Slave Lake Regional Library Board Chair, **Marilyn Cavanagh**.

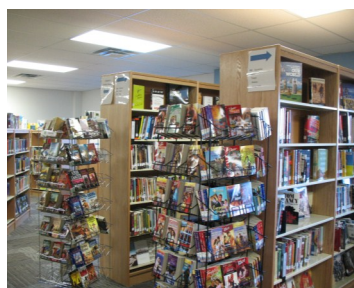
Marilyn spoke of the outpouring of support that the library has received from individuals young and old, organizations, businesses and libraries across Canada, which resulted in over 35,000 items and thousands of dollars being donated. Earlier in the week, she said, they had received the proceeds from the **Paul Brandt** benefit concert for the amount of \$127,500 which would be put towards the cost of shelving and furniture. A letter from Mr. Brandt accompanied the cheque, which Marilyn read in part: "We've come a long way in a short time...Today is one more step towards recovery and healing, and what a step it is. A meeting place for minds to grow, be inspired and to catch a glimpse of the past and a vision for the future. My prayer is that this library would be a place of peace, of hope and of healing for the Town of Slave Lake. Through my foundation...I am proud to partner with the Town of Slave Lake as it continues to build towards its undoubtedly meaningful future upholding the strong community values that have made it such a special place to live. Congratulations on this incredible moment, and nothing but the best for the future."

Above: Slave Lake staff, front from left to right, Pat McLeod, Ivy Gaskell and Robin-Lee Vance. Behind: Library Manager Anne Moore.

Below: Former Slave Lake Library Manager Lori (Herdzik) Barr with Marilyn Cavanagh.



The grand opening event was sponsored by **Spike & Grant McCullough**, who assisted in cutting the ribbon along with Councillor Ed Procyshyn, Reeve Denny Garratt, Marilyn Cavanagh, and Linda Duplessis.



Left: Shelves and spinners filled with books.

Right: Everyone was encouraged to take a moment and leave their mark on the Art Wall.



Above: Linda Duplessis presents a clock to Slave Lake Board Chair Marilyn Cavanagh.

Below: Cutting the ribbon, from left to right: Linda Duplessis, Marilyn Cavanagh, Grant McCullough, Spike McCullough, Reeve Denny Garratt, and Councillor Ed





## Tech Services Tidbits

By Carol Downing, Assistant Director & Tech Services Manager, PLS



2012 has been a great year so far, with year-end rollover activities completed without a hitch. The department is rolling along without **Meera Mittra**, whom we all miss very much. However, we all hope she is enjoying her retirement and her holiday in India.

**Elaine Chaisson** completed her contract to catalogue items for Slave Lake in December and we wish her well in her future endeavors. **Dennis Sheppard** is now completing the remaining items to be catalogued. All duplicates will be sold in a book sale in early spring and the proceeds donated to the **Slave Lake Library**. The Slave Lake Library opened in its temporary location on January 23 and held its grand opening on February 11th. It was great to see the library once again providing services to the people of Slave Lake.

Title Source 3, used by the public libraries, has greatly increased the efficiency of the Technical Services area, as the Order Clerk's time is not spent inputting orders manually. It helps indirectly in cataloguing also, as the MARC records come with the item making the cataloguing process quicker. As a greater bonus, the Order Clerk can assist with Cataloguing rather than spending time inputting orders manually. Thanks to Title Source 3 we are now able to get the materials ordered and catalogued at a faster pace.

On a recent turnaround study, we found that it took an average of 29.5 days from the time of order to the time of receiving the item at headquarters, so the more help we have cataloguing, the less time the item sits on the shelf at headquarters. So, please continue to use Title Source 3 to send in your orders. Here is the link to Title Source 3: <http://publiclibrary.btol.com>. You can also access it through the PLS website: [www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](http://www.peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca).



Above: Meera holding up her retirement present from Peace Library System - a painting of swans by a local artist Toni Schuler.

## The Fight Against Spam

By Ryan Goff, Network Analyst, PLS

Online security and privacy have been, and always will be, a cat and mouse game. While the good guys do a great job to protect us through security hardware and software, we can further help ourselves by using some basic awareness and common sense, especially with our email.

Lately there has been a higher amount of spam and junk mail than usual, and I wanted to take this opportunity to offer some tips:

- PLS (and any other entity for that matter) will never ask you for your personal information, login information, passwords, or financial data via email. If you are asked for it, you can guarantee this is not legit. If you get something very convincing and aren't sure, please contact the appropriate institution to verify the legitimacy of the email (make sure it is the real institution, not the one listed in the email!).
- Check the domain name (what comes after the @ symbol in an email address). If you see something like [admin@ppaypal.com](mailto:admin@ppaypal.com) (two ps in "Pay") or [support@mswindows.com](mailto:support@mswindows.com) (Microsoft's real domain is microsoft.com), you can guarantee both are spam/junk and should be sent straight to your trash.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it is. The prince of Morocco didn't leave you \$12,000,000, unfortunately. The same goes for anything that sounds like a pyramid scheme, unbelievable job offer, or monetary winnings.
- Anything that looks suspicious that contains attachments **should not be opened!**
- For some email systems, especially hosted services like Hotmail and Yahoo Mail, if you find out your account is sending spam, a simple solution that is quite effective is to simply reset your password.

Hopefully these tips help you next time you are sifting through your inbox. If you are ever in doubt, please feel free to contact the PLS IT department.

**Did you know?** That use of the term "spam" for unsolicited/junk email comes from the Monty Python comedy sketch, in which a diner waitress recites the items on their menu - all of which contain spam, spam, spam, spam and more spam!



## From the IT Desk

By Janet Ayles, IT Services Manager, PLS



### CEDs

In an effort to keep equipment current, we have replaced the CEDs, or Customer Edge Devices, in thirty-two of our libraries and here at Headquarters.

One of the most common questions I have been asked recently is "What is a CED?" The short answer to that question is that a CED is part of your internet connection. It is a link in the chain

to make sure that your library computers and patrons have working access to the internet.

That first question is usually followed with "Why do I have to replace mine?" As with all technology, CEDs do not last forever. These units had reached the end of their service contract. Without a service contract, if something goes wrong with your old CED, you have to replace it. This would mean an unplanned expense (because we all know that technology does not break down on a schedule) and possible down time while you are waiting for a new CED. Also, newer CED models offer more advantages than the old ones. We will be able to enhance network security and improve network performance.

If you have any questions about your CED or need help with the replacement, just give us a call.

### CAP

The CAP forms have all been turned in and the orders have been submitted. We are hoping to have hardware delivered in the next few weeks. Once it is received here, we just have it prepared and sent out to you. As purchases are available and ready to ship, we will keep you in the loop!

### Polaris

Just when you thought it was safe to relax around Polaris, a new version is announced. Polaris 4.1 will be coming to a computer near you this spring. We have tentatively scheduled an upgrade for Monday, June 11, 2012. As the four regions work out the details on the upgrade, they will be shared with you all. Anything software related can be stressful, so we will be trying to make this as smooth and painless as possible.

### Telephony

Five libraries went live with telephony in February and there is one more scheduled for March. On a go-forward basis, telephony activations will happen once a month on the first Monday. This brings our total number of libraries with telephony to eleven. If you would like to add your library to that number, just let me know!

## Resolving OverDrive Sign In Errors

One of the most common problems patrons have when borrowing materials from **OverDrive** is a generic sign in error. A patron will be able to select an item from OverDrive, add it to their eBookbag, but will then be unable to sign in and complete the checkout because they are given the message shown on the right.

[Home](#) » [OverDrive](#) » Sign In Error

### Sign In Error


We're sorry, but the specified library patron account information is not valid.

Details: (1) Patron has notes.

[Click here to return to the sign in form.](#)

Status
Block Description
Patron has notes.
Patron has 1 held items at registered branch of Grande Prairie Public Library.

The key here is in the details. OverDrive is telling us that the patron has **notes on the account**, so the next step is to check the patron account. On the **Patron Status** screen, check the **General** tab and see if there is anything under **Block Description** (as shown on the left). In this case, this patron has **notes** on the account preventing OverDrive use.

Notices regarding items held will **not** cause a problem with OverDrive, but notes on the account likely will. The very bottom icon  will show if there are notes on the account. There are two types of notes, Non-blocking and Blocking. Non-blocking notes will not interfere with OverDrive, but **Blocking notes will cause a patron to see the above sign in error.**

In this example, this patron has a blocking note. To fix the problem with OverDrive, just remove the blocking note (if it is reasonable to do so) and save the revised patron record. The patron should now be able to enjoy their OverDrive access again.

Notes
Non-blocking:
Blocking:
No more overdrive! :)

## A Look at the Professional Collection

By Katherine Wiebe, Consulting Services Manager, PLS

The Professional Collection housed at Peace Library System contains 514 titles that are readily available in TRAC for borrowing. Recent acquisitions include topics on collection development, library management, banned books, grant writing, e-books, teen services, ESL, books for boys, and many other topics.

To search the PLS Professional Collection using Polaris, please go to Cataloguing and then Item Records and search as shown on the right.

The screenshot shows the Polaris search interface with the following settings:

- General** tab selected.
- Object:** Item Records
- Limit by:** Assigned branch
- Search by:** Collection
- Values:** Parkdale School Library (AWPE), Pat Hardy Elementary School Libr, Paul Rowe Jr.-Sr. High School (AP), **Peace Library System (Branch) (A)**, Peace River High School (APRHS), Peace River Municipal Library (AP), Percy Baxter Middle School Librar, Pigeon Lake Public Library (ALAAC)
- Type:** Exact match (implicitly truncated)
- Sort by:** (None)
- For:** professional collection

With **Freedom to Read Week** (February 26 – March 3, 2012) annually celebrated in public libraries, this book will be helpful for identifying items to display and discuss: **120 Banned Books: Censorship Histories of World Literature**, 2011, by Nicholas J. Karolides. Publisher's summary:

Although the literary merit of the majority of these books has been proven time and time again, censorship efforts are still in place today. From *Animal Farm* to *The Grapes of Wrath*, The Koran to The Talmud, *Ulysses* to the *Harry Potter* series, *The Canterbury Tales* to *The Bell Jar*, this revised edition examines the many struggles these books faced in order to be read. Updates have been made to existing entries on such classic books as *Huckleberry Finn* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. **New entries include:** *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (banned on social grounds), *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown (banned on religious grounds), *Girls of Riyadh* by Rajaa Alsanea, (banned on political grounds), *Gossip Girl* series by Cecily von Ziegesar (banned on sexual grounds), *His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman (banned on religious grounds), *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (banned on social grounds), and many more.

Many of us struggle with how to word grant applications to show our projects in their best light. **Grant Writing Demystified**, 2010, by Mary Ann Payne, will help navigate the grant writing process. Publisher's summary:

This fast and easy guide features: clear explanations of what makes certain grant proposals stand out in a crowded field of funding requests, numerous anecdotes and examples showing how to write a compelling story that attracts funds, and detailed directions for each stage of the grant-writing process. You'll learn how to write letters of intent, develop action plans and outlines, apply for government and foundation grants, avoid common grammatical errors, and polish sentence structure.

Looking to capture the interests of young male readers? **Gotcha Again for Guys! More Nonfiction Books to Get Boys Excited About Reading**, 2010, by Kathleen A. Baxter may fit the bill. Reviewed by School Library Journal:

Baxter and Kochel have crafted another winner. Twelve chapters cover themes such as sports, animals, gross/disgusting stuff, mysteries/disasters, and machines. Each one features anywhere from a few to two dozen ready-to-use booktalks, most aimed at grades 3-8, along with extensive bibliographies (not annotated) of other titles that have received good reviews in Booklist, Horn Book Guide, and School Library Journal. New to this volume are enlightening interviews with male authors such as Kadir Nelson, Nic Bishop, and Seymour Simon, whose books are featured in the text. The introduction also lists ideas for promoting books to boys in public libraries and school media centers. The authors have made an effort to include a wide variety of titles, and the booktalks highlight scenes that will draw boys (and many girls, too).

Do you feel overwhelmed or intimidated when trying to plan library service for young adults? **Risky Business: Taking and Managing Risks in Library Services to Teens**, 2010, by Linda W. Braun may be worth a read. School Library Journal review:

This thought-provoking title will pique awareness and present some "ah ha!" moments. It involves a degree of risk to provide exemplary library services to young adults in terms of collection building, programming, and technology. This book encourages librarians to take the necessary risks and describes factors to consider in different situations. Who or what will benefit from the risk? What would be the outcome of not taking it? These may appear to be simple questions, but when posed in reference to particular library concerns, they do give pause for serious thought. The book is aimed a bit more toward public librarians, but it includes information pertinent to all librarians who work with teens. Of particular interest are chapters devoted to developing a mature, appealing, high-interest YA collection. This section alone makes the book a worthwhile addition. The section on technology mentions the benefits of social networking using a Facebook page, but fails to clearly distinguish between personal and corporate (Fan) pages, the latter of which would be a less risky, more viable option. A helpful list of resources that support risk taking is also included.□

**More PLS Professional Collection titles on order for 2012 (Not yet published):**

*Video Game Collection Development and Management*, July 2012

*Collection Management Basics*, May 2012

*Multicultural Children's Literature: Through the Eyes of Many Children*, February 2012

*Dealing with Difficult People in the Library*, January 2012

*Cyberstalking and Cyberbullying*, November 2011



# From the Information Desk

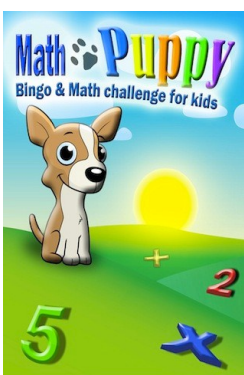
By Pam Chislett, Deputy Director, Grande Prairie Public Library

My grandchildren are now five years old and seven years old. During a recent visit with them I had the Library's **iPad 2** and we used it to play Math Board together. I'll admit I was swayed by the advertising for iPad 2s. I wanted to know the name of the app that was demonstrated in the ad where the device was used like a chalk board. Fortunately there were other people who had this same query and I found the app very quickly. Mind you, the children were more intrigued by being able to write and erase on the iPad than in doing the math but possibly some math skills were being improved as well!

A few weeks later, I was in the company of several parents who had children the same age as my grandchildren, and we started talking about how they are using the iPad and/or other tablets with their kids. All of them cited some games but also some useful educational type activities.

Upon my return to Grande Prairie, I made the decision to purchase an iPad 2 for the grandkids but I also wanted to find some apps that would promote educational use as well as some popular games. So, I embarked on my search using the library and the databases that we have, plus talking with teachers that I knew. Here are my results for popular learning apps for the **lower elementary grades** that I found.

The first one (mentioned above) was featured on the Apple television ads - **MathBoard**. There are two versions available from the App Store: a free one and one for \$4.99. I just downloaded the free one. It is limited by only offering addition but has the feature of chalkboard writing, providing the answers and has the capability to set digit limits and number range. The chalkboard feature is pretty cool as it has a variety of coloured chalks plus an eraser. In my limited experience, the eraser was of great interest to the children. There was an addition table that could be used if the problem was proving too difficult. As a final motivation, there is both an audio and visual reward when the problem is answered correctly.



As I am a dog lover, **Math Puppy** seemed like a natural choice. There are three choices of activities in this game and it was a free download. Math Bingo, Math Challenge and Math Calculator are the three activities that are offered in this app. All three activities have the choice of all four types of calculations, plus setting the level at easy, medium or hard. The animations are a bit simplistic but do have a cute factor. There are also audio and visual rewards when the calculations are done correctly, plus a score keeping feature that could act as motivation. The Math Calculator was a bit confusing initially, as at first glance it did not glance seem to

me to be a normal calculator. Once I figured out the layout, it became very obvious. I am sure that children could figure it out very easily as well. Once the format and operations are understood, it is a very effective calculator.

In the reading line, I love **Tumblebooks** and recommend it to all parents and grandparents. It is unfortunate that there is not a mobile version that provides free downloads yet. I found that the library version did not work on the iPad, so I had to look for something similar. I found one called **MeeGenius!** that provides some free books but has much more if the app is paid for. There were six free books. I



downloaded a couple and then chose one to be read to me. The reader spoke clearly and each word was highlighted to assist the child in



following along. I personally found the reader went a little quickly. If a child was a slow reader or just learning to read, it would be difficult for him or her to follow. MeeGenius! is geared for kindergarten to grade two. The searching mechanism is just browsing by title with no option of typing in a specific title or author. As assistance for searching, the authors have

sorted the books by collection so there are choices such as bestsellers, shapes, science rocks, etc. The prices for the books listed are between \$1.99 and \$9.99 but most seemed to be \$2.99.

While on my search and evaluation of apps, I encountered some places that are good to check to find some good suggestions. The **Parents' Choice Awards** has a mobile app category. Their website is [www.parents-choice.org](http://www.parents-choice.org).

**Moms with Apps** is another interesting one. From their website description, "Moms With Apps is a collaborative group of family-friendly developers seeking to promote quality apps for kids and families. Most of our membership is comprised of parents who have launched their own apps on the App Store, have their own access to iTunes Connect, and have the time and inclination to share best practices with other app developers." The website is [momswithapps.com](http://momswithapps.com). On the website, I found two articles that were very helpful. One was **how to gift an app** (what more could a good grandma do!). The other one was **App Resources for Teachers**. This article had some more details on how to use the information that Moms with Apps finds.



I found it interesting that the last website I was going to mention was listed on Moms with Apps: **The iPhone Mom** had caught my attention very early on in my search. The website is [www.theiphonemom.com](http://www.theiphonemom.com). With loads of information, I admit I chuckled over two articles this



website had. It underlined that the people involved with this website are "real" people. The first one is called, "how to turn off iPhone. iPod touch and iPad devices". Having had this little stumbling block at the beginning, I thoroughly understood the purpose of the article. The second one is called, "how to turn off apps". Although I have not encountered this problem yet, I have not downloaded many apps so now I am prepared.

At the end of my research, I feel that I am just at the beginning of a whole new world. At this time there is not much organization or quality control on these apps, and although each is just a small sum to purchase, it could easily add up to create a big mess. The librarian in me sees a problem in how to organize the apps on the mobile device. I can see the sheer number of apps becoming overwhelming and thus ultimately wasted. However, there are resources available to evaluate and choose apps and this aspect is bound to improve. I will work on a method of organizing them another day.

I can say quite honestly that I had a lot of fun trying out these apps and although they were geared towards the four to seven year old age, it was fun to do the adding, do the writing and find the dots. Maybe there is scope for keeping the aging brain active in these apps as well!

## Around the System



**Fairview Public Library** hosted "Dr. Seuss is Loose in the Library" for their annual **Family Literacy Day** event. About 50 children and adults came for the evening of storytelling on January 26th, which featured Dr. Seuss themed snacks.

*Pictured above, from left to right are: **Maureen Hanson, Erika Thompson, Caylah Lyons, Chris Burkholder** and **Terri Sinnett**. Above on the right: **Terri Sinnett** reads to a group of children, wearing their Dr. Seuss hats from SmileMakers.*

*Submitted by **Chris Burkholder**, Library Manager, Fairview Public Library*



For Family Literacy Day, **Grande Prairie Public Library** set up a "Pirate Booth" and staff decked out in pirate gear demonstrated how to learn to speak pirate with Mango.

*Above: **Sharon Lowe** and **Hayley Dolman** set up the pirate booth. Below: Sharon demonstrating some pirate books to some interested little girls!*

*Submitted by **Jackie Xie**, Adult Services Librarian, GPPL*



**Valhalla Community Library** was fortunate enough to receive a generous donation of children's furniture from **Aimee Gibson**, pictured above with a group of children enjoying the lovely couch and chair set!

*Submitted by **Gail Perry**, Library Manager, Valhalla Community Library*

## Great Program? Exciting News?

**Share what you've been doing in your library!**

Submit photos, news and events to Jen Anderson at  
[janderson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:janderson@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)

You can submit items for the newsletter at anytime, and they'll be published in the following issue of *News 'N' Notes*.



## Anne and the Library

*By Linda Chmilar, Library Manager, Grimshaw Municipal Library*

I've worked at the **Grimshaw Municipal Library** for almost 20 years now and I still remember the day I met **Anne Palmer**! We had just completed our expansion of the Library in 2001 by cutting a hole in the wall to join up with the next room. We invited the Women's Institute Ladies for afternoon tea. They are the founding members of the Library, so without them there would be no library in Grimshaw.

We pulled out all the stops, linen table cloths, china tea cups and goodies. They told us about the trials and tribulations of starting the library. We had such a good time that Anne decided that it would be a good idea to meet here every month and so began **The BookMates Seniors Afternoon Tea**.



We always know that whenever we try something new, Anne is always the first to jump on the bandwagon, such as sitting on Santa's knee. If Anne did it so would everyone else, no one can let Anne show them up. We can always count on Anne's support in anything we bring to the tea. We look forward to seeing what outfit she's wearing and her accessories are that go with it.

We can't stump her memory, it's unbelievable! We try our hardest to keep up with her energy and enthusiasm, she amazing! We aspire to be her, to have her love for life, she's incredible!

We are honoured to have the privilege of being in your life, Anne. Thank you for being you!

*HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ANNE!*



## Family Literacy Day at Wabasca Public Library

*By Joy Grant, Library Manager, M.D. of Opportunity Libraries*

**Wabasca Public Library** celebrated **Family Literacy Day** this year on Jan 26. From 6:00 to 8:00 pm, we had 11 families come into the library and participate at learning activity centers. Each child was given a bag from last year's "Splash" summer reading theme and a "Fairytale Passport". We chose the Seven Dwarves to represent each of our tables. Snow White even set up a table, but her activity was focused on the older kids, so it was optional. As each child completed an activity, they received a prize (the bags came in handy for these), which consisted of prizes from the last few years of Summer Reading Programs that were left over. There was also a chance to guess how many candies were in a candy jar at that table, which was filled with leftover candy that I bought for our Christmas event. The down side was counting all those candies before putting them into the jar... 214, 215, uh, where was I?



Left to right: Millie Hopfe, Joy Grant and Glenda Favel

This was our second year participating in this event and both nights have been a smash. We have partnered with the **Wabasca Parent Link** and **Peekiskwestan** (Let's Talk Society) both years. At every event we make sure there are snacks and drinks available and each adult gets to enter a door prize draw. This year we gave out a lot of board games and a few books as prizes. As this is a literacy event, we gave every child a free book to take home. Another feature we had was a puppet show. **Glenda Favel** (Library Assistant), **Millie Hopfe** (Volunteer) and I put on a successful rendition of the "Three Billy Goats Gruff," thanks to the storytime kit I made sure to borrow from PLS just in time. We did the original version and the kids really liked it. I had one mother make sure to take that book as her son's free book because she said she had never seen him laugh so much.

This event was the kick-off to our **Literacy Month** event. Every child that comes to the library gets a free book. Over the month of February we have invited all the schools in our community to make a visit to the library. We estimate over 700 students will get to see our library. Last year, we only invited the school closest to us as it was a last minute event. We have been planning this month since last year. Over \$2,000 in books have been purchased through Scholastic with the help of one of our board members, so we were able to get tons of free books to go towards other events. This community has over 900 children under the age of 18 and we will be very close to having given them all a free book.

Both of these events have become an annual event and we hope to be able to offer it for as many years as possible. We are trying to remind people that we are here and we are fun!



Above: The grade one class from Oskipasikonowew Kamik, also known as Bigstone Band School. Joy takes a picture of every class that comes to the library and this was the biggest class that came so far, with 26 out of 28 kids making it to school on Feb 7, 2012.

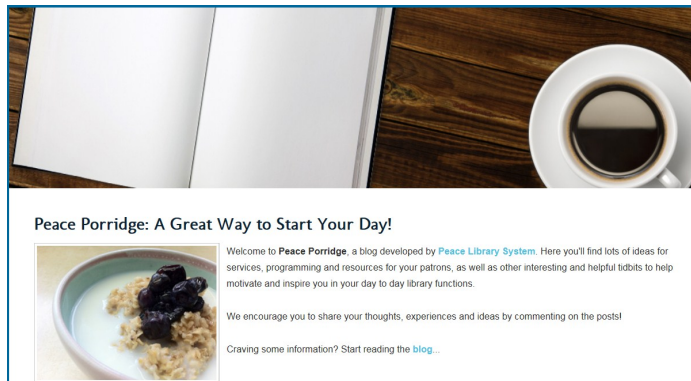


# Peace Library System Launches Blog and Adopts Social Networking

Peace Library System is pleased to announce that you can now find us **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Pinterest**!

For those of you who are **Facebook** users, you can find - and "like" - us at [www.facebook.com/peacelibrarysystem](http://www.facebook.com/peacelibrarysystem). **Twitter** users can follow Peace Library System, or send us a tweet **@peacelibrarysys**. If you're a **Pinterest** user or browser, follow or view our numerous boards at [pinterest.com/peacelibrarysys](http://pinterest.com/peacelibrarysys).

We have also launched a blog, called **Peace Porridge**, designed to be a nutritious way for people craving ideas and inspiration to start their day! The blog was created to be a visually appealing and interactive way to share ideas on library programming and other types of resources. We hope this blog will be motivational, inspiration and fun. Visit Peace Porridge at [www.peaceporridge.com](http://www.peaceporridge.com).

## Upcoming Events



### MD of Spirit River Advisory Committee Meeting

Spirit River Municipal Library  
March 14, 2012; 6:15 pm

### PLS Board Meeting

Peace River  
March 17, 2012

### PLS Personnel Meeting

Peace River  
March 17, 2012; following Board meeting

### MD of Greenview Advisory Committee Meeting

Valleyview Municipal Library  
March 21, 2012; 6:00 pm

### Library Managers' Council Meeting

PLS headquarters  
April 16, 2012; 10:30 am

### Karen Autio Spring Author Tour (Central)

April 16 to 19, 2012

### Clear Hills County Advisory Committee Meeting

Fairview Public Library  
April 18, 2012; 5:30 pm

### PLS Executive Committee Meeting

Grande Prairie  
April 21, 2012

### PLS Plan of Service Meeting

Grande Prairie  
April 21, 2012; following Executive meeting

### Alberta Library Conference

Jasper Park Lodge  
April 26 to 29, 2012

### Public Library Meeting

PLS headquarters  
May 7, 2012

### Annual General Meeting & PLS Board Meeting

Grande Prairie  
May 12, 2012

### County of Northern Lights Advisory Committee Meeting

Peace River Municipal Library  
May 14, 2012; 11:30 am

### Dave Glaze Spring Author Tour (Eastern)

May 14 to 17, 2012

### Northern Sunrise County Advisory Committee Meeting

Nampa Municipal Library  
May 28, 2012; 11:30 am

### Rural Libraries Conference

Grande Prairie Inn  
September 20 & 21, 2012