



Visalia Learning Center

Newsletter
January 15, 2010

Volume 7, #10



Location: 630 S. Atwood (Behind VUSD district office)

Hours: 8 AM-5 PM Monday - Friday

We are open to all Visalia, Ivanhoe, and Goshen residents and all employees of Visalia public and private schools.

[Search the VLC Collection](#)

[George Pilling](#) is responsible for this newsletter. Please [email comments or suggestions](#).

Need reference sources? Check these out, which have been purchased for you by the VLC:

[World Book Online](#) | [Discovery Education Streaming](#) | [Toucan Fact Cards](#) | [Search the VLC Collection](#)

Use our [Materials Request Form](#) to request books and other items from our collection to be delivered to your site.

New Tulare County History Site

for third grade social studies

<http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/tchistory/>

This site is under construction and needs your input!
contact George for more information



Podcast!

[Classroom Field Stories](#)

Teachers! Parents! Check the Instructional Coach web site at <http://www.vusd.org/Academics.cfm?subpage=16104> for links to the textbook publishers' pages about your students' books. (Go to Curriculum Tools, Textbook Support.) Most of these include practice pages, help, and lesson planning advice for teachers.

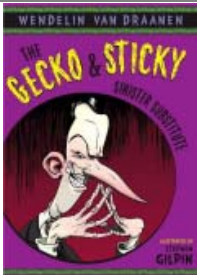
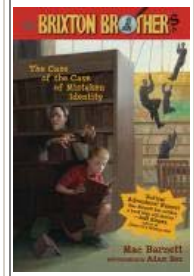
Spotlight on New Books

Fiction



Calamity Jack by Shannon Hale
In this retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk, the Giant is a "big business boss" named Blunderboar. After stealing Blunderboar's goose, Jack is forced to flee, only to return with his new friend Rapunzel to save the city from the giants—and a race of terrifying ant people! RL 5.2 grades 4-8

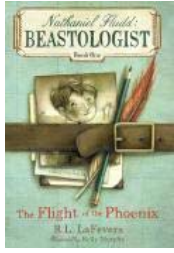
The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity: The Brixton Brothers, #1 by Mac Barnett. Steve Brixton is *not* a detective, but no one believes him. Why is he disguising himself as a sailor, getting kidnapped by an elite fighting force of librarians, and searching for a missing quilt embroidered with secret messages? RL 5.6 grades 5-8



The Gecko and Sticky: Sinister Substitute by Wendelin Van Draanen. Veronica Krockle, despised teacher, is absent. The kids are overjoyed until their substitute show up and he has a singular curiosity about boys and geckos. Did the substitute kidnap their teacher? Should they care? RL 5.6 Interest level gr. 3-6

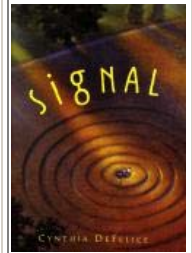
Leprechaun in Late Winter by Mary Pope Osborne. Magic Tree House #43. This very popular series gets better with age. Jack and Annie must rescue a girl from the magic world of Ireland. A non-fiction companion, *Leprechauns in Irish Folklore* is also available. RL 3.8 Int. level gr. 3-6



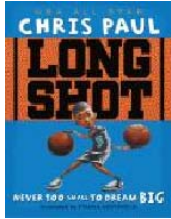


The Flight of the Phoenix: Nathaniel Fludd, Beastologist, Book 1 by R. L. LaFevers. When ten-year-old Nathaniel and his father's cousin go to Arabia in search of the mythological phoenix, Nathaniel has a great time—until “Aunt Phil” is captured by Bedouins. RL 3.6 grades 3-6

Signal by Cynthia DeFelice. When Owen meets Cam, Cam is injured and living in an abandoned shack. Cam claims she's an alien who has left her cruel Earth family and is trying to contact her real parents. Whatever the truth is, Owen knows one thing for sure: Cam needs his help. RL 5.7 grades 5-8

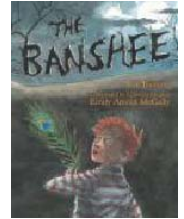


Picture Books

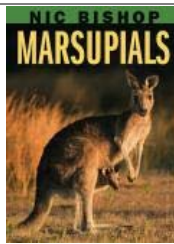


Long Shot: Never Too Small to Dream Big by Chris Paul. When Chris Paul was eight years old, he was small for his age, too small to play basketball, his friends told him. Thankfully, he listened to his family—and himself—instead. Reading level 1.8 grades K-3

The Banshee by Eve Bunting. Terry's brother Liam gets sick sometimes, so when Terry hears a wailing from the yard late one night, he fears it may be a banshee calling for his death? Terry has a trick of his own, but he may be too scared to try it. RL 2.3 Grades K-3



Non-Fiction



Marsupials by Nic Bishop. Striking photographs accompany informative text about familiar and lesser-known marsupials, from kangaroos and koalas to boodies and dunnarts. RL 3.7 IL grades 1-6

Mysterious Messages: A History of Codes and Ciphers by Gary Blackwood. From the ciphers of Italian princes to the advanced techniques of the CIA, codes have played important roles throughout history. Includes a variety of instructions for encoding and decoding messages. RL 8.9 Gr. 5-8



Teachers

Did you know that we can send books to your school library on the subjects that you are about to teach? During your class library time, your students can check out the VLC books as well as the ones in your school library. Let us know in advance if you would like this service.

You can also request books to be sent to you at particular levels. Just email [Judy](#) or [George](#).

Goings on About Town

- [Imagine-U Children's Museum](#) is open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wednesday-Friday and 12-4 on Saturdays.
- [The Enchanted Playhouse](#) presents Charlotte's Web February 12- 27. Classes – reserve your places now!
- [Arts Visalia and other art venues](#) have great things going on for all ages!
- [The Tulare County History Museum](#) in Mooney Grove is a great place to take kids to learn more about Tulare County History. Call 733-6616.
- [Impact Center](#) (ongoing) multi-media free shows that support and enhance the curriculum. 733-6433

Author Visits

[Jeff Savage](#) is coming to Royal Oaks School Feb. 24. If your school wants to have Jeff come Feb. 25 or 26, contact George.

[Wendelin Van Draanen](#) will be at the Sequoia Mall for **Heart Rocks** on Saturday January 30, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Quote of the Month

Reading a book is like rewriting it for yourself. You bring to a novel, anything you read, all your experience of the world. You bring your history and you read it in your own terms. -Angela Carter, novelist and journalist (1940-1992)

[Click here for a printable sheet of quotes from children's books](#)



Cash for Cartridge Clunkers



There's nothing that's more of a clunker than a used ink cartridge. But don't toss it away. We will turn them into books for our Visalia school libraries. The VLC makes about \$70 per month by recycling inkjet and laser cartridges. **Inkjet cartridges are worth as much as** laser carts, so don't forget to put them in an envelope for us! **You can also send in old cell phones, which will be recycled.**

Web Sites of the Month

- **Tulare County History** <http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/tchistory> New third grade history web site. This is a cooperative venture – teachers and historians are asked to contribute! Let us know what you think.
- **2010 Winter Olympics** The XXI Olympic Winter Games take place from the 12th to 28th February, 2010 in Vancouver, Canada. Here are some links to sites with activities and lesson plans. From [Kathy Schrock](#)
 - Canadian Olympic School Program <http://www.olympicschool.ca/default.aspx?PageID=1003&LangID=en>
 - The Olympics <http://olc.spsd.sk.ca/de/resources/olympics/>
 - Preschool Olympic Activities <http://www.first-school.ws/activities/firststeps/Olympics.htm>
 - 2002 Winter Olympics Lesson Plans http://www.edgate.com/wintergames/design/lesson_plans/index.html
 - Winter Olympic Games Research Project (High School) <http://www.pecentral.org/lessonideas/ViewLesson.asp?ID=828>
- **Martin Luther King web resources for all grades** <http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/collaboration/martinlutherking.htm>
- **Mywebspiration** www.mywebspiration.com - an online tool for anyone to make visual outlines and organization tools.