



Visalia Learning Center

Newsletter

November 15, 2011

Volume 10, #9



Teachers: Click here to request items to be delivered to your school

Where we are: 630 S. Atwood (Behind VUSD district office)

Hours: 8 AM-5 PM Monday – Friday

We will be closed on November 23, 24, and 25 for Thanksgiving.

We will be closed December 22 through January 1.

Call us at 730-7688

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

Search the VLC and all school library collections

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 you.

Warehouse Book Sale At the VLC

**BIG
SALE**

Thursday Dec. 8 10 AM to 7 PM

Friday Dec. 9 10 AM to 7 PM

Saturday Dec. 10 10 AM to 6 PM

50-80% off

The annual Scholastic Warehouse Book sale will be here at the VLC December 8-10. Come in for some great bargains!

Click here for a coupon for \$10-\$25 more off your purchase.

10th Anniversary PARTY

On Thursday Dec. 8 from 4-6 PM the VLC will celebrate 10 years of service to the Visalia Unified community – Students, teachers and parents.

- Free refreshments
- Music by *Romani Gulch*
- Huge Book Sale
- Door prizes

Tulare – Kings Reading Council

Annual Storytelling and Book Fair

Saturday, December 3rd

10:00am - 11:30am

- Come and see the newest children's books
- Light brunch served
- Bring your children and grandchildren
- Enjoy storytelling
- Books available for purchase at a discount

[Click here to Get more information and register](#)

Volunteers Needed

If you are between 12 and 112 we need you for a few hours per week here at the Visalia Learning Center.

Jobs include:

- Shelving returned books
- Covering new books
- Cleaning and repairing books
- Putting labels on books
- Help with special projects

Come in and sign up!

Teacher Guides

The VLC has purchased on-line copies of Perma-Guides for all Visalia teachers.

Go to <http://Visalia.k12.ca.us/library/pbguides> to access these. You will need to enter your VUSD log in name and password to get to this page, and when you do, you can download, save, or print, these teacher guides.

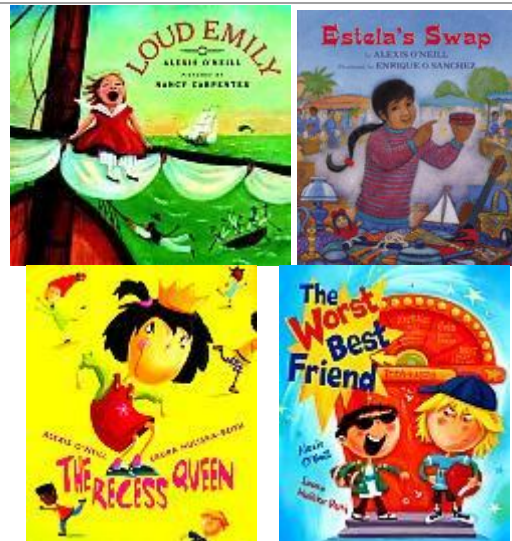
We have purchased all that are available for our literature it books. As more go online, we will put them up.

If you have any trouble with access, please contact me. gpilling@vusd.org 730-7349

Authors Coming to Visalia

We have three authors coming to Visalia this year. The first is Alexis O'Neill, who will visit 5 schools December 5-9. Alexis is the author of *The Recess Queen*, *The Worst Best Friend*, *Estela's Swap*, and *Loud Emily*. She is a professor of writing at UCLA, and she will be giving a writing workshop here at the VLC on Wednesday Dec. 7.

In February and March, [Kate Hovey](#) and [Joe Cepeda](#) will be here. Schools who wish to have them visit should contact George at the VLC.



www.alexisonell.com

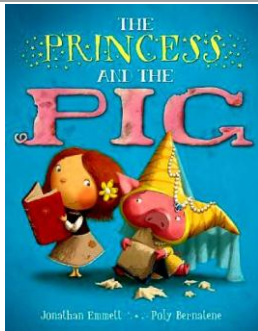
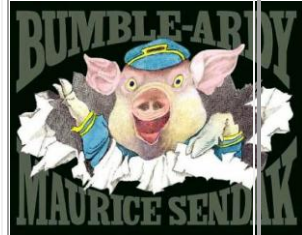
Spotlight on New Books

Picture Books



Blue Chicken written and illustrated by Deborah Freeman. A small chicken attempts to help the illustrator of the book and accidentally paints the whole barnyard blue. Reading Level 1.9 Interest Level P-3

Bumble-Ardy written and illustrated by Maurice Sendak. The title character is a mischievous pig who had never had a birthday party, so he invites everyone he knows to a masquerade where all goes quickly awry. Reading Level 2.4 Interest Level K-3



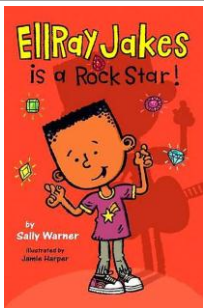
The Princess and the Pig written by Jonathan Emmett, illus. by Poly Bernatene. A Princess and a Piglet are accidentally switched, causing all sorts of havoc in the castle and joy on the farm. Reading Level 3.1 Interest Level K-3

You Will Be My Friend written and illustrated by Peter Brown. Lucy's overly aggressive attempts at friendship scare everyone away until she meets her match. Reading Level 2.0 Interest Level K-3



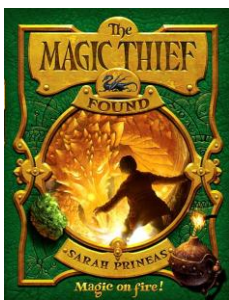
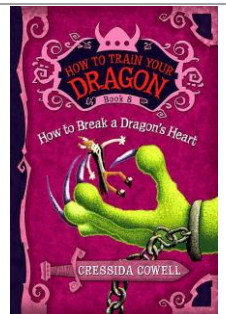
Series Books

Books in series are popular and rewarding for both reluctant readers and good readers. They have been shown to be especially valuable in increasing reading fluency and comprehension.



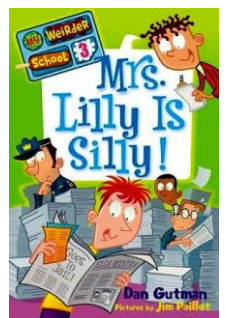
EilRay Jakes is a Rock Star! by Sally Warner. The second in the series about third grader EilRay Jakes. He brings his father's collection of crystals to school, but all does not go as planned. Reading Level 2.9 Interest level gr. 3-6.

How to Train Your Dragon Book 8: How to Break a Dragon's Heart by Cressida Cowell. Hiccup Hiccup, stranded with Toothless on the Beach of the Broken Heart and being hunted by an old enemy, faces Ug the Uglithug, Berserks, and Scarers and tries to save Fishlegs from the Beast. Reading Level 6.9 Interest level gr. 3-6



The Magic Thief: Found by Sarah Prineas. Third book in this series about Connwaer, the young thief-turned-wizard's apprentice, who escapes from prison and follows the call of magic to the distant and mysterious Dragon Mountain on a quest to save Wellmet from Arhionvar, dread magic that can destroy the city. Reading Level 4.9 Interest level gr. 4-8

Mrs. Lilly is Silly by Dan Gutman. My Weirder School #3. On Career Day at Ella Mentry School, local reporter Mrs. Lilly helps A.J. and his fellow third-graders start a school newspaper, but their efforts have unexpected, and terrible, consequences. Reading Level 4.4 Interest level gr. 2-5

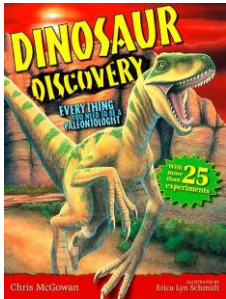
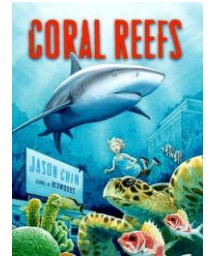


Non-fiction Books



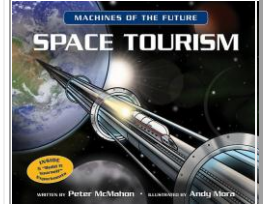
About Hummingbirds: a Guide for Children written by Catherine Sill and illustrated John Sill. Hummingbirds are intriguing for everyone. This introduction depicts many different species while telling about their life in simple language.
Reading Level 2.5 Int Level K-3

Coral Reefs written and illustrated by Jason Chin. A girl pulls an extraordinary book about coral reefs from the library shelf, and as she turns the pages, finds herself immersed in the coral cities of the sea. Reading Level 6.1 Interest Level K-5



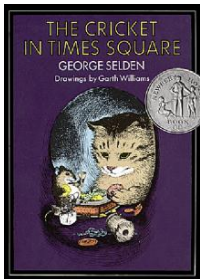
Dinosaur Discovery: Everything You Need to Be a Paleontologist written by Chris McGowan, illus. by Erica Lyn Schmidt. The author examines various dinosaur species and explains how researchers learn about the prehistoric animals. Includes hands-on experiments.
Reading Level 6.7 Int. Level 3-6

Space Tourism written by Peter McMahon and illustrated by Andy Mora. Introduces recent technological advances in vehicles for space travel, and features hands-on activities for children. Reading Level 6.9 Interest Level 3-6



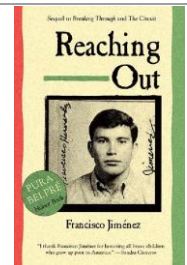
New Reading Group kits

Reading Group kits have 6 of the same title in them for classroom reading groups.
A complete list of all 400+ titles is at <http://visalia.k12.ca.us/library/rgkits.xls>.



The Cricket in Times Square written by George Selden. A classic Newbery book from 1960 tells the story of Tucker, a streetwise city mouse who meets a cricket from the country who wants a tour of the city – New York City!
RL 6.2 AR 4.9 RC 5.9 lexile 780
Interest Level grades 3-5

Reaching Out by Francisco Jimenez. Third book in the series that started with The Circuit about Francisco Jimenez's life as a migrant worker who became a professor.
Reading Level 6.2, AR 6.1 RC 6.3
Lexile 910 Interest Level grades 5-12



Quote of the Month

“A book is a gift you can open again and again.” Garrison Keillor
[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 them 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

- o **Common Sense Media Digital Literacy** www.commonsense.org/educators Free and excellent program that helps teach safety in cyberspace.
- o **I love that teaching idea!** <http://ilovethatteachingidea.com/> is a great collection of teacher-created tips, ideas, and resources on things from assessment to substitutes and everything in-between!