



Visalia Learning Center

Newsletter

December 15, 2011

Volume 10, #10



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 December 23 through January 2. We re-open on Tuesday, January 3.

We will be closed on Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

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.

Authors Coming to Visalia

We have three authors coming to Visalia this year. The first was Alexis O'Neill, who visited 6 schools December 5-9. Her writing workshop here at the VLC on Wednesday Dec. 7 was attended by more than 50 students.

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.

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.

Spotlight on Books

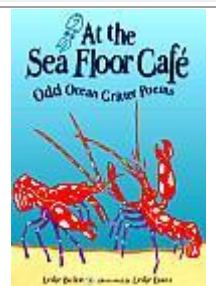
Eureka Awards Gold Award Winners

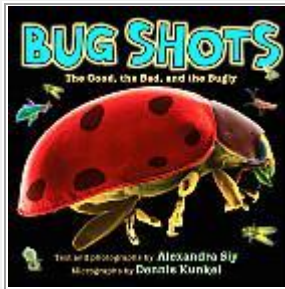
The California Reading Association established the Eureka awards to recognize the best non-fiction of the year. See the list of all the winners at <http://www.californiareads.org/awards/eu/2011-eureka.htm>.



13 Planets: The Latest View of the Solar System by David A. Aguilar. Profiles each of the planets in Earth's solar system, including Pluto, Ceres, Eris, Haumea, MakeMake, the sun, the Oort cloud, comets, and more. Interest level, grades 3- up. Reading Level 6.8

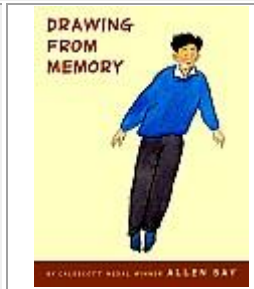
At the Sea Floor Café: Odd Ocean Critter Poems by Leslie Bulion and illustrated by Leslie Evans. An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about some of the creatures that live in the sea. Includes a glossary of scientific terms. Reading Level 6.6 Interest Level grades 3-6





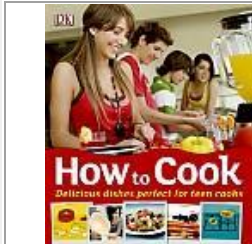
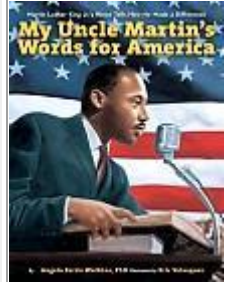
Bug Shots: The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly by Alexandra Siy and Dennis Kunkel. Provides facts on several major categories of bugs, looks at various types of insects, and includes photographs of highly magnified insect parts. Reading Level 6.9 Interest Level grades 3-6

Drawing From Memory by Allen Say. Caldecott medalist Allen Say chronicles his experiences as an artist during World War II, and describes his relationship with his mentor Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist. Reading Level 5.1 Interest Level grades 5-8



The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore. Verse and narrative describe the ecological and social transformation resulting from the work of Dr. Gordon Sato, a Japanese American cell biologist who made saltwater and desert land productive through the planting of mangrove trees in the tiny African country of Eritrea. Reading Level 4.3 Interest Level grades 3-7

My Uncle Martin's Words for America: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Niece Tells How He Made a Difference by Angela Farris Watkins and illustrated by Eric Velasquez. Martin Luther King Jr.'s niece, recounts her uncle's work to promote racial equality and key events during the civil rights era. Reading Level 3.1 Interest Level grades K-3



How To Cook: Delicious Dishes Perfect for Teen Cooks consultant Maggie Mayhew. A guide to cooking for teens that offers step-by-step recipes, helpful kitchen tips, and fail-safe cooking techniques. Reading and interest level: YA

Rah, Rah, Radishes: A Vegetable Chant by April Pulley Sayre. Rhyming text and colorful illustrations describe the tastes, scents, and appearance of different vegetables. Reading Level 2.9 Interest Level grades K-3



Visalia events for the Holidays

- Saturday, Dec. 17 - The Sons of the San Joaquin at the Fox theatre 2PM and 7 PM info: www.foxvisalia.org/sosi/

Quotes of the Month

Books are the door of escape from the forest.- E.B. White
 Finding information is easy; finding knowledge is more difficult. - unknown
[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

- **NASA Solar System education cards** http://solarsystem.nasa.gov/multimedia/download-detail.cfm?DL_ID=262
 These cards are perfect to get kids started on projects about the solar system.
- **Common Core Curriculum Maps: Digital Resources** http://commoncore.org/maps/resources/digital_resources A nice list of online digital resources and tools for creating, collaborating, researching, and sharing.