

# Early Literacy Center

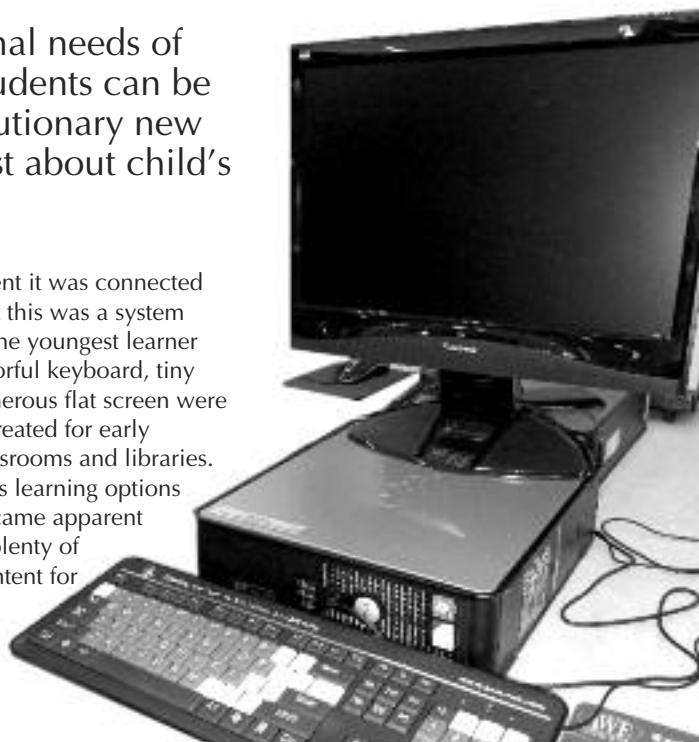
## Opening the Door to a Lifetime of Learning

Friends of the Hockessin Library Donate Learning Tool

**F**inding new tools to meet the educational needs of early childhood educators and their students can be a difficult task. But thanks to this revolutionary new education program, early learning is just about child's play.

The Early Literacy Station provides an Internet-free computer system that gives early learners the ability to interact with their favorite reading, math, or music programs while keeping track of individual student progress and allows for customized programming for individual students. In addition, it provides educational content that covers curricular areas specifically focused for children from toddler stage through second grade.

From the moment it was connected it was clear that this was a system designed with the youngest learner in mind. Its colorful keyboard, tiny mouse, and generous flat screen were unmistakably created for early elementary classrooms and libraries. With the various learning options on screen it became apparent that there was plenty of educational content for nonreaders.



## Book Sale January 19-22, 2012

**D**onations have been better than ever before. Thank one and all. We shall have over 70,000 books for sale in January, 2012. The Arts and Music area will have more than before as will the Premium Fiction section.

The volunteer sorters, David Goldsworthy, Cathe Lawrence, Eleanor Smith, Pat Rittenhouse, Joan Zverina, Sirena Manista and Holly Stiefel have been ruthless in their culling of "unsaleable" items. Even so, we have more.

We still collect on the second Saturday of each month from 9 AM until noon. If anyone has a need for a pickup at their

home, please call Larry Thurrell at 302 584.1793 to make arrangements .

The dates for the sale are Thursday, January 19 for members and then open to everyone on Friday, January 20 through Sunday, January 22. Please note that this is NOT the last weekend in January because Larry did not reserve the firehall in a timely fashion! We will send a final notice regarding dates and times in early January as a reminder.

*Larry Thurrell, co-chair*

# How have THE FRIENDS helped our library?

- Fund raising for the 2008 library addition
- Storage of Daniel Goldstein's mobile Valdrada and tile wall during construction of the addition
- Creation and maintenance of the Reading Garden
- Purchase of Charles Parks' sculpture Classmates
- Purchase of Charles Parks' sculptures Sarah and Jimmy's Dog for the Reading Garden
- Staff support
- Support for adult summer reading programs
- Used book donations to non-profit organizations
- Purchase of 150 copies of the monthly The BookPage
- Purchase of equipment and books including a large screen television for library programs
- Support of appearances by local authors
- Publicity of programs and books
- Repair of over-sized books
- Sponsorship of lectures
- Advocacy
- Support for children's summer reading programs
- Purchase of AWE Early Learning Station
- Flash drives & audio head sets for patron purchase
- Delaware Community Foundation-administered scholarships for local area students

The Friends' most important fundraiser is the annual Used Book Sale, which in three days typically grosses more than \$30,000! It's hard work selling more than 70,000 books in one weekend, but as any member can tell you, it's also a whole lot of fun. *(And yes, members get first dibs at book-buying at a special preview night!)*

Board meetings, held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month (September through June) offer members a chance to decide how the Friends will best use their time and resources.

We welcome you at these meetings. We welcome your skills, your talents, your energy and your interest.

As a member of the Friends of the Hockessin Library you'll be making a real difference in the community, for today's citizens and generations to come.

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## Suggestion Box

Have you seen our new Suggestion Box? It's located just to the left of the front door. Take a minute to let us know what you'd like to see here at our Hockessin Library. We'll do our best!

# The Childrens' Room

## Take the time to visit

Have you seen the newest display of Holiday Books available in the Children's Reading Room? No matter which holiday you celebrate, Christmas, Chanukah or Kwanzaa, the library has colorful



books to help you celebrate and teach your children how meaningful each holiday is.

Check the Tots to Teens column to find out about all the wonderful programs planned during the month of December.



*These books and more are on display in the Children's Room*

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## Director's Desk

### Meet Our New Director



Greetings Everyone!

I am very excited about my new position as Branch Manager of the Hockessin Library. My last job was Public Services Coordinator for Wicomico Public Library in Salisbury, Maryland. I have worked for Cecil College and Queen Anne's County, Maryland as well as Loudoun County, Virginia.

I received my Masters of Library Information Studies from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro via a distance learning opportunity at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. My undergraduate degree is from Radford University in Library Science.

My husband and I enjoy sailing in our 43 ft Irwin sailboat on the Chesapeake Bay. Some of my hobbies are genealogy, reading and kayaking. Our home is in the Glen Farms section of Elkton, Maryland.

I have worked with and been a member of many community organizations: Literacy Volunteers of America, Federated Woman's Club, American Society of Trainers and Developers, various home owners associations, various public library associations, and the Radford City School Board in Virginia.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and working with you on all the wonderful projects in the future.

Sincerely,

Sue C. Rekart

# Tots to Teens

The leaves have started to fall and winter is fast approaching. To help you beat the winter blues I have a number of upcoming programs you might want to check out. On Monday, December 19th at 7 and Wednesday, December 21st at 10:15 we are exploring the traditions of gingerbread and making some cool gingerbread projects. On Wednesday, December 21st at 7 put on your PJs and jump on the Polar Express as we read this classic tale from Chris Van Allsburg. The Great Winter Scavenger Hunt will be going on in the Children's Room all day on Tuesday, December 27th. Every child who completes the hunt receives a prize. What can you build with our various building materials on Wednesday, December 28th from 10am until 3pm? We are going to have our own New Year's Eve celebration on Friday, December 30th from 11am - 12:30pm. You don't want to miss it as we have our big countdown at 12pm!

Finally, I want to send out a big congratulations to all of the children and teens who participated in the Summer Reading Club this past summer. We had 856 participants who read at least 10 hours this summer and in doing so earned their free book and certificate of achievement. You read a whopping 28,630 minutes! For the fourth year in a row Hockessin had the highest number of participants who finished the program. Way to go! Make sure you are ready to DREAM BIG and OWN THE NIGHT when the Summer Reading Club for 2012 kicks off on June 1, 2012.

Terri Jones  
Youth Services Librarian

## FOHL College Scholarship Program Four Scholarships Awarded.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

Anna Hopkins—Charter School of Wilmington  
Williams College (Sophomore)

Andrew Smith—Wilmington Christian School  
Penn State University at University Park (Freshman)

Elizabeth Thurrell—Padua Academy  
University of Delaware (Freshman)

Audrey Walker—Archmere Academy  
College of William and Mary (Freshman)

## New Arrivals



All books listed on the New York Times Best Seller list are available at the Hockessin Library. The easiest way to reserve a book is to visit the web site and log on with your library card. Most library transactions may be handled through your account at <http://ilsapp.lib.de.us/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/x/0/49/>

New Castle County Libraries have a standing order with their distributor to provide their citizens with most of the best sellers on or very close to the release date.

Also available are:

### Fiction

- Lamb* Bonnie Nadzam
- Templar Magician* P. C. Doherty
- Mercury's Rise:*  
*a Silver Rush Mystery* Ann Parker
- Act of Deceit:*  
*a Harlan Donnally novel* Steven Gore

### Non-Fiction

- Evolution: the human story* Dr. Alice Roberts
- The White House:*  
*the Presidents' home*  
*in photographs and history* Vicki Goldberg
- Ambrose Bierce:*  
*The devil's dictionary,*  
*tales, memoirs (short stories)*  
(A "Library of America" book) Ambrose Bierce
- Giving 2.0: Transform your*  
*giving and our world* Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen
- Time of Our Lives* Tom Brokaw

Don't forget to look at the Walk-In display for extra goodies that are available and are not "holdable." Staff is always available to help anyone find what they are looking for.

# Be a Friend! Renew Today

Is your Friends membership current? Check the mailing label above your name to see when your membership renewal is due. To continue receiving *Friends Focus*, just clip this coupon and mail it to:

Friends of the Hockessin Library  
PO Box 55  
Hockessin, DE 19707

(or drop it at the library)  
with your payment.

**Yes,** I'd like to join the Friends or renew my membership! Enclosed is a check for:

- \$10.00 Member/Family (1 yr.)     \$100.00 Lifetime     \$25.00 Member/Family (3 yr.)  
 \$40.00 Member/Family (5 yr.)     \$25.00 Sponsor/Organization    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other (Gift)

Name: ..... Phone: .....

Address: .....

City/State/Zip .....

Please check your areas of interest if you would like to volunteer:

- Membership     Book Sale     Fund Raising     Programs     Hospitality  
 Telephone     Publicity     Other \_\_\_\_\_

# Stocking Stuffers



## Note Cards

We have packs of note cards for \$5.00. There are 8 pen and ink drawings of 4 local structures. You'll find them at the library check-out desk. Wrap them in a Friends Book Bag (only \$2) - a perfect holiday Gift!



# Stockings for Troops

Well, it's true. Not all of the books we collected went to our book sale. This year we participated in the "Stockings for Troops" drive, donating paper-back books to be included in every stocking sent to our deployed troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the campaign organizer Judy Travis said: "How wonderful to know that each and every stocking that we sent had a book, which will bring many hours of enjoyment for these brave young men and women in harm's way. A special Thank you to all the Hockessin Friends of Library."

# Book Sale News

The books keep coming in. Wow and thank you for so many wonderful donations. If you have noticed we have started running an ad in the Community News stating that we have expanded our collection hours to 9-12 on the second Saturday of each month—year-round.

What's more, we are offering free pick up (and boxing if necessary). Just call 302.584.1793 for this service. (And, no, we won't travel to Long Island for even 20 boxes.)

*Larry Thurrell, Sandra Massa,  
David Goldsworthy,  
Co-Chairs.*

## Library Hours of Operation

**Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday**

**10am-9pm**

**Thursday-Closed**

**Friday-Saturday**

**10am-5pm**

**Sunday**

**1pm-5pm**

*Friends Focus* is published quarterly by the Friends of the Hockessin Library.

Please send comments or questions to:

P.O. Box 55  
Hockessin, DE 19707

Main Library Phone:  
302.239.5160

Officers:

Serina Manista	Vice President
Sandy Massa	Treasurer
Cathe Lawrence	Secretary
Edit/Art	Phoebe Mont