

*Attracting Teens to the Library*  
*ISLMA Breakout Session*  
*Annual Conference 2005 at Decatur*  
*Joan Herron, facilitator*

The following list contains ideas contributed by librarians attending this session on Friday afternoon. Hopefully, the brief note describing the activity will give you a spark to start your own new ideas, or build on these excellent existing activities.

- \*Use ALA CD ROM to create READ posters using your own students & staff
- \*Buy “google” glasses from Oriental Trading Company...take pictures of students & staff...use for meetings to surprise administrators with that “awake look”
- \* Annual Halloween coloring contest using free coloring sheets from Ben & Jerry’s web site. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizes are pints of B & J’s ice cream with a spoon. Students pick up coloring sheets in the library all month – encouraged to think outside the box – adding 3-D dimensions, teacher entries have been quilted in past years! Some get very elaborate. Mix display with ghost story books, etc. Judges have been custodians, secretaries, student teachers, etc.
- \* Use student photo ops for end of the year PR for due dates. Pose students around the return slot and make posters of them pleading for the safe return of library materials... “WE WANT YOU IN THE LIBRARY!”
- \*Have Study with a Buddy nights for several nights before finals
  - \*library open late
  - \*food available
  - \*study groups advertised
  - \*teachers from each subject area available
- \*Use staff whenever possible to help with display case (head cook is “NASCAR freak, a teacher brought in saddle & boots to help display Louis L’Amour westerns, principal brought in all Cubs memorabilia, student brought in all transformer toys, etc.)
- \*Co-sponsored breast cancer awareness unit with girls’ PE classes and hosted 4 teachers from other schools in our district who had had mastectomies. They presented a panel discussion of their stories and answered questions that the girls had written in advance. All questions were printed on pink paper and put in a Longaberger cancer memory basket and pulled out individually so they were anonymous.
- \*Co-sponsored panel during driver’s ed class using organ donors and organ donor receivers, coordinated as students were getting their blue slips.
- \*College course catalog section in the library instead of the guidance office ~ brings in students & parents
- \*”Homework Hangout” once a week ~ has refreshments and helps with homework one on one.
- \*Literacy volunteers work through the library and go to the grade school once a month to read aloud to students, listen to younger students read, share stories, etc. Helps both older and younger students with reading skills,
- \*Niles West HS has West Side Stories. Favorite books are chosen by staff and they are displayed with the teacher’s name. All students and staff are encouraged to read and talk to each other about the books, especially to that staff member.
- \*Contest (Halloween idea!) to dress up as book titles, with prizes to decide who they represent –candy prizes.
- \*Sidewalk chalk popular way to advertise library programs – take kids outside to draw/write ads to draw attention to specific programs
- \*Get Caught Reading was popular in several schools – rewards of all kinds
- \*Rewrap Hershey bars as prizes – make the wrapper an ad for reading
- \*Offer choice of school supply such as a highlighter as an alternative to candy prize

- \*Poetry Slam co-sponsored with Public Library with adults serving as judges.
- \*Have preschool students come in to be read to
- \*Cocoa Corner for a whole day in the library ~
  - \*entertainment provided by students and staff (choral groups, ensembles)
  - \*bring in piano
  - \*see if administrators can play, sing, etc.
  - \*have classes sign up for times
  - \*have a schedule of entertainment
  - \*have students get cookie coupons so there is a limit & you can plan ahead
  - \*have parents help with making and serving cocoa
- \*Battle of the Books ~
  - \*10 copies of 8 titles
  - \*Groups of 4 read 2 books through English classes
  - \*Questions available for quizzing
- \*Dwight HS gives detentions instead of fines for late books – on April Fool’s Becky sent fake detention notices for overdue books to kids who never check out anything ~ it brought those kids to the library for the first time!
- \*April Fool’s Day ~ Eureka HS switches teachers including the librarian – we all switch classes and actually really do the job – not just fake it!
- \*Library photography contest – one entry was from a cemetery and read “Read, before it’s too late!” ☺
- \*Cooperative unit with English & art department to replace book jackets on worn out & ugly books – students will read the books and make appropriate book jacket replacements with illustrator bio’s, etc. “You can judge a book by its cover!”
- \*Quilt blocks designed by students in the library telling the story of the Underground Railroad...an auction was held to auction the quilt
- \*Get Caught Reading coupons...teachers distribute to students, then both teachers and students win prizes
- \*National Library Week trivia contest
- \*Display of teachers’ homecoming pictures from waaayyyy back
- \*Meet the teacher display
- \*History of bubblegum display – all different samples of types of gum, “chewed” gum display with labels of whose gum it was!
- \*Mystery party kits – all day long every hour played in library – don’t reveal until the next day (contact Kathryn