

Albany High School Library Newsletter

February is Black History Month

During the month of February, the library celebrates Black History Month with a wonderful collection of books, films, artwork that highlight important people, places, events, and ideas in African American history.

To further explore the rich culture and heritage of African Americans, the library is hosting a Trivia Contest for students. Every day in February, one Black History Trivia question will be read on the daily announcements.

Students will turn in their written answers to the library. Only students with correct answers will receive a small prize. By the end of the contest, the student with the most correct answers will be announced and receive a \$25.00 gift card.



Black History Month posters, fantasy animals, and handmade pins. And, students in Mrs. Morrill's Fashion Design class designed formal dresses for a red carpet event.

Art Display

Mrs. Morrill worked with over 70 students to create some eye-catching artwork on display in the library. Her Studio Art class created 3D masks,



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By the numbers...

January 2010

- 6,986 students came to the library during the school day.
- 955 students came to the library afterschool.
- 51 classes visited the library.

Classes in the library

In January, the number of classes that visited the library were lower than in December because of Regents exams preparation. However, February is turning into a very active month for research.

The English Department teachers have been quite busy in the library. Mrs. Brown's classes are working on a newspaper project. Sophomores in Ms. Chen's classes researched topics related to the U.S. and Russia

for an essay contest. Mrs. Healy and Mrs. Mahoney brought their classes to the library to research famous African Americans for a digital storytelling project.

Mrs. Pagnotta's Latin class used ABC-CLIO databases to find facts about ancient art and architecture. Mrs. Justice's class researched important figures in the field of Psychology.

Staff

Library Media Specialists

[Sonji Greenaway-Chandler](#)
[Alicia Abdul](#)

Library Assistants

[Melva MacDonald](#)
[Prince Onibokun](#)

New home for DVDs

The library's DVD collection have been moved from the AV room to a more secure place in the library. To see a complete list of videos for loan, please click [here](#) or visit the library.



If you have a video that has not been properly checked out, please return it to the library as soon as possible.



Register for one of the library's credit-bearing classes on [PD Express](#)

From the desk of Mrs. Abdul



'Google owns me.' For some people that's true, everything from the Droid (I

can't really call it a phone—people hardly know how to answer it if someone does call) to Google searching to something called Google Image Swirl. There's a reason why googling is now a word, added in 2006 to the Oxford English Dictionary. Yet, there's such a stigma about googling instead of using a good ol' fashioned book. But,

I'm not going to talk about googling to find an answer, I'm going to highlight the other uses of Google.

iGoogle: Allows you to customize the Google homepage with widgets of your choice (I've got a daily quote from the Twilight series as well as fitness tips and my email)

Google Books: They're digitizing like crazy. Anything in the public domain is being digitized to be used at your will. The best part is that *Life* magazine has been added and is fully searchable, even the advertisements. Talk about a blast from the past!

Google Picasa: If you want smart picture software, here's the one for you. Not only will you be able to share and edit pictures, it's also smart enough to recognize a face once you put a name to it with face-recognition software.

Google Trends: This neat feature allows you to 'go back in time' and see when a story broke and how it continues to be relevant. Not only is there a visual graph, but links to the stories linked to the surge in searching.

The conference that I attended through WSHWE BOCES was both enlightening and encouraging that Google is always creating and inventing new ways for us to interact with information. To show their ingenuity, there's also a feature called Google Labs, where you can play with features that may be available in the future with some tweaking.

Did you know?

As of July 1, 2007, the estimated population of black residents in the United States was 40.7 million. They made up 13.5 percent of the U.S. total population.

19 percent of single-race blacks 25 and older had a bachelor's degree or higher in 2007.

1.2 million single-race blacks 25 and older had an advanced degree in 2007.

There were 129,329 black-owned firms in New York in 2002, which led all states.

Source: [2008 US Census Press Release](#)

From the desk of Mrs. Greenaway-Chandler



Over the past few months, I read quite a bit about digital storytelling,

and was finally able to attend a workshop in January. The workshop was great because the presenter gave me time to explore and use some technology tools, such as [Storybird](#), Microsoft Windows Movie Maker, [Photostory 3](#), [Scratch](#) and [animoto](#) to build my multimedia story boards. Digital

storytelling is worth trying in the classroom. The technology piece will appeal and capture the interest of students, but you have to make sure that the writing component is not sacrificed. The best way to do this is to have students share personal stories that mean the most to them, then you can hone in on the writing process.

For enriching digital storytelling lessons, visit [Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling](#).

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

[George Washington Carver](#)

(January 1864-January 5, 1943)

*Scientist, Botanist,
Educator and Inventor*

Local Events

[Schenectady County Historical Society](#) will be showing a slide presentation titled "Traveling the New York City African American Experience 1623-1830" on Saturday, February 13 at 2pm.

The Empire State Plaza will be hosting an African American cultural expo on

February 17-18, from 10am to 2pm. The event will feature crafts, music and food.

[The Albany Historical Association](#) will be presenting a special program with Dr. Sherrill D. Wilson on Saturday, February 20 at 1pm at Ten Broeck Mansion. The topic is "Celebrating Freedom".

The Red Cross in the library



The American Red Cross Blood Drive was held in the library on

January 13. The blood drive surpassed their goal of 29 units. 72 units of blood were collected from

101 donors, of which 41 were first time donors. The units collected will be used to save the lives of 216 people. Great job Mrs. Dwyer and AHS!