Meet a Missouri School Library

An interview with Angie Rosheim, librarian at Lewis and Clark Elementary in the Liberty School District.

About

Every day across Missouri, school libraries are providing innovative programs, invaluable services and incredible resources to their students and educators. Each month, MASL will spotlight one school library in Missouri to showcase what they are doing. Along the way, MASL hopes its members will be inspired by their peers and that others will learn about the great work done in school libraries.

Angie Rosheim (right, pictured with her paraprofessional Lynne) is the librarian at Lewis and Clark Elementary in the Liberty School District. MASL interviewed her to learn how her library is going above and beyond to support students by building MakerSpaces; creating extracurricular programming and events; listening to their voices and incorporating their choices; and fostering strong relationships with school staff, leadership and PTA.

Know a Cool Library?

Send your tip to MASL PR Chair Barry Crook at Barry.Crook@kirkwoodschools.org!
Angie Rosheim is using her students’ ideas to build a library that is as unique, exciting and engaging as they are. We asked her to highlight the five most innovative things she is doing in her library.

1. Our MakerSpace

Last year while teaching with the Genius Hour philosophy, I realized that I did not have the resources that my students wanted and needed during Genius Hour. They wanted to develop apps, learn to code, create video games, invent, produce videos, try out robotics, and learn about circuits, and be crafty. At that point I realized I needed to create an environment where kids could create what they imagined! So I wrote and was awarded a grant for almost $8,000.00 to create an AMAZING MakerSpace. After working hard on the space all summer, it was ready for students on day one of school. Because of the grant we are able to offer our students so many opportunities they had not had access to in past years. We were able to acquire so many awesome materials that will allow our kids to make, produce, solve, create, collaborate, tinker, and think.

We now have Makey Makeys, Sphero robotic balls, squishy circuits, littlebits, tinkertoys, legos, games of logic, OSMO, K’Nex, craft supplies, craft books, origami materials, tons of recycled materials, 8 ipads with amazing apps, box rivets, attribute blocks, Game Star Mechanic accounts, and many other things. It is not about the “stuff” we have, but what our students can do with it. Lewis and Clark families have donated a lot of supplies and Lowes and Home Depot donated items so I was able to save some grant money.

I am still writing grants to continue acquiring materials that my students want and need.

2. Starting Our Year as Makers!

Grades 1-5 started this school year as makers!

1st graders planned and built marble mazes. 2nd graders planned and built marble runs. 3rd graders planned and built arcade games (inspired by Caine’s Arcade). 4th graders built and launched catapults. 5th graders planned and built Rube Goldberg Machines.

I started the year with kids making for a couple of reasons. I wanted to introduce the kids to the MakerSpace and what would be available to them. Most importantly, I wanted them to realize that failure is the very best way to learn. We failed often through all of these projects and we learned from each of those failures. As we complete each maker project, we are having GREAT discussions as to what failed, how they reacted to the failure, how that failure helped...
them, what they would do differently next time, how they could improve what they did, what did they learn from their experiences, and what advice would they give other kids. The reflection piece has been so very powerful. I can’t wait to see how they take what they have learned and build upon that for the rest of the year.

3. My Paraprofessional, great leadership, a fabulous staff, amazing PTA, and District Library Media Specialists.

My partner in running our library program is Lynne Haynes. In her former life, Lynne was an engineer. She came to work in the library because she truly wants to make a difference in kids’ lives…and is she ever. She connects with our kids and they know they can go to her with suggestions, needs, or problems. Lynne has written grants for our library, analyzes our survey data and presents the results to our kids so they know that the surveys really matter. She shares with them what they have suggested in the past and what we have done to successfully implement their ideas. Lynne sets up reading programs for at risk readers for our entire building, regularly leads student book clubs during lunchtime, is either involved with or runs library clubs, and works all of our events out of goodness of her heart. Lynne is considered the excel queen in our building and tracks data for our building committees. Lynne has a knack for streamlining and setting up procedures for all the little things that happen everyday in the library…Chromebook checkout, budgets, Mark Twain/KC3 tracking, and our beginning and end of the year tasks. This year, we placed three chess sets in the library for kids to play while checking out. After about a month of school, Lynne recognized that our circulation was down and not as many kids were reading award books. She started noticing that more and more kids were forgetting books and checking out really quickly, not taking their time to find just the right book. We narrowed it down to two distractions…our new 1:1 Chromebooks or the chess sets. We can’t change the Chromebook situation so we changed what we could…we took the chess sets down and we will look at our data again in a few weeks to see if that changed the checkout habits of our kids. Without Lynne’s dedication to our library program I would have never realized that was happening.

My administrative team, Dr. Kyle Palmer and Mrs. Katie Lawson are THE BEST! They are amazing supporters of the library and believe that what is happening in the library is a huge benefit to our kids. They totally trust us to do what is right for kids and offer support when needed.

The staff at Lewis and Clark is fabulous to work with. They are flexible, supportive of our programs, volunteer their time for many of our extra-curricular events, and are willing to try all the new ideas we are continually rolling out! I love that they are game for anything that benefits kids.

Our PTA is an amazing resource for our library programs. They fund our yearly author visits, our Reading Adventure Nights, annually donate funds from the Spring book fair, and fund several library grants a year to help offset the cost of our reading celebrations and this year, more funds toward our MakerSpace. Our district library team is full of amazing professionals. We are continually growing, sharing, learning, and working toward what is best for kids. Sometimes this means learning something new, like using a true inquiry focus toward learning or integrating the Genius Hour model into the library. I appreciate the expertise of others and how we bring each other along.

4. Extra-curricular Programming and Events

Lynne Haynes and I work together on many programs in our library. We offer 4 clubs each week in our library, Page Turner’s Book Club, Storytelling, and this year we added Makerkid’s and Blazer Builders, a Junior Lego League Club.

For several years we have offered our readers and opportunity to be
a member of our Page Turner’s Book Club. Students in 2nd-5th grade attend on Wednesday mornings and can simply read books of their choice. If they wish, Page Turner members can adopt shelves to care for (this year we are adding “Shelfie” pics to the shelves) they may write book reviews for new books to publish on my blog, and also new this year, a chance to capture and reflect on their reading choices, likes, dislikes, and interests by jotting down their thoughts in a journal chronicling their reading year.

Our Storytelling club is open to 4th and 5th graders who want to learn the art of storytelling from a professional storyteller (Mr. Haynes). We meet each Thursday morning for 2 twelve week sessions and at the completion of the sessions, students have the opportunity to share their stories with our younger students and their peers.

With the addition of our MakerSpace, we have added a MakerKid’s Club for interested students. We have set up 6 week sessions for each grade level. We have just finished our second grade session where students learned so much by creating artbots, showed creativity by building recycled robots, tried out our Sphero robotic balls, and used our building skills to construct the tallest freestanding TinkerToy structure possible. Our first grade MakerKid’s Club begins next and our first grade makers will be working through a Halloween Lego Challenge, make and shoot straw rockets, and work for several sessions making and storyboarding shadow puppet stories.

New this year we are also starting a Junior Lego League called Blazer Builders for our third graders. It is our hope that these builders will continue to learn more about building and programming as they move on to fourth and fifth grade and be able to continue their passion in middle and high school.

For over 15 years our library has hosted Reading Adventure Nights for students in grades 1-5. Students stay after school until 7:30. In that time students have a snack, rotate through 4 activity rooms, listen to a storyteller, and enjoy pizza. These nights run on volunteer power from parents and staff. The funding for our storyteller and pizza are a result of our supportive PTA!

For the first time this year we also participated in International Dot Day and focused on how our students can make their mark on the world.

On Saturday, October 11th from 9:00am -11:30 am we hosted a Global Day of Play in the library. This day was started by the Imagination Foundation in response to the popularity of Caine’s Arcade and his cardboard creations. We weren’t sure how many families would be able to take time out of their busy Saturday mornings to join us, but we had a fabulous turn out for the event. We had over 50 families come and build cardboard creations and play the student made arcade games, marble runs, and marble mazes. It was so heartwarming to see moms and dads and even grandparents...
“The many activities and events offered via our library allow our students to be involved in whatever they are interested in whether it be reading, thinking, making, inventing, writing, problem-solving, creativity, or just being social.”

actively embrace designing, creating, and building with their kids.

Animoto of the event: http://bit.ly/ZW3t7o

Reading Award Programs continue to be a big focus of our library program at Lewis and Clark. Students in K-5 are all involved in some way with the award program at their level. Kindergarten students are read the Building Block nominees and then vote for their favorite title. First and second grade students are read the Show Me nominees and then they vote for their favorite title. Third grade students read and vote for their favorite KC3 nominee. Fourth and fifth grade students read and vote for their favorite Mark Twain nominee.

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade readers have tremendous support from their classroom teachers who encourage participation in reading the nominees. Additionally, we set reading milestones that help kids set small goals in an effort to read all the nominees. Each year we have over 80 students who read all the MT or KC3 nominees.

Our district believes that students benefit from the opportunity to see and learn from authors. Each year we have one or two visiting authors that come and share their writing and experiences with us. This year our students will be exposed to two amazing authors, Dean Pitchford, author of The Big One-Oh, Captain Nobody, and Nickel Bay Nick will speak to our older kiddos and Bridget Heos, the author of Mustache Baby and many other books will visit our younger kiddos.

5. Student Voice and Choice

The many activities and events offered via our library allow our students to be involved in whatever they are interested in whether it be reading, thinking, making, inventing, writing, problem-solving, creativity, or just being social.

We recently received a Little Free Library from one of our middle schools that was built by students in an industrial arts class. We set up a contest for any student k-5 to enter a design how they think the LFL should be painted. Our student body voted on a design submitted by two of our fifth grade students and they will soon begin painting what they imagined!

With the addition of our MakerSpace, it became evident that our library is changing and we needed to create and new identity and along with that a new logo. So once again, students were invited to create the logo. In the end, a group of students were selected to work on the logo. They have met several times to discuss different options and ideas based on their original creations.

Through several years of student surveys and student questions, it was evident that our students had a hard time finding what they wanted in the library. We tried changing signage, labels, and added even more instruction on Destiny and OPAC. Ultimately, the data showed us that our students would benefit from genrifying the fiction area of the library. So, over the summer Lynne and I set to work. We weeded, sorted, labeled, and updated the MARC records of our fiction section. We are very pleased with the results so far. This change has helped our students successfully find what they are wanting to read.

Additionally, in past years, we have written two grants that have focused solely on our students selecting the books they wanted in the library. This is just another way to value student choice and give them a voice in the collection in their school library.
What Inspires You to Come to the Library Everyday?

No day is ever the same! There is always something to learn or learn to do better! This summer I had the opportunity to hear two amazing speakers...Will Richardson and George Couros. Each left me with a thought that I carry into the library with me each morning. Will said, don’t limit kids to what we as adults think they can do and George asked us to consider if we would want to spend every day in our own class. Those two ideas have changed how my students and I spend our days together.

What is Your Philosophy About Running an Elementary Library?

My philosophy is quite simple...Balance! My goal this year is to provide a balance of reading, thinking, and making in the library. I see myself as a guide to students’ learning, not the source of their learning. If we set our kids up for success by scaffolding their learning and then get out of the way and let them figure it out, problem-solve, fail, iterate, and go deeper, they will, and they will WOW you!

Outside of the Library What Do You Like to Do?

I have three children of my own…

An 18 year old son heading to Iowa State University next fall who is on his high school football and rugby teams; a 14 year old daughter who is involved in Kansas City Youth Symphony, her middle school’s honor’s orchestra program, cross country, track, and several school clubs; and a 13 year old daughter who is my dancer and is involved in school clubs. Therefore, most of my time involves their activities and events.

When my kids are not keeping me busy, I put my creativity to work churning out projects for school and our home that I find on Pinterest. I also like to catch up on the many blogs that I follow on a variety of topics, and love books by James Patterson, Janet Evanovich, Nicholas Sparks, and Jodi Picoult.

5 Favorite Read-Alouds?

* The Most Magnificent Thing
* Press Here
* Mustache Baby
* Memoirs of A Goldfish
* Monkey With A Toolbelt

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