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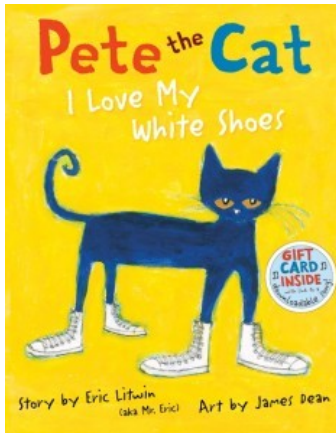
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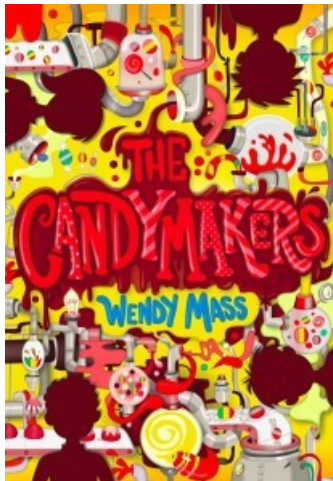
Have a great idea for an article for a future issue?

Contact Melissa Davison at davisomb@forsyth.cc

North Carolina Children's Book Award Program Announces 2013 Winners



The Picture Book winner, with 29,598 of the 98,087 votes cast, is ***Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*** by Eric Litwin



The Junior Book winner, with 1,496 of the 9,651 votes cast, is ***The Candymakers*** by Wendy Mass

The North Carolina Children's Book Award Program is a children's choice program sponsored by school and public libraries in North Carolina and is designed to introduce children to current children's literature and to instill a love of reading.

The 2014 nominated titles for the NCCBA contest will be announced in mid-May.

For further details, please visit:

<http://www.cmlibrary.org/bookhive/nccba/>

For additional information, please contact Jane Deacle at:

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Who is Generation C?

Joan Sherif

Northwestern Regional Library

Generation C has been defined as a new emerging generation with members having one big thing in common: they are tech-savvy and digital natives. Sometimes they are defined to be ages 18-34. Others say that this generation includes people of all ages who are also digital natives.

What are some other characteristics of Gen C? They love content creation and mashing and have a tendency to form active communities. They gravitate toward social media sites where they can participate in discussions. Team-oriented, they thrive on the four C's: connection, creation, community, and creation. Gen C is made up of some of the billion YouTube viewers watching South Korea's Psy doing Gangnam Style.

Is this group involved in libraries? Some say yes, but there are questions. A recent community survey done by the Charlotte Mecklenburg County Library showed that this group is under-served and under-represented. A group of Charlotte-Mecklenburg librarians is following up to find ways to better serve this group.

At the NCLA Biennial Conference in October, Lori Special from the State Library of North Carolina will be facilitating a panel to discuss this age group and their interests. Watch for the conference program, and plan to attend.

STEM and Preschool Outreach
Tamara Kraus
Outreach Coordinator
Hickory Public Library

Since 1996, Hickory Public Library has provided the preschools of the city of Hickory with high quality, age-appropriate story times and books for three and four year olds. Our preschool story teller, aka “The Library Lady,” prepared monthly story times using themed books, puppets, and music. She also delivered themed book crates every month to the preschool classrooms, and teachers are encouraged to use the books in their own circle times and to teach the children how to handle books carefully.

As time went by, the books we delivered became outdated and stale, and the teachers asked us to somehow refresh our program so we would meet their need for books that matched their curriculum. At the same time, we were learning about the federal and state government’s new emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, which is known as STEM education.

Research shows that the United States is lagging far behind other developed countries in science and mathematics education. Technology companies are locating their headquarters out of the country or they recruit their high-tech workers from overseas because we do not enough qualified candidates to fill their job requirements. This is especially true in Western North Carolina, and the Hickory metropolitan area has been especially hard hit.

In the past, Hickory was the furniture capitol of the world. Twice a year salespeople and executives filled the restaurants and hotels to buy and sell top-quality furniture and case goods. Many people graduated from high school and went to work in the furniture factories and were pretty much guaranteed a good job until they retired. Cable companies were also an excellent job opportunities where you did not have to earn a college degree to work.

Today, there are still furniture companies, and cable still maintains a presence, but the glory days of manufacturing are over. Companies moved their business overseas where labor and materials were cheaper; the housing bubble finally burst; and high-speed internet access and other technology sent the cable businesses packing. Hickory hit the recession before the rest of the country, and we are still struggling to get back on our financial feet. Now, you need to earn at least an associate's degree and preferable a four-year degree before you have a chance at any job, much less a good one. The business climate has changed, and the only way to meet the needs of high-tech companies now is through education.

As children's librarians, we know that the only way to make lasting changes is to start in the preschool years. From birth to age five, we are able to plant the seeds of a love of learning, and exposure to new ideas and ways of thinking. When we were thinking about how we could change our outreach program, we decided that we would do away with the themed book crates and focus on STEM.

We bought new book bags labeled with our library's name, and we ordered brand new books that were related to the STEM topics. We bought books about insects, gardening, cars, computers, airplanes, and yes, we even bought "Goodnight iPad." (I can see you rolling your eyes!) We bought counting books and shape books and construction books. Instead of coming up with themes, we just filled the book bags with ten STEM books each and included a sheet with teaching tips and fun places for field trips. We partnered with a community organization called Champions of Education, and consulted with local school science teachers.

We have been using these new bags for a year, and the teachers are loving them. Our story teller always chooses one or two STEM books to use in her story times, as well as discussing some of the ideas from the books with the children in the classroom. It was a successful revamp of an already successful program, and as time goes by we will continue to strive to meet the needs of our preschool children.

2013-2015 Biennium Slate of Candidates NCLA/YSS

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