

COUGAR NEWSLETTER

MIAMI KILLIAN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

SPRING 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



2011 brings with it the exciting anticipation of the many possibilities that we look forward to during the second half of the school year. As our Cougar family continues to work hard in preparation for the many upcoming challenges that await us, keep up the level of enthusiasm that has helped us see such progress in our overall results.

Our efforts last year to “Make a Difference” enabled us to achieve the improved school grade of “B”. As we strive this year to “Be the Change” remember that our level of energy can and does influence students to understand the importance of working hard to reach their goals.

How fortunate we are to be part of a profession that has such a direct impact on the future of our society. We truly matter in this effort

Myra Dewhurst



THANK YOU!

I feel so honored to have had the privilege of being selected as this year’s Teacher of the Year for Miami Killian. This is especially significant when I see the number of wonderful teachers that make up our Killian faculty.

As a Media Specialist I am in a unique position to see the incredible work that many of you do on behalf of your students throughout the year. I feel fortunate to be part of such a dedicated and hard work team.

Thank You!



THE HISTORY OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History was originally recognized as “Negro History Week” in 1926. Carter G. Woodson is largely credited with the promotion of the recognition of Black History Month. Woodson was born to former slaves, worked in the Kentucky coal mines as a child, he completed high school and went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. Throughout his studies he was disturbed by the absence of information pertaining to the contributions of Black Americans to our history and took on the challenge of writing about the many admirable contributions made by African Americans.

Woodson chose the second week of February to celebrate Black History because of the fact that the birthdays of Fredrick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln occurred during this week and the contributions of these two people that had a great impact on the Black American population. Over the years Negro History Week evolved into the Black History Month that we celebrate today.

As we prepare to recognize Black History Month, it is important that we take this opportunity to promote an appreciation for the many heroic sacrifices made by many brave souls under extremely dangerous circumstances.

Listed below please find a list of websites that may be helpful as you to plan activities that recognize the contributions of African Americans.

www.biography.com/blackhistory/
www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/bio
www.LibraryofCongress.gov



www.gale.com/free_resources/bhm/
www.historychannel.com/blackhistory/
www.britannica.com/Blackhistory/

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



On the weekend of January 17th, we celebrated the great contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King's great writing is often overlooked as we focus more on his amazing courage in the most challenging of times. I have included a few of his many inspirational quotes below:

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

“Most people are thermometers that record or register the temperature of majority opinion, not thermostats that transform and regulate the temperature of society.”

“Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.”



VALENTINE'S DAY

Are your students studying the Great Depression? This Valentine's Day why not cover the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, February 14, 1929. This massacre shocked the American people more than any previous street violence because of its execution style killing. Learn more by visiting www.mysterynet.com/vdaymassacre



On a lighter note, did you know that Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages, with written Valentines beginning in the 1400's? Esther A. Howland created the first U.S. Valentine greeting card in the 1840's. Ms. Howland also known as the Mother of the Valentine, made her creations with scraps of lace, ribbons and colorful pictures. Check these websites out for more about the history of Valentine's Day: www.history.com/minisites/valentine/ or www.pictureframes.co.uk/pages/saint_valentine.htm



**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM THE MEDIA CENTER STAFF!**



ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATING THE GREEN!



March 17th is day of much fun and celebration. We like to sport something green in honor of this special day but seem to have limited information about it's true origins. Take this opportunity to enlighten your students about the origins and customs of St. Patrick's Day.



The following excerpt is from this web site: <http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday/>

St. Patrick is believed to have driven the snakes from Ireland. Once a pagan himself. St. Patrick is one of Christianity's most widely known figures.

The modern secular holiday is based on the original Christian saint's feast day also thought to be the date of the saint's death. In 1737, Irish immigrants to the United States began observing the holiday publicly in Boston and held the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City in 1766.

Today, the tradition continues with people from all walks and heritages by wearing green, eating Irish food, and attending parades. St. Patrick's Day is bursting with folklore, from the shamrock to the leprechaun and to pinching those that are not wearing green.

FCAT ACTIVITIES IN THE MEDIA CENTER

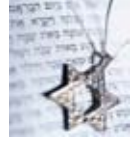
As we prepare for our upcoming FCAT, remember that we must all be invested in the outcome in order to achieve success. We in the Media Center hope to contribute to this effort as we continue to work with all of the Intensive Reading classes on their reference and research skills on a monthly basis.

I would like to thank all of the dedicated teachers that have participated in these learning activities. Your effort and participation makes a world of difference in student performance.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

www.hmd.org.uk



January 27th has been designated as Holocaust Memorial Day. This web site has a wealth of information on this topic and may be helpful in planning related activities. The following excerpt is from the above mentioned web site:

Between 1933 and 1945, over six million men, women, and children were systematically murdered by the German Nazi party because they were identified as being Jewish. Not only German Jews, but those in surrounding countries- Poland, Holland, France, Greece and many others- were deliberately sought out to be annihilated. The society where this took place considered itself to be 'civilized'. It had, as its tradition and heritage, the Christian religion, together with a wealth of poets, philosophers, scientists and musicians.

A British soldier, inaptly named John Coward, was captured by the Germans. He soon realized that the POW camp adjoined a Jewish section where conditions were indescribably worse. He hit upon an idea to save lives. When a prisoner on his side of the camp died, he would drag the body to the wire and exchange the dead man for one of the Jewish inmates.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

*“Far away there in the sunshine are my highest aspirations.
I may not reach them, but I can look up and see their beauty, believe in them,
and try to follow where they lead.”*

Louisa May Alcott

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

Unfortunately, today many women around the world still struggle against injustices imposed upon them in the name of primitive cultural customs. Additionally, each year 1.5 – 3 million girls and women are killed through gender related violence.

This is a great opportunity for us to impress upon students the important contributions made by women as well as their vital role in a successful, productive society.

We hope that you enjoyed the quotations listed above and will visit our Women's History book display that includes more inspiring quotes from women of note.

For more information you can visit the following websites for ideas on topics that promote the many contributions of women throughout history.

Listed below are some web sites that might be helpful:



<http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/womenhist/>

<http://www.nwhm.org>

http://www.gale.com/free_resources/whm/index.htm

<http://cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/wom/index.htm>

<http://www.greatwomen.org/>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/researchtools/articlearchives/womhst/>



"LOCAL ACTION..GLOBAL IMPACT!"

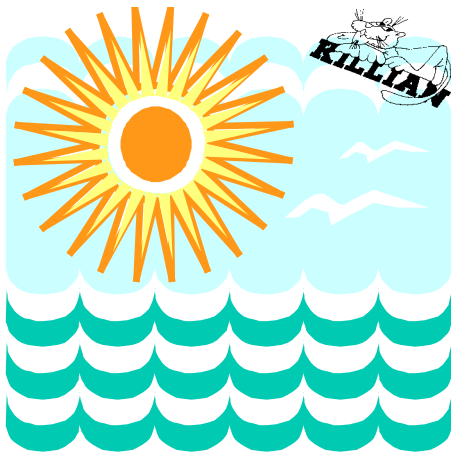
April 22nd is Celebration of Earth Day

Every individual effort adds up and can have a significant impact on our future. Make a difference - your children will thank you for it. For more than 40 years major Earth Day events have taken place around the world. This year will be no different as hundreds of thousands of organizations



are making plans to declare a worldwide movement to protect our planet and our children.

Check out www.earthday.org for free teacher resources and lesson plans for Earth Day and other environmental issues, and please visit our Media Center's "Going Green" display during



HAVE THAT COUGAR SPRING BREAK!

The upcoming Spring Break is a great time for Killian staff and students to READ for pleasure. Encourage students to come by and check out some books of interest. Additionally, remind them that the Miami-Dade Public Library system will be open during Spring Break.

Check them out at:

<http://www.mdpls.org>

to find out about available books

as well as their branch locations and hours.

HAVE A GREAT, SAFE SPRING BREAK.

APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

Established in 1996 by the Academy of American Poets, National Poetry Month was established to increase the attention paid to the art of poetry, to living poets, to our poetic heritage, as well as poetry books and magazines. Some of the important goals of National Poetry Month are:

- ◆ Highlight the achievements of American poets.
- ◆ Make poetry an important part of school curriculum.
- ◆ Introduce more people to the pleasures of reading poetry.
- ◆ Bring poets and poetry to the public.

For more information on poetry visit

www.poets.org

**Happy
Birthday
Bill!**



**April
23rd**





CELEBRATE LIBRARY MEDIA MONTH



IN APRIL



The Media Center encourages you to celebrate Library Media Month by reinforcing the importance and value of libraries. Encourage students to visit their school and community libraries. Students will have much greater success if they are aware of the many resources available to them and how to utilize them.

Teachers might consider rewarding students for having or signing up for a Miami-Dade Public Library System card. Students can easily access a library card registration at www.mdpls.org.

MONTHLY MOVIE PROMOTIONS

In an effort to promote interest in a variety of literature/ authors the Media Center will be showing a movie each month. Additionally, a book display of the highlighted author will be made available along with a handout. We hope that exposure to these works will spark a desire to explore different pieces. Please encourage your student to attend. Listed below are the scheduled fall presentations:



Friday, January 28th, during lunches:

Jurassic Park

Michael Crichton

Thursday, February 17th, during lunches:

Remember the Titans

Black History Month

Friday, March 25th, during lunches:

The Notebook

Nicholas Sparks

Friday, April 29th, during lunches:

Angels & Demons

Dan Brown

Friday, May 20th, during lunches:

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

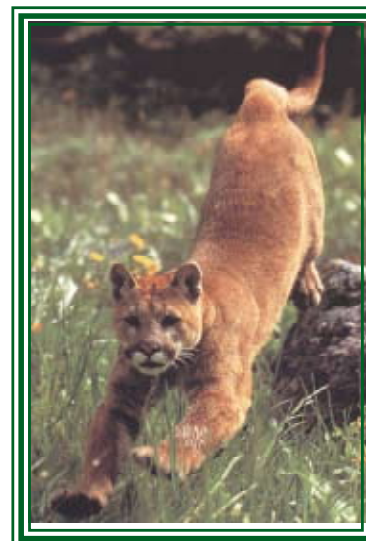
J.K. Rowling



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Please remember that the Media Center is a very active place. As you make your plans for the remainder of the school year, keep the following important dates in mind. Please note that due to limited space the Media Center will not be available for classes during these times:

- January 24thASVAB
- January 25th SIR Visitation
- January 26th Feeder Pattern Breakfast
- February 2nd Curriculum Fair
- February 22nd - 28th Subject Selection
- March 1st - 3rd FCAT Writing
- March 4th, 7th & 8th Subject Selection
- March 9th - 29th** Library Inventory
- March 30th - April 6th FCAT Retakes
- April 11th - 25th FCAT
- May 2nd - 13th AP Testing
- Friday May 13th** Last day to check-out books
- Friday May 27th** All library books are due
- Friday June 3rd** All teacher check-outs are due



As always, thank you for your cooperation.

F.Y.I. MEDIA CENTER HOURS ARE 7:00 AM-3:00 PM. F.Y.I.

Students may check out a maximum of three books at one time. Late fee for books is 5¢ per book, per day. All students coming to the Media Center must have a properly completed yellow hall pass. It may not always be possible to allow individual students with hall passes access to the Media Center computers - they may be reserved for use by classes. Due to high demand for computer usage, students are not allowed to use computers for games during school hours.



FREE BOOKS!



Thanks to all of you who think of us when you're cleaning out your bookshelves. The Media Center appreciates your books. Books that are not able to be cataloged always find a good home on the Free Book Cart which is available to faculty and students. Keep those books coming. A Free Book and Video Shelf is also available to Killian Staff in the Teachers' Lounge. Feel free to take from and/or contribute to this collection.



INVENTORY!



The Media Center will be conducting inventory of all books and equipment beginning March 9th and concluding March 29th. Please bear with us as we attempt to account for items in order to complete our required report.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

IMPORTANT REMINDER

All students visiting the Media Center during class time must have an official yellow pass and a Killian I.D. card when they sign in at the front desk. Lunch time students must also have a Killian I.D. card when they sign in at the front desk.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.

SCHEDULING THE COMPUTER LAB

Please be aware that time available in the computer lab is limited. Due to high demand teachers are asked to schedule computer lab time as soon as possible.

Teachers planning to utilize the computer lab should plan to collaborate with the media center staff in advance in order to review the activities and policies, as well as additional resources available to support class objectives.



CHECKING OUT MAGAZINES



The Killian Media Center has a wide variety of magazines available for checkout. Please note that the most current issue of a magazine may not be checked out until it is replaced with a newer issue. This ensures teachers and students will have the most current issues available to read while visiting the Media Center during free time. Back issues are available for checkout.