

Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg! Update

Volume 1, Issue 3

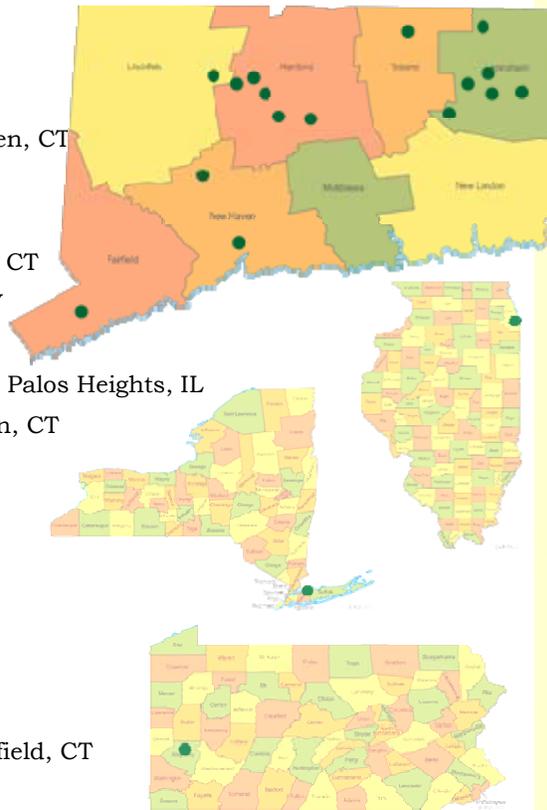
www.sblceastconn.org/nutmegbooks2008.htm

Fall 2007

Our Growing Nutmeg Participation



- Avon Middle School, Avon, CT
- Brooklyn Elementary School, Brooklyn, CT
- Brooklyn Middle School, Brooklyn, CT
- Central School, Simsbury CT
- Chaplin Elementary School, Chaplin, CT
- Chase Collegiate School, Waterbury, CT
- Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hamden, CT
- Hampton School, Hampton, CT
- Har-Bur Middle School, Burlington, CT
- King Philip Middle School, West Hartford, CT
- Manhasset Middle School, Manhasset, NY
- McKee Elementary School, Oakdale, PA
- Navajo Heights and Independence Jr. HS, Palos Heights, IL
- New Canaan Country School, New Canaan, CT
- Pace North, Dayville, CT
- Plainville Middle School, Plainville, CT
- Plainfield Memorial School, Plainfield, CT
- Pomfret School, Pomfret, CT
- Roaring Brook School, Avon, CT
- Stafford Middle School, Stafford, CT
- Thompson Brook School, Avon, CT
- Wethersfield Elementary School, Wethersfield, CT
- Windham Middle School, Willimantic, CT
- Woodstock School, Woodstock, CT



Inside this issue:

Foldables® in Action	2
Students' Postings	2
A Note from Us	3
Upcoming Workshops	3
Welcome to <i>Spice it Up 2009</i>	4



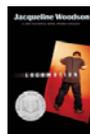
What's New on the Wikis

Sequels and Chapters

Do you have students that hate when they finish a book because they were so involved in it that they wanted it to go on and on? Well, now it can. We have added new pages to each book wiki where students can write the next chapter in the story, or come up with a whole new book as a sequel.

Poetry in Locomotion

Inspired by the poetry format of the Nutmeg nominee, *Locomotion*, students in Mary Blain's 7th grade class started writing their own poems. This motivated us to add a poetry page to the wiki where students can post their artistic expressions.



Class Pages & Icons

Have you checked out Ms. Weldon and Ms. Augustine's class pages on the intermediate wiki? Take a look and add a comment on the discussion tab. We also see that some students are creating their own icons. Directions are on the website in Lessons and Resources.

Nutmeg Facts:

- The 2009 Nutmeg Book Award nominees have already been selected.
- ♦ The Nutmeg Book Award committee is excepting 2010 student reader applications at their website. The committee is looking for super readers in grades six through nine. Nutmeg Book Award website: www.nutmegaward.org

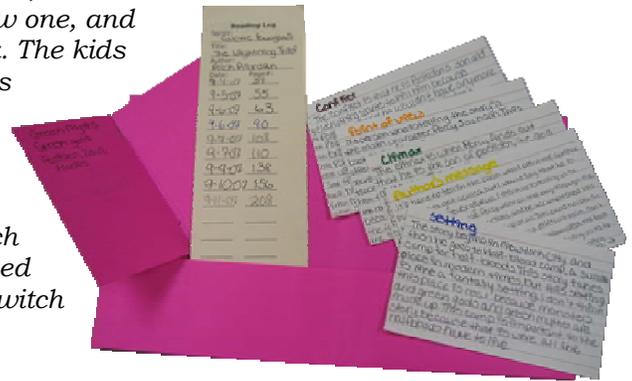
Foldables in Action in the Classroom

From Mary Blain's blog entry:

"For each book that the students read, they create a pocket book and an interest book, and they have seven index cards to use for notes, one for each of the story elements in the flip book. These pocket books are great because students can just slip them inside the book and don't need to carry yet another notebook or journal. I also created a bookmark reading log for students to record their progress. The bookmarks are different colors for first, second,

third book etc. That way I can tell at a glance how many books each student has read. As students complete a book, they hand in their pocket book and bookmark, return the book, check out a new one, and make a new pocket book. The kids seem to like this, and it is working well for me, too! Students have also been using the journal response booklets for additional writing on each of the books. When I asked them if they wanted to switch

to answering on lined paper, they chose to continue with the booklets!"



View the entire blog at <http://sblc.edublogs.org>

Students Posting Great Questions and Responses on Wikis

Ingrid's Family



Would you have wanted to live with Ingrid or even possibly in her place? In other words, do you think her family is idealistic or its faults outweigh the good points? Keep in mind her brother, Ty, and his problems with drinking and controlling his anger. To view students' responses to this question, go to *Down the Rabbit Hole* in the Teen wiki and under the discussion tab, click on Ingrid's family.

Emako dies



When Emako dies from the gun shot I wanted to cry for everyone who loved her including Monterey. I was also mad at her brother for targeting her house to the gangs! When I finished this book I realized it was written from her funeral. To view the rest of this emotional dialogue, go to *Emako Blue* in the Teen wiki and under the discussion tab, click on Emako dies.

Characters in the Nutmeg Book



I would have to agree with Alannah that Delphine is also my favorite character. She knows what she wants and when she wants it. She's not afraid to speak her mind and tell how she feels. When doing this though she puts it in a nicely manner and is not rude or mean about it. She is also brave when it comes to difficult times throughout her life. I personally think that without Delphine in this story, the story would not win my vote in a Nutmeg election! To view the questions that led to this response, go to *The River Between Us* in the Teen wiki and under the discussion tab, click on Characters in the Nutmeg Book.

Alice: Is she a good witch or bad witch?



Throughout the whole story, I had trouble trusting Alice. At First she seemed sweet and gentle, helping Tom out of the bind with the boys troubling him for food. But then she tricked him into feeding Mother Malkin the cakes to bolster her strength. Although she seemed worried about Tom when she would warn him of the dangers to come, I just couldn't trust her. Even at the end when she saved Ellie's baby, I still was unsure from when she was looking at Mother Malkin through the mirror. And even after reading the ending, I can't tell if she is malevolent or benign. Do you think she's a good witch or a bad witch? To view the questions that led to this response, go to *The River Between Us* in the Teen wiki and under the discussion tab, click on Characters in the Nutmeg Book.

Wikis, Real Reasons to Write!

Who would have expected that something so simple as a wiki would be a perfect way for teachers to provide authentic purposes for their students writing and research, build background knowledge necessary for comprehension, connect nonfiction texts to fiction texts, and differentiate instruction?



On the Intermediate and Teen wikis, students are collaboratively writing summaries of

Nutmeg nominees, editing each other's work as they see fit. Based

A Bear Named Trouble wiki entry published by students from Oakdale, Pennsylvania

Mama Goose is a favorite animal to little kids at the [Anchorage Zoo](#). She is very lively and is of course, a goose. She will honk back at you if you honk and loves corn. Mama Goose is a great character in this book.

on their own interests, they are researching background information about the stories. They are embedding hyperlinks to their research into the written summaries, providing readers of the wiki with background knowledge helpful for deeper comprehension of the books.

Students understand that their work is being published for public view and use, so they are motivated to put in the effort to produce text that is well written and free of errors.

A Note From the Project Coordinators

When we first started the project we believed that it would be a good way to motivate the students because it connected to their world outside of school. We also felt that we were providing a safe, purposeful, collaborative learning environment where students would practice the academic and social skills needed for success in the 21st century.

However, what we are especially pleased about is the willingness of students to generate deep and complex questions and participate

in the most amazing discussions about the books. Through their responses, they are building understandings, reflecting their true voices, exchanging ideas, showing respect, and validating each others opinions.

Today, we hear so many negative stories about kids and their use of online social networking tools that we lose sight of how these tools can be used in a purposeful way. We thought the following quote from Rebecca's dad after viewing the

students' discussions on the Nutmeg wiki sort of says it all.

"Wow, I didn't realize that there were good things like this happening with kids on the internet. All you hear about is the bad stuff. More people need to know this kind of stuff is happening."

Our job just became bigger!

Donna and Rebecca



Upcoming Workshops

■ Blogging Basics*

December 11, 2007

■ Foldables® Across the Content Areas

January 8, 2008

■ Wikis and Blogs for Collaboration and Learning

January 15, 2008

■ The Wonderful World of Wikis*

February 13, 2008

■ The Potential of Podcasting*

April 8, 2008

■ Digital Storytelling*

April 29, 2008

How to Register for *Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg! 2008*

Send an e-mail to sblc@eastconn.org with your name, school, and grade level.

■ Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg 2009!

Spring, 2008

* These workshops are part of the *Motivating the Plugged in Generation* series and participants can receive a discount of 15% if they register and pre-pay for all four.



Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg!

322 Main Street
Building #1
Willimantic, CT 06226

Phone: 860-455-0707

Fax: 860-456-7845

Email: sblc@eastconn.org
www.sblceastconn.org

Coming in the fall of 2008

Around the World One Story at a Time

Our World, Our Stories

Two new online projects where K-8 students develop global perspectives through the reading of discussions of multicultural literature.



Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg

is an EASTCONN SBLC supported program



Standards Based Learning Center

The Gateway to Translating Standards into Meaningful Learning

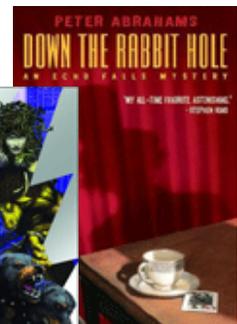
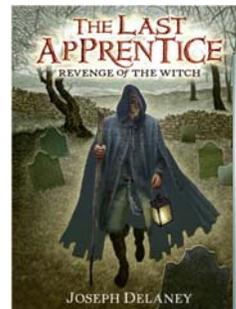
The Standards Based Learning Center is part of EASTCONN's Teaching and Learning division located in Willimantic, CT. We are dedicated to supporting educators, schools and districts in their use of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and data as they work towards continuously improving student achievement. Our curriculum consultants can work with you to provide customized training and/or technical assistance at your school or districts in all areas in of curriculum, assessment, instruction, school improvement and data.

The Mission of the Standards Based Learning Center is to provide:

- Access to current and emerging trends in assessment, curriculum, instruction, and effective use of data
- Strategies and tools for the use of data in fostering school improvement
- Pathways for educators to share insights, experiences and questions

What's the Most Popular Nutmeg 2008 Book so Far?

Since the 7th graders in the project are the ones who have been reading multiple books and actively responding on the teen wiki, we have quite a lot of data regarding what they think about the teen book nominees. And, if we consider the number of discussions posted about each book as an indication of reader interest and likeability, a few of the books really stand out. It looks like *Revenge of the Witch*, *Down the Rabbit Hole*, and *The Lightning Thief*, have captivated their readers the most, but of course the contest isn't over yet!!



Spice it Up with Nutmeg! 2009

SShhhhh, it's a secret, but we know the titles of the 2009 Nutmeg Book Award nominees and are busy creating the project for next year. The 2009 project will still have the wiki and discussions. We are planning to include additional teacher resources and more Foldable® activities.

We would like have the *Spice it Up a Notch with Nutmeg! 2009* project available in the spring so that classroom teachers had time to prepare over the summer and begin the project at the start of school in the fall. We also want to make it available to librarians for their summer reading programs.

If you have any ideas about what you would like to see added to the project, please let us know.