

# teacher Connection

A resource from the Youth Services Department of Lake Villa District Library | October 2016

## Human Genetics

The 6th graders are learning about genetics, the inheritance of traits and adaptation. Here are some great fiction and nonfiction books to use in class:

- *The Firefly Code* by Megan Blakemore. Mori and her friends live a normal life on Firefly Lane in Old Harmonie, a utopian community where every kid knows he or she is genetically engineered to be better and smarter, but when a strangely perfect new girl named Ilana moves in, the friends begin to question the only world they have ever known. (fiction)
- *The Neptune Project* by Polly Holyoke. With her awkward limbs, pale-bordering-on-translucent skin, and lungs so weak that she's often left gasping for air, Nere feels more at home swimming with the dolphins her mother studies than she does hanging out with her classmates. Everything falls into place when Nere learns that she is one of a group of kids who have been genetically altered to survive in the ocean. (fiction)
- *Charles and Emma: The Darwin's Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman. Charles Darwin published "The Origin of Species" in 1859. Nearly 150 years later, the theory of evolution continues to create tension between the scientific and religious communities. This same debate raged within Darwin himself, and played an important part in his marriage: his wife, Emma, was quite religious, and her faith gave Charles a lot to think about. (biography)
- *Billions of Years, Amazing Changes* by Laurence Pringle. A carefully researched and clearly written history of the evolutionary process and real-time examples of evolutionary events.
- *Genetics: Breaking the Code of Your DNA* by Carla Mooney. This exploration of genetics uses the question "How are traits inherited from one generation to the next?" as a jumping-off point. Each chapter explains key discoveries and advances that have led to our current understanding of genetics, starting with Gregor Mendel.
- *I Look Like My Mother* by Julie Lundgren. This book discusses how the genes and traits of a parent determine what their offspring will look like. It talks about nature vs nurture and survival of the fittest.
- *Variation in Living Things* by Robert Snedden. Explains the causes and limits of variations in species, and why variation is so important.

## GALE Online Courses

One of our databases, Online Courses (by GALE) offers online classes for free by real teachers that respond to you. Teachers in District 41 can get CPDU credit for taking classes in the Teaching & Learning section. There are over 240 CE hours for teacher on this database. Usually, classes are around \$300, but with an LVDL library card or teacher database card (ask us about this too!), they are free. As long as you take the first two weeks on time, the rest of the class is self paced. There are many topics like differentiation, classroom management, etc.

### Rachel Reinwald

School Liaison  
847.245.5113  
reinwald@lvdl.org

### Kerry Reed

Head of Youth Services  
847.356.7711

## October CPDU New Teacher Q&A

Please join us for this new-teacher orientation. Learn about services we offer to teachers, get a library tour, and hear from a panel of seasoned educators... bring your questions!

## October is Artober

Come in and participate in different art activities throughout the month. We will also have more activity/art tables in the youth services department. (all are drop-in programs)

### Saturday, October 15, 10 am-noon

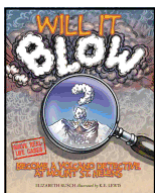
- Painter's tape and tempera paint picture inspired by Claude Monet.
- Cut/torn-paper shape art inspired by Henri Matisse

### Saturday, October 29, 2-4 pm

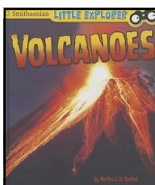
- Paper self-portrait inspired by Pablo Picasso
- Spray-bottle watercolor art inspired by Jackson Pollock

## Natural and Man-made Disasters

The 3rd and 4th graders are learning about how natural disasters and human processes are effecting plant and animals and changing land through earthquakes, pollution, deforestation, dams, drought, erosion, volcanoes and tsunamis. Here are some fun books to supplement volcanoes:



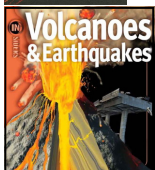
*Will it Blow? Mount St. Helens Volcano* by Elizabeth Rusch  
Learn about what volcanologists do to predict eruptions. Help the scientist look for signs and try detective-in-training experiments you can do in class. The sidebars are informative and the design of the book makes you feel like it's CSI: Volcanoes.



*Volcanoes* by Martha Rustad (Smithsonian Little Explorers) Easy-to-read with great visuals and text features, *Volcanoes* talks about what a volcano is and how the eruption effects people, animals, plants, the weather and the earth itself.



*Volcanoes* by Jennifer Nault. Few natural phenomena conjure awe the way a volcano does, and this entry in the Earth Science series intelligently mixes history, science, geography, careers, and even myths.



*Insiders: Volcanoes & Earthquakes* by Ken Rubin. Great explanations of plate tectonics and their movement, including volcanoes and earthquakes. Superior visuals of each plate formation, maps, photos, and diagrams makes hard-to-explain concepts easy to understand.



*The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier is a spooky read for October. Kip and Molly are orphans arriving in London from Ireland. They are looking for jobs

so they won't have to mudlark in the Thames River. An old lady at the edge of the woods tells them that the mansion through the forest is offering a gardener and a nanny position, but she warns them that there is something wrong with the family. Of course, it is a scary story, and the characters indeed take the jobs. Kip offers to cut down the knarly tree growing into the house and the family quickly jumps on him, "No! Don't touch the tree." The family gets paler by the day, but they are not ghosts. There are body-sized holes in the ground outside that Kip didn't dig. And at night the sibling hear footsteps in the halls. In the morning there are muddy footprints everywhere and dead leaves. The family claim they have no idea where the prints came from and blame Kip and Molly. Things just get spookier from there. *The Night Gardener* is even better on audio! You can hear all of the English and Irish accents and the pacing is spooky too.

