

**Do you have the
Down Low on the
Curriculum
Library?**

The DL on the CL

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The DL with the Director

Happy Holidays!

I know there is lots of hustle and bustle during the holiday season to get what you need accomplished and finish finals. It is also time to enjoy spending time with family and friends. However, for me it is a time for reflection to remember and celebrate you!

What better way to do this than to read a good book, to see a film, or to do both! This year there are options to enjoy the book first and then see the movie or vice versa. A few examples include: the lovable, long-eared mouse in the Newbery award-winning book, *A Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo, *Marley and Me* by John Grogan about a

mischievous golden Labrador that you love to love, and the young adult romance book, *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer.

All in all, relish the season, laugh loud, and cozy up with hot cocoa, a good book and sugar cookies.

Take care,
Marisa



Rambling on with Risch

December is a month filled with holidays! Instead of teaching children just about Christmas, you can spice up your lesson plans and teach diversity in the classroom by celebrating Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa comes from the East African Swahili word meaning "the first". This holiday celebrates the kinship and gathering that connects African harvest customs to the cultural and

social history of African Americans.

The Curriculum Library has numerous books to assist children in learning about this African-American holiday that teaches about family, community and culture. Some of these include *Kwanzaa* by Deborah M.

Newton Chocolate, *The Seven Days of Kwanzaa* by Angela Shelf Medearis, *A Kwanzaa celebration: pop-up book* by Nancy

Williams, and *K is for Kwanzaa: a Kwanzaa alphabet book* by Juwanda G. Ford just to name a few.

The CL has many, many more books to teach about Kwanzaa, so stop in today and learn more about this African-American holiday.

By Amber Risch

Top Marks from Marks

Tired of doing the same old holiday lesson? Do you want to add a little diversity to your classroom around the holidays? Why not learn about Hanukkah? The CL has a wide array of books about Jewish holidays, Hanukkah is no exception.

Hanukkah Festival of Lights: Celebrate with songs, decorations, food, games, prayers, and traditions by Friedman and Rhineland (call # JUV 296.435)

This book has a wide array of activities, songs, and stories about Hanukkah.

The Stone Lamp: Eight Stories of Hanukkah through History by Karen Hesse and Brian Pinkney. (call # JUV 811.54 H5874s 2003)

This book would be great for an older grade level because it observes how Hanukkah was celebrated during different, often difficult, time periods.

A Great Miracle Happened There: A Chanukah Story by Karla Kushkin. (call # JUV 296.435)

A young Jewish boy explains the history and story of Chanukah to his non-Jewish friend. This book would be great to explain the story of Chanukah to a younger audience or to those who

may be unfamiliar with the holiday's history.

The Trees of the Dancing Goats by Patricia Polacco. (call # EAS Pol)

This is another example of both Hanukkah and Christmas being celebrated side by side. The illustrations are colorful and fun!

FYI: Hanukkah can be spelled two ways: Hanukkah or Chanukah.

By Alisha Marks

Make and Take Workshop

The CL will be offering a Make and Take Workshop during the Spring semester. At this time, we are collecting all kinds of household "treasures" aka- junk!

The following is a list of items that we hope to collect:

- Milk jug caps
- Paper Towel tubes
- Wrapping paper scraps

- Pasta
- Popsicle sticks
- Buttons
- Fabric Scraps
- Egg cartons
- Newspapers & Magazines

Thanks for your help!



A-Rod's Advice: Multi-Cultural Holiday Traditions

As the holidays approach, teaching young students about the holidays becomes an issue. So now you're faced with writing a lesson plan that teaches about the holidays without getting too religious and incorporating the traditions of different cultures. What are you going to do? Come on down to the CL; we have what you need!

The Legend of Old Befana and *The Legend of the Pointsettia* both by Tomie De Paola tell tales about traditions from Italy and Mexico, respectively.

They are old traditions, still carried on today, that many students do not know about.

In a lesson, a discussion could be had about holiday traditions the students have with their families. These could be Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, etc. Either of these books could be read, and comparisons could be made between traditions in the book and those of your students.

This is a great way to get everyone into the holiday spirit, as well

as inform students about life outside of their little world!

By Amanda Rodriguez



Zany Reads for Christmas

Tweens and teens will get a kick out of Anne Fine's *The True Story of Christmas*. (FIC Fin) Bubbling with sarcastic humor, Ralph Mountfield introduces the reader to his wacky family. Eccentric grandparents, an uncle who gives out wrapped bricks for presents and a pair of tantrum-throwing cousins round out the holiday gathering for a funny twist on a traditional Christmas.

Jack Kent's *Twelve Days of Christmas* (EAS Ken) is a humorous rendition of a Christmas classic. The cartoon-style drawings show a boy bringing gifts to his true love. Though thrilled at first, by the end of the book the recipient is running from the

barrage of birds, dancers, pipers and drummers. This is a great seasonal counting book for PreK to 3rd grade.

Finally, don't miss Joan Steiner's *Look-Alikes Christmas*. (JUV q793.73 S8223L 2003) Using everyday objects, she creates traditional Christmas scenes. Look closely to find teddy bears made of peanuts and furniture made from noodles and cookies. Steiner's work, which you may remember from an exhibit at the NY State Museum earlier this year, is entertaining for all ages.

By Roseann Marlett



Deal with the Facts

Students in the Communication Sciences Disorders major are always looking for fun activities in the winter to do with their students. They may be looking for materials that focus on a certain sound or materials that assist the child with sequencing/communication skills. Here in the Curriculum Library we have a variety of materials that will help the student find exactly what they need.

There is a specific picture book that is excellent for having a child tell the story just by looking at the pictures. *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs is filled with pictures, and is useful for helping a child who has sequencing/communication difficulties.

There are also books located in our CLR reference section that focus on different winter activities, such as making holiday bouquets, snowflakes and creating winter scenes. These

books are useful in getting the child to think and become creative. All of these activities are wonderful in helping the child learn and have fun!

By Shannon Deal



Find it @ the CL: Series Entries

Curriculum Library (CL) items may have series listed in their catalog records. A series can indicate the item is part of a CL sub-collection. Examples include:

- Big book collection
- Board book collection
- Guidance and counseling curriculum

- New York State materials
- Standardized test collection
- Touhey collection of multicultural resources

Series entries can also tell you the item is part of a publisher's series, such as Magic Tree House, In Their Own Words, and Dear America.

A series name can be used to search for items. For example, if you wanted a list of all board books we own, search "board book collection" as a title. You can also search for items within a collection through the advanced search screen. For example, to look for a big book about friendship, you can search for "Big book collection" in the title field and "friendship" as a keyword.

By Mary Lindner

The Curriculum Library

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**DO YOU HAVE THE
DOWN LOW ON THE
CURRICULUM LIBRARY?**

The Patricia Standish Curriculum Library houses over 12,000 resources and hands-on materials to support undergraduate and graduate studies within [The School of Education](#). The Library offers a circulating reference collection, children's literature, information books, textbooks, kits, manipulatives, readers, and the Touhey Collection of Multicultural Books.

The Curriculum Library is conveniently located on the second floor of the [Thelma P. Lally School of Education building](#).

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