

Rochester Public Library News and Events

101 2nd ST, SE, Rochester, MN 55905 • 507-328-2300
www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

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October 2008

Libraries Change Lives - Homework Help



Jevon Hanenberger, a 10th grader at John Marshall, has been struggling with math. "He is in a large class and one-on-one help is seldom available due to class size and time constraints. After-school help is not an option due to the bus schedule," says his step-father.

The family had been looking at a local program that offered one-on-one help but the cost would have had some serious financial implications to the family budget. They were mulling over how to make the numbers work as getting Jevon proficient in math was a priority.

Jevon's step-father is one of the library's evening security guards. As he was doing his rounds of the library he noticed that a couple of days a week he

saw young people and adults talking and doing what looked like school work.

He stopped by the reference desk on the 2nd floor and learned about the Homework Assistance Program. He had not been aware of this free program offered by the library using volunteers from the community at large. Students can come to the library any Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evening, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:40 p.m., walk into Meeting Room B, and get help with any homework subject. He could not quite believe that the help for Jevon he believed he'd to have to pay for was offered for free in the building where he worked.

Since that evening Jevon has been coming to the library on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and working on his math. While his parents realize that Jevon can only catch up so much in the short time he has been coming to the library, "he's starting to get it," his step-father says. His grades have moved from failing to a strong C. The library volunteers take the time to explain why a math problem is the way it is and work with Jevon to figure out the answer. They are patient. He is looking forward to what he will learn next.

The Homework Assistance Program has changed Jevon's whole attitude. Jevon says, "It's hard wanting to understand and not being able to." Now he does. 📖

From the Director's Desk...

--Audrey Betcher

Has your child ever brought homework to you asking for assistance and you look it over thinking, "I'm not sure I can help?" What if your work schedule doesn't allow you to be home when your child is doing homework? Whom does your child ask, then?

The Rochester Public Library has always been a place for students of all ages to turn for homework assistance. Through the generous support of the Rochester Public Library Foundation, the Rotary

Clubs of Rochester, and Charles and Barbara Withers, RPL has been able to expand support to students with Live Homework Help from Tutor.com. The service began on September 1st after months of planning and implementation.

So what is Live Homework Help? It is an online, on demand homework assistance program. It connects a student with a real tutor in a one-on-one session. Help in math, science, social studies and English is available for grades kindergarten through early college. The service is available from any internet

--continued on back page

One-Stop Shop for all Your Homework Needs

Now that school is back in full swing the homework headaches are not far behind. Don't despair - there is a cure. Rochester Public Library has Homework Help in many different formats for every level of education.

- **tutor.com** is an online service that connects students to trained tutors who will help with homework in the areas of Science, Math, Social Studies and English. Students from kindergarten – 12th grade and even college introduction levels can log on 7 days a week from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The tutors communicate with students with an instant messaging type format and a drawing surface to help diagram those tricky geometry problems. Visit www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/tutor for more information. *Tutor.com was made possible by the generosity of the Rochester Public Library Foundation, Rochester Rotary Clubs and Charles and Barbara Withers.*
- **Homework Assistance Study Table** is held in the library every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening from 6:00 - 8:40 in Meeting Room B. Area volunteers provide individual assistance to students with specific questions regarding their daily homework assignments. Although all students in the community are welcome, the academic levels of students who attend are generally grades 4 - 12.

More Resources at the Library

We recently installed a scanner and the Microsoft Office 2003 programs (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) on Adult Internet Computer A on the 2nd floor. If you need to use a scanner and/or Office programs while you're using the internet, you can request Internet Computer A when you sign up for your Internet reservation. If you don't need Internet access, there is another computer available on the 1st floor near the adult fiction section which has both a scanner and Office 2003 programs. 📖


Be informed before you vote

Now that the political season is in full swing, we have compiled a special list of Election 2008 Web links. There are links for checking out political facts, tracking campaign contributions, registering to vote in Minnesota, checking out the websites of this year's candidates, and much more. From the library website, click on the Reference & Magazines tab to access the Election 2008 web links page. 📖

- **Learn-A-Test** (LearningExpress Library) is an interactive online learning platform that includes practice tests designed to help students with math, writing and reading comprehension skills for elementary through high school levels, GED, college entrance exams and much more. This valuable tool can be found on the library's website by clicking on the Reference & Magazines tab then clicking on the "Alphabetical List of Research Databases" link, then scrolling down to the "Learn-A-Test" option. While you're scrolling, make note of all the other databases available. There's everything from finding out who your great-great-great grandfather was, online encyclopedias, learning Spanish, to fixing cars.
- **Ask a Librarian** option is available during regular library hours. You can reach a librarian by calling 507.328-2309, using instant messaging - IM: RPLmnInfo (yahoo AIM) or by e-mailing us at reference@rochester.lib.mn.us.
- **AskMN 24/7** is a new reference service for library patrons in Minnesota. With AskMN, you can contact a librarian any time, day or night. Just click on the AskMN link in the "Ask A Librarian" sections of our website and you will be able to text message with a librarian immediately. 📖

Pop Wagner
Singing Cowboy
Lariat Spinner
Humorist

Saturday, November 1
Rochester Public Library
Auditorium
10:30 a.m.


Enter to Grow in Wisdom

101 2nd ST SE, Rochester, MN 55904 • 507-328-2300 • www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

October Events @ Rochester Public Library

All library events are free and open to the public

101 2nd Street SE

www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org

507-328-2300

Wednesday, October 1 7:00 pm

Auto Repair Reference Center

Meeting Room B

With a valid library card, you can use this Internet resource from your home computer or in the library. A reference librarian will show you how to search for repair information, technical service bulletins, wiring schematics as well as how to search the library catalog for repair manuals. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Thursday, October 2 10:00 am

Stories for Toddlers and Twos

Auditorium

Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Thursday, October 2 1:30 pm

Senior Techies - Basic Computers

Meeting Room B

A librarian will cover parts of a computer. Participants will use laptop computers to learn how to use a computer mouse and navigate the screen. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Saturday, October 4 10:00 am

Hooray for Saturday! Family Film: *Rip Van Winkle*

Auditorium

Rip Van Winkle prefers telling stories to plowing the land in this classic and magical tale written by Washington Irving.

Sunday, October 5 1:30 pm

Friends of the Library Fall Booksale

Auditorium

Open to the Public at 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Open to the Friends members at 1:00 p.m. To find out how to become a Friends member, call 287-2627.

Monday, October 6 6:30 pm

Sit-Stay-Read

Auditorium

Read aloud for 20 minutes to a friendly therapy dog. Reading times are 6:30 p.m., 6:50 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. When registering online, please enter your preferred dog and time in the e-mail address box (ex: dog@time.com). Dogs and times will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Only a registered child and accompanying parent/adult should attend. Register online, at the children's desk or by calling 328-2303.

Tuesday, October 7 9:30 AM

Introduction to Blogging

Meeting Room B

Would you like to put your thoughts, opinions and pictures on the Internet for your friends, family (and the world) to see? One of the quickest and easiest ways to do that is to create your own "blog." During this class a librarian will talk about blogging and help you set up your own free blog. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Tuesday, October 7 6:30 pm

Bedtime Stories

Auditorium

Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, October 8 6:00 pm

iFIlms: International and Independent Films

Auditorium

Days and Clouds - Drama | Italy | English Subtitles: Well-to-do, sophisticated couple, Elsa and Michele, have enough money for Elsa to leave her job and fulfill an old dream of studying art history. After she graduates, however, their lives change. Michele confesses he hasn't worked in two months and was fired by the company he founded years ago. Elsa overcomes her initial shock by pouring extra energy into facing the crisis while Michele, exhausted by an unsuccessful job hunt, lets himself go, alternating between vivacity and apathy. The growing distance between them eventually leads to a break-up. Only when they are apart will they realize that they risk losing their most precious possession: the love that binds them. *The iFilm series is intended for mature adults. Please provide guidance to your children.*



Thursday, October 9 10:00 am
Stories for Toddlers and Twos
Auditorium
Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Thursday, October 9 1:30 pm
Senior Techies - E-mail
Meeting Room B
Participants should have attended the Basic Computers class (above) or have the skills necessary to set up a free e-mail account. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Saturday, October 11 10:00 am
Hooray for Saturday! Family Program: Old Time Country Music for Kids
Auditorium
Join recording artists Bob Bovee and Gail Heil for a program of good old-fashioned musical fun!

Sunday, October 12 2:00 pm
Author Program: Connie Brockway
Auditorium
Connie Brockway's first romance novel was published in 1994; since then she has written fifteen full-length novels and three anthology stories, bringing the current number of her books in print to over 1,500,000 and published in thirteen countries. Today, Brockway lives in Minnesota with her husband David. *The Coffee House Author Series is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.*



Monday, October 13 6:30 pm
Sit-Stay-Read
Auditorium
Read aloud for 20 minutes to a friendly therapy dog. Reading times are 6:30 p.m., 6:50 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. When registering online, please enter your preferred dog and time in the e-mail address box (ex: dog@time.com). Dogs and times will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Only a registered child and accompanying parent/adult should attend. Register online, at the children's desk or by calling 328-2303.

Tuesday, October 14 6:30 pm
Writing Group
Meeting Room A
Stuck on your first draft? Not sure about your plot? Let's get together and help each other out.

Tuesday, October 14 6:30 pm
Bedtime Stories
Auditorium
Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, October 15 10:00 am
Online Catalog
Meeting Room B
Have you used the library's online catalog lately? Did you know you may view library material due dates and reserve library items online? In this class you will be taught to do these things as well as how to search for your favorite titles, authors or subjects. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Thursday, October 16 10:00 am
Stories for Toddlers and Twos
Auditorium
Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Thursday, October 16 1:30 pm
Senior Techies - Digital Camera
Meeting Room B
Participants will be able to use a digital camera to shoot photos and view them on a computer. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Saturday, October 18 10:00 am
Hooray for Saturday! Family Film Program: Legend of Johnny Appleseed and Legend of Paul Bunyan
Auditorium
Two favorite American folk heroes come to life through the colorful animation of Walt Disney.

Sunday, October 19 2:00 pm
That Writing Contest Awards Program
Auditorium
Join us for the announcement of the 2008 writing contest award winners. The young adult writers will read their award winning poems and short stories.



Monday, October 20 4:00 pm
GOAT Meeting - Group Of Advising Teens
Meeting Room A

Join other Rochester area youth (age 12-18) and take a leadership role to discuss ideas and make plans for youth library programs, teen web page, and other ideas. Any questions, contact Lynette @ 285-8008.

Monday, October 20 6:30 pm
Sit-Stay-Read
Auditorium

Read aloud for 20 minutes to a friendly therapy dog. Reading times are 6:30 p.m., 6:50 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. When registering online, please enter your preferred dog and time in the e-mail address box (ex: dog@time.com). Dogs and times will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Only a registered child and accompanying parent/adult should attend. Register online, at the children's desk or by calling 328-2303.

Tuesday, October 21 3:30 pm
Google & More
Meeting Room B

Learn search tips and various Internet search engines. Previous Internet and computer mouse experience is helpful. Practice time is included. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Tuesday, October 21 6:30 pm
Bedtime Stories
Auditorium

Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

Wednesday, October 22 1:30 pm
Editing Digital Photos
Meeting Room B

Do you want to touch up and crop your digital photos? How about learning how to convert them into e-mail friendly file sizes? This class will demonstrate free online tools for basic editing of your digital photographs. Please bring a digital photo you want to play with on either a flash drive, CD-ROM or other storage device. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.



Wednesday, October 22 7:00 pm
Downloadable Books
Meeting Room B

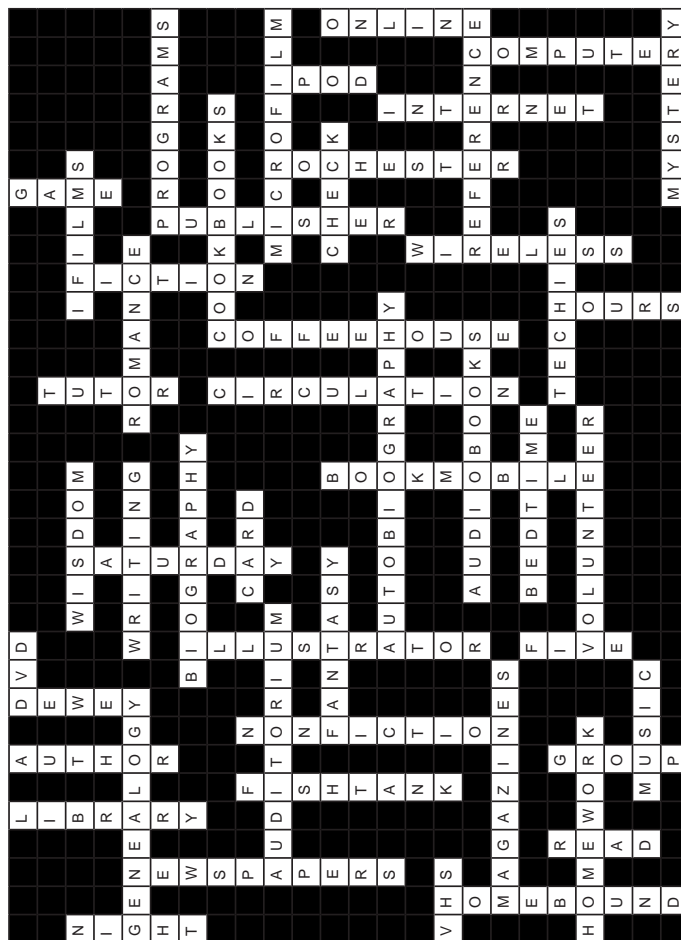
Discover digital books at: digital.rochesterpubliclibrary.org. A librarian will talk about books you can save at your computer, a CD or MP3 player. If you don't own a computer, learn how to save/do this at the library. Don't have an MP3 player? No problem, the library has them available for checkout. Register online, at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk, or by calling 328-2309.

Thursday, October 23 10:00 am
Stories for Toddlers and Twos
Auditorium

Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Thursday, October 23 1:30 pm
Senior Techies - E-mail Photos
Meeting Room B

The class will cover how to e-mail a photo as an attachment. Participants must be comfortable with computers and have an e-mail account. Participants should know their e-mail provider, username and password to access their e-mail on a computer other than their own. Register online, at the second-floor reference desk, or by calling 328-2309.



Crossword puzzle made with www.puzzle-maker.com

Saturday, October 25 **10:00 am**
Hooray for Saturday! Family Program: Spanglish Story Time
Auditorium

Storyteller Laura Randolph presents rhymes, stories, and songs about a special family holiday celebrated by the Mexican culture! Learn about Dia de Los Muertos/Day of the Dead which pays tribute to family ancestors, and is observed with the Mexican love of fiestas and fun.

Sunday, October 26 **2:30 pm**
Yaggy Colby History Lecture
Auditorium

Presented by Olmsted County Historical Society in cooperation with Rochester Public Library. Costs underwritten by Yaggy Colby Associates.

Monday, October 27 **6:30 pm**
Sit-Stay-Read
Auditorium

Read aloud for 20 minutes to a friendly therapy dog. Reading times are 6:30 p.m., 6:50 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. When registering online, please enter your preferred dog and time in the e-mail address box (ex: dog@time.com). Dogs and times will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Only a registered child and accompanying parent/adult should attend. Register online, at the children's desk or by calling 328-2303.

Tuesday, October 28 **6:30 pm**
Bedtime Stories
Auditorium

Puppets, stories and films to give you sweet dreams.

Thursday, October 30 **10:00 am**
Stories for Toddlers and Twos
Auditorium

Stories, puppets, and films for children 18-36 months of age and their parents or care providers.

Friday, October 31 **9:30 am**
Senior Techies - Computer Practice
Meeting Room B

Need a quick refresher on any of our Senior Techies classes? Want some practice using your new e-mail address? Do you need access to a computer, a scanner, a digital camera or the Internet? Join us in Meeting Room B to practice your computer skills as you've always been meaning to do! Computers are provided and a librarian will be there to answer basic computer questions. No registration is necessary, just "drop in." Recommended for patrons 55+.

Relax in a coffeehouse atmosphere as authors tell their stories.

SUNDAYS @ 2:00 P.M.

Connie Brockway
October 12

Catherine Watson
November 16

Lois Greiman
March 8

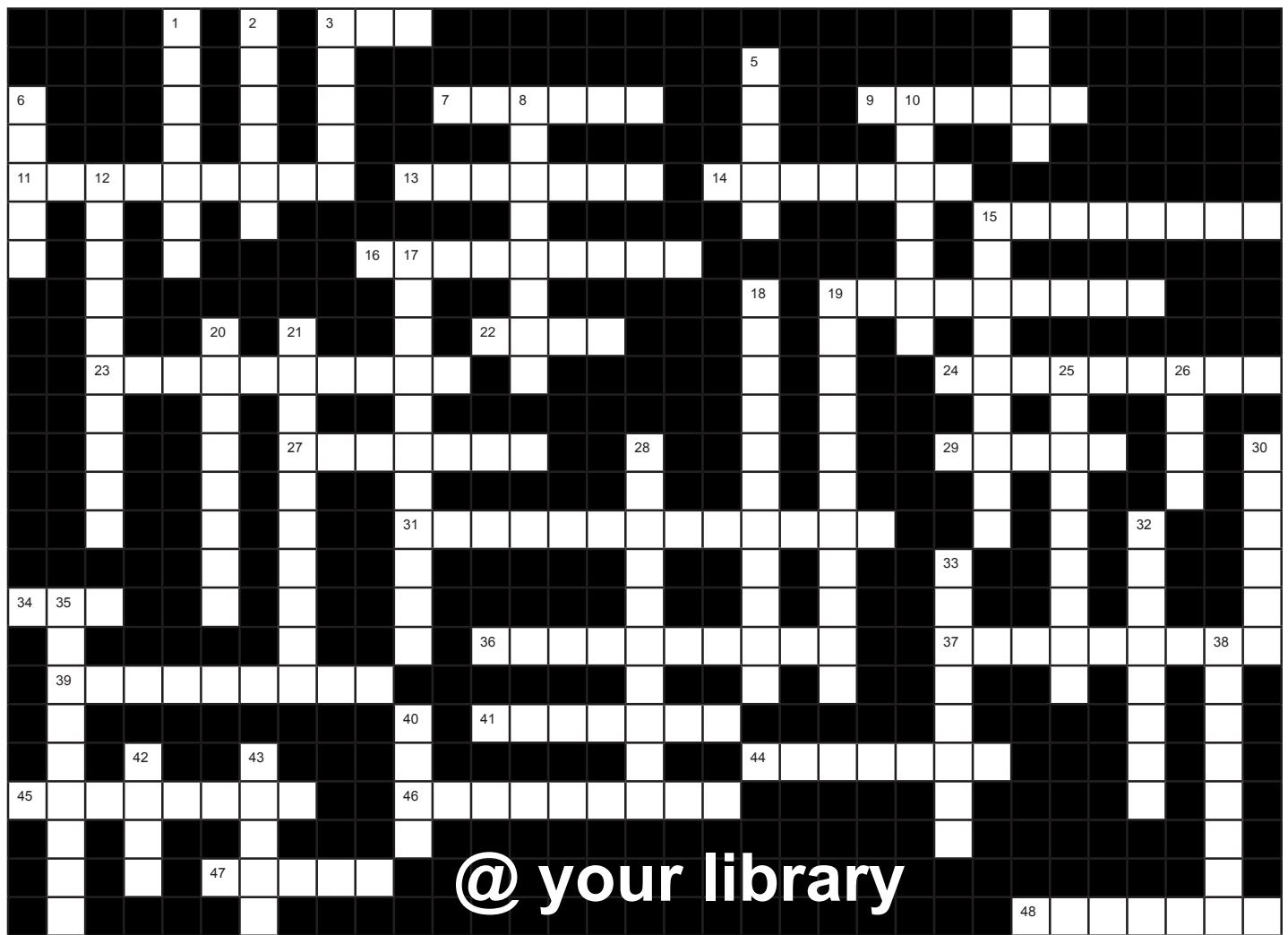
Elissa Elliot
March 29

Loretta Ellsworth
April 19



The 2008/2009 Coffeehouse Author Series begins this month and features local authors presenting their most recently published books. This series is sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library.

For more details, call 328-2305 or pick up the Coffeehouse brochure located at the Fiction, Movies and Music desk on first floor.



answers on page 5

@ your library

ACROSS

- 3. Movie on disk
- 7. Enter to grow in _____
- 9. International and Independent Film
- 11. Study of ancestors
- 13. That _____ contest, annual contest for young adults
- 14. Specific genre of fiction that uses ♥ icon
- 15. The library has many entertaining _____
- 16. Story about someone's life
- 19. Collections of recipes
- 22. Library _____, needed to check out material
- 23. Room where children's programs are held.
- 24. Archive of old newspapers on a reel
- 27. Genre of fiction that uses a unicorn icon
- 29. _____-out desk
- 31. Author writes his/her own story
- 34. Movie on tape
- 36. Books on CD or downloadable from the Internet
- 37. Second-floor _____ desk

- 39. Periodicals containing articles - usually in color
- 41. _____ stories, told at night
- 44. Senior _____, computer classes
- 45. _____ Assistance held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights in Meeting Room B
- 46. Someone who helps at the library
- 47. Fiction, Movies & _____ desk.
- 48. Genre of books using the magnifying glass icon

DOWN

- 1. Rochester Public _____
- 2. One who writes books
- 3. _____ decimal system
- 4. _____ night, new Young Adult program
- 5. _____ .com, new online homework help resource
- 6. _____ owl book group, new book group at the library
- 8. Hooray for _____! Family programs
- 10. A story that is not true
- 12. Periodicals containing articles - usually daily or weekly
- 15. Company that prints books
- 17. Person that draws pictures for books
- 18. _____ desk where you can check-out books and register for a library card
- 19. _____ Author Series featuring local authors
- 20. Popular attraction in the children's area
- 21. A story that is based on true facts
- 25. _____ Reads title will be announced October 27!
- 26. Device to download audiobooks to
- 28. Traveling library
- 30. Located on the Internet
- 32. World Wide Web
- 33. Ability to be online without being plugged in
- 35. _____ program that delivers books to people that can't leave their homes
- 38. Device used to surf the Internet
- 40. Days a reserve is held
- 42. Sit-stay-_____, program for kids and dogs
- 43. Book-_____-in-a-bag

Library Wins National Award



“We provide downloadable audio books, video, and music because it is a service that our community wants and values,” states Kim Edson, Head of Readers’ Services.

The Rochester Public Library has been chosen as a recipient of the 2008 Digital Pioneer award (the “Digies” award) from its digital partner – OverDrive.

The Digital Pioneer award is presented to OverDrive partner libraries that have shown excellence and leadership in delivering digital media to their community through successful collection development,

website management, promotion and community outreach.

The Rochester Public Library has consistently been a leader in offering its patrons access to information in new formats that are of interest to the community. A partnership with OverDrive was a logical choice to deliver 24/7 access to digital media. The Rochester Public Library has also maximized its use of the OverDrive digital platform by being a leader in offering local content and new formats as they have become available.

Kim Edson, Head of Readers Services at the Rochester Public Library says, “It is an honor to receive this national award. We provide downloadable audio books, video, and music because it is a service that our community wants and values. It is an extra bonus to be recognized by the library community as a whole who are acknowledging our library as being a leader in establishing best practices for offering digital collections.”

The award was presented to the Rochester Public Library at Digipalooza '08, the International User Group Conference, July 26 in Cleveland, Ohio at the All-Conference Reception hosted at the House of Blues.

Some of the other winners of this year’s Digies Award were the Boston Public Library, the Delaware County Library System, the Denver Public Library, the Greater Phoenix Digital Library, the New Hampshire State Consortium, the Wisconsin Public Library Consortium and the Southern Ontario Library Service. 📖

--From the Director’s Desk, continued from front page

accessible computer through the library’s website. It is also available on any computer in the library. RPL has contracted for tutoring services from 4 pm – 10 pm seven days a week in both English and Spanish.

Who are the tutors? They are certified teachers, professional tutors, college professors, graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in accredited colleges and universities, and proven subject experts.

RPL worked very closely with the school districts in our service area: Rochester Schools (public and private), the Dover-Eyota School District, and Byron School District, and RCTC. Teachers have been informed about this new service and have received posters for their classrooms and program cards for recommending the service to students. Students

have received folders that highlight the program features, and most families have received a magnet for their homes. The library worked with the Rochester and Byron public school districts to mail a library card to students who didn’t have one.

But it is really all about results. Are students using the program to succeed in school? Of course the program is in its earliest stages, but in the first 15 days of the program, 370 students used the service. Over 90% of those students said that the program is helping them improve their grades.

This program would not exist for the students of our community without your generous gifts. Thank you for supporting our community of learners! 📖