



Children's Services Division
Annual Report to the DLA President
2008 – 2009

The Children's Services Division has been active for the year 2008 – 2009, especially with the Delaware Blue Hen Children's Choice Book Award, which the division sponsors, the Summer Reading Club in which all public libraries and the Dover Air Force base library participate, and in the final year of the four-year pilot program for Mother Goose Programs and the Vermont Center for the Book "What's the BIG Idea?" math and science initiative.

The officers for the division for this year have been:
Terri Jones, Hockessin Public Library, Co-President
Kay Bowes, Brandywine Hundred Library, Co-President
Wendy Tindall, Rehoboth Beach Public Library, Vice President
Maureen Miller, Lewes Public Library, Secretary-Treasurer

The person who was to become President of the division, Tanya Moye of Bear Public Library, opted out. It was determined that the President should be someone who had already served in that office and since both of the Co-Presidents volunteered (having served in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, respectively) it was deemed that the division would be best served by having the two jointly lead.

Activities of the division include:

1. The Summer Reading Club theme for 2008 was "Catch the Reading Bug". The statistics (with 35 libraries reporting) were:
 - Registration = 12,299
 - Completions = 7,327
 - Percentage of Completions = 58%

2. The 2009 Delaware Blue Hen Children's Choice Book Awards were voted on by the children of Delaware and selected to be announced at the 3rd Annual Delaware Book Festival, November 1, 2008. The winners were:
 - Picture Book: *Ivan the Terrier*, written and illustrated by Peter Catalanotto
 - Chapter Book: *No Talking!* Written by Andrew Clements, illustrated by Mark Elliott
 - Teen Book: *Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac*, written by Stephanie Zevin

3. The Children's Services Division sponsor a table at the Delaware Book Festival with crafts and take-homes related to the winning Blue Hen books. Terri Jones has pictures from the day.
4. The 2010 Delaware Blue Hen Children's Choice Book Award nominees were selected by the youth service award committees. The voting will take place from March 1 to September 31, 2009. *The ballots are attached.* The winners will be announced on the first Saturday in November 7, 2009, in each public library in the state, along with the official press release.

The nominees are as follows:

PICTURE BOOK NOMINEES

- *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*, written and illustrated by Marla Frazee
- *Fancy Nancy's Favorite Fancy Words*, written by Jane O'Connor and illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser
- *Hidden Hippo*, written by Joan Gannij and illustrated by Clare Beaton
- *The Pigeon Wants a Puppy*, written and illustrated by Mo Willems
- *Zen Ties*, written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth

CHAPTER BOOK NOMINEES

- *Diamond Willow*, written by Helen Frost
- *Kenny and the Dragon*, written and illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi
- *Nightmare at the Book Fair*, written by Dan Gutman
- *The Seer of Shadows*, written by Avi
- *Tracking Daddy Down*, written by Marybeth Kelsey

TEEN BOOK NOMINEES

- *Ever*, written by Gail Carson Levine
- *The Graveyard Book*, written by Neil Gaiman, with illustrations by Dave McKean
- *The Hunger Games*, written by Suzanne Collins
- *Rapunzel's Revenge*, written by Shannon and Dean Hale, illustrations by Nathan Hale
- *Unwind*, written by Neal Shusterman

5. The "What's the BIG Idea?" pilot program has entered the fourth and final year. Twenty librarians attended the workshops held in Burlington, Vermont, in November, 2008. The science and math programs will still continue to be held in the Delaware public libraries. Hopefully, the libraries that did not participate will be able to join in with the concept of adding science and math to preschool programming.

6. Four meetings of the division were held this year.
 - The fall meeting concentrates on receiving the Summer Reading Club manuals, presentation of programming possibilities, and other division business.
 - A second meeting in the fall is a Performer Showcase, giving local performers the opportunity to present their talent. This showcase results in the selection of state-wide performers that are funded by the Delaware Division of Libraries and the Delaware Division of the Arts.
 - A third meeting was held in early spring to present craft and programming ideas for the Summer Reading Club. This meeting is hosted by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Division.
 - The fourth meeting will be held at the Delaware Library Association conference. That meeting will result in the election of new officers and any other business pertinent to the division.

6. Kay Bowes, Co-President, worked with the By-Laws committee to revise the By-Laws of the division. The division voted to accept the new By-Laws at the Spring meeting. *Those By-Laws are attached.*

7. The Division is currently accepting nominations for the 2011 Blue Hen award. Books need to have been published between November 1, 2008 and October 31, 2009. Nominations can be fiction or non fiction. Nominations can not be part of a series, unless they stand alone. The Blue Hen award is given in three different categories: Picture Books, Chapter Books, and Teen Books. Nominations should be sent to: CHILDSVCS@LISTSERV.LIB.DE.US through December 31, 2009.

8. The Division is working on revisions of the Blue Hen Manual.

9. The new slate of officers is as follows;
 - President -- Wendy Tindall, Rehoboth Public Library
 - Vice-President -- Maureen Miller, Lewes Public Library
 - Secretary/Treasurer -- Audrey Avery, Dover Public Library

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Bowes, Co-President of CSD
Terri Jones, Co-President of CSD