

Library Resources Made Easy A Parent Education Presentation

By Carolyn White and Jennifer Gulassa, Teacher Librarians

Thank you to the PMS Parents' Club for helping to fund our databases, and for the continued support of The Giving Campaign.

Tonight we will run through a self-paced library website tutorial that will introduce you to the library resources. The following exercises will help you learn ways to support your child and pursue your own interests.

1. Log onto the PMS website at <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/pms/>.
2. Place your cursor over the Library tab to view the drop down menu.
3. Your student is planning to stay after school on Wednesday and get some homework done before going to swim practice. Click on **Library Overview** to see how late the library is open.
4. Of course, **your** child is perfect, but you've heard that that early adolescence can be a rough time, so you would like some parenting tips. From the library's drop down menu, click on the **Library Catalog**. Click on **subject**, and type **parenting** in the search box. Scroll down for a title that interests you; then click on **Details** to learn more about this item.

You are welcomed to borrow any of them. You just need to become a patron and check them out from and return them to the library. [Close catalog tab.]

5. You'd like to buy your twelve-year-old nephew a new book for his birthday. You know he likes funny books. Click on **Book Review Blog** to view book reviews of some interesting reads.

Scroll down and on the right you will see our tag cloud. The larger the font, the more books in the blog with that tag. Click on **humor** to see reviews of the funny titles.

6. In addition to reviewing and tagging some of the new books we've added to the collection, we also provide **connections** to similar titles that might interest the reader or extend the reading experience by including a link to an author interview or performance.

In the search box at the upper right (where it says "search my teacher notes"), type in *Knucklehead* and click on **GO**. Then click on **read more** to get the full entry. Note the **Connections** and then click on the Jon Scieszka link to view the video of his interview. It's pretty long; you don't have to watch the whole thing! [Close video and Reading Rockets windows.]

7. Now return to the PMS Library page by clicking on the link on the right side of the page under **Local Links**.

8. From the Library drop down menu, select **Subscription Databases**.
9. Through the generosity of the Piedmont Middle School Parents' Club, the PMS Library is able to subscribe to *SIRS Discoverer*, *EBSCOHost* and several databases for science and history. In addition, the Piedmont Unified School District provides access to *edIstop*, a suite of online databases and encyclopedias that provide curriculum support. While kids enjoy surfing the Internet to find information, we want to ensure that they have access to authoritative, reliable information that will provide the background knowledge necessary to compare and evaluate the sites they discover on their own.

Our students and their families may use these resources at school or from home. The user identification and password for each is in the student handbook on p. 138. Since the subscriptions only cover our school community, we are not allowed to publish the passwords online.

10. Select the *edIstop* link and login.
11. **World Book Online** is an excellent encyclopedia and a good first step in any research process. Assume that for Spring Break your family is planning a trip to Ireland. You would like to find general information about the climate, geography and sites. From the *edIstop* home page, click on the white "Reference" tab then select **World Book**. Select **World Book Student**. In the search box type: **Ireland** and click: **Search**.
12. Select the first encyclopedia article – **Ireland**. Near the beginning of the introductory paragraph the word: **distinguish** appears. *World Book* has a built-in dictionary. Double click on the word **distinguish** to bring up the dictionary entry.
13. Note that an outline of the article appears on the left. Scroll down and click on: **Land and Climate** to get some useful information.
14. New search. Your sixth grader is doing his/her ancient civilization report and needs a map of the Indus Valley. Type: **Indus Valley** in the search box (upper right) and click **Go**. When you select the article on the Indus Valley, a historical map will appear. Click on the image to enlarge it. Maps may be printed. [Close the *World Book* tab.]
15. **Grolier Online** is a database of several encyclopedias (*Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *New Book of Knowledge*, *Encyclopedia Americana*, *New Book of Popular Science*, *Amazing Animals of the World*, and *America the Beautiful*). Open **Grolier Online** from the "Reference" tab in the *edIstop*.
16. *Grolier Online* offers multiple encyclopedias for different reading abilities. Your 6th, 7th or 8th grader has been asked to research a Chinese invention for homework. Your child is having trouble finding information at his/her higher/lower reading level. Type **paper** in the "Find it fast!" box and click **GO**. Select the first article about paper with the green oval with the initials GME (*Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia*) inside it. Read the first paragraph under The Development of Paper Manufacture to get a sense of the reading level. Use the back arrow to return to the search results. Then select the second article with the purple oval with the initials NBK (*The New Book of Knowledge*) in it. Note the

easier reading level. Select the **Table of Contents** to find the section on the history of paper. For high school level material, select the *Encyclopedia Americana*.

17. Close *Grolier's* and click on the **School Help** tab on the ed1stop Home Page.
18. **Discovery Streaming** is a collection of video clips organized for easy searching. Video content can be searched by subject, grade levels, as well as by curriculum standard.
19. **BrainPOP** provides short, humorous animated video clips that explain academic concepts. Your child asks you for help with math homework involving the distributive property. Yikes! *BrainPOP* to the rescue! Select **Math**, then **Numbers & Operations**, and then **Distributive Property**. Put on the head set, and click to play the movie. Close the **BrainPOP** window.
20. Close the ed1stop window and return to the subscription database list.
21. **SIRS Discoverer** contains articles on a variety of subjects for grades K-8. Click on *SIRS Discoverer* and log in.
22. Your sixth grader is trying to narrow down a topic for his or her speech for the sixth grade speech festival. He or she would like to do something about cell phones but is not sure what to cover or which position to take. Doing a subject search in *SIRS Discoverer* allows the student to explore the options. Select **Subject Headings** and type **cell phones** in the box; then click **Search**. Now click on **1. Cell phones (See: Cellular telephones)** to retrieve a list of articles on this topic. Browse the list of titles and summaries. What's one topic your child might research for a persuasive speech?
23. Your seventh grader was absent the day his or her science class did research for the drugs and alcohol unit in the library. He or she would like to use a source in addition to an encyclopedia, but you are uncomfortable with your child doing an Internet search on a mature topic. Return to the *SIRS Discoverer* **Home** page and click on **Drugs & Alcohol** to find the topic or do a **subject heading search** on the specific substance. Note that the articles are arranged by date. To arrange them by reading level, click on **Lexile**. Now click on a title that appears to provide relevant information.
24. The middle school years introduce students and their parents to new experiences, opportunities, and levels of independence, some of which can be challenging or confusing. The **Personal Growth** category on the *SIRS Discoverer* menu offers a variety of articles that will provide information and help generate family discussions. Click on it and, from the menu on the right, select one topic that interests you. [Close the SIRS Discoverer tab.]
25. **EBSCOHost** provides access to several databases and includes full-text articles for over 500 magazines and newspapers. These resources are especially useful for science and research assignments as well as for personal interests and recreational reading. From

the Subscription Database list, click on **EBSCOHost** and log in. Then click on **EBSCOHost Web**.

26. Of course, you supported the PMS Magazine Sale fundraiser by purchasing some subscriptions for home and as gifts, but you are also trying to reduce your ecological footprint. Let's say that you subscribe to *Newsweek* but would occasionally like to read other points of view on key issues or for reviews. Click on **Publications** on the blue menu bar at the top of the EBSCOHost screen to get an alphabetical listing of the periodicals included in the database. Are *Time* and *The Economist* available? [Close the EBSCOHost tab.]
27. From the PMS Library web site use the drop down menu to find **Research Pathfinders**. The teacher librarians design and post research pathfinders to help students with specific research projects. They are a good place for students to start when doing research from home and include on-line resources as well as print materials available in the library.
28. Your sixth grader didn't finish her research in the library Ancient Egypt for the ancient civilizations report. From the Research Pathfinders page, click on **Ancient Civilizations** to find a list of on-line resources for this assignment.
29. From the Library drop down menu, select **RSS Feeds**. This page constantly updates to provide current news (general and science) from a variety of news sources.
30. It's 11:00 PM on a Thursday night, and your 8th grader informs you that his or her SAR (Science Article Report) is due tomorrow morning. No problem! Click on **Science News** to get the latest science current events from a variety of science publications. For students who need an article intended for middle school kids with a glossary at the end of the article, peruse *Science News* (upper left) and look for titles marked FOR KIDS. Those students who want more challenging articles should browse *Discover Magazine* and *Scientific American*. This page also includes podcasts, videos and other information to pique kids' interest in science and to allow them to explore topics in depth. [Close the Science News tab.]
31. Your 8th grader has finished her Science Article Report (SAR) but can't remember how to do a bibliography. From the drop down menu, select, **Cool School Tools** and select **Works Cited**. [Close the Works Cited window.]
32. Now she remembers that her quarterly book report is also due tomorrow. From **Cool School Tools**, click on **Eighth Grade Book Report**. She can type the information onto the form and print it out for your signature. Voila!
33. You've heard that the Piedmont Appreciating Diversity has compiled a list of resources. To find it, select **Community Resources** from the drop down menu.
34. The **Community Resources** page also offers a link to the *S.F. Chronicle*, an annotated list of print **Resources for Parents** and a link to the Oakland Public Library. Piedmont residents are eligible for Oakland Public Library cards, and we encourage you and your family to use this valuable resource.