

LawtonNews

YOUR PTA DOLLARS AT WORK

A Visit with Author Brenda Z. Guiberson

Last Tuesday and Wednesday was our yearly visiting author event. Funded by the PTA, this experience is woven into the curriculum as Lawton students continue their work on expository writing.

Brenda Z. Guiberson was selected for her non-fiction childrens' writing. Two assemblies focused on her research and how she finds and develops ideas.

Brenda then worked with each class in the library in small group sessions speaking about the choices she makes as a writer when constructing her texts. With older students she described different strategies she uses including "show not tell" and the use of "diving into the details." With the younger students she focused on simpler crafts like "onomatopoeia" (*ask your kids what that means*) and "dialoguing with the reader."

On page 2 is a list from Brenda of all the different things she thinks about when she plots and writes nonfiction. Print it out and share it with your child. It is a valuable resource.

Brenda stayed during lunch and afterschool to sign books and meet the students. It was an enriching experience for students and teachers alike.

Many of her books are in the library. Continue the inspiration and encourage you children to take them out.

A huge thank you to Eli and Julius Wichert and Catering by Phyllis for the writing journals given to every student in the school. We know our budding authors will put them to good use.



CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 23

BLT Meeting, 3:30pm

Friday, March 26

2010-11 BLT Application Deadline (*see page 3*)

March 29 - April 2

NO SCHOOL • HAPPY SPRING BREAK

Friday, April 9

Parents Night Out (*see pages 6-7*)

Thursday, April 22

World Cultures Night

The yearbook needs your photos by March 26!

Fieldtrips, class parties, learning moments, group photos, teachers, musical and theatrical performances. Each spread in the yearbook has the whole class on the left, formals from picture day - and the right side is **what makes your class and year special.** And we can't do that without your photos.

So please send them asap to Marla Master,
marla@masterdesign.ca

Hi res only please. If you can't send them via email please leave a CD or flash drive in the yearbook mailbox in the office. I promise to return them.

Plotting The Nonfiction Book

by: Brenda Z Guiberson

Pick a topic that you find amazing so that you can amaze the reader.

Do tons of research. Write about it in a way that stimulates curiosity. Choose details that are gripping and unusual. Connect and compare them. Add drama and excitement. Then you will create a compelling nonfiction book that transmits knowledge rather than facts.

Get to know your character – learn how it interacts with the environment.

Penguins huddle together in the cold. A cactus swells up in the rain. Its great thorny arms crumble in the crash. A sloth makes a weekly bathroom trip protected by noisy raindrops. A cold alligator raises her tail into the first sunlight that reaches over the trees. “Show” behavior, or cause and effect, rather than “tell” it.

Dig out specific details.

- The baby sea turtle is not much bigger than a bottle cap.
- With long slow chewing, the elk grinds all the tough stringy fibers into a soft mash.
- It hasn’t rained for several weeks and now the lake is three times as salty as the sea.
- It is a dangerous moment. In just two minutes of exposure, the baby can freeze to death.

Dialogue – Use a variety of sounds for weather and animals.

- Splitter, splat, splash! Rain gushes into the rain forest.
- Kwak, crrrik, crrrik! Keep-billed toucans glide through the mist.
- Sloop! A silky anteater slurps up thousands of ants.
- Flap flap! A fruit bat bites a fig.
- Hssss. An emerald tree boa thrusts its tongue to taste the air.

For historical work, look for primary quotes to let characters speak for themselves.

- “great slimy thing that leave a track where he been, ugly eyes, scales all over him.”
- “Get a reef in that sail, you lubbers- do yer want your bones to bleach on the beach?”
- “The lighthouse won’t stand over tonight. She shakes two feet each way now.”
- “I once made a lemon pie out of brass polish, which was high in citric acid. Made a darn good pie, too.”

Identify the problems – weather, predators, and food supplies are places to start.

- Wild pigs are able to trot across the dried mud and threaten the flock.
- Soon the rain falls in sheets and the lake churns and spits.
- A crab pops out of its burrow and sees the dark moving shape.
- The little flamingo must learn to fly or he will starve.

Use descriptive metaphor.

- He swims like a torpedo.
- Packed tightly like tiny roof tiles, there are eighty waterproof feathers in one square inch.
- He stands as still as a fire hydrant on the very same spot of ice.

Combine above elements.

- Gurgle, swish! The water is churning. Snap! A leopard seal hunts for a meal of penguin.
- Brawk! Brawk! The capuchins cry out in alarm. A harpy eagle is flying overhead.
- Screech, whoooo! Now the wind blasts like a hurricane.

Point of view.

To combine story and nonfiction, avoid getting into the head of your main character. Stick to showing behavior. The octopus looked. . .versus. . .the octopus studied. The bear dug out a snow den. . . versus. . .the bear decided to use her claws to dig out a den.

Use active words.

- The penguin walked. . .versus. . .the penguin shuffled
- Monkeys roar in a noisy chorus.
- The torrent refills the tanks of the bromeliads, splashes the sloth, trickles down the tangle of trees and vines, and seeps into the scientist’s boots.
- The mother nudges them close together.

Try present tense.

It is August 1635, and a day when a terrible hurricane swirls across the Atlantic Ocean near Boston. Their clothing is soaked, and the children feel seasick and cold.

Building Leadership Team Needs Team Members for 2010/2011 School Year

Parent representatives are needed to serve for the 2010-11 school year on the BLT. This group is charged with collaborative decision making among staff and parents on issues such as budget development, academic achievement planning and professional development. It is a representative model with equal numbers of parents and staff members. The BLT needs three parent members, each serving a two-year term.

If you are interested in applying for a position, you are committing yourself to one monthly meeting with a possible extra meeting when issues arrive that need to be resolved.

Applications must be submitted to the school office by 3:30pm on March 26

(or via e-mail to Bev Clonch at clonch@aol.com), and include a letter indicating:

- The grade your student(s) will be in next school year and if they are Spectrum or Special Needs
- School involvement such as volunteer activities
- Your understanding of consensus decision making
- How you will advocate for the interests of the group of parents you wish to represent while supporting all Lawton students.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any BLT member: Bev Clonch, Bobby Mullins, Phil Crocker, Lisa Reeves, Lisa Bogen, Margaret Bolger, Kathy Bledsoe, Rich Conner, Carrie Wheeler, Shirley Rybock, Linda Cutler, Lily Ulmer, or Mike Howard.

Thank you, Bev Clonch – BLT Chair

DISPLAY SHOWCASE

THIS WEEK

Tod Vicencio II, room 207 • Stuffed Animals

If you have a collection you would like to display for the school, sign up with Mrs. Thomas in the office.

Couldn't make it to Casino Night? Some party spots still available!

It's not too late to get a spot at some of these popular parties and special events. But act fast – space is limited! To secure a spot, please bring your check made out to Lawton PTA indicating which parties you want to the office.

Questions? **Tracy Pozil:**
tracy.pozil@comcast.net or 206-283-6042.

| PARTIES | SPOTS LEFT |
|-------------------|-------------|
| School of Rock | 6 people |
| Poker | 10 people |
| Hoedown | 25 families |
| Mom's '80's Night | 15 women |
| Gingerbread | 11 houses |
| Amazing Race | 9 kids |
| Roller-Rama K-2nd | 11 kids |
| Roller-Rama 3-5th | 14 kids |
| Survivor | SOLD OUT |
| Tea | SOLD OUT |
| Cocoa & Caroling | 7 families |
| Dad's Day Out | 10 guys |
| Crafting | 15 pairs |

CHECK THE LAWTON WEBSITE, MARCH 2ND NEWSLETTER FOR COMPLETE PARTY DETAILS.

Coats, Jackets, Sweatshirts, Sweaters, Lunchboxes, Hats and...

Where are they?

Could be in the overflowing lost and found! Please make it a point to stop by the lunchroom and reunite with your child's lost apparel.

The Lawton PTA thanks the following donors for their generous sponsorship of Las Vegas, 98199:



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ANONYMOUS

The Lawton PTA thanks the following businesses for their generous donations to our fundraiser:

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Viva Productions
Wild Ginger Restaurant
Yuen Lui Portrait Studios

Tea for Mother and Me

A fundraising event for the
Susan G. Koman Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk

Saturday, May 1st • 1pm – 3:30pm

Magnolia United Church of Christ, 3555 W. McGraw

Tickets: \$35.00 each

To reserve a Tea Table for Two to decorate:
an additional \$20.00 per table

Tickets on sale now through April 1st.

Come join us for afternoon tea and a wonderful table
decorating display. All ages are welcome; however,
the tea is oriented toward young ladies ages 5 -10.

For more information, contact René Rosenfeldt at
r.rosenfeldt@comcast.net or call (206) 282-2062.
Are you a Girl Scout or Campfire Girl? Let me know –
you'll get badge for your participation.

Celebrate Emerson's Centennial (plus one!) 101 years of Fun!

Alumni, Friends & Families Open House
& Refreshments

April 8, 2010 • 5pm to 7pm

Emerson Elementary School

9709 60th Ave S

www.emerson.seattleschools.org

Contact Mary Manzin 206-252-7090

or Emerson PTA 206-252-7137

Lawton News is compiled weekly by
Marla Master, PTA communication officer.

Contact: marla@masterdesign.ca • 285-0590

*When sending submissions please put the
word **LAWTON NEWS** in subject line. Thanks!*

Deadline: Friday 5pm

For the following Tuesday's edition

FRIDAY MARCH 26

Come buy
your favorite
sweet treats
afterschool.



All proceeds
benefit the
5th Grade
Islandwood trip!

Parents' Night Out is here!

It's back by popular demand! Has it been a long time since you've had quality adult time? Then this special night is definitely for you!

All you have to do is register your child and decide what you are going to do! Maybe it's a date with your significant other, time to get to the gym, dinner with friends, watching a video that's not Disney, meditating, going shopping or even getting a pedicure or massage! Whatever you choose, now you have up to 4 hours of child care so you don't have to worry about the kiddos. This evening event has been extremely successful and popular over the years and your child will not want to miss out and neither will you!



Turn in your payment and registration form to Ms Parks or Ms DeJong in the gym. Don't miss out!

Friday, April 9th
6 pm - 10 pm

Preschool (4 years) - 5th grade

\$ 35 for 1 child

\$ 45 for 2 children

(in the same family)

add \$ 5 for each additional child
if there are more than 2 children
in the family

Supervised by: Cheryl Parks, 5th grade parents (for 5th grade camp) and HS volunteers

The evening will be filled with PE activities, movies, games, arts and crafts and healthy snacks. Your child/children can come in their pj's and bring a pillow and blanket if they like! You don't need to worry about a thing except having a great evening!

Limited space! Sign up early by filling out the registration form available online or in the office and returning it directly to Ms Parks or Ms DeJong in the gym or to their mailboxes no later than **Wednesday, April 7th**. Please make checks payable to "Lawton PTA".



Please make sure that your child/children has had dinner before dropping him/her off and make sure your child/children are picked up on time. The evening ends promptly at 10:00 p.m.

Proceeds will be for Lawton's PE program, After School PE Clubs and 5th grade camp to Islandwood.

Parents' Night Out

I will be registering my child/children for the April 9th "Parents' Night Out" Childcare provided at Lawton Elementary from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Parent Signature

Date

My child/children will be picked up by parents.

My child/children will be picked up by a friend or relative.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Student Name/Names: _____

Home Address: _____

Home & Cell Phone Numbers _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Does your child have any allergies? If yes, please list. _____

Medications needed? _____

In case of an emergency and we cannot contact a parent or guardian, please list two emergency contacts.

Emergency Contact 1 Name _____

Emergency Contact 1 Phone Number _____

Emergency Contact 2 Name _____

Emergency Contact 2 Phone Number _____

I will be registering 1 child for \$35.00.

I will be registering 2 children for \$45.00

I will be registering more than 2 children

for an additional \$5.00 per child. \$45.00 + \$ _____ = \$ _____

Return registration form to Ms Parks or Ms DeJong in the gym or to their mailboxes.