

@theLearningCenter

Once again, the school librarians at the high school will be offering workshops for parents. As always, our goal is to provide parents with the tools they need to help their students succeed both personally and academically.

All workshops are held in the first floor Learning Center classroom on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:00. In order to have enough materials, please RSVP to Laura Piazza (lpiazza@uaschools.org).

Parent Workshops for the 2007-2008 school year:

**September 12** – What Happened on the Day you were Born?

UAPL Reference librarians Mark Mangini and Peg Greisberger will introduce you to the powerful and provocative *NY Times Historical Newspapers* database and ProQuest's *National Newspapers*. In addition to finding the news of the past, after this session you will be able to direct your children in a fascinating search for primary documents related to any of their classes – and first hand reporting of events as they happened. Hands-on experience and time for questions will be part of the evening.

**October 24** - Wikipedia v. the *NY Times*: Which Comes out on Top?

Based on your new knowledge of newspaper databases, come prepared to look at the way information is gathered in two popular media sources. Tips and tricks for looking at articles on Wikipedia will be provided, as well as a booklet on general web searching tactics. Your children will benefit from your new media skills in addition to your insights as an adult.

**November 14** – Exploring Careers on the Web: Tools You Can Use

In a world of increasing career fields, specialty areas and opportunities, students need somewhere to sort it all out. UAHS Guidance Counselor Alan Banks will show how The Ohio Career Information Systems (OCIS) is just the answer. This interactive web-based program funded and operated by the state of Ohio is accessible for any UAHS student or parent and includes information about occupations, program of studies, colleges and universities, and financial aid. There are also several useful exploration tools that help users select information based on individual needs, preferences, and abilities. A quick overview and navigation of the website as well as a review of the benefits that OCIS has to offer will be provided. If time permits, the librarians will also show you INFOhio's LearningExpress program that offers practice tests for various careers and skills, e.g. writing, reading, etc.

**January 16** – What’s the Message? Evaluating the Role of Media in our Culture

OSU professor David J. Staley will lead a discussion about the key questions for examining media. He will show a 5 minute student-created film and help us determine the source, techniques used, potential messages, points of view, and motivation for its creation. Learn how to help your children both interpret visuals and create their own powerpoints, and YouTube videos. Part I of two sessions. RSVP essential so we know how many computers we will need.

**February 13** – Documenting Your own Story – How to Use free Microsoft downloads to Create Your own Documentaries

Professor Staley joins us again to teach scanning, what to include, why the order is important, and what you want your overall documentary to communicate. What you will need to bring to this will be discussed in the January session.

**April 16** – YouTube and Wikis and Blogs – Oh My! Voting in a Web 2.0 democracy

Have you noticed the eerie lack of political ads in the more traditional venues, in spite of the fact that we have one of the earliest and most robust campaign seasons ever? Find out where the politicians are putting their messages – and find out how to access and evaluate them. The roll-out of the newly approved UA Library curriculum will take place with a focus on Social Studies in conjunction with Kids Voting, the national program for teaching America’s youth the importance of the responsibilities of a democracy. Not a minute too soon for the upcoming November elections! The librarians highly recommend that you read the book *un-Spun* by Brooks Jackson and Kathleen Hall Jamieson (New York, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2007. \$12.95)