

# Media Matters



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## Black Hawk Down Author Visits EHS

Mark Bowden, author of *Black Hawk Down*, visited Elkton High on Friday, December 4 and spoke to classes in Contemporary World Studies and Government. Mark Bowden, who last visited Elkton over ten years ago before the movie was made, is a busy author, journalist for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and documentary filmmaker. He shared an engaging account of his visit to Somalia and the process of writing the book. After his presentation, a reception was held for him in the media center, so that students could ask questions and have him autograph their books.

## Book Trailers: The Latest Thing!

Enrichment students at CHMS are creating book trailers. Book trailers are like movie trailers; they entice others to read a specific book. Students selected a book of interest, read it, created a storyboard, located images and appropriate background music, and designed their trailer using *iMovie*. Completed projects are posted on the [CHMS Website](#). Click on the link that says *New Book Trailers* and enjoy!

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## North East High School Participates in Trails Pilot Testing

North East High School was chosen to participate in a study of library skills. The study is called TRAILS (Tool for Real-Time Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) and was developed by the Kent State University Libraries. Margaret Darby, Media Specialist at NEHS, said the questions involve a lot of thinking as to where the best information can be found and who would be the most qualified on a particular subject. There are questions about how to evaluate the reliability and objectivity of a web site, a crucial skill in today's world. Last year's freshmen tested fairly closely to the percentiles predicted by our fifth grade benchmark. One of the weak points for last year's freshmen was the inability to recognize bias in a source or person. Of course, it is difficult even for adults to recognize bias, so for freshmen this is about where they should be, but more attention will be given to helping students develop this skill. In March, Ms. Darby will be assessing three groups of seniors to see where NEHS stands in the national breakdown of information literacy. The results of these assessments will help our Media Program decide which areas of media literacy we need to concentrate on for our high school students.



## Reading Around the World

Students at Perryville Middle School were matched with students in South Africa (9-18 years old) to create and exchange bookmarks. This project, an activity created by the International Association of School Librarianship, advocates for the development of school libraries throughout all countries.

## 8th Grader Wins Award

We would like to congratulate one of our 8th grade students, Brenna Gleason, of CHMS for her recent accomplishment. Brenna won an "Excellence in Media" award presented by the International Student Media Festival. Her website, a winner at our Cecil County Media Technology Festival, promotes reading and "chic books."

## Cecil Manor Students Continue Book Discussion Groups

Book Discussion groups continue again this year at Cecil Manor. 5th graders recently met at lunch time to discuss *Bridge to Terabithia*. The group was very insightful as they discussed the themes of friendship, personal confidence, and even death. Girls as well as boys eagerly expressed their opinions, asked questions, and gave feedback.

## Book Reviewing For Professional Development

Several media specialists have taken the opportunity to review books for the *International Reading Association*. Books that receive favorable reviews from most evaluators will receive the coveted *Teacher's Choice Award* and will be featured in the November Issue of *Reading Today*. These books are found to be exceptional in curriculum use. After reviewing a book, the media specialist may keep it. Among the reviewers were Rosemary Meece, Andy Mychalus, Margaret Darby, Rhonda Parsons, Connie Seibert, Jenny Harner, and Kim Dyar.



## PES Wins Trophy!

PES has won the Summer Reading program trophy from the Cecil County Public Library for the 2nd year in a row. 41% of students participated in the summer reading program at the public library.

## RSMS Partnership With North Bay



Good things are happening at the RSMS library, especially in technology-integrated instruction. Building on their experiences at North Bay, sixth grade students researched invasive species, focusing on zebra mussels, through a webquest created by Kimberly Dyar and Georganne Scott, a parent volunteer with



experience as an environmental educator. All sixth grade students learned how to use *GarageBand* software to make podcasts informing the public about the dangers of invasive species and how to prevent their spread in Maryland waters. Student exemplars are posted at the following link on the [RSMS Website](http://ccps.org/teachers/kdyar/RSMS_Media/Home.html). ([http://ccps.org/teachers/kdyar/RSMS\\_Media/Home.html](http://ccps.org/teachers/kdyar/RSMS_Media/Home.html)) In addition to this research-based podcast project, all eighth graders learn to create digital films about controversial topics. These public service announcements incorporate live action video, still images, voiceovers, and music to present students' informed positions on animal research, censorship, homelessness, and global warming. Every student leaving RSMS for high school does so with the experience of using instructional technology to develop the skills that will equip him or her for lifelong learning as a member of an increasingly technologically complex work force.

## New Reading Corners at Elkton Middle School



The boys have claimed their own space in the library. Seventh grade boys requested that the library have an area just for boys. They made suggestions to move books, remove a few shelves, and display books just for them. Students helped make it happen by shifting books to make room for comfy furniture. The “Reading Zone” has become very popular, especially during lunch shifts and book selection. Thanks to Staples for donating a modern sofa and chair. But don’t despair! The girls have their own area as well. (See below.)

Girls at Elkton Middle enjoy a new space at their library. Boys have a similar space and students worked together to make it happen!

