



AVON
FREE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

Teachers' e-Newsletter

281 Country Club Rd., Avon, CT. 06001

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Fall, 2010

Library Expansion Update

The project to renovate and expand the Avon Free Public Library is moving along. Last summer, the State Bond Commission gave final approval to the \$1 million construction grant. With this last piece of the major funding sources in place, design work on the detailed construction was completed and it is planned that construction will begin by the end of the year. The library will remain open on site throughout construction, but will close periodically during the project as required by the construction schedule. We'll notify the schools and community in advance of any closings during the expansion. Go to <http://www.avonctlibrary.info> to follow our expansion web site and join our blog.

Learn a New Language Online!

The Avon Public Library recently subscribed to Byki, a web-based language learning system that offers over 70 foreign languages, from inside or outside the library, via the web browser on Windows and Mac computers.

Byki, short for "Before You Know It", takes users through a series of flashcard modules to memorize words and phrases of a new language. Geared for rapid learning, users can build listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. You can also record your own pronunciation and compare it to native speakers. In addition to foreign languages, Byki offers 10 ELL courses, including English for Polish, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Mandarin and Arabic speakers.



You can also learn a new language "on the go" with Byki® Mobile from your Apple® iPad™, iPhone™ or iPod™ touch. To become a Byki user, go to Avon Library's website at <http://www.avonctlibrary.info> and click on Information Databases on the top bar, select "Languages" from the list and follow the link. Just sign-up as a new user, remember your name and password, then login to your account anytime, anywhere. You do need an Avon Library card barcode number to sign in the first time.

New Mac Lab in the Children's Room



Thanks to a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, we now have a Mac Lab complete with 4 brand new iMacs! These Macs are fully loaded with great software including movie making, music making and photo editing software plus the ability to create animations and comic book style books, flyers and more. And of course, we have iWork which allows students to do typical word processing tasks. So far, students love to take photos of each other with Photobooth and



create fun music with garage band! The Mac Lab is located on the second floor in the Children’s Department.

Mobile Devices & Self-Service Download Kiosk Coming Soon!

If you’re curious about e-readers and downloadable books, the Avon Library will be circulating two Sony E-Readers, two MP3 players, and a Kindle for our patrons. Patrons must have an Avon library card and be 18 years of age to borrow these devices. The loan period will be for two weeks; patrons will be asked to sign a loan agreement when they checkout the device.

In addition, a self-service download kiosk will be available for patrons to download and transfer audio books directly to their mobile devices from our Overdrive® audio book catalog. Explore the audio titles in our collection by visiting <http://www.avonctlibrary.info> or <http://libraryconnection.lib.overdrive.com>. For more information contact Tina Panik, Circulation & Public Services Manger at 860-673-9712.



Attention Teachers & School Librarians!



Take advantage of our “[Assignment Alert](#)”, link on our website that let you notify us about your upcoming reading & research assignments. Every time you have an upcoming assignment that may require your students to use the library, just click on the Assignment Alert to let us know how we can prepare and/or purchase materials to help supplement your class assignments. No phone calls or e-mails necessary!

2011-2012 Test Prep & College Admissions Books Available at the Library

The Library has a current selection of updated test prep materials and college admission books including college directories, scholarship & financial aid sourcebooks, essay & application guides. Books on planning the college admissions process, how to select a college major, and “insiders guides” are available to check out.

2011-2012 standardized test prep books are arriving for student practice and subject review. Practice tests include answer keys & explanation; many include CD-ROMs to simulate actual tests. Test prep books include: SAT, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT, TOEFL iBT, SAT Subject, SSAT/ISEE and GED as well a complete selection of AP test books for all AP courses at Avon High School.



Our Learning Express educational website offers 300+ online practice tests, as well as review courses in math, reading, and writing. To connect to Learning Express, click on <http://www.avonctlibrary.info> and click on Information Databases>Academic/Student Resources, scroll down to Learning Express. Sign-in as a new or returning user and you're ready to go. Learning Express is available 24/7 from your home computer or from any public computer at the Avon Public Library.



The Avon Library will be closed
Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11

Avon Public Library Fall Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
10am - 8:30pm

Wednesday: 10am - 6pm

Friday and Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Closed Sundays