

# TEC Talk

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## 2016 Global Read Aloud Titles

### Picture Books - Author Study Lauren Castillo

Nana in the City  
 Troublemaker  
 The Reader  
 Twenty Yawns  
 The Yard Sale

### BFG by Ronald Dahl

### Pax by Sara Pennypacker

### Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D Schmidt

### All American Boys by Jason Reynolds

## Classes Participate in Global Read Aloud

We are excited to have classrooms in our NSSEO programs participate in the Global Read Aloud. The project was started by Pernille Rip in 2010. "It has a simple goal in mind: one book to connect the world. From its humble beginnings, the GRA has grown to make a truly global connection with more than 1,000,000 students having participated".

Books titles are set for different grades levels. Older students read a novel and younger students have one picture book a week. The book is read aloud during a 6 week period in October through November.

Each teacher decides how much time they

would like to dedicate and how involved they would like to be.

Some people choose to connect with just one class, while others go for as many as possible. Sometimes teachers just tweet out that they read the story and others Skype or use Edmodo or Padlet to connect with another class.

For more information on the books and making connections contact Pam Guio [pguio@nsseo.org](mailto:pguio@nsseo.org) or Joan Obial [jobial@nsseo.org](mailto:jobial@nsseo.org)



## Chromebooks at Timber Ridge

We are exploring the use of Chromebooks at Timber Ridge. We see the need for students to have access to a mobile device with a keyboard for writing activities and for online assessments.

The economic price, access to Google Suite

for Education, and ease of use makes them an ideal tool for mobile learning.

We successfully used them for fall Map testing.

The Chromebooks are available for teacher's to check out.



## Moving Forward with Universal Design for AAC

TouchChat with WordPower is a robust AAC app that we believe will meet the AAC needs of many of our students. Last year, the TEC and AT departments piloted the project in classrooms at Kirk, Miner and the DHH program. We found an increase in communication, more opportunities for participation in the curriculum, and staff using the device to model communication.

This year we will provide increased access by making sure licensed

staff's iPad and at least one iPad in each classroom has TouchChat with WordPower.

We will be building capacity within our programs by supporting IEP teams to use the problem solving model to determine if a student needs an individual iPad with TouchChat with WordPower app for communication.

Additional classrooms will be added to the pilot. Each pilot classroom iPad will have the TouchChat with WordPower app,

more intense professional development, and strategies and resources to support communication.



*"We found an increase in communication, more opportunities for participation in the curriculum and staff using the device to model communication"*

## Dot Day

Students at Timber Ridge, Kirk, Riley and Miner participated in International Dot Day! Peter Reynolds is the author of **The Dot**.

*"The Dot is the story of a caring teacher who dares a doubting student to trust in her own abilities by being brave enough to 'make her mark'. What begins with a small dot on a piece of paper becomes a breakthrough in confidence and courage, igniting a journey of self-discovery and sharing, which has gone on to inspire countless children and adults around the globe."*

Classrooms read and

discussed the story **The Dot**, and then students made their "mark" creating dots. Many classrooms used the CoLAR augmented reality app to make their dot go from 2D to 3D!



## Network News

As we move to a more mobile learning environment, we saw the need to increase our coverage of wireless access. Over the summer we rewired areas of the buildings and installed updated wireless access points.

We are continually evaluating bandwidth to make sure it supports our educational programs and administrative tasks.

Streaming music and videos uses a great deal of bandwidth. Please do not stream music from your computer. If you need music for educational purposes, we can provide an alternative solution. Please contact the TEC Dept.

We subscribe to many websites to support our curriculum. Please contact Instructional

Technology Coaches  
Joan Obial  
[jobial@nsseo.org](mailto:jobial@nsseo.org) or Pam Guio  
[pguio@nsseo.org](mailto:pguio@nsseo.org) for a guide to NSSEO subscriptions, user names and passwords.

If you have a technology problem, please enter a help-desk ticket. This helps us track problems and ensure they are completed in a timely manner.

*Please enter a Help Desk Ticket for your technology needs.*

## Active Learning and Steelcase Grant

Timber Ridge School is the recipient of a \$62,000 grant from Steelcase to redesign two junior high classrooms.

The two classrooms were renovated over the summer in anticipation of the furniture. A door was added between the two classrooms for collaboration.

In September the rooms were outfitted with mobile furniture to provide a flexible learning environment. The Verb desks and tables are on wheels. The Node chairs are mobile. Soft seating was provided for small group learning. Buoy stools provide alternative seating for students.

An Eno Interactive Board was added to one of the classrooms. The Verb Classrooms have individual whiteboards that connect to each desk. In addition to using them for collaboration, they can also be used to create individual work spaces.

Recently Pam Guio and Mary Ann McGinn met with the students in Mr. Bialek's and Mr. Post's room to talk about the new design of their classroom and to get their feedback. Students voted on additions to the classroom. The students used a Google Form to participate in a learning style survey. During these activities the furniture allowed a seamless move from large group discussion, to students working in pairs on their iPads, and back again to a large group discussion.

In the book **GET ACTIVE Reimagining Learning Spaces for Student Success** the authors suggest the impact of active - digital age learning spaces can promote a variety of shifts in educational experiences.

- Preparing students for an increasing digital life
- Shift from isolated to connected experiences
- Shift in how and when learning occurs
- Resources are available to learners and educators
- Ability of schools to be innovative
- Shift in how students interact with their world

We look forward to gathering data to see the impact the active learning environment has on the teaching and learning at Timber Ridge School.

<https://www.steelcase.com/discover/information/education/>



Furniture Delivery Day

**Technology Staff**

Technology Coordinator  
Mary Ann McGinn

Network Administrator  
John Burke

Database Manager  
Brad Brubaker

Administrative Assistant  
Karen Fidler

Instructional Technology  
Coaches  
Pam Guio  
Joan Obial

Technicians  
Jose Barragan  
Tom Conte  
Jason Nixon  
Sami Rizvi

TEC Liaison  
Deb Skoskiewicz

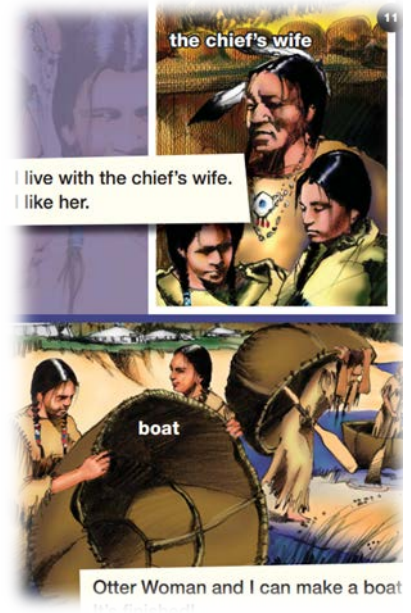


## Start to Finish Pilot with Leveled Readers

We are excited to continue piloting the new reading curriculum from Don Johnston Inc. at Miner School and Kirk School. The program was designed with the research expertise of Dr. Karen Erickson, the Director of the Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies at the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill and Dr. Caroline Musselwhite. They are national experts in the field of literacy for students with autism and students with intellectual disabilities.

The books are in graphic novel format written at 6 different reading levels starting at an Early Emergent level through 2<sup>nd</sup> – early 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Science and Social Science activities are integrated into the lessons.

The program includes videos to provide background knowledge of the story and characters, narrative audio files of the books, vocabulary picture cards, leveled readers, and student response sheets. The stories are a combination of fiction and non-fiction.



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