

**Title of Session:** K-12 Language Arts  
**Moderator:** Karen Lemmons  
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**KarenL:** Hi everyone! Again, thanks so much for coming!!! I do hope you all get something out of this session. This session's topic is back to school resources.

**KarenL:** Let's begin with introductions. I'm Karen Lemmons, library media specialist in a Detroit public elementary school.

**KarenL:** And I pray my computer doesn't crash during this session. If it does, bear with me.

**AdrienneG:** Hi! My name is Adrienne. I am a preservice teacher in an elementary school.

**BJB2:** I'm a communications teacher in Pennsylvania and on Tapped In helpdesk.

**MirsaM:** I am Mirsa a pre-service teacher from the University of Houston

**JeanineMH:** I'm Jeanie Hall, a third-grade teacher in San Marcos, California

**AliciaM:** Hi, I'm Alicia. A pre-service teacher from the University of Houston.

**BrendaGa:** Hi My name is Brenda and I am a pre-service teacher from UH

**BJB2:** Please thank Dr. Thompson for having you join the discussion today!

**MirsaM:** Ok!

**BrendaGa:** Sure.

**AdrienneG:** Ok

**AliciaM:** Thanks!!!

**KarenL:** Welcome UH student teachers! I love it!!!

**AdrienneG:** Thanks!

**KarenL:** I'm going to be in Dallas in October. Was in San Antonio in January. Have not been in Houston.

**KarenL:** As I was creating my list of wonderful web resources for you, I was remiss in getting the Wong's website. His book, *The First Days of School*, is a bible for new and veteran teachers. So, if anyone gets the url, let us know.

**KarenL:** Thanks!

**JeanineMH:** Wong's book is great!

**MirsaM:** I have that book, my mentor teacher gave it to me last semester

**AdrienneG:** I have started watching Wong's tape with my supervisor

**BrendaGa:** My mentor teacher told me about that book. I am hoping to get it.

**KarenL:** I notice some of you are elementary. If any of you are kindergarten teachers, a wonderful book I read is *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. It tells a story about a raccoon name Chester who does not want to go to school. He is scared.

**MirsaM:** I still have not had a chance to read it.

**AdrienneG:** Aww that sounds cute

**BrendaGa:** That is a very good book.

**MirsaM:** I am currently in kinder right now!

**CharonG:** Sounds like a good book to read since small children are usually scared the first days.

**KarenL:** the mom tells Chester about the kissing hand. It is so cute. She kisses his hand and a heart is put on the hand.

**AliciaM:** I would like to read the book. Sounds very helpful.

**MirsaM** agrees with Alicia

**KarenL:** So now Chester feels his mom's love wherever he goes. I have students trace their hand and I draw a little heart on it. They love it.

**JeanineMH** agrees also

**CharonG** smiles

**KarenL:** Now, I mention this because a website talks about this book and the activity.

**AdrienneG** smiles

**AliciaM** smiles too.

**BrendaGa**: what website is this on?

**KarenL**: The url is <http://www.teachingheart.net/backtoschool2.html>

**KarenL**: Click on The Kissing Hand and you will see the book cover and activity.

**CharonG**: This site seems to be a great resource!

**MirsaM**: it sure does!!!

**AdrienneG**: I also like the site!

**KarenL**: I am so glad you like it!!!

**KarenL**: Here is another one that may be of interest to you. <http://jc-schools.net/back2school>

**AdrienneG**: ok

**AliciaM**: Thanks.

**AliciaM**: This site seems very helpful, too.

**BJB2**: Welcome, Yazmin. We're looking at <http://jc-schools.net/back2school/>

**BrendaGa**: I really like the "Teaching is a Work of Heart" suggestions.

**BrendaGa**: I would love to try and do that for my kids.

**AliciaM**: I like the Ice Breakers activities in Education World.

**CharonG**: Excellent bulletin board ideas! I need these!

**JeanineMH**: great resources!

**KarenL**: Alicia, I'm glad you mention Education World. That is a wonderful resource for back to school. It is <http://www.education-world.com>

**AdrienneG**: These are great resources

**BrendaGa**: Oh there is a great Time Capsule activity.

**MirsaM:** Ziploc Bag is a great idea for parents

**YazminGst6:** What is the time capsule activity about

**JeanineMH:** I do a time capsule activity every year and the kids love it

**AliciaM:** I will definitely need some bulletin ideas.

**KarenL:** Oh yes, I know quite a few teachers who use ziploc bags.

**AdrienneG:** Yes

**BrendaGa:** this activity uses a pringles can and the kids include a lot of personal items.

**AdrienneG:** Those are so helpful

**AliciaM:** Sounds fun!

**YazminGst6:** I have my back to school night tonight

**JeanineMH:** To make it easier, I use paper towel tubes for my time capsules. We decorate them and close the ends up with tin foil.

**MirsaM:** That sounds like a good idea

**BrendaGa:** How do you store them until the end of the year?

**AliciaM:** I like that. There easy to find and inexpensive.

**KarenL:** These are wonderful ideas flowing!!!! Keep it going!!!!

**CharonG:** this site has everything!

**JeanineMH:** I put one of those stuffed animal nets up in a corner of my room and put them there

**BrendaGa:** That is a great idea!

**MirsaM:** The shoe box idea to get to know your students

**AliciaM:** I like the 30 facts about yourself activity.

**JeanineMH:** To get to know my students I give them each a paper bag and they have to put five things about themselves in the bag to share

**AdrienneG:** that is a cute idea

**AliciaM:** That sounds good, too.

**AdrienneG:** that way kids feel comfortable and others can learn interesting things about them

**JeanineMH:** I videotaped them too and will show it at open house

**AliciaM:** Very true.

**JeanineMH:** Also if your schedule doesn't allow sharing, this is the perfect time to allow it

**KarenL** is loving this. . .

**KarenL:** For you techie-folks, Kathy Schrock has an excellent website for back to school resources. <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/edres.html>

**MirsaM:** This is one of my favorite sites

**AliciaM:** I love discovery.com!!!

**CharonG:** I've used this site before, very helpful, love it!!!

**KarenL:** It is awesome. And, of course, Kathy is awesome!!!

**KarenL:** A ton of resources for both new and veteran teachers.

**JeanineMH:** great!

**AdrienneG:** Thanks!

**AliciaM:** I like the back to school checklist for new teachers. Very helpful.

**AdrienneG:** New teachers need all that we can get since we are just starting!

**MirsaM:** Do you know of any helpful websites for bilingual teachers?

**AliciaM:** I agree

**AliciaM:** Yeah!!

**KarenL:** Click on Scholastic's resources. It has wonderful resources for elementary, middle and high schools.

**AdrienneG:** ok

**AliciaM:** What about for bilingual teachers.

**YazminGst6:** Focus walls are beg. to be popular! Any ideas on what to include in one.

**KarenL:** Okay, let me check for you. Great question.

**KarenL:** Let's try this url <http://www.eduplace.com/bil>

**AdrienneG:** What is a focus wall?

**YazminGst6:** I think it is a bulletin board that covers a theme. They are popular in language arts

**AdrienneG:** Oh that is what I was thinking

**YazminGst6:** they cover standards. spelling patterns, comprehension, vocab words, etc

**AdrienneG:** ok

**BrendaGa:** Thank you for the bilingual link. The links seem very interesting.

**KarenL:** I have another one that may be of interest to you. A school developed this site.

**MirsaM:** Great

**CharonG:** will look at bilingual link. I would like to know about more of these!

**AliciaM:** Thanks.

**KarenL:** the url is [http://www.pps.k12.or.us/curriculum/PDFS/ESL\\_Modifications.pdf](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/curriculum/PDFS/ESL_Modifications.pdf)

**KarenL:** Oops, it is a guide in PDF form for mainstream teachers. It is about 10 pages long.

**AdrienneG:** ok

**KarenL:** Let me check on some more.

**AliciaM:** Yes.

**YazminGst6:** Where can I find activities for the beg. of the year

**AliciaM:** The urls that were given above have tons of ideas.

**YazminGst6:** thanks

**BJB2:** Alicia, you are right...but the best part was when you all shared your ideas on how to use the resources

**BJB2:** . o O ( which is what Tapped In is all about )

**BJB2:** we hope you'll keep using Tapped In even when you're out of school.

**KarenL:** Okay, thanks for your patience! I have two more bilingual resources. Hope these help!

**CharonG:** yes

**AliciaM:** ok

**BrendaGa:** thank you.

**MirsaM:** Ok

**KarenL:** <http://www.edb.utexas.edu/ties/lessonlinks/bilingual.htm>

**AdrienneG:** ok

**JeanineMH:** I will share these bilingual resources with the bilingual teachers at my school. Thanks.

**AliciaM:** Me, too.

**KarenL:** one more. . . <http://www.estrellita.com/bil.html>

**YazminGst6:** What should you cover in your back to school night

**JeanineMH:** Many items...your schedule, homework, how to reach you...

**CharonG:** definitely cover your expectations!

**KarenL:** expectations, rules, consequences, education goals.

**JeanineMH:** how to volunteer...

**BJB2:** request for parent volunteers?

**JeanineMH** smiles

**BJB2:** good one, Jeanine!

**AliciaM:** My teachers goes over homework tricks.

**KarenL:** One more website. Although not quite bilingual, it is an awesome site for reading books in their original language online.

**AliciaM:** ok

**AdrienneG:** ok

**YazminGst6:** any of you have any good ideas on how to have parents donate educational items for students

**KarenL:** It is International Children's Digital Library <http://www.icdlbooks.org>

**MirsaM:** My teacher went over how parents can help their children be successful

**AliciaM:** Class newsletter

**JeanineMH:** I've seen teachers put an apple tree on their door, the apples have items written on them that you would like donated

**MirsaM:** I like this website

**AdrienneG:** Have a day when you ask parents to bring information that they have found to be useful in helping their child

**JeanineMH:** the parents pick an apple at back to school night

**CharonG:** I think you may have to be specific as to what you want and where to get it

**AdrienneG:** yes me too (about having a tree or something with apples on it with names of items needed)

**AliciaM:** I like the website, too.

**KarenL:** Our third grade teachers do a class newsletter.

**JeanineMH:** I flat out ask for what I want. This year I got filled WalMart bags the next day

**BrendaGa:** This last website is great.

**MirsaM:** Our grade level also does a newsletter to keep parents informed on what the students will be learning each week

**YazminGst6:** that's a great idea



**KarenL:** Aha, someone did see it. Great!!! Check out the Spanish books. The students can read the actual book online.

**AliciaM:** Mine does, too.

**YazminGst6:** does it take a lot of time making the news letters

**YazminGst6:** how are they done

**AdrienneG:** I think that a newsletter is a fantastic idea.

**AdrienneG:** you could also allow children to add information to the letter

**MirsaM:** No, there are many great templates you can use on Microsoft Publisher.

**AliciaM:** Nope, you can make them on Microsoft Publisher.

**JeanineMH:** I like the newsletter idea too, but I'm not bilingual and I have 27 Spanish speaking parents!

**AdrienneG:** Yes, Publisher

**JeanineMH:** that makes it difficult for me!

**KarenL:** Well, the newsletter is usually a one page, because, frankly, our parents may not either have the time to read a long newsletter or maybe cannot read it.

**CharonG:** I made "parent communication" folders for my students. Anything in them is for parents, every Monday there's a newsletter. This way the students don't forget to show their parents the big manila folder

**MirsaM:** All you have to do is add the information you want and graphics

**AdrienneG:** that is neat idea too

**KarenL:** Publisher is great. It has templates that are so easy to use.

**BrendaGa:** My grade level also does a newsletter, but they take turns doing it. Also the bilingual teachers make it in Spanish.

**KarenL:** That is a great idea!!!! Talk about language development and cultural reinforcement!

**AliciaM** agrees

**BJB2:** <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/envrnmnt/famncomm/pa4lk10-5.htm>

**KarenL:** Thanks, BJ!

**CharonG:** we include relative info. for the wk, student super stars of the week, vocabulary words for the week and tests for the wee in our newsletters

**AliciaM:** I like the student written newsletter idea.

**BJB2:** here's a more structured idea  
[http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Language\\_Arts/Journalism/JNL0200.html](http://www.eduref.org/Virtual/Lessons/Language_Arts/Journalism/JNL0200.html)

**AdrienneG:** Yes letting the students have input is good

**JeanineMH:** I have a classroom blogspot.

**JeanineMH:** it's a great home-school connection.

**JeanineMH:** so that's another idea. It is easy and fun

**AliciaM:** Thanks for letting us know.

**BrendaGa:** I know that blogging is becoming more common but I still don't feel that comfortable using it. Is there a program that goes step by step in setting it up?

**MirsaM:** I agree. If the students are involved they are more likely to want to participate in classroom activities.

**KarenL:** That is another great idea! I think blogger.com can help you.

**AliciaM:** It gives them ownership of their classroom.

**JeanineMH:** yes. Go to blogger.com and follow the steps to set it up

**BJB2:** it's very easy to set up a free account in blogger

**AliciaM:** Yes.

**JeanineMH:** if I can do it, believe me, you can too!

**AdrienneG:** Yes I have blogger

**KarenL:** I think. I think there is an education blog, I forgot the website, that allows teachers to set up one for students.

**MirsaM:** I do too.

**CharonG:** yes, students can do it, very easy

**BrendaGa:** this works for kids as well? is it safe for them to use.

**KarenL:** Is it edublog.org or something like that?

**JeanineMH:** yes. I remember seeing the educational one

**BrendaGa:** Thank you I will definitely look at it.

**AliciaM:** Thanks. I'll take a look.

**AdrienneG:** OK

**CharonG:** ok

**CharonG:** any good back to school books for 3rd graders?

**BJB2:** blogs are a great way to get the kids to have authentic writing opportunities

**JeanineMH:** Yes. I read my third graders Judy Moody every year

**JeanineMH:** It is about a girl who is in a bad mood on the first day of school

**MirsaM:** It can be their online journal.

**CharonG:** I'll look into it, thanks

**JeanineMH:** she is very funny. Her teacher gives the assignment to make a me collage

**KarenL:** Thanks for sharing that!

**AdrienneG:** thanks

**JeanineMH:** there is a whole series of Judy Moody books. Kids love them

**CharonG:** author?

**JeanineMH:** Megan McDonald

**AdrienneG:** They also love Junie B. Jones too

**CharonG:** thanks a lot!

**AliciaM:** Yes they're very cute.

**JeanineMH:** Is the author of Judy Moody

**KarenL:** Yes, and Amber Brown. . .

**AdrienneG:** I love her too

**MirsaM:** I love Junie B. Jones!!!

**JeffC** joined the room.

**BrendaGa:** In my 3rd grade class we are reading Junie B. Jones books. We try to read one each week and the kids have been bringing there their favorite ones for later.

**JeanineMH:** How I spent my summer vacation by Mark Teague is also a good book to read

**CharonG:** do you know of any company that sells cheap class book sets for teachers?

**JeanineMH:** try ebay

**KarenL:** I am loving these flow of ideas and sharing!!!

**JeanineMH:** they have lots of book sets to buy

**JeffC:** or amazon

**JeanineMH:** I've seen them, but never bought any

**CharonG:** do they sell them by sets or individually?

**JeanineMH** is a poor teacher

**JeanineMH:** by sets

**KarenL:** I do want to mention just one more url. It is enchanted learning. Although it is a fee, \$25, the printables are worth the dollars.

**CharonG:** thanks a lot!

**AliciaM:** I think individually.

**KarenL:** I think you can print some free without joining the enchanted learning community.

**JeanineMH:** oh, yes, enchanted learning is great

**AdrienneG:** ok

**KarenL:** Oh yes, and another one that a teacher shared with me. Starfill.com

**AdrienneG:** That would be helpful to print some for free

**AliciaM:** It has wonderful printables.

**KarenL:** Talk about some learning and reading activities! They are great!!!

**AliciaM:** I've heard of that one.

**KarenL:** I am printing out the alphabet ones.

**MirsaM:** I have too.

**BJB2:** we have five minutes left, Karen

**KarenL:** Oh dear. . .so many resources, and so little time. Okay, for additional back to school resources, I suggest googling (I know) and typing in "back to school" resources, and check out the websites that appeal to you.

**BJB2:** the next K-12 Language Arts discussion will be on October 19

**AliciaM:** See you, then.

**CharonG:** thanks for the info.

**MirsaM:** The websites you gave us were great, thank you.

**KarenL:** I suggest the same thing for bilingual resources. Google and type it bilingual resources and check out the websites. Also, check out your department of ed, especially in Texas, because I know they should have some bilingual resources.

**BrendaGa:** thank you for all of the great resources.

**AdrienneG:** Thank you

**KarenL:** Thank you all for your ideas and sharing and your time!!!! This is great!!!!

**JeanineMH:** Thank you. I really enjoyed our discussion.

**CharonG:** thank you Karen

**KarenL:** Have a great school year everyone!!!!!!

**AliciaM:** Thanks a lot for all the great ideas.