

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Concept Schools' K-2 "Event"

We are beginning to put together a brand-new Concept Schools' event that would target students in Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade.

We are looking to collect feedback and organize some the ideas or resources our primary teachers have for this event. Below is a link that takes you to a Google form where you can provide us that information. If you do have any specific resources (sponsors, vendors, etc.), please feel free to reach out to me via e-mail.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc89ap4sVqFcD3Eg2VXABIKB5zAPXJwkqdZreQgq4lZBGkv-Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc89ap4sVqFcD3Eg2VXABIKB5zAPXJwkqdZreQgq4lZBGkv-Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge



This year's theme is Happy Camper! Scholastic allows teachers to register their class and invite students to log their reading minutes online.

<http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2017>

Students get a user name and password so that teachers can track their reading minutes. There are parent letters that go out with the information as well as letters that could be sent home periodically throughout the summer to remind students of their participation. Here are some "camping related" ideas to help you kick off this program in your classroom!

[http://www.teachjunkie.com/filing-cabinet/camping-theme-activities/?utm\\_content=buffer9b79f&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=pinterest.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.teachjunkie.com/filing-cabinet/camping-theme-activities/?utm_content=buffer9b79f&utm_medium=social&utm_source=pinterest.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Jennifer Seiverson

## FREE?!?!? (or really, really cheap)

### Tech Resources to Organize Your Classroom Library

Classroom libraries are some of our most prized possessions. However, we can spend YEARS trying to level the books or at least mark them with some type of level. Good news! There are all types of free or cheap technology options to help with the task.

#### Book Source: Classroom Organizer



<https://classroom.booksource.com/default.aspx>

This site allows you to enter the ISBN of any book to create a cache of the books that can be sorted by title, AR level, Lexile, etc. Classroom Organizer is able to list some of the leveling details but you can also manually enter levels yourself (just search AR book finder.) You can also track books you lend out to students.

#### Scholastic Book Wizard



<http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizardmobile/index.htm>

Scholastic offers an app that allows teachers to scan bar codes on books to add into a "Classroom Library List." It can provide leveling information such as Guided Reading level and Lexile. Since the app is connected to your Scholastic account, you can view your library and sort in all different ways.

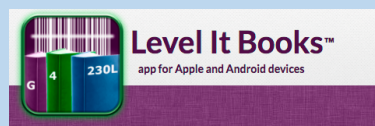
#### Libib: Cloud Cataloging



<https://www.libib.com/>

Libib is a site to catalog all types of home library items but you can also use it for a classroom library. There is a feature where you can scan a bar code or you can manually enter the ISBN online. This site does not level the books for you but you could look up an AR/Lexile level and record it as a "tag." That way, you can search by tag if you want to pull books by the same level (or genre, author, etc.)

#### Level It Books



<http://levelitbooks.com/>

The app is available for Apple and Android but it does cost about \$3.99. It offers away for teachers to scan books and creates an account. You can also put in your class list and keep track of books you have loaned out.

# Packing Up for Summer

By Jennifer Sajovec

I know, I know....it's only April but the end of the year is drawing to a close and you will soon be prepping your classroom. As someone who packed up a classroom every year, moved classrooms within the same school 4 times and moved to a new school 3 times, I know the TREMENDOUS amount of time and energy it takes! So here are some top tips to get you started!

## Building Procedures

Check with your administrator to see if there are building procedures/expectations or if there are any changes if this isn't the first year at your school. Always good to know up front what you will be expected to do!

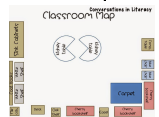
## Start a File Folder

Have one place that you put everything needed for closing out the school year. Make it colorful and cute to be sure you see it on your desk. Collect anything you need for those last two weeks or so in this folder!

## Create a Checklist

The end of the year is CRAZY busy with report cards, end of the year awards, field days, etc. Start an organized list now so it can free up some of your thinking. You can add to it as you think of things over the next few weeks. Type the list on your computer so you can just open the document again next year to make changes/updates.

## Make a Map and Take Photos (Lots of Them!)



This is probably The. Very. BEST. suggestion I can give anyone. I can't tell you how many times I found myself saying "Now how did I have this set up again!" Attached to these photos/map, make notes or print out ideas of how you might like to change things for next year.

## Pre-Packing

Caution! Resist all urge to start packing up now. When you start taking down bulletin board and packing boxes, the students will think school is over. Imagine their behavior before winter break, now double that and add in warm weather for extra excitement. Cut down on student misbehavior by keeping things the same as long as possible. However, you can start to organize things behind the scenes. But you can get ready for the move by using prep periods and after-school time over the final few weeks of the term to straighten your shelves and drawers, organize your library by author and genre, clear out any junk from drawers and closets, and pack away materials you know you won't need for the rest of the school year.

## Assemble a Day-One Survival Kit

Think of the things you will need immediately when coming back in the fall such as scissors, stapler, marker, etc. and place them in a well-marked box. That way, when you come back in the fall, you don't have to dig around to find them and move write into set-up mode.



## Label...Everything!

For items where the label can stay, use mailing labels. You can format one label and just print using a program such as Word. If you need something less permanent, blue or green painter's tape is perfect since it easily peels off. Better yet, print more mailing labels and stick those to the painter's tape. Less writing!



## Let Your Students "Dust"!

Give students a box of baby wipes (or two or three) and let them go to town!

## The Dishwasher is Your Best Friend

Everything from the cute, colorful bins to the scissors grows a disgusting layer of grime of the year. During the last few weeks, take home items that you can throw in the dishwasher (yes, even scissors). Bring them back nice and clean and store them over the summer. That way, you don't have to open a box and think "Man, I should have washed these." during those super busy first weeks of school.

## Cover Your Items

You might be able to keep some things on shelves. Summer custodians can often use a dolly to roll out heavy shelves. Keep things secure by wrapping the shelves in plastic wrap. You can be 24 in wide rolls that is used for carpet protection or just buy the regular kitchen kind.

If things are staying in your room, you may still wish to cover your shelves. Things do go "missing" over the summer. (Who know why!?) We used to use butcher paper but it's clunky to manage. Instead, you can use plastic rectangular table cloths and packing tape. Also, don't forget to empty items like manipulatives or pencils out of bins and place them in ziplocs. Keeps them nice and organized in case someone has to move them.

## Take-Home Box

Set aside a nice sturdy, portable tote that you can place any item in that you might need over the summer. For instance, if you might want to create a new center to go with your place value unit, take home your TE (unless you go digital) and any binder/file folders to match. That way, you don't have to drive back into school to work on these projects.



You might also pop in items that you might like to copy or work in during the times you are at school for summer or back to school PD sessions. That way, you don't have to get overwhelmed with setting up your classroom during the PD sessions.

All of this preparation now will pay off when you head back after summer. For some more tips, you can visit the following site below!

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/brent-vasicek/your-closing-classroom-checklist/>

<http://teachingmyfriends.blogspot.com/2012/05/packing-up-classroom.html>

<http://www.orientaltrading.com/blog/educate/8-tips-for-packing-up-your-classroom-2/>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r-X\\_iOHupk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r-X_iOHupk)