

Library Linx

The Library and school districts of Bend La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters proudly announce the collaborative project—**Library Linx: Bringing the Public Library to the School**. The program allows students and teachers to place holds on public library materials, and the materials are then delivered directly to the school.



Library Linx is active in the three original schools, plus Sisters Middle School, Bear Creek Elementary, Jewell Elementary, Pilot Butte Middle, Bend High Schools, and Tumalo and Terrebonne Community Schools. Students place holds via the Internet at the Deschutes Public Library (DPL) website (www.dpls.us), and the items are delivered to designated drop off sites for each school district. The schools' courier systems then deliver the items directly to the schools, where media staff check them out on a DPL-dedicated computer. Items are also returned to the schools.

The **Library Linx** committee set the goal of expanding to 10 schools in the fall of 2008, with the plan of adding 10 more in the spring of 2009, fall of 2009, and spring of 2010. Bend La Pine schools volunteered their grant writer, Bruce Abernethy, to write grants that finance the software licensing fees, computers, library cards, a courier van, book carts, and sorting crates. So far \$15,000 has been received from Pacific Power and Oregon Community Foundation, with an additional grant pending, but funds were not received in time for the additional 10 schools this fall. This year, DPL funded the project one more time, with in-kind donations from the school districts of staff time, courier delivery, and bandwidth.

Project manager Heather McNeil emphasized the excellent cooperation that has resulted in this ground-breaking program. "As far as we know, no one else is providing this service on such a large scale," McNeil stated. "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with the schools in order to assist in assuring the importance of their media centers."

For more information about **Library Linx** contact McNeil at heatherm@dpls.us.



Online Language Learning

Check out our newest online resource, **Mango Languages** (<http://www.dpls.us/mango>). **Mango Languages** uses a unique, fun, and web-based teaching method to quickly get you started learning a new language. Mango is easy to use, and with one hundred available lessons for each language, you'll have plenty of time to develop your language skills as you hear the language spoken by a native speaker. All you need is your library card to begin learning (or brush up on) Spanish, Italian, French, Japanese, and more.

Latino Community Outreach

As part of DPL's initiative this year, a bilingual staff person has joined our staff. Michele Ping is the Latino Services Coordinator for Deschutes Public Library. She can be contacted at 541.312.1028 or michelep@dpls.us in Outreach Services.



In an effort to reach out to the Latino/Spanish-speaking community in Deschutes County, Michele is beginning to organize tours of the Bend Public Library. She will also be providing bilingual Early Literacy story times in the near future at the Bend branch. Additionally, DPL will be offering cultural programs aimed specifically at the Latino/Spanish-speaking community in Deschutes county. "It is Deschutes Public Library's desire to welcome the Latino community to the library. DPL offers a place where the community can read, learn, and inform themselves; where the Latino community can network with others, and most importantly build a lasting relationship with the Latino community," stated Michele.

With a Deschutes Public Library card, families have access to books, the Internet, movies, CDs and much more. Contact Michele Ping for more information about library services and programs.