

# LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

## Jen Dengler

School Librarian



**School:**  
Loudon Elementary School



**Location:**  
Latham, New York



**District:**  
North Colonie Central School District



**Grades Served:**  
3-5

**Jen Dengler** is a new librarian at Loudonville Elementary School, after spending several years as a classroom teacher of grades 1, 4, and 6.

She learned about News-O-Matic because of its **support for a wide range of learning needs**, including accessibility features that support students with ADHD and other learning differences.

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“News-O-Matic is a trusted place where students can choose articles to read for enjoyment and information,” Jen shares.

Jen appreciates the **platform’s role in developing critical thinking and reading skills** with both its articles and accompanying student and educator resources.

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“News-O-Matic helps students become better critical readers and citizens by building skills to analyze information, compare sources, and understand what’s factual.”

## Integrating News-O-Matic in the Library Routine

Every six school days, Jen leads a routine for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 as they arrive in the library. - and **News-O-Matic is at the center of it.**

After a book exchange, students access News-O-Matic on their Chromebooks and choose an article that interests them. They might read about a current news event or explore a topic by searching News-O-Matic’s nonfiction database. **The choice is entirely theirs.**

At the end of the routine, students come together to discuss what they’ve read, often comparing articles on similar topics and sharing new information they discovered. Some articles spark especially meaningful discussions

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“The **6-7 Meme Takes Over!** article was one that students wanted to discuss as a group,” Jen explains. “They didn’t know that a news organization would discuss this topic, and it really opened the door for conversation.”

## Interactive Features That Deepen Engagement

Beyond reading articles, students engage with the interactive resources included with each News-O-Matic article. Features like maps, visuals, and discussion tools help students connect news events to the real world. They especially like the videos that are included in News-O-Matic Movie Reviews by young people

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“My ELL students love the map feature included with each article so they can see where events take place,” Jen says. “All students appreciate being able to see how far they would have to travel to where a current event is happening—especially with sporting events..”

## Building Digital Citizenship Through Ask Russ

Students are also highly engaged with the *Ask Russ* feature in the Newsroom, where they can submit their own questions and read questions and responses from students around the world.

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“My students love Ask Russ because they’re interested in seeing what other students are saying about the articles,” Jen shares. “When we discussed digital safety, students even referenced how kids share and interact with Russ safely.”

## Supporting Curriculum, Media Literacy, and Global Awareness

News-O-Matic aligns closely with the school’s curriculum, which emphasizes understanding news, facts, and information. It provides meaningful opportunities for students to learn about the world around them and consider the impact they can have on their communities.

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“ News-O-Matic helps students be more mindful of what’s happening in the world—at a level they can understand,” Jen explains. “The news can be scary sometimes. News-O-Matic helps students have conversations about it with teachers and families.”

Reflecting on what resonates most with her students, Jen adds:

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“With News-O-Matic, my students aren’t just reading articles about current events—they’re interacting with them, asking questions, and seeing how the news connects to their own lives. That’s how News-O-Matic won my students over.”



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