

Editor's Message

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Fall... a time of new beginnings. For teachers and students this means new school supplies, new classmates and new courses. Each fall teachers get a fresh start on their jobs with, at the least, different students or programs and, commonly, with a new grade level, course load or school. The consequence of fall's "blank slate" is that educators are very busy training students to expected routines, finding needed resources, and planning new lessons.

Like other educators, teacher librarians experience this same fall rush to begin fresh, to process new materials, to connect with new students and teachers, and to try new ideas. Fall is a time when teacher librarians, as support personnel in the school, can be of invaluable assistance to teachers. Traditionally, teacher librarians offer library orientations to classes and book talk new titles to groups of students. Often nowadays this orientation includes an introduction to computer procedures, accounts, and passwords. Staff members launching into new programs and courses seek teacher librarian help in finding resources and planning lessons with new materials. The proverbial "foot-in-the-door" to collaborating with a staff member often comes in autumn when a colleague seeks help dealing with new content or is striving to locate materials to meet the needs of diverse students.

Fall is an ideal time to make your staff aware of the role of the teacher librarian, the resources you have available through the library, and ways you can collaborate with them to enhance learning in the classroom. Teachers are often receptive to suggestions of integrating technology and information literacy skills when they are making their plans and setting their goals for the year. Teacher librarians are busy in the fall helping teachers with their back to school rush.

Several times this fall, I have accessed back issues of *The Medium* online when I have needed a fresh approach to a lesson or a new suggestion to offer a colleague. Many of the articles contain a collection of easily adapted ideas or links to web based tools that fill the need for a novel method. I have also referred colleagues to the same source for materials I know they will find there. I hope you too revisit *The Medium* for inspiration or practical advice. I would be delighted to hear feedback from you about how you applied or adapted an idea you found in our publication.

In this issue you will find lesson plans on the importance of universal primary education, a report on how structural innovation in Regina Public School is affecting teacher librarians, a review of the services provided by CanLit for Kids, and the uses of a cover study with students in various disciplines. Following on the success of our online learning events from last year, please see the poster and registration form for this year's sessions. Bill Prentiss, ELA consultant, Saskatchewan Education will begin the discussion of inquiry learning for us in the first session. Renowned author and educator Harvey Daniels will then join us for two sessions focusing on inquiry learning. He co-authored the book, *Comprehension and Collaboration: Inquiry Circles in Action* with Stephanie Daniels.

Would you like to win a copy of this book? Enter the Wolfram Alpha contest in this issue of *The Medium* and you may be the lucky winner! Please see the article for more details.

Now that fall is well underway, you can look back at some of your successes this fall. Why not share some of these ideas with colleagues through *The Medium*. I welcome all kinds of submissions: book reviews, technology tips, website recommendations, and lesson plans. The teacher librarian job encompasses such variety that I am sure anything you share will be useful to someone!

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