

# Editor's Message

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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May 3, 4 and 5 in Saskatoon, I had the good fortune to attend the IT Summit and SSLA annual conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to rub elbows with other teacher-librarians. Not only were there stimulating speakers in the sessions but also there was a lively exchange of ideas during the breaks. Because there is, at most, one teacher-librarian at a school, we can become quite isolated if we do not seek out other teacher-librarians with whom to connect. For those of you who are unable to visit with another teacher-librarian on a regular basis, perhaps The Medium can, in a small way, connect you with the ideas of your colleagues from other schools.

With air travel and internet communication, it is also easy to connect to teacher-librarians far from home. In this issue, you will find an interview I conducted with a teacher-librarian I met recently in California. I travelled with a group of colleagues from my school division to visit a high school in the San Francisco area. We are developing better programs to meet the needs of our students and wanted to learn about the programs offered at Sir Francis Drake School. One of the highlights of my visit was the warm welcome I received in the resource centre from teacher-librarian, Sheila Bennett-Newton. She graciously agreed to the interview via email that is published here.

Another way to remain current in our field is to pursue professional development through university classes. Included in this issue is information about new classes being offered through the University of Regina and Athabasca University.

For those of you wanting to inspire students to continue reading over the summer, Chris MacLennan has once again shared a couple of her lively book talks with us. This year's Saskatchewan Young Readers Choice Awards (SYRCA) or "Willow Award" nominees are another good recommendation for summer reading for students. For this issue, Val Gerrard has reported on *Books at the Bistro*, an annual fund raising activity for this organization.

A Web tool you may want to use in your classroom is previewed for us in the article: *Prezi-ning Body Systems*. This unique presentation tool shares the non-linear, mind mapping characteristics of Inspiration rather than the linear, slide format of PowerPoint.

In her article about collection mapping, Donna DesRoches, Learning Resources Consultant with Living Prairie Sky Division, writes about the ambitious process she and key library personnel in her division undertook in order to evaluate their library collections. What began as collection mapping became in reality a re-examination of everything concerning the library, from paper to virtual collections, and from currency of resources to how welcoming the library space is to users.

In preparation for fall, please preview the materials that are available to you through Veterans Affairs Canada. The article contains a brief description of the materials and provides many valuable links.

I hope that in this issue you find some idea that takes you outside of your library and connects you to other teacher-librarians or techniques that you may want to try.

Happy reading over the summer!

Chris