

President's Message

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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SSLA President



SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Request for Participation...Please!

Saskatchewan School Library Association

The theme of this message is the urgent need for SSLA members to participate in the activities of their association.

I realize that these are complicated times for teacher-librarians. Time and budgets have been cut in some divisions affecting the ability to accomplish the teacher-librarian role as defined by the guideline and policy document, *Connections*. Other forces influencing us are the requirements of the new curriculum, an integrated inquiry focus, and an increasing obligation to use technology to meet both learning and managerial needs.

Your SSLA Executive is in the midst of trying to help you meet these intense demands through professional development programs including this year's *Learning Events* focus on inquiry and a conference with a technology theme designed for the diverse roles of the teacher-librarian. What can you do to help? Participate, attend, and share the information with your staff. Bring a colleague along to one of the online *Learning Events*. Blog, Twitter and/or Facebook about what you have learned.

Our online journal *The Medium*, has gained international notice and articles have been picked up by other journals. What we are doing is good. However, it can only continue to be good if you contribute your ideas, lessons, book reviews, letters, etc. to it. The editor should not be writing articles and the perspective becomes narrow when only Executive members contribute. I implore you to take a moment – write 250 words on something that has happened in your library – or take a few photos – or capture some video footage. We are on the web – we can deliver in any medium.

SSLA has initiated the development of an SSLA document that would provide teacher-librarian support for the inquiry stance embedded in the new Saskatchewan curricula. We have managed to form a small but strong committee whose task is to outline what this document will look like. We will be calling on our membership soon to help write, provide examples and to give feedback on draft manuscripts. Please hear our call – our request for your participation is a sincere plea for your knowledge and expertise.

Advocacy remains an elusive and difficult task to undertake. Letters and emails fly between the Executive and our STF liaison. Last year's resolutions have been swallowed up within the STF's Brief to the Ministry and their resoluteness lost. We must begin again. Please allow your voice to be heard when we begin our petitions anew.

Most importantly, we cannot have an association without an Executive. These individuals initiate and provide the leadership for the association's activities. They are the face and the voice of teacher-librarian's across the province – and nationally. Please – when you receive the email asking for individuals willing to serve on the Executive – consider letting your name stand. I will not pretend that there is not work involved – there are meetings, expectations, and commitments. However, there is also laughter, collegiality, and a sense of satisfaction in helping teacher-librarians across Saskatchewan.

Yes, these are difficult days for teacher-librarians but through your participation and your commitment to your association, we can build a strong, supportive community to sustain us. Please respond to our calls for your participation.