



Saskatchewan School Library Association Executive Newsletter

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SSLA AWARDS AND BURSARY

The Saskatchewan School Library Association invites nominations/applications for the following:

- **Art Forgay Award of Recognition**
Awarded annually to recognize administrators who have direct responsibility for a school or group of schools, and who have demonstrated commitment toward establishing or developing effective school library programs.
- **Connie Acton Award of Merit**
Awarded annually to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to school library service in Saskatchewan.
- **John G. Wright Distinguished Service Award**
Awarded annually to recognize individuals who throughout their careers have made outstanding contributions to school library service in Saskatchewan.
- **Dr. Alixe Hambleton Bursary**
Valued at \$500 and offered annually to a Saskatchewan student who is registered at a recognized Canadian university in an undergraduate or graduate program in the field of school librarianship.

This year's recipients will be announced at the SSLA Conference to be held April 6 through 8, 2006 in Saskatoon. Eligibility, nomination guidelines, and judging criteria can be found at:

http://www.stf.sk.ca/prof_growth/ssc/ssl/awards.html

The deadline for nominations and applications is February 28, 2006.



EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The second Executive meeting of the year was held in Saskatoon on November 4 and 5, 2005. Discussion items included the following:

- Ruth Garnett, Florence Barton, and Lucille Dube reported that all sessions have been planned and all facilities have been booked for the SSLA's 2006 Conference. A coil-bound book of all session handouts will be provided to all participants.
- Barbara McNeil reported that the Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board's *Promotion Implementation Working Group* partnered with organizers of Saskatchewan Library Week and Saskatchewan Education Week to promote Saskatchewan's online library services. Events included the official launch of Saskatchewan Library Week and the launch of the Saskatchewan Libraries Gateway.
- The SSLA poster that was recently distributed to all Saskatchewan schools will be offered as a gift to select individuals and agencies that support and promote school libraries and teacher-librarians in this province.
- Violet Smotra-Cook represented Saskatchewan at the CASL-PAC Teleconference held November 2, 2005. Most provinces and territories participated.

SSLA CONFERENCE 2006

The theme for this year's SSLA Conference is *Teachers and Teacher-Librarians as Partners: 101 Reasons to Celebrate School Libraries*. The Conference will be held April 6 through 8 at Saskatoon's Travelodge Inn and is hosted by K to 12 teacher-librarians in the Saskatoon Public School Division.

Keynote speakers include Eric Walters, best-selling Canadian author, and Dr. Lois Barranoik, selected in 2004 by the Canadian School Library Association as *Teacher-Librarian of the Year*. The banquet speaker is Arthur Black, acclaimed Canadian radio host and two-time winner of the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour.

Registration fees received prior to March 1 are \$185 for SSLA members. To obtain a registration form, visit the Conference page of the SSLA Website.

http://www.stf.sk.ca/prof_growth/ssc/sslal

THE TEACHER-LIBRARIAN'S TOOLKIT FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Global research shows that school library programs that are adequately staffed, resourced, and funded have a positive impact on student achievement. At the school level, however, administrators are seeking site-specific evidence that will help them make tough financial decisions and plan for school improvement. A new Website, developed by the Ontario School Library Association (OSLA), provides teacher-librarians with the tools needed to engage in evidence-based practice.

Evidence-based practice is a systematic process whereby data is gathered, documented, analyzed, and communicated in order to show how a quality school library program makes a difference in student learning. The OSLA Website provides teacher-librarians with ideas about where to begin and how to proceed. Links to valuable online resources are also included.

<http://www.accessola.com/osla/toolkit/intro.html>

NATIONAL MEDIA EDUCATION WEEK

The Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) have partnered to launch National Media Education Week which will be held from November 19 through 24, 2006. The first of its kind in Canada, this week will highlight the importance of media and Web literacy as key learning areas in the information age.

Findings from a 2005 MNet survey indicate that young people are immersed in media and digital culture. It is therefore imperative that students acquire critical thinking, communication, and information literacy skills. According to CTF President Winston Carter, "Teachers play a critical role in this process but require carefully developed tools, resources, and professional development opportunities. This is where MNet's valuable insight, knowledge, and state-of-the-art resources come into play."

Thanks to federal funding, MNet and CTF are currently working with provincial and territorial teacher organizations and other agencies to develop and promote a wide range of media education programs and professional development opportunities.



The following online resources help educators, students, and parents increase their knowledge of Web-related issues:

<http://www.media-awareness.ca/>
<http://cnets.iste.org>
<http://www.safewiredschools.org>
<http://www.isafe.org>
<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/internet>
<http://www.searchengines.com/kids>
<http://www.cybermart.org>
<http://www.netsmartz.org>
<http://www.disney.go.com/surfwell>