



Saskatchewan School Library Association

Executive Newsletter

Volume 21, Number 2
January 2008



Happy New Year!



The SSLA Executive would like to extend all members best wishes for the New Year. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are returned to work feeling rejuvenated.

Conference 2008

Good news! Plans are now being finalized for this year's SSLA conference. Our hosts this year are the Prairie Spirit School Division Library Group. We are pleased to announce that Carol Koechlin and Sandi Zwaan will be conducting an all-day workshop called *Questioning Success* (see [Appendix A](#)). Carol and Sandi are highly respected co-authors of many publications (see [Appendix B](#)).

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2008
(the day before the TLt Summit in Saskatoon)

Location: The Saskatoon Club
417 21 St. E.
Saskatoon
(a few blocks from T.C.U. Place)

Cost: \$75, lunch included

For more information:

- Our new website (end of January)
<http://www.ssla.ca>
- The conference chair,
Carlene Walter
carlene.walter@spiritsd.ca

SSLA Awards and Bursaries

Do you know someone who is dedicated to school libraries and teacher-librarianship? Consider nominating a deserving individual for one of the following awards:

❖ **Art Forgay Award of Distinction**

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.

More information for the above awards and bursary can be found on the Awards page of the SSLA website.

<http://ssc.stf.sk.ca/ssl/awards.html>

Please forward all applications to Charlene Leaderhouse at cleaderhouse@cec.pacsd6.sk.ca

Internet Citizenship

As teacher-librarians, one of our goals is to teach students the importance of copyright, respecting authorship/ownership, and citing sources. In the digital world, this takes on a whole new meaning. Is the Internet an open domain, rich with images and information for the taking? Or do the same 'old' principles of copyright apply?

The [Media Awareness Network](#) has a very interesting article which explains these ideas in a Canadian context. The article discusses copyright, plagiarism, and netiquette. There are also links to other professional resources about these topics.

There are many copyright-friendly materials available. The following links will help in your search for *Creative Commons* Media.

- Joyce Valenza's wiki pathfinder on [copyright friendly media](#).

- [Creative Commons Media Search](#) - the place to go for videos, photos and music that have creative commons licensing.

(From: [Meet the Stars](#), created by: Donna Desroches and Carlene Walter)

The Medium

The Medium is a publication of the SSLA. *The Medium* is designed to provide information of a professional development nature applicable to school library personnel. The editors of *The Medium* are looking for the following:

- Highlights of library activities in your school.
- Reviews of favourite books, authors, and poets.
- Favourite web links.
- Technology use in the classroom.
- RBL units and lesson plans
- Profiles of special teacher-librarians

Please consider submitting articles to *The Medium*. Editors:

carlene.walter@spiritsd.ca
jennifer.climenhaga@lskysd.ca

Quotes

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." ~ Dr. Seuss ~

"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."
~ Emilie Buchwald ~

Newsletter compiled by Charlene Leaderhouse, Vice-President of SSLA.

Appendix A

Questioning Success

Educators often provide all the academic prompts for students. What would happen if we turned the tables and empowered students to generate their own questions to guide their learning? Our workshop will explore the benefits of building a culture of inquiry and introduce a few strategies for teaching questioning skills to students.

Questioning skills will help every student succeed with:

- Exploring a topic for research
- Developing a focus for research
- Accessing information
- Validating information sources
- Designing surveys and interviews
- Processing information
- Thinking critically about information
- Deeper understanding of issues
- Connecting to real world problems and events
- Critical analysis of media texts
- Self analysis and peer review

We believe that successful research depends on student developed questions that will drive analysis. Critical thinking and understanding require strategic questioning to see relationships and make personal connections. The best way to ensure that students work is original thinking is to enable them to develop their own focus with good inquiry questions.

During our workshop we will explore aspects of questioning educators need to consider. We will provide experience with several strategies using practical cross-curricular examples that infuse questioning skills into content learning, and tools to monitor student progress. A variety of media texts will be used to provide experiences with content from fiction, non-fiction, magazines, newspapers, Internet and video. Participants will be engaged in trying out each strategy and reflecting on how well it might work for their students. What changes would they make, suggestions, adaptations?

Jamie McKenzie proclaims that “Questions and questioning may be the most powerful technologies of all.” Students need to master this “technology”.

Appendix B

Books include:

Loertscher, David, Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Beyond Bird Units*. Salt Lake City UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing, 2007

Loertscher, David, Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Ban Those Bird Units*. Salt Lake City UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing, 2004

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Build Your Own Information Literate School*. Salt Lake City UT: Hi Willow Research and Publishing, 2003.

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Information Power Pack: Junior*. Toronto: Pembroke, 1997.

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Information Power Pack: Intermediate*. Toronto: Pembroke, 1997.

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Teaching Tools for the Information Age*. Toronto: Pembroke, 1997.

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Info Tasks for Successful Learning*. Toronto: Pembroke, 2001.

Koechlin, Carol and Zwaan, Sandi. *Q Tasks: How to Empower Students to Ask Questions and Care About Answers*. Toronto: Pembroke, 2006.

Published articles include:

1999 *Moving Beyond, "All About Projects"* Teaching Librarian Volume 6 Number 3

1999 *Information Literacy 2000* School Libraries in Canada Volume 19, Number 2

2002 **Making library programs count: Where's the evidence?** School Libraries in Canada Volume 22 Number 2

2002 *Focus on Understanding* Teacher Librarian Volume 30 Number 1

2003 *Advocating the Evidence* Teaching Librarian Volume 10 Number 3

2003 *Kick It Up a Notch* School Libraries in Canada Volume 22, Number 4

2005 *Ontario Canada is Connecting* IASL Newsletter Volume 34 Number 3

2006 **Knock Knock. Who's There?** Teaching Librarian Volume 13 Numbers 1-2

2007 **Assignments Worth the Effort** Teacher Librarian Volume 34 Number 3

2007 **Everyone Wins: Differentiation in the School Library** The Medium (SSLA)

