Kelsey Klug—McClure Middle School

Kelsey Klug is thrilled to join the McClure MS team after earning her MLIS through the University of Washington iSchool last spring. She’s worked with middle schoolers before, but she is new to SPS, so she is looking forward to collaborating with other teachers and learning from their expertise. She is especially excited to connect students with window and mirror books and bring makerspace activities into the library!

Kristian Englert—South Shore K-8

Mr. Englert is originally from Chicago, Illinois but spent the last ten years in Syracuse, NY. He spent the past five years teaching at Bellevue Elementary in Syracuse. This summer, he packed up his Uhaul, loaded his family in their car and drove five ten hour days across the country to arrive in Seattle where he now calls home. He is excited to start a new adventure and be a part of the South Shore K-8 community.

Kristin Eason—Thornton Creek Elementary School

Kristen Eason has joined Thornton Creek Elementary as the new Librarian/Media Specialist. She is excited to be working with students to help build their love of reading and to become technologically proficient learners. Her favorite book series is (and will always be) Harry Potter but she also loves picture books like The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson.
Graham Hill Library received a grant a few years ago and I consulted my parent advisory board as to their thoughts on best use of some of the funds. They were overwhelmingly in favor of author visits.

That being the case, I began to look for authors that reached as many children as possible. Simon Calcavecchia became a children’s author after a tragic rugby accident while playing in Australia. He has not let being a quadriplegic stop him!

Simon now travels the area speaking to students about the power of not giving up.

I feel our special education students can sometimes feel on the periphery and Simon demonstrates how we all have talents to discover. Social emotional learning is a big part of education at Graham Hill. My vision is that this assembly fosters team work, empathy, and opens minds while touching hearts.

If interested, contact him to learn more:

Simon Calcavecchia
Motivational Speaker/Children's Book Author/Disability Awareness Advocate
360-870-7300
Book talking is one of my favorite and most important services I provide. With a few scintillating sentences, you can hook a potential reader and will likely have many contenders for a single title. Seeing multiple classes per week presents logistical challenges, however. I have applied the following procedures for the last several years, to great success—meaning the books leave the library!

1. Ditch the notion that you must read everything you book talk. For the first few years as a teacher librarian, I thought in order to sell a book, I’d have to read it. While it is the most genuine approach, I finally admitted I simply don’t have that much time or sometimes, even the interest in some titles. Once I let go the guilt, I began talking up a lot more books.

2. Create two to four electronic spreadsheets (I use Google Docs, but you could use Excel) for amassing and tracking.

Amassing Book Talks Spreadsheet: This is where I catalog a book talk after I read it, when I purchased for the collection, or when it gets recommended to me. I like the functionality of this sheet, because if I’m looking for Historical Fiction, for example, I can sort the sheet quickly. All potential book talks, K-5th grade, live on this document. To book talk even if I’ve read the book, I usually copy and paste a review from Titlewave, as they have almost every title. This saves me the time from having to compose. This document aggregates perennially. I have almost 700 titles. Note: I don’t need to put every title on here. Many books, such as Wonder, are easy to remember.

Tracking Book Talks Spreadsheet: These documents help me remember which classes have heard which talks. I have one for K/1st, one for 2nd/3rd, and one for 4th/5th. The 4th/5th grade screenshot below shows only one X for the year in this part of the alphabet, which indicates I have book-talked The Line Tender in Ms. Day’s class. By the end of the year, it will have a lot more X’s. At the start of a school year, I simply clear last year’s tracker, keeping the books listed on them. That way, I have reminders of all the great books I can talk.

Lastly, I do not book talk to every class every week. I have a schedule, and I prepare the stacks for each class, usually two fiction and one nonfiction, the week before. I’m always looking for ways to optimize and encourage everyone to share ideas.

Happy book talking!
Racial Equity

Everyone is invited to join our SPS Library Racial Equity Book Club on Teams on Thursday mornings at 7:30 am once a month during the school year.

The seventh book is How To Be an AntiRacist by Ibram X. Kendi.

Please go to Schoology and join the course at 7QNKV-9V7WS

Indigenous People’s History Webinar on October 29th, experts from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, will delve into the ways American history instruction often fails to acknowledge—and contributes to—the erasure of Indigenous stories and perspectives.

America To Me Real Talk is a ten part docu-series created to be used as a tool to seed a national conversation around issues of race, civic engagement, and educational outreach. It is free to educators until December.

Teen Vogues asks six women about Halloween costumes that co-opt their culture. The video My Culture Is Not a Costume is less than five minutes long and can be playing on loop in your library with closed captions.

Please consider writing Letters of Encouragement to teachers in an educational program for a transitional foster care agency that serves unaccompanied migrant children.

The assistant director, Dulce-Marie would be forever grateful if you’d write letters of encouragement to her overwhelmingly EOC (educators of color) staff serving unaccompanied migrant children.

Colours of Us is a fantastic resource for multicultural children's books (listed by subjects, ethnicity and age groups), toys and clothes.
LEARNING AND LEADING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

**Epic Reads** - one of the largest young adult fiction communities online

**Penguin Teens** - helpful book suggestions tool that focuses on genre specific book recommendations

**Reading Rockets** - lengthy themed lists for young readers

**Tor** is the online hub for fantasy and science fiction

**Whichbook** - book recommendations calculated by one out of two categories: 1. Mood, or 2. Character, setting, and plot

**Your Next Read**

**What Should I Read Next**

**Read Geek** - calculates which books you’d most likely enjoy based on your previous ratings

**Literature Map** - type in an author’s name and then view similar authors that other readers are enjoying

**Goodreads** - space for people to track their reading, write reviews, and view books, lists, and authors that align with their interests

**Narrative Muse** - books specifically written by underrepresented voices

**Riffle** - keep track of authors, what you’re reading, and the personalized book recommendations curated for you by the site

**Subscriptions**

**TBR** - tailoring book recommendations for readers

**BookBub** - free and discounted reading deals sent straight to your email

**Your Next Five** - SPL emails you books to read next

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**November 2nd** Edcamp Puget Sound - a free biannual unconference for teachers by teachers

**November 14th-16th** AASL - National School Library Conference devoted solely to the needs of school librarians

**November 15th-17th** XITO Institute - creating inclusive, vibrant and dynamic learning environments

**November 21st-24th** NCTE - National Council of Teachers of English dare to wonder, to be bold and creative in your curiosity

**January 24th-28th** ALA Midwinter - explores the many futures of academic, public, school, and special libraries

**February 29th** Children’s Literature Conference - gather to celebrate and learn about children’s literature
**Boost Your Brand**

⇒ **Rename** your library space
⇒ **Use Reading promotions** as marketing tools
⇒ **Plan events** that coincide with your messaging
⇒ **Collaborate** with departments/ASB/staff to rep your library
⇒ **Create** opportunities to share resources and leverage your work

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**Amplify Libraries**

Have you asked your parents, students, staff, and community members to attend a school board meeting?

Meetings are every two weeks. Email Monday mornings at 8 am to sign-up.

Supporting and advocating for library programs is vital!

Please learn more [here](#)

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**TECHNOLOGY**

Flipgrid -[https://info.flipgrid.com](https://info.flipgrid.com) is a video tool that empowers social learning in PreK to PhD classrooms around the world and the [Flipgrid Integration Docs](#) provide great ideas to showcase your library and can include the [Flipgrid AR feature](#)

Peergrade- [https://www.peergrade.io](https://www.peergrade.io) is a free online platform to facilitate peer feedback sessions with students

**Unite for Literacy** provides free digital access to picture books, narrated in many languages. Intended for grades: PreK – 2 but also helpful for MS and HS World Language classes

**Time Graphic’s** step-by-step guide leads students to easily incorporate text, video, and graphics to create an online timeline

*Are you using a digital tool that should be showcased? Send a quick email to share how use it and the ways it serves students.*

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**SPS LIBRARIANS PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED FOR:**

Professional Development
Superintendent Juneau’s [Seattle Super Readers](#)
Racial Equity Book Clubs

Have news to share? Questions? Please send to TuesD Chambers at tscambers@seattleschools.org

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