I like the Steering Committee because it provides an opportunity for a small group of librarians in SPS to come together to plan PD, strategize policy and collaborate on communication and dissemination of information to all librarians in the district. –Deb Fournier

I strive to be an effective representative and advocate for SE region students and librarians, to work collaboratively with my colleagues on the steering committee to serve all SPS librarians. –Tina Buster

While celebrating all the amazing work our colleagues do, I’d like to be a part of helping to make positive, student centered, sustainable change in our libraries and across our district. –Rebecca Wynkoop

Serving on the Library Steering Committee means I represent my colleagues by giving input on issues, providing insight on concerns, and I can passionately advocate for all the ways we have a positive impact on students in our schools. –TuesD Chambers

I look forward to connecting with and supporting Teacher-Librarians throughout the school district. –Jean Bolivar

For the next year, my objective for the Steering Committee is to get a Social Emotional Learning database for picture books up and running for all SPS librarians. Kristi Leland and Nancy Fisher-Allison are also involved. –Anne Aliverti

I am serving on the Library Steering Committee because, after four years of getting my feet wet learning how to be a librarian, I finally feel ready to explore more deeply some of the inner-workings of our library world. –Chris Robert

This month, in place of my regular column, we’d like to introduce you to your colleagues who are currently serving on the Library Steering Committee (LSC). The mission of this group is to “provide leadership, communication, advocacy, and support for libraries and library services in Seattle Public Schools”. This group has several critical duties, but their role as advisors to the Library Services Manager is the one I value most. The LSC meets monthly to discuss whatever issues and topics are most timely and to plan strategic actions and responses to those. Membership on the committee is totally voluntary and comes with no compensation other than the satisfaction of making a contribution to the greater welfare of SPS librarians and libraries. They are here to represent each of you and I encourage you to reach out to them with any concerns, ideas, and thoughts you’d like elevate to a district-wide conversation. Thank you, Steering Committee members! –Marian Royal

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POINTS OF INTEREST
• Nonfiction Graphic Novels with Craig page 4
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• AASL with Rebecca page 4
Marjorie Dowd, librarian at Coe Elementary, is our April elementary librarian spotlight. When asked to name her favorite part of being the Kearns Librarian, she stated, “All of it. However, if I really must choose one part of my job, then I would say that it is helping my students engage with books from their earliest reading experience through the beginning of young adulthood. Helping my students discover and explore their place in the world through books is endlessly rewarding.”

In her opinion, the single most important element of success as a school librarian is proactive collaboration with teaching staff. Elementary school librarians are sole practitioners, so when she started her job at Coe Elementary School she made a conscious decision to be on everybody’s team. A couple of helpful strategies: she tracks every grade level’s annual Scope and Sequence, she’s an active reader of all Coe’s classroom newsletters, and she “speed dates” all her grade teams’ PLC meetings on Wednesday afternoons. She thinks that it helps center the library program in the life of the learning community if her classroom teachers know that she is tracking their curricula and building library lessons which deepen and extend classroom learning.

Majorie is always looking for ways to involve the students directly in the library and to foster their sense of ownership. This year she was inspired by her favorite independent bookstores to create book recommendation hang tags for 5th grade students to post in the library. It gave the students an opportunity to promote their favorite books to the whole school community. This project also tied into CCC’s (our English Language Arts curriculum) persuasive writing unit and she has attached a copy of the Hang Tag, in case anyone wants to use it. The students took a lot of pride in their work and the 5th grade team was very enthusiastic and worked with her to make sure that every student had an opportunity to participate. Thank you Marjorie for making your library student-centered!

Deb Gallaher is the librarian at Nathan Hale High School and the secondary librarian spotlight for the month of April. Deb loves being a librarian because it is in itself multifaceted. She wears a multitude of hats in her role, but she knows one of the best parts is the incredible opportunity to work with many students, many staff and many families.

Nathan Hale High School is a highly collaborative staff, so many of the school’s projects involve a tremendous amount of thought, planning and execution. Deb is especially proud of a more complete growth loop for student research. She included student-focused question development and much-needed assessment of cited sources. Students understood and demonstrated the importance of resource quality such as printed materials, databases, personal interviews, reference materials, and other local library resources. Deb’s goal as their librarian is to move them beyond a 1% search strategy and to ascertain the viability of the resource to back up their claims in any research project.

Deb is also in charge of the Hale Ambassador program, a student leadership group of East African and Spanish Heritage language students. Their involvement with family engagement and community building has been incredibly successful. Feedback from Ambassadors indicated that it has changed them. They feel like they can talk to adults with greater confidence.

When asked how others could duplicate her success, she shared, “Consider expanding your role to a planning librarian, a resource librarian, instructional librarian and an assessment librarian, but also know that it takes time to get there. Building trust and relationships among teaching colleagues is an essential ingredient to be authentic and effective collaborators.”
MAKERSPACE PROJECTS AND IDEAS

Have you thought about making a **LEGO wall** or play space in your library? LEGOs appeal to elementary through high school students encouraging everyone to play. They are versatile and can always be used to make something new with engineering and design skills. Best of all they bring people together!

Check out the LEGO play at Madison, Robert Eagle Staff Middle School and **Ballard High School** to get more ideas on ways to incorporate play in your library.

**MakerCare Dog Toys Are All the Rage!**

Students can cut up t-shirts, braid them together, and make their own **dog toys** for pets or animal shelters. Check out this example from Ballard High School and the easy to follow **Braided Dog Toy Video Link** here! For more ideas check out **Makers With a Cause** by Gina Seymour

**Poetry Should be Seen and Heard**

Students enjoy learning about new poets and challenging themselves with **Poetry Crossword Puzzles** using chalk pens and their own imagination. This is a great Makerspace activity that can inspire your own student poets. Have students share their own poems, learn more about one another, and encourage literacy!

**TACOMA SCHOOLS LIBRARY VIDEO SERIES**

Check out Tacoma School’s Advocacy Video Series that highlights the six AASL Shared Foundations:

**Tacoma School Library Video Series**

**FEBRUARY EDUCATOR OF THE MONTH-STACIA BELL**

Congratulations Stacia Bell on winning Educator of the Month from Sound Credit Union. Stacia has been credited with transforming the library and is recognized for the tremendous impact she makes in her community. Librarians transform learning!
**Equity**

Everyone is invited to join our SPS Library Equity Book Club.

The third book being read is *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates and meets on **Thursday mornings** at 7:30 am on Teams with Access Code 7QNKV-9V7WS.

Please reach out to Harvey Wright or TuesD Chambers if you are interested in participating.

Join the conversation about **Reconstruction after the Civil War** and learn more about the long-seething racial animosity dividing our nation in 2019 by watching the documentary on PBS with staff and students.

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**CONGRATULATIONS REBECCA WYNKOOP!**

You are a fierce equity advocate and we are lucky to have you fighting for all students in the Seattle Public School District. Thank you for all of your hard work and passion!

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*To learn more about how to use these graphic novels to work towards racial equity contact Craig Seasholes at clseasholes@seattleschools.org*
I love reference questions. I love finding the most obscure, hard-to-uncover resource for a student or staff member. They think I have superpowers.” —Deb Gallaher, Secondary Librarian Spotlight

**YALLWEST**

**May 3rd -4th 2019**

Yall West is an author and teen-run young adult and middle grade book festival and nonprofit. Their goal is to get books in the hands of those in need and saying the words necessary to get teens to open them.

**ALA June 20th-25th 2019**

Join librarians, authors, publishers, business professionals, educators and students passionate about books, libraries, and eager to learn and shape the future of the industry.

**BLC 2019 - July 17-19th 2019**

Join educators from around the world who care deeply about bringing the best innovative and practical learning resources to students.

**LEARNING AND LEADING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH**

Teens from Nathan Hale and Cleveland High School bravely stepped up to the microphone and addressed a packed house at the Metropolitan Sheraton Ballroom, with no small consequences for their opinions. Each year at the mid-winter ALA conference, teen voices are critical in forming the final Top-Ten list of Best Fiction for Young Adults. The audience consisted of ALA members, publishers, editors, librarians and fellow students from around the Pacific Northwest. Weighing in on 70 Young Adult titles teen’s likes and dislikes were key considerations in the final selection of the 2019 Top Ten Best Fiction.

Requested not to give plot summaries, but rather honest reactions, Junior Donnalyn Casio, Cleveland High School, stood up to praise Holly Black’s The Cruel Prince. (It made the list!) On the other hand, Donnalyn found shortcomings with Leah on the Offbeat by Becky Albertalli. “Leah was toxic...to her friends, even her mom who was trying to do her best for her daughter...If you don’t like the protagonist, it’s hard to finish the book.” (Donnalyn did finish the book but Leah on the Offbeat did not make the final list).

Before the session in the Ballroom teens were treated to a pizza lunch and copies of newly released titles by YA Authors Lamar Giles, Django Wexler, Shaun David Hutchinson and Nafiza Azad, who circulated the tables as students ate.

Attending teens also visited the ALA Exhibition Hall and collected all the swag their bags could hold. But the highlight was clearly speaking out and being heard. Said Hale Librarian Deb Gallaher, “This is truly a rare opportunity for a high school student to present to a national organization, and one that impacts teen’s decisions about book choices across the nation.”

“I love reference questions. I love finding the most obscure, hard-to-uncover resource for a student or staff member. They think I have superpowers.” —Deb Gallaher, Secondary Librarian Spotlight

**BEST BOOKS: YALSA TEEN FEEDBACK SESSION AT MID-WINTER ALA – LEE MICKLIN**

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**INSPIRE SUMMER READING**

- Open up your library over the summer for a few days and encourage students to check out books.
- Create family or staff and student book clubs with an event at your library over the summer.
- Ask every member of your staff to read at least one book from your summer list and be the “point” person for students to discuss.

**TECHNOLOGY**

*Easy Ed Tech Podcast* with Dr. Monica Burns

*The New York Times*

**What’s Going On In This Picture?** - intriguing New York Times images stripped of their captions and an invitation to students to discuss them live.

**Hoopla** is a digital streaming service for students and staff with SPL accounts who can access eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies, and TV shows using phones and iPads.

**3D Bear** is a tool for learning higher order skills via 3D design in augmented reality (AR) with a free teacher trial.

**Freegal Music** is a free music service that is provided to you by Seattle Public Library.

**SPS RUBIK’S CUBE CHALLENGE**

Join the *Rubik’s Cube Fever* and sign up to participate in the fun. Use code SPS19.

You can receive large boxes of Rubik’s cubes for mosaics in your library this June! Just click this link: *Summer Lending Offer-*

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

- National Library Month
- Library Snapshot Day
- Poetry Month
- LGBTQ Pride Month
- May 4th-May The 4th Be With You!

Colleen Carlson on Library Appreciation Day

Have news to share? Questions? Please send to tschambers@seattleschools.org.

Editor: TuesD Chambers
Contributors this edition: Marian Royal, Rebecca Wynkoop, Deb Gallaher, Stephanie Pitzer, Deb Fournier, Tina Buster, Chris Robert, Anne Aliverti, Jean Bolivar, Lee Micklin, Colleen Carlson, Craig Seasholes, Quinn Longhurst, and Stacia Bell.