



# SPS Library Newsletter Leadership

November 9th, 2018  
Volume 1, Issue 3

For five days in mid-October, I had the pleasure of being in Yakima attending the Washington Library Association 2018 Annual Conference. That conference may have been the best state conference I've ever attended and even rivals some of the national conferences I've attended when it comes to relevant content and opportunities to network. It was a fun five days of learning, talking, and making new friends. It was especially nice to see at least 16 SPS librarians in attendance, as well, learning, sharing, and building relationships.

Since my return, I've thought a lot about how important learning and sharing with one another and building relationships are. One thing I've heard frequently since I came to SPS is that we have a tradition of being very siloed. Many people in leadership here have been working hard to change that over the last couple of years. It's important to me that we, as librarians, work to eliminate any silos we might have created over the years and to make sure that we take every chance to communicate and collaborate with one another; formally and informally. My vision is for us to be one big, highly effective team of professionals that communicates, collaborates, and makes great things happen.

So you may find me asking that certain kinds of communications be routed through Library Services first, or that we be looped in on certain conversations. That's not because any of you need my permission for anything, it's just so we can all be more aware of what's going on and so that Library Services can get as much District support for your ideas as possible. We also want to try to avoid duplicating efforts and energy, whenever possible. I'm a big believer in streamlining and not reinventing the wheel! Also, I want to be sure that all of our group projects and initiatives follow District Policies and/or Procedures when, and if, those apply. But I totally encourage and support your creative thinking, developing of initiatives, and drawing on your wealth of professional contacts. So don't stop doing all those great things you're doing! Just try and let me know before announcing anything district-wide.

I also think it would be inspiring and uplifting for groups of us to get together more informally after work one day every month, just to chat and share our experiences and ideas. At WLA, I had the great pleasure to do that for several days in a row with some of the SPS librarians who attended and it was just plain good for my spirit. I'd like to continue that by getting together with groups of you. If you think that sounds like fun, let either TuesD or me know and we'll start planning some times and places. Or better yet, if one of you feels like being our Social Calendar Coordinator, please raise your hand! I'd like to have our first get-together in November. If this is successful, we might even plan some gatherings with librarians from surrounding districts. We truly are #BetterTogether.

Best,  
Marian



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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- To contribute to the next newsletter please contact TuesD Chambers at [tschambers@seattleschools.org](mailto:tschambers@seattleschools.org)

## ES/K-8 Librarian Spotlight

### SPS Rubik's Cube Challenge



If interested check out the [SPS Rubik's Cube Challenge](#)

Teachers or librarians need to go to [SPS Rubik's Cube order form](#) and use SPS19

Students can compete for trophies, buttons, medals, and wristbands.

All grade levels are invited to take part and participate. For more information and competition:

Quinn Longhurst for HS

Stacia Bell for MS

Kate Eads for EL

**Christopher Robert** is the librarian at Roxhill Elementary and Highland Park, both Creative Arts Advantage schools where he incorporates his creative talents and the Arts into his lessons.

One thing Chris loved doing as a classroom teacher was creating songs/chants, and he's carried that over into the library. When he first began as TL at Roxhill in 2014, he wrote a song to be played at the beginning of each library visit with a class. He wasn't sure how it'd be received, but students loved it! His goal became to write a new song every two months. He takes a popular tune and use its music but change the lyrics to something about books, reading, or the library. He's created five songs each year (and just finished his 22nd song). It's been a great community building vehicle in the library, creative fun for him, and students look forward to it.

[Roxhill & Highland Park Library Songs on Vimeo](#)

When asked about his impact on students a parent shared, "Thank you for whatever you are doing in the library. If there's one thing my girls talk about all the time at home, it's their time in the library. From the library songs to the lessons for Women's History Month or Black History Month...I think it's great."

Reach out to Chris to find out more about creative ways to incorporate art into your library lessons.



## Secondary Librarian Spotlight

**Quinn Longhurst** is the current Franklin High School librarian and new Lincoln High School librarian. He has been a librarian for two years and considers democratizing information and tools as his favorite part of the job.

Quinn is incredibly humble but has been instrumental in curating a collection and creating an environment that reflects and supports his school. He is passionate about all types of literacy and believes that school librarians are in a unique position to lead the future ready charge. He thinks that if we as librarians provide relevant tools and equitable support, our students and staff will amaze us!

Quinn is poised to be one of, if not the most tech-savvy librarian in Seattle Public School District. He teaches AP Computer Science zero hour and is everyone's "go to" to learn about the next best thing to engage students collaboratively and encourage creation. If you talk to Quinn he will inspire you to buy drones, ask you to set up hydroponics, offer advice on virtual reality, help you design t-shirts in his QuakerMaker space, or rally you to join the SPS Rubik's Cube Challenge. He never stops creating, inventing, and finding ways to engage staff and students in the library. He is a true maker at heart.

Quinn is also a fantastic collaborator. His best advice is to say, "yes, and..." whenever possible and notes that positive interactions with students and staff are really some of his favorite parts of the job.

When asked about Quinn's impact at Franklin staff members shared "the energy and engagement in the FHS library/IRC has sharply increased as a result of the expansion of resources and Quinn's vision, innovation, energy, and commitment. He has established various new aspects to the library including a virtual lab, a makerspace, spaces for student voice/creative expression, and more. It's a place where students want to be."

Please consider reaching out to Quinn to learn more about Makerspace opportunities or if you are interested in being a high school librarian in a dynamic environment like Franklin High School.



Do you want to learn more about the **SPS Great Puzzle Challenge** and compete with Colleen Carlson at West Seattle High School above?

**Go to:**

[SPS Great Puzzle Challenge Information](#)

All schools are encouraged to compete for a trophy and party!

[SPS Great Puzzle Challenge 18-19.xlsx](#)

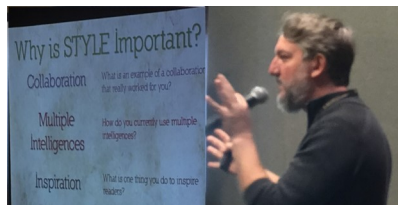
# Collaboration

Craig Seasholes presented with **STYLE** at WLA and brought well deserved attention to a literacy resource partner available to Seattle school libraries.

Describing songwriting experiences at Dearborn Park and Leschi last year, along with an active songwriting experience with 20+ librarians attending the workshop should be viewed (and heard) at <http://learningwithstyle.com/student/>.

Navigate to "Student Login" and click on WLA Conference. This Nov. **STYLE** will come to DPIS and Leschi with their Thunderbird/Seahawk assembly exploring cultural appropriation of Native American cultural symbols by Seattle football club.

Contact Craig Seasholes to learn more about getting this incredible partner in your library.



## Amazing Teachers = Great Librarians

Do you know of anyone in your school that would make a fantastic librarian?

Encourage them to enroll in one of the following programs:

[Antioch University– Library Media Endorsement](#)

[Central Washington University– Library Media Endorsement](#)

[Seattle Pacific University– Library Media Endorsement](#)

## Taste of Making:

### Ballard High School

Everyone is invited to attend **the Taste of Making Expo at Ballard High School on November 14th from 1:30-4:30 pm.**



This MakerSpace Expo is designed for SPS librarians to get a taste of different ways to approach MakerSpaces. This will be like an afternoon of speed dating with maker activities connected to educational concepts. There will be no tech, low tech, and high tech Makerspace opportunities to learn about.

We will have Pacific Science Center, Seattle Public Library, Learning Commons Furniture reps, and Brian Hanser of Follett School Solutions available to teach and answer questions.

Please reach out to Marian Royal if you have any questions about the event.

Parking is limited and carpooling, public transportation, or Uber is suggested.

Please encourage staff members from your school to attend and plan for fun!

**“MAKER” IS MORE ABOUT CULTURE AND LESS ABOUT SPACE AND STUFF.**

## Why attend the Taste of Making?

Reimagine your role in a rapidly changing world and learn how to integrate STEAM into traditional learning spaces.

Check out the following resources:

[Why Makerspaces in your library?](#)

**Sign-up to attend on ESS**

Concerned about where to start? Reach out to Quinn Longhurst at Franklin High School to find out how he grew his grassroots Quakerspace.

Need more convincing?

[10 Reasons To Start a Makerspace in Your Library](#)

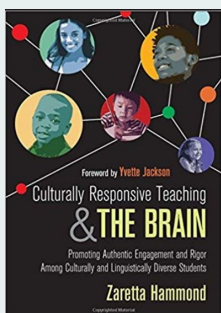
Information about Makerspaces from Diana Rendina, Master Maker extraordinaire at:

<http://renovatedlearning.com/>



“Brave before perfect “ has been a rally cry from elementary librarians all year- embrace this mind-set and try a Makerspace in your library!





## Equity

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

The first book being read is *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain* by Zaretta Hammond.

The next meeting is December 6th at 7:30 am on Teams.

Please reach out to Marian Royal or TuesD Chambers if you are interested in participating.

## Native American Heritage Resources



### Since Time Immemorial

<http://www.indian-ed.org/resources/>

### RUMBLE

<http://teachrock.org/rumble/>

### Field trip to Center for Wooden Boats to ride Umiaq

<http://cwb.org/class-categories/young-people/>

### Native Knowledge 360

<https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/resources.cshtml>

### Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

<https://americanindian.si.edu/americans/>



## Equity

What would happen if white families\* from all across Seattle decided to start talking to their young children about race and racism?

Would it change how we see ourselves?

How we see our city and its people?

Would it unlock our ability to contribute to a more hopeful future?



**We Stories** did just that in the city of St. Louis. **We Stories** is available to any family in the St. Louis region with children birth to age 8 that wishes to participate. They leave the decision up to the family. It is designed for families looking to start or strengthen conversations about race and racism. They have found that those families tend to be white families. Whereas many families of color consider these conversations to be an important part of family life, most white families consider explicit conversation about race to be a choice. In fact, many white institutions (families, schools, communities, and organizations) don't believe it's appropriate to talk about race at all. For more than a few generations, people tended to embrace a philosophy of colorblindness, which explicitly avoids addressing race and racism out of fear that noticing difference in and of itself will reinscribe bias or suggest it anew. [Research](#) and people's personal experience has shown that this approach doesn't work in reducing bias or increasing equity. We Stories created an alternative approach for families to engage in. Most people who want to be deliberate in the messages they give their children about race and racism seek support and community in doing so.

Those interested in learning more about the 12 Week Learning Program should reach out to [adelaide@westories.org](mailto:adelaide@westories.org).

## 'Read Woke' School Reading Challenge Makes an Impact by Cicely Lewis

What is Read Woke? It's a feeling. A form of education. A call to action, and our right as lifelong learners. It means arming yourself with knowledge to better protect your rights. Learning about others so you treat people with respect and dignity, no matter their religion, race, creed, or color.

I concluded that a Woke Book must:

- Challenge a social norm
- Give voice to the voiceless
- Provide information about a group that has been disenfranchised
- Seek to challenge the status quo
- Have a protagonist from an underrepresented or oppressed group

We started Read Woke in September. The students were asking questions in response to the many cases of unarmed black boys and men being shot by police officers. They wanted answers. They were angry. They staged a walkout, but that did nothing to appease their rage.

My school is more than 70 percent Latino. The day DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) was repealed, my students were crying and afraid. That made my movement even more relevant.

To learn more about Cicely Lewis and join her call to action check out her Scholastic Library Journal article [Read Woke](#).



## Best Books



The choice is yours! Vote in the 10th Annual Goodreads Choice Awards, the only major book awards decided by readers.

When finished look up SPS Librarians to follow and share book recommendations!

## Student Voice

Are you looking for new ways to engage readers in your library? Stacia Bell at Madison MS did just that with a Rubik's Cube mosaic. Madison students created a 225 Rubik's Cube mosaic of MLK by completing it one quadrant at a time (9 quadrants total). Each quadrant had a total of 25 Rubik's Cubes and Stacia wouldn't put out the next one until the current one was complete. After a student would complete a Rubik's Cube, they'd move the sticky post-it from the template to the cube to indicate to other students that it was complete. At the end, they took off all of the post-its together so as to unveil the finished masterpiece! This collaboration gave students an opportunity to engage in shared struggle AND now they've moved on to a mosaic of Sitting Bull!

Reach out to Stacia to learn more about Rubik's Cubes and their lending program.



## Learning and Leading Professional Growth



**Jan 25-29, 2019 - ALA-Midwinter to Seattle.** You can sign up for a volunteer shift via WLA to earn substantial discounts, request an exhibits-only pass from vendors, or sign up for one or multi day conference

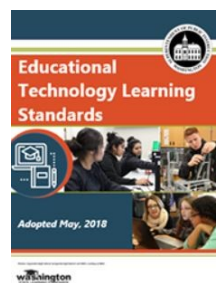
<http://2019.alamidwinter.org/>

### Transforming Student Learning with EdTech Standards

Join Liz Ebersole on January 26th-McClure MS

Join Stacia Bell on Feb 2nd- Madison MS

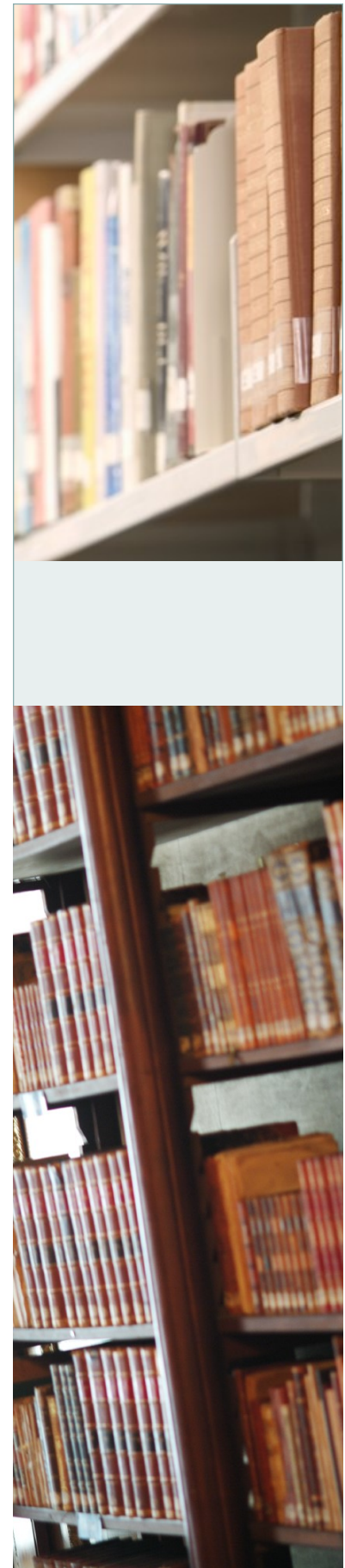
March 30, 2019 -JSCEE



**Feb 23rd 2019- WWU Children's Literature Conference.** You can join Tina Buster and other SPS Librarians in hearing featured author/speakers Candace Fleming, Eric Rohmann, Barbara O'Connor, Jerry Pinkney, Neal Schusterman Western Washington University's Children's Literature Conference.



**February 26-28, EdTech conference NCCCE** enables educators to collaborate with leaders from all skill sets in order to advance teaching and professional learning to leverage technology effectively in the classroom.



## Hot Collaboration



**Liberating Structures** – a website that offers an alternative way to approach and design how people work together.

It provides a [menu](#) of thirty-three Liberating Structures to replace or complement conventional practices.

Can you attend a Seattle School Board Meeting?

Support and advocacy for librarians is always appreciated!

Please learn more [here!](#)

### Leadership and Promoting Your Library

Are you currently promoting your work in staff newsletters, with table tents at staff meetings, sending out all school emails or newsletters to families and community members?

How are you making your work visible to the school, your community, and the world? Please let us know so we can highlight your efforts in the next newsletter.



## Technology Tips

### Microsoft Sway-

Office *Sway* is a presentation program and part of the Microsoft Office suite that allows users to combine text and media to create a presentable website. Check out Rebecca Wynkoop's fantastic Picture Book Pilot Sway she has created for her school and for the district.

[Picture Book Pilot Sway created by Rebecca Wynkoop](#)



**Storyline Online-** is an award-winning children's literacy website that streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations.

**New York Times VR: The Daily 360** connects videos and content to current events or big ideas and topics. It could be used as a classroom resource to help students relate better to ideas within lessons.

Storyline Online



## EXTREME READERS

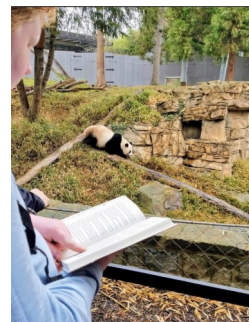
### District-Wide Reading Competition

We are encouraging all schools to ask staff and students to be "Extreme Readers" and take pictures of themselves reading in fantastic, unusual, and sometimes just wonderful places.

Examples shown are of **Extreme Beaver Readers** from Ballard High School.

Please let us know what you have planned for:  
#MeToo and teaching consent  
Human Rights Day 12/10/2018

Have news to share? Questions?  
Please send to  
[tschambers@seattleschools.org](mailto:tschambers@seattleschools.org)



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