



SPS Library Newsletter

December 11th, 2018
Volume 1, Issue 4

Leadership

On November 14, over 75 of you and others from SPS and other districts gathered at the Ballard High School Library for our first, what I hope will be annual, A Taste of Making. This was our first foray into a MakerExpo designed especially for SPS librarians. All I can say about the afternoon is WOW! What a great day we had! This event was even more fun, informative, and inspiring than I thought it would be. And I had high expectations! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this day by either planning the

event, working during the expo, or just participating. I think we all learned a lot.

One thing I already believed, and had strongly confirmed, during the planning and experience of this expo is that making is for everyone. And it doesn't have to be hard, fancy, expensive, time-consuming, or high tech. I think everyone who attended that day would say that they came away with practical, easy-to-implement, ideas for making with their students. Folks, we need to be making! Our students all have creative ideas and impulses and it's our responsibility to provide the space and materials to nurture and develop those. I strongly encourage you to just experiment with something easy and cheap, like perler beads, journals, or cardboard and tape. Take a tiny step and see what happens. Be gentle and encouraging with yourself in the process. And if you need encouragement, call me! I'll be happy to cheer you on and offer tips and ideas that fit your individual circumstances.

Along those lines, there are a couple of developments you should know about. One is that our wicked smart and creative friends from the Pacific Science Center Tinker Tank, Daniel Rother, Matt Eaton, and Zeta Strickland, along with TuesD Chambers and I, want to continue having conversations with one another and others in the area interested in making. We all believe that we're #BetterTogether and will benefit from ongoing collaborations on making. Daniel and Matt were key to A Taste of Making being the phenomenal success that it was, so I'm thrilled that they want to continue working and making with us.

Here's exactly what Daniel envisions: "A regular monthly meetup for maker educators both in formal and informal environments to meet each other, support each other, and learn from each other. This can be an opportunity to show off cool projects and share ideas, a chance to prototype new ideas and get feedback, or a time to share challenges and learn together. We'd welcome a mix of maker educators experts to beginners as an opportunity for everyone to learn from each other."

If you're up for that kind of energizing engagement with colleagues, please get involved! Send me your names and I'll make sure you're included in any invitations or announcements for meetings. We'll be meeting at the Pacific Science Center every other month, but are seeking libraries where we can meet on alternate months. If you want to host, we'd like to know!

For those with no time to meet in person, I've added a group in Schoology called SPS Library Makerspaces. This is a place to upload and share your ideas and experiments with making. Please contribute even if you've done something as simple as making snowflakes during the holiday season. That's the kind of thing that gets kids engaged and curious. So please take a minute when you can, go into Schoology and join the group. It's an open group, so no code should be needed. Anyone and everyone is welcome to contribute.

Have a happy, safe, and maker-filSled holiday season!

Best,
Marian



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Editor :TuesD Chambers

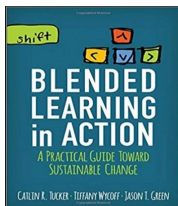
To contribute email tschambers@seattleschools.org

Digital Learning

Virtual Book Club

We are reading *Blended Learning in Action* by Catlin Tucker the month of January.

Please fill out the **form** if interested in participating.



I recommend partnering with a staff member or administrator at your school as you embark on the work. Collaboration is key to this work.

Project LIT Book Club 2017-18 & 2018-19



Contact Rebecca Wynkoop to learn more about **Project Lit**

Are you interested in partnering with Stacia in creating a Bulldogs Read Summer List for your own school with student voice at the center?

Go to:

Bulldog Reads Selection Committee Form

Check out page five where she explains in detail the process she uses to encourage student voice.

What a great way to talk about books with multiple-schools! She is always looking for partners in this work.

ES/K-8 Librarian Spotlight



LeAnn Miller is the Decatur Elementary School librarian and she has so many reasons why she loves being a librarian. Read below one of her favorite student stories.

“I’ll never wash my hands again!” read the subject line of an email. I thought it was a mistake...

Because we just opened a new building, we received a new library collection. We were fortunate to have many of the diverse titles that were receiving Caldecott buzz. So I decided to pick a class and try our first Mock Caldecott. We read past winners, discussed the expectations, kids read the books and then rated them based on kid-friendly criteria. The class voted for their top 3 choices, and our Decatur Mock Caldecott’s first winner was

After the Fall by Dan Santat! That evening I tweeted about their top choice and Dan Santat actually replied to my tweet!

I was giddy and the kids were so excited when we shared his response with them. Serendipitously, Amy Young eagerly pulled some strings and invited us to hear Aaron Reynolds and Dan Santat introduce their book, *Dude*, at View Ridge. We took a walking field trip to hear their fantastic presentation. The kids were able to meet and chat with a real live author and illustrator while having their books signed. That’s where it happened- the high-five from an author/illustrator that made this student exclaim as he got off the bus, “I’m never washing my hands again!”

I feel lucky to have this story to remind me of my influence. As teacher-librarians, we often don’t hear about our impact. I may never know when the book I recommend may be the one that helps a student see herself for the first time. I may never know if they remember how to evaluate a website when they move on to another school. I may never know if that student’s success at writing that little bit of code changes what she wants to be when she grows up, or if that poetry recording he did gave him the confidence he needed to present in front of a group. Teacher-librarians have a pretty unique opportunity to build relationships with kids usually over a period of several years.

The idea that I might be a part of making a moment in a student’s life unforgettable, that’s what I love about being a teacher-librarian.

Secondary Librarian Spotlight

Stacia Bell is the Madison Middle School librarian and an inspiration to others. She is a beloved member of her school community and leads the literacy work at her school. Stacia’s favorite part of being a librarian is the moment when she helps connect a student with a just right book that makes them realize, perhaps for the first time, how great reading can be with the right book. She is convinced that moment can change a student’s entire reading trajectory for life!



One of Stacia’s greatest strengths is her passion at keeping student voice at the center of her work. You can read more about her Bulldogs read list on page five of this newsletter. When asked about advice for reading selection committees, Stacia suggests starting earlier than later and trying to include teachers. She only involved students last year, but wants to include some teachers this year. She also suggests using your student committees to book talk the books when you have classes come in. Last year, she invited some of her selection committee kids to join her during feeder school visits to share their own book talks.

“I felt like it was super empowering for students because they were the experts on the books, not me. In the end, it’s been fun to be able to share with my current students that this year’s list was not only created by me but was also created by a cohort of their peers.”



Have you heard of **GeekGirlCon** ? It's an organization and an annual event for all ages. "GeekGirlCon is an organization that works to empower women and girls to pursue their passions—whether they love science and technology, comics, literature, gaming, or anything else!" Since 2011, GeekGirlCon has hosted an annual fall convention where people celebrate their geeky interests. This year for the first time GeekGirlCon included a Pop-Up Library. Organized by librarians from King County

Library System and Seattle Public Library, the pop-up library was staffed by volunteers from around the region who introduced con-goers to all the services available from their local libraries.

After attending GeekGirlCon for several years, Laurie Amster-Burton interacted with people of all ages who were THRILLED to see a real live mini-library. SPL librarian Claire Scott and her colleagues brought an inclusive array of books related to the mission of GeekGirlCon. The other librarians and Laurie gave book recommendations, shared lists, explained how to check out ebooks from the public library, and learned from the community of readers visited. Families who stopped by were especially interested in books that were racially inclusive and books that included LGBTQ+ characters. Reach out to Laurie to learn more!



The Taste of Making: Resources and Information

The Taste of Making Expo at Ballard High School on November 14th was a huge success!

The MakerSpace Expo was designed for SPS librarians to get a taste of different ways to approach MakerSpaces. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

A huge shout out goes to our partners at Pacific Science Center, Seattle Public Library, Janet Longhurst at Microsoft, Learning Commons Furniture reps, and Brian Hanser of Follett School Solutions available to teach and answer questions.

For more resources and station information reach out to Marian Royal. She has created a group on Schoology to share these resources. Station rotation information can also be found on The Taste of Making CTE Student Group with access code 3VG2M-JCMC3 .



"MAKER" IS MORE ABOUT CULTURE AND LESS ABOUT SPACE AND STUFF.

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.

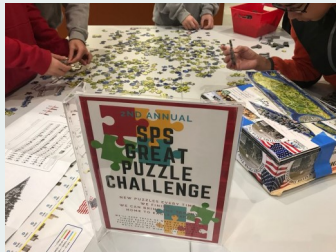
All grade levels are invited to take part and participate. For more information and competition:

Quinn Longhurst for HS

Stacia Bell for MS

Kate Eads for EL

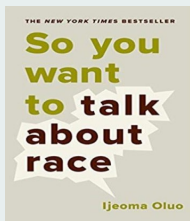
[Rubik's Cube Webinar](#)



Interested in finding out more about the SPS Great Puzzle Challenge?

Go **here** to learn about participating and competing for a donut party and trophy!

Equity



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

The second book being read is *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo

The next meeting is January 10th at 7:30 am on Teams. We will finish our discussion of *Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain* and begin our second book.

Please reach out to Merrick Bodmer or TuesD Chambers if you are interested in participating.

Equity Resources

Teaching While White

In this podcast white teachers, teachers of color, and white students speak with each other to uncover the cause and impact of white fragility.



Code of Conduct: A Guide to Responsive Discipline

extends Teaching Tolerance's work in school discipline reform and responsive discipline practice to include multiple stakeholders throughout the school.



Equity

How Classrooms Can Start Talking About Race in Just 6 Words

The Race Card Project™

In 2010, journalist Michele Norris began inviting people to distill their thoughts on the word race to only six words.

Printing 200 postcards and issuing a call to action, Norris and her team were unsure of what – if anything – would result. What took root was a groundswell. With just a small footprint, it was clear Norris created a vehicle for expression and voice for which it seemed many were longing.

Today, more than 200,000 “postcards” from all 50 states and 90 countries have been collected. People often send backstories and photos to share more about what is behind their six-word statements. Many of these essays contain sentiments and hard truths rarely expressed out loud. In 2013, the Race Card Project was awarded the prestigious Peabody Award for excellence in electronic communications for turning a pejorative phrase into a productive dialogue on a difficult topic. Please reach out to TuesD Chambers to learn more.

Literacy on the Move - Dulce-Marie Flecha

Not everyone is able to attend NCTE18 so educational leader Dulce-Marie Flecha shared her presentation about her work educating students who are homeless and highly mobile. As Flecha states, “homeless shelters are built at the intersection of inequities.”

Learn more about how literacy is a comfort when teachers offer autonomy and representation by clicking on the link above. Please consider following her work on Twitter.

Literacy on the Move.

Supporting your highly-mobile students.

Dulce-Marie Flecha
dulcemarie.flecha@gmail.com
@DulceFlecha

The Global Reading Challenge– Anne Aliverti

The Global Reading Challenge has entered its 24th year. GRC, a reading incentive program for SPS 4th and 5th graders, is a well-loved tradition sponsored by Seattle Public Library. Similar to “Battle of the Books,” students form teams and read 10 books with global perspectives. The in-school teams have a trivia competition to determine a winning team to compete at the downtown branch of Seattle Public Library. From that semi-finals, the winning teams compete in a final round to determine the winner for the city of Seattle. This year, 70 elementary schools in Seattle are participating.

SPS teacher librarians are grateful for this extraordinary partnership with Seattle Public Library, as it fosters collaboration with local branches and the magnificent downtown branch. More importantly, for our young readers, it ignites enthusiasm in realistic and historical fiction, engendering curiosity and empathy.



To learn more about resources, partnerships, and how to participate reach out to Anne Aliverti.

Best Books—[Global Reading Challenge Book List 2019](#)

Student Voice— Student Selected Reading Lists

Stacia Bell, librarian at Madison Middle School is a huge believer in student voice and this is apparent in her Bulldogs Read Summer List. She starts with a Bulldogs Read Student Selection Committee in which kids fill out an **application**, have a recommendation from their ELA teacher, keep up a reading pace of about 1 book per two weeks, and agree to read assigned titles (the ones that she was considering for her list).

She has 30 students because she sees it as a way to honor voracious readers in the school that might not necessarily be joining sport teams or other school clubs but who still want to feel like a valued part of the school community. She divides them into 4-5 person groups based upon their identified favorite genre to give her advice on a genre that they feel like an “expert” in.



BULLDOGS READ
Madison Middle School

They meet every week or two during Advisory time. For their first meeting together, students divide into genre groups and each group has a collection of books at their table that Stacia considers for her future list. Their first task is to investigate the books together and pick the 4-5 they want to read as a group over the next two months. They each choose one to start with and then, once they finish their book, they pass it on to the next person in their group. At the subsequent meetings, groups discuss their reactions to the books they've read, trade books with each other, and, in the end, rank their favorites within their genre. The goal is to come to consensus, but that isn't always possible for every group. After they read each book, committee members also individually give Stacia feedback via **Forms**.

She appreciates the student perspective and hearing them debate the books within their group. In the end, she loves sharing with current students that the year's list is not only created by the librarian, but also by a cohort of their peers. To learn more about the selection process contact Stacia Bell.

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/>



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.



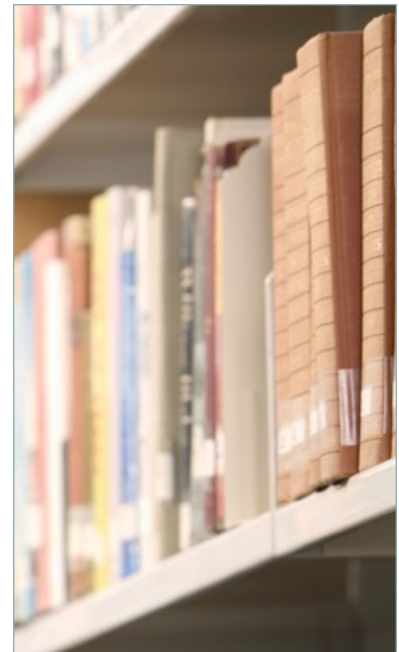
March 14-17, 2019- [Emerald City Comicon](#)

join Laurie Amster-Burton and others to celebrate fandom in an inclu-

sive, creative, and collaborative atmosphere.



February 26-28, EdTech conference [NCCoE](#) 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.



"My hope is that the library increases student engagement and reminds all students that their voices and opinions matter."
.-Stacia Bell



Hot Collaboration

If you've been lucky enough to have [Lisa Keller](#) help weed your library, you should go buy a lottery ticket! This retired librarian volunteers to sort out your stinky, outdated, falling apart books and turn your library into a show stopper.



If you want more info on this process, please contact me, Joni-Kay at:

joburwell@seattleschools.org



How do you advocate for resources, time, and opportunities to lead the learning in your school?

Please share ideas [here](#) so we can advocate together!

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

Flipsnack.com-Create beautiful magazines, catalogs, brochures and other publications with the Flipsnack tool. Check out the awesome ways Abby Levin is getting her kids' faces into books!

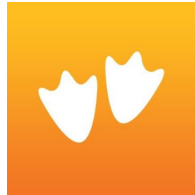


[Cedar Park BookFace with Abby Levin](#)



Libby- Check out all of the digital resources your students have available because of the Digital Library Link. Did you know your local library has thousands of ebooks and audiobooks? Your students can borrow them, instantly, for free, using just the device in your hand.

MS/HS Librarians check out Rebecca Wynkoop's [instructions](#) for this resource.



GooseChase- GooseChase Adventures has combined true scavenger hunt fun with smartphone technology. Librarians can facilitate a customized scavenger hunt in minutes.



Check out [LeAnn Miller's GooseChase Library Orientation](#)



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.

Use the [template](#) here to create your own and encourage all staff and students to participate.

SPS Librarians please let us know what you have planned for:

Black History Month
National Women's History Month
Makerspace Ideas

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

Editor: TuesD Chambers

Contributors this edition: Marian Royal, LeAnn Miller, Laurie Amster-Burton, Stacia Bell, Abby Levin, Tina Buster, Rebecca Wynkoop, Joni-Kay Burwell, Anne Aliverti, and Craig Seasholes