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SPS Library Newsletter

LEADERSHIP



What a couple of weeks it's been! "Snowmageddon" wreaked havoc on the city, caused school cancellations and delays, and kept me in Albuquerque three days longer than I originally planned. That last part was ok with me as it meant more time with my family and friends.

But it definitely set me back in getting some things done

here, including this article. My sincerest thanks to TuesD Chambers, our newsletter editor, for her patience, tolerance, and boundless energy!

While in Albuquerque, I learned some disheartening news. For years, Albuquerque Public School libraries have received funding from local levies, providing thousands of dollars each year for each library. Sadly, one week before our Seattle public education levies passed, the APS levies failed for the very first time. This will translate to drastic cuts to print resources in the APS school libraries. I share this only to highlight two things; the struggle to keep libraries alive and vibrant is real and we're fortunate that our community hasn't grown as tax weary and as susceptible to negative messaging as Albuquerque. Our recent levy success gives me hope that the citizens of Seattle, and Washington in general, still see the value in funding education and will continue to support us. But we have to keep up our constant messaging about the high value and positive impact of strong school library programs.

This morning, I was privileged to once again witness the fierce passion our Board president, Leslie Harris, has for school libraries. Those of you who attended, or have viewed, the January 23 Board meeting know exactly what I'm talking about. She is a strong advocate for school libraries and for equity in staffing and funding. I believe that our entire Board believes in the importance of strong, well-resourced, properly staffed school libraries in the academic and personal achievement of all students. They believe in you and what you do, and I know that they'll work hard to be sure that any staffing cuts come with a restoration plan that will be implemented as soon as budgets ease. With any luck, that will be after this legislative session or at least in the coming year.

So keep up your advocacy work on all fronts. Talk to anyone who will listen about why school libraries and properly trained and endorsed school librarians matter to student academic achievement and lifelong personal success. Tweet out our activities, stories, and thoughts; post on Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat; write articles for school newsletters and other community publications. Join WLA and ALA/AASL and support their efforts in advocating for us all. All those things are important and we all have to do our part in telling our amazing stories. And I'll also ask you to take a moment and thank Director Harris and other members of the Board for supporting and believing in you, even though they're faced with impossible budget challenges right now. We're all stronger and better together, and that includes our Board and leadership, too. —Marian Royal

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Paula Wittmann 's Puget Sound Council article on page 5

Day of the Dead



Jacqueline Snyder worked very closely with her incredible art teacher, Rachel Moreaux to make this experience possible for her students.

"The biggest thing that I wanted to say to you today is 'thanks'. I was reflecting on your Day of the Dead work the other night after spending a class period with you, and I really think it is one of the most courageous, loving, and impactful things I have seen 'ever' at an elementary school. You are teaching the content of Dia de los Muertos – which is inherently teaching students about other cultures and different perspectives, but even more than that – I think the impact really comes from the process of students and staff getting to know each other better. I just felt so much love leaving the library that day."

-Kyna Hogg, Gatewood Elementary Principal



ES/K-8 LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Jacqueline Snyder, Gatewood Elementary School's librarian, absolutely loves her job! She loves that there are so many incredible books coming out all the time that really teach us about life, the world and the human experience. She finds it so fulfilling to be able to share these important messages and topics with kids in order to enrich their lives and in turn, our communities.



This year in the library, Jacqueline enriched students' lives by setting up an altar for all students and their families to celebrate Day of the Dead. For two weeks during scheduled library classes, any K-5 students or staff who wanted to participate shared their stories, pictures, memories and hand-written notes about loved ones who had passed away. She started each class by sharing how her own mother died when she was 22 and how after her funeral, no one really ever talked about her or her death. It was a very lonely and scary feeling until she was in South America and stumbled upon a Day of the Dead celebration in the mountains of Bolivia. She couldn't believe that every year people got to celebrate, talk, remember, and honor their loved ones. They actually danced and ate and drank on their graves! She realized then that they were not only honoring their loved ones, but in turn, honoring themselves. After giving this introduction and sharing her own special memories of her mother, these amazing brave kids shared their stories and memories of their loved one. They shared about lost mothers, fathers, uncles, sisters, brothers, grandparents and pets. These were really personal, hard things and not once was there a disrespectful or dismissive comment by other students.



The listening students asked hard questions, were often in tears themselves and gave lots of hugs to the grieving students. The bravery, depth and compassion of her students took her breath away. They all learned so much about each other and the deep heartache and loss so many have experienced. She was thankful to be able to learn through the traditions of other cultures how to navigate conversations around grief and death. It was bonding and cathartic and she truly believes each student who added to the altar felt honored as well. This significant and healing experience was felt by all because of Jacqueline Snyder's grace and warmth, and space in the library.

Jack Straw School Programs

One of Shelly Macer's favorite partnerships was with **Jack-Straw** Productions and ELL students.

Students studied poetry and novels in verse then wrote poems about their lives.

Voice coaches and artists from Jack Straw then came to the library to help students understand voice projection, reciting with emotion, timing and how to use the sound equipment.



The finale was a fieldtrip to the **Jack**

Straw recording studio where students went into the sound booths to record their poems.

It was powerful!.

To learn more email Shelly Macer.

SECONDARY LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

Shelly Macer, Whitman Middle School's passionate librarian, has so many reasons why she considers being a school librarian the most fulfilling job. Shelly loves connecting with people about books, making book art with kids, hosting book trivia with Kahoot, teaching Photoshop and then creating READ posters, helping staff teach research methods and the list goes on. However, she understands the incredible impact of creating book lists and putting texts into student hands. She knows choosing the books that students love means looking at a book with more intent. Some favorite book lists have included crime/forensic books, mental health fiction, survival, leadership, #MeToo, Holocaust literature and Whitman Wildcats Read.



She also enjoys the seasonal programming that goes with being a librarian. Favorites include Spine Poetry where students choose book titles and make them into poetry by stacking the books. But a career standout for Shelly was having a Holocaust Survivor visit with a Teaching Trunk. The stories and memorabilia helped students understand the gravity of life, death, persecution and the ability to survive and carry on in spite of a horrific experience.

Shared experiences like this only support the argument of why Seattle needs full time librarians. One Whitman student was quoted, "The library is a place where your imagination can take you to endless places & possibilities. Taking half of that away would be like saying your imagination can take you to endless places for half the week."



It is students like these who remind her about the importance of her job and what can happen when librarians act with intention and passion.

In Shelly's own words, "I'm thankful every day that I get to do what I do."

COUNTERING FAKE NEWS— LEE MICKLIN

It is never too early to teach young students to reflect on news and media, and there is no shortage of resources to this end. “It’s funny because a lot of the misconceptions kids tend to have are not too different from the ones adults have,” states Library Media Specialist Brien Jennings. Jennings is the author of the four-series set, [All About Media](#), for children in Grades K-2 (Capstone). Titles include: What is Media? What’s Your Source—Using Sources in Your Writing, Stay Safe Online and Fact, Fiction or Opinions: The Difference Between Ads, Blogs, News Reports and Other Media.” One of the misconceptions Jennings bemoans is the idea that, unless you are a professional, media is something consumed passively. But involving kids in media creation reinforces learning and makes them realize they have more power than they think. Case in point, [My Pop Studio](#) (Ages 9-14) is an online game— a creative play experience—simulating the work of a producer in various forms of media and entertainment. One goal of the program is to transform girls’ experiences with unhealthy or stereotyped messaging from TV, magazines and other media.



My Pop Studio is a product of [The Media Education Lab](#), founded by Rene Hobbs and devoted to research, advocacy and professional development in Media Literacy. Included in the [curriculum created by the Media Lab](#) are six elementary level curriculum units with lesson plans, videos and PDF files. The lessons are adaptable across the curriculum and start with the very basics of analyzing media messages: identifying purpose, techniques and audience. Lessons put students in the role of media makers.

Common Sense Media is well known to parents and educators for providing education and advocacy in all matters media and children. Some resources very specific to combating Fake News include: [News and Media Literacy Curriculum Resources](#) divided into grade levels, [a one-page “Topic Background” on Misinformation](#) an excellent Webinar, [Close Reading on the Internet](#) and the downloadable poster, [Deceptive Detective](#).

Finally, yes, kids are not so different than adults in their ability to tease out fact from fiction. Fox News has 2,434,000 Prime Time Viewers according to 2018 Nielson live+Same-day numbers. [ReadWorks](#), committing to solving America’s reading comprehension crisis is beginning at the very best place to start: Kindergarten. [Units for grades K-6](#) teach kids to distinguish Fact from Opinion.

“I try to make each student feel important, respected and seen. I strive to make sure each student is psyched to enter our library and leaves holdings books they love and with a little bit more joy!” – Jacqueline Snyder, SPS Librarian Spotlight

“It’s always rewarding when a student or teacher comes back with a rave review, hug or thank you note for a book recommendation. Priceless.” – Shelly Macer, SPS Librarian Spotlight

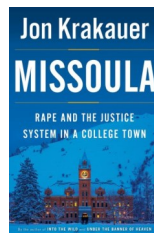
STUDENT VOICE: NELL BAKER, BHS SENIOR

Nell Baker believes the first step in making a change in the world is creating a space where people can learn, read, discuss and ask questions about things that aren’t normalized in discussion yet. Because of this, Nell decided to host a Consent Book Club at Ballard High School about sexual assault. She wanted to normalize talking about sexual health. She would like to see more conversation around sexual assault and how to address it. “Rape isn’t a conversation students and adults are generally comfortable having, so by starting this book club, I wanted students to guide the conversations in their health classes, or even in the lunch room. “

The book club was centered around Jon Krakauer’s, *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town*, which was supplemented with Ted Talks, group discussions, and short written responses. After two months of hosting the book club, Nell is looking to make this a district-wide effort to normalize these difficult conversations.

To learn more attend the [iYouth Summit](#) on March 9th or reach out to her librarian, TuesD Chambers.

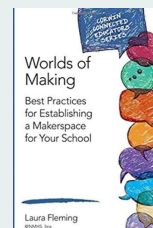
Review her [Consent Handout](#) to learn more as well.



MAKERSPACE

Interested in learning more about Makerspace resources and how to bring creative student ownership and play to learning in your library?

Check out the following books and blog written by [Laura Fleming](#) :



[Makerspaces A to Z: Fundamentals](#)

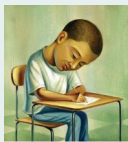


PACSCI [Daniel Rother](#) has started a Seattle Maker Educator Meetup starting on March 5th, 2019. Reach out to him if interested in attending.

If you missed the Taste of Making in November you can also attend the [iYouth Summit](#) on March 9th at UW (for free) to learn more about Makerspace opportunities.

Equity Resources

Read and share the resources in issue 43 of *The Moment* from



[Teaching Tolerance](#) to better understand the school-to-prison pipeline and what educators can do to interrupt it.

[Toolkit for "A Teacher's Guide to Rerouting the Pipeline"](#)

Brief But Spectacular

Watch the four minute clip above of Britteny Cooper, [@ProfessorCrunk](#), author of *Eloquent Rage* explain the importance of time and Black History Month on PBS News Hour and consider putting it on loop in your libraries.



Call for Social Action Stories

One powerful way to address challenging times is by telling stories that speak to social causes that promote action. Submissions are accepted until March 31st.

Equity PD on Twitter

Follow educators like [@ValeriaBrownEdu](#), use [#ClearTheAir](#) [#EduColor](#) and [#DisruptTexts](#) hashtags to learn more about dismantling racism.

Librarian Equity Book Club

Join our Equity Book Club for librarians by voting on our next book club choice [here!](#)

EQUITY

HOLOCAUST CENTER for HUMANITY

Educate. Inspire. Take Action.

Since 1989, the [Holocaust Center for Humanity](#) in Seattle has taught the history of the Holocaust so that our local survivors, their families, and millions of other victims would not be forgotten, and their stories would inspire positive action. Through education, events, field trips, museum visits, and community programs, the Holocaust Center for Humanity remains dedicated to its responsibility to fight hate by educating students, teachers and the general public about the dangers of intolerance and the difference each one of us can make.

The Director of Education, Ilana Cone Kennedy continues to support schools and wants all educators to be aware of the following resources:

Teaching Trunks

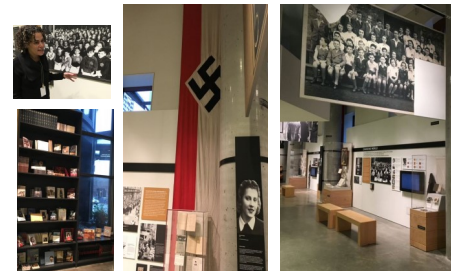
Teacher Advisory Board

Powell Teacher Fellowship

Holocaust Library

Field Trips

Writing Art and Film Contest

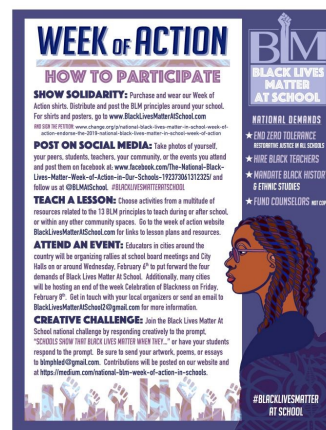
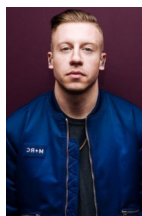
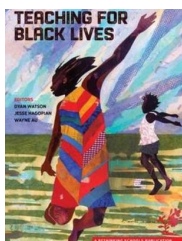


TEACHING FOR BLACK LIVES

The Seattle based artist Macklemore has generously offered to match school district purchases of the new book,

"Teaching for Black Lives."

Apply to receive the Macklemore match [here!](#)



BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL

Please share your displays, programs, videos, and student engagement on email and via social media to continue to show how Black Lives Matter in our libraries and schools all year long.

*Gatewood ES, Madison MS, Cedar Park ES, and Ballard HS



BEST BOOKS– PUGET SOUND COUNCIL– PAULA WITTMANN

If you love getting the right book into the hands of a reader you know that means knowing the best books to add to your collection. A great way to explore new books is by joining [Puget Sound Council for the Review of Children's and Young Adult Literature \(PSC\)](#). Browse hundreds of books, choose some to review, and get books to add to your collection. In addition, meet librarians from around the region to hear about books and other library related chit-chat. PSC meets select Saturday mornings at Shoreline Center- **Our next meeting is April 6th and then June 1st.** I'd love to see more Seattle librarians join! If you have any questions, please ask.

It is Children's Choice Voting Season! Below are links and information on voting dates for the many excellent Children's Choice Awards for Washington. These are a great way to expose kids to a variety of excellent titles and get them excited about picking their favorites!

[Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award](#) (grades K-3) voting deadline April 27th

([WCCPBA](#) link to this year's movie to refresh readers' memories.)

[OTTER Award](#) (grades 1-3) voting deadline May 4th

[Sasquatch Award](#) (grades 4 -6) voting March 15 -April 19

[Towner Non-fiction Award](#) (grades 2-6) voting Mid-March to Mid- May

[Young Readers Choice Awards](#) (3 divisions grades 4-12) voting March 15th – April 15th

I hope your schools participate!



SPS Great Puzzle Challenge

Click [here](#) to learn about participating!

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



February 26-28, EdTech conference [NCEE](#) 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. Join Craig Seasholes and learn more!



March 9th, 2019-The iYouth Conference will highlight the incredible work of local librarians and LIS students who are making meaningful change in their communities.

REGISTRATION IS FREE AND NOW OPEN:

[iYouth Summit Registration](#)

Or email iyouth.info@gmail.com



March 14-17, 2019– [Emerald City Comicon](#) join Laurie Amster-Burton and others to celebrate fandom in an inclusive, creative, and collaborative atmosphere.



April 17-20th, 2019– [OLA-WLA Conference](#) theme is “Charting the Unknown Together,” which reflects the current climate of change, injustice, and uncertainty that affects library professionals and the communities we serve. Join TuesD Chambers, Rebecca Wynkoop, Stacia Bell, Craig Seasholes, and Abby Levin to chart the unknown.



Transforming Student Learning with [EdTech Standards](#)

[March 30, 2019 – JSCEE](#)



LIBRARY ADVOCACY

The levies have passed and now is the perfect time to recommit to our advocacy work as librarians.

Please click on the link below and read the following list of suggested steps.

[Advocacy for Library Programs](#)

Connect with SPS Librarians across the district who are committed to equitable access for all students, in all libraries in Seattle Public Schools.

[SPS Librarian Social Media](#)

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

Meetings occur every two weeks and sign-ups occur Monday mornings at 8 am.

Support and advocacy for library programs is always appreciated!



Please learn more [here!](#)

TECHNOLOGY TIPS



[Adobe Spark](#) is a free online and mobile graphic design app that easily creates beautiful images, videos, and web pages recently made free to all SPS staff.

Check out Abby Levin's spark video of her [Cedar Park Library](#)



[PowerPoint](#) is part of the Microsoft suite software to create electronic presentations consisting of a series of separate pages or slides with the option of voice over narration.

Check out SPS ELA "how to" [voice over](#) video from Maggie Fish.

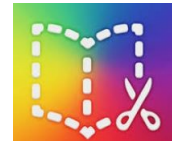


[Smore](#) is free software to create flyers, posters, presentations and more!

Check out the BHS smore [Follow Your Heart](#) into a Great Book reading campaign poster.

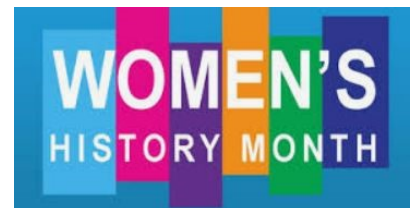
[Book Creator](#) is a tool to create digital books with text, images, audio and video.

Check out Rebecca Wynkoop's use of [Book Creator for the Picture Book Pilot](#).



Please let us know what you have planned for:

Black History Month
Women's History Month
International Women's Day



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



Editor: TuesD Chambers

Contributors this edition: Marian Royal, Lee Micklin, Jacqueline Snyder, Shelly Macer, Black Lives Matter At School, Rebecca Wynkoop, Abby Levin, Maggie Fish, Nell Baker, Stacia Bell, Holocaust Center for Humanity, Ilana Cone Kennedy, and Paula Wittmann