



SPS Library Newsletter

LEADERSHIP

Welcome to spring! It seems we're finally through the worst of the cold winter (I hope!) and on to warmer days of daffodils, blooming trees, and more daylight. The promise of spring is what always gets me through the darker, colder days of February when I've had about all the barren gray I can take. Spring reminds me of the old saying, attributed to John Milton, that every cloud has a silver lining.

And that's what I'd like to talk about in this month's column. What I know for sure is that every experi-

ence, no matter how disastrous or painful, will eventually yield something of great value, if only we choose to stay open to the gift. And already, I'm seeing gifts from the district's decision to cut 24 of our secondary librarian positions to .5 FTE.

In the last week, I've had two of my colleagues here at the JSCEE share with me enthusiastic stories of two of our secondary librarians. In one instance, another program manager was visiting Garfield High School, when a teacher started telling her what a valuable resource their librarian, Tyson Manzin, is to them. She talked about how Tyson does so much not just for students, but for teachers as well. I was told that Tyson is the "glue" that holds the school together. This conversation happened because the teacher was distressed that Tyson's position is one that is to be cut back. I don't know the final decision at Garfield yet, but stories like this encourage me to hope Tyson's faculty will find the money to keep him 1.0. Bravo, Tyson!

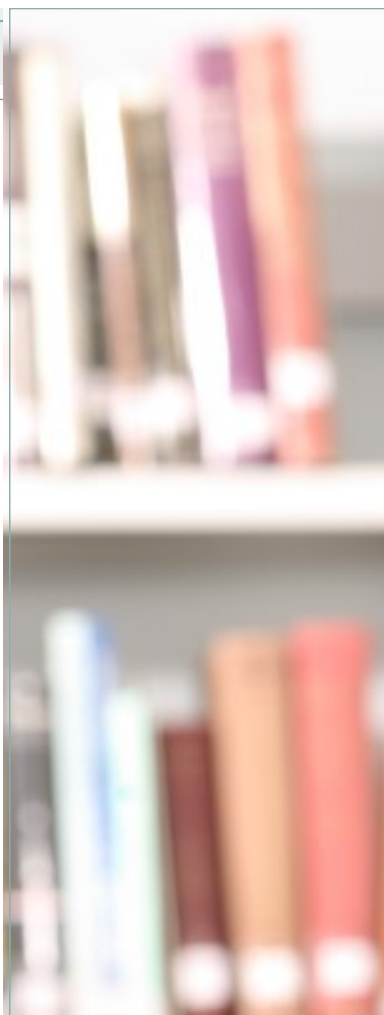
The other story came to me from one of our administrative assistants here. She told me how a friend of hers, who has a student at Madison Middle School, was telling her how much her daughter loves the library, and the librarian, at Madison. She shared that her daughter is always coming home with great books and special projects recommended to her by Stacia Bell. This mother said that the library at Madison is where her child feels welcome and safe and happy. This mother highly values the work Stacia does and spontaneously shared that with a friend. Great job, Stacia!

The final silver lining is that I'm starting to hear more reports of principals and school faculty finding creative and innovative ways to keep their librarians more than .5 FTE. I've even heard from some elementary librarians that their colleagues banded together and came up with ways to keep them full-time, even though funding was slashed. Teachers value what you do; principals are seeing the light and sharing creative solutions with one another; parents are calling Board members and advocating on your behalf. These stories make my day.

This is a painful and scary time for many of you as you face an uncertain future with your jobs. I don't want to minimize the seriousness of these impending cuts. I do want to celebrate the fact that people are coming to me and telling me these uplifting stories now when they weren't before. It's only because your fellow teachers, your administrators, and community members are aware that you might not be there for them next year that they're waking up and paying attention and advocating for you now. What a great gift. Keep doing what you're doing every day for students, parents, administrators, and teachers. Whether others consciously see it or not, each one of you is truly the "glue" that's holding your building together. It's an honor and privilege for me to call you my colleagues. – Marian Royal



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Leadership	1
SPS Library Spotlight ...	2
Makerspace Ideas.....	3
Collaboration	3
Makerspace	3
Equity	4
Best Books.....	4
Student Voice	5
Professional Growth	5
Tech Tips	6
Advocacy	6

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Makerspace Robotics with Quinn Longhurst on page 3
- Project Lit with Rebecca Wynkoop on page 4

ES/K8 LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

CARTER KEMP

“With purpose and dedication, **Mr. Kemp** passionately shares his love of learning through literature with students. His intentionality in ensuring that ALL of our students feel not only welcome, but can see themselves represented in the books on our library shelves, is evident. Mr. Kemp serves our school in many capacities, whether it is leading a board game club or teaching technology skills. He is quick to lend a helping hand at afterschool events and is an important presence in our Kimball community.”

-Tiffany Acker
Mom of three current Kimball ES kids

“We are very fortunate at Kimball to have long-time librarian **Carter Kemp**. He routinely goes above and beyond for our students, including Global Reading Challenge and board game clubs, among other program. And like any good librarian, every time we talk, he has a new book recommendation for me! I’m so happy he is being honored for his work. Congratulations!”

-Melissa Gray

Principal
Kimball Elementary

“**Carter** is endlessly enthusiastic about reading. I love asking him for recommendations for our evening readings, I always get something new that fits beautifully with my daughter’s interests.”

-Aaron Lewis, parent

Carter Kemp’s passion for serving students at Kimball Elementary School is evident in everything he does! He is especially proud of Kimball’s Book A Day program, which sends a new book home with every Kindergartener every day for the first 3 months of school. Students and parents tell him they read together more than ever and love having books they never would have discovered on their own! They depend on parent volunteers who organize the books each morning; they couldn’t do this without them. While running Book A Day isn’t a small commitment, he believes it pays great dividends in their students’ emerging literacy. He has presented about this unique program at statewide conferences and has a full packet of materials ready for any librarians who’d like to replicate it in their own schools.

He’s also a member of Washington State’s Sasquatch Award Committee, which every year selects chapter books for middle-grade readers to read and vote on. He usually reads over 100 novels preparing for their meeting, where they debate and argue and wheedle as they get the list down to twelve- it’s a blast! He is also the founder and former member of the Towner Award Committee, which selects great non-Fiction books for elementary age kids.

In Carter’s own words, “I love helping students and parents find the exact right book! I love the reading I do for my job- we’re truly living in a golden age of children’s literature, with soul-stirring work coming across my desk every week is an inspiration. I especially want to call out my colleagues who make time to read the books the kids are reading- it makes an enormous difference.” Thank you Carter for your passion and dedication!

MS/HS LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT

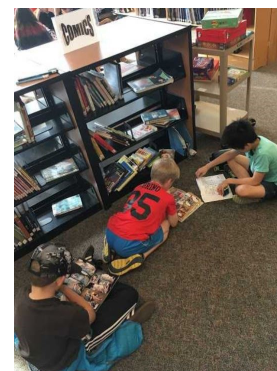
LAURIE AMSTER-BURTON

Laurie Amster Burton makes everyone at Jane Addams Middle School (JAMS) feel wanted and is a champion for student voice. She thinks the best part of being a middle school librarian is working with students, who make her laugh every day (and sometimes show her pictures of their cats).

She is incredibly glad that students know she really wants to hear about their interests and will purchase books for the library based on what THEY want. She first learned about Lumberjanes and Minecraft from students; more recently, students have introduced her to the animated series Gravity Falls and Winx Club. These all have associated books and students are SO excited when she adds their recommendations to the library.

JAMS relies entirely on the Jane Addams Middle School PTSA for the money to buy new books that students request. Not every school has that resource and Laurie and others firmly believe we need to change funding so that students in EVERY school can see their recommendations become part of the school library!

“OH! Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!” said a student who had requested Winx Club manga. This is the refrain heard time and time again from students as they leave the library. Thank you Laurie for supporting students and putting their interests first!



MAKERSPACE AND ROBOTICS – QUINN LONGHURST

Franklin High School's robotics team is partnering with two Title 1 elementary schools, Sanislo Elementary and Lowell Elementary to bring



F.I.R.S.T. LEGO League Robotics to their students. Amazon will be awarding these schools a \$10,000 grant to assist with the implementation of the program and Franklin's robotics members will be helping mentor these new teams.

For more information:

F.I.R.S.T.

Washington state chapter of F.I.R.S.T.

F.I.R.S.T. Lego League

F.I.R.S.T. Tech Challenge



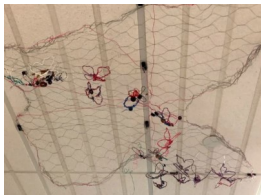
MAKERSPACE AND BUTTERFLIES– ELLIE RATLIFF

Thanks to the generosity of supporters on DonorsChoose.org*, our school library received a butterfly growing kit and wire sculpture materials to explore and celebrate the life cycle of the Painted Lady butterfly.

After the arrival of our six Painted Lady caterpillars, the kindergarten through third graders learned about the life cycle of the butterfly while they read Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Over the next couple weeks, the caterpillars grew to almost 2 inches long and successfully formed their chrysalides. While the chrysalides worked on their metamorphosis, the kindergarten through third graders diligently created wire butterfly sculptures to contribute to the 'butterfly habitat' in our school library. Fourth through eighth grade volunteers assisted the younger students with their sculptures.



The butterflies emerged late November and, after the students said their goodbyes, the butterflies were released into the lush, temperate, and spacious Tropical Butterfly House at the Pacific Science Center.



LIBRARY SNAPSHOT DAY!

This April, take a snapshot of a "day in the life of our library" by choosing one day between **April 7 and 20** to both record and celebrate a "typical day of a school library." There are loads of ways to do this— <https://www.wla.org/library-snapshot-day-2018> has examples from last year and the ALA resource page <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/snapshotday> has more.

Sharing out via Twitter, Tumbler, Snapchat, etc include #LibrarySnapshot and #SPSLibrarians, @WALibAssn in addition to your school and @SeaPublicSchools to ensure the world knows just how busy, effective and equitable our school libraries are in delivering service to students in our schools.

MAKERSPACE



MAKERSPACE

COLLABORATION

PACSCI Daniel Rother has started a Seattle Maker Educator Meetup and wants all educators to be part of the Makerspace movement. Email him to find out about the next meet-up on April 23rd.

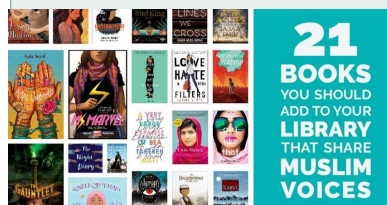


Tools to Help Students Follow Their Passions

by Jennifer Gonzalez



Equity



21 Books You Should Add to Your Library that Share Muslim Voices



Everyone is invited to join our **SPS Library Equity Book Club** on Schoology and Teams.

The third book being read is *White Fragility* by Rob-in DiAngelo.

Please reach out to Liz Ebersole or TuesD Chambers if you are interested in participating.

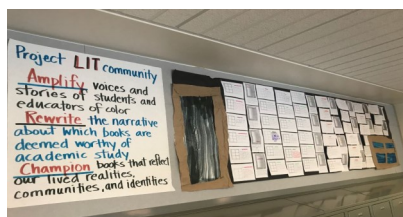
Department of Racial Equity Professional Development Trainings at the district office are now available now on ESS



EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE- MEGAN DEMATTEO

If you want to guide your students through conversations about inclusion, diversity, and equity, it's important to both teach the history and build upon the work of the countless people who contributed to social justice movements throughout the years. Our country's history is rich with resistance, organizing, and civil rights campaigning. Below are resources for teaching about inclusion, diversity, and equity in your library and classrooms.

21 Free Resources for Teaching Social Justice in the Classroom

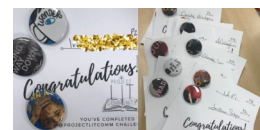


Project LIT Book Club 2017-18 & 2018-19



PROJECT LIT -REBECCA WYNKOOP

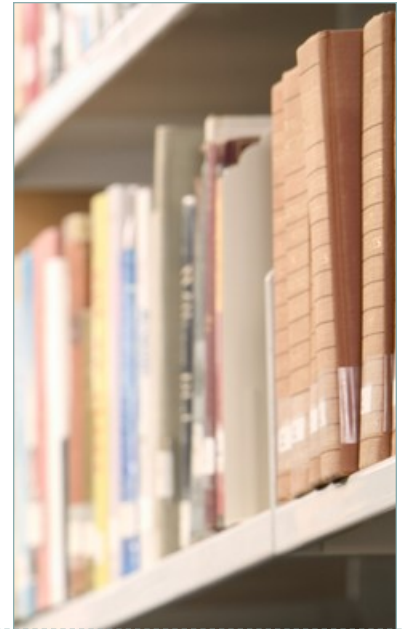
The Project Lit Community has a few core principles that really are foundational for me as a librarian. Started by a couple of teachers in Tennessee, the grassroots movement works to "amplify the voices and stories of students and educators of color." As we work to ensure that our libraries and collections are not only diverse but representative of the communities we serve, the @projectLITcomm lists are a great place to check myself as an educator and evaluate my collection. Project LIT champions books that "reflect the lived realities, communities and identities of my students." Their mission is to empower readers and leaders. We provide multiple copies (up to 20) of each book, we hold project LIT lunches every 2 weeks in the Spring and we buy copies of new book titles and promote them during our summer hours to get things going. At this moment, almost all of our Project LIT books are in the hands of our #ravensreaders!



To learn more about becoming a Project Lit chapter reach out to Rebecca!

BEST BOOKS

[Build Your Stack](#) because representation matters. For young girls to shape what they imagine possible for themselves, women's voices need to be honored in STEAM and we need to build our stacks in our libraries and classrooms. Click the link to learn more.



GLOBAL READ ALOUD WINNER- BRYANT ES

The [@SPLBuzz](#) 2019 [#GlobalReadingChallenge](#) concluded with the citywide finale. Congratulations to the winners at Bryant Elementary, but more importantly, to the 4,300 kids among about 700 teams who picked up new, diverse books and joined the challenge!



“Honestly, I love just about every part of being a school librarian. I get to know every child in the school as well as many of the parents when they come to check out books or get recommendations for read-alouds.”—Carter Kemp

LEARNING AND LEADING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



use of technology: [Enroll](#)

[March 30, 2019 –JSCEE](#)

Transforming Student Learning with EdTech Standards -Learn more about transforming learning with intentional

April 17–20, 2019-OLA-WLA Conference Join librarians across two states as the conference will bring together the

Oregon Library Association (OLA) and Washington Library Association (WLA) for four days packed full of professional development opportunities in Vancouver, WA.



May 3rd and 4th 2019
Yall West is an author and teen run young adult

and middle grade book festival and nonprofit, with the goal of getting books in the hands of those in need and saying the words to get them to open them. Conference is free except for a few special sessions.



June 23rd-26th 2019
a passionate community

of global educators who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning, accelerate innovation, and solve tough problems in education. The [ISTE](#) conference will be held in Philadelphia this year.



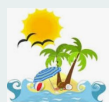
SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS

Are you interested in opening your library for the summer?

Have you talked to your feeder schools to find out their plans?

Have you decided on your summer reading expectations?

To find out more reach out to Rebecca Wynkoop or TuesD Chambers about their plans for their libraries this summer!



TECHNOLOGY



[Padlet](#) is an application to create an online bulletin board that you can use to display information for any topic. Easily create an account and build a new board. You can add images, links, videos, and more.

Please check out and consider adding to [Women's History Padlet for Ballard High School](#)

[Lyricstraining](#) is an easy and fun way to learn and improve your foreign language skills, through the music videos and the lyrics of your favorite songs and encourages inclusivity in your library.



[ClassroomScreen](#) allows you to have a timer, text area, drawing tool, name picker, work symbols and more on one screen and it is completely free.

[Check out how easy it is easy to use in your library.](#)



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!](#)

This month Madison Middle School students spoke about the importance of libraries.



SPS RUBIK'S CUBE CHALLENGE

Join the [Rubik's Cube Fever](#) and sign up to participate in the fun, use SPS19. Create a team, use in the library, share with staff, make mosaics, but most importantly HAVE FUN!

[Ballard High School using the Rubik's Cube](#)



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

National Library Week
Library Snapshot Day (check page 3)
Advocacy for your library
Women's History Month
Poetry Month

Washington Library
Snapshot Day

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

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