



April 25th, 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 8

## SPS Library Newsletter

### LIBRARY STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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- YALSA with Lee page 5
- AASL with Rebecca page 4

## ES/K8 LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT-MARJORIE DOWD



Drawn by fifth-grader Laith, this is a description of the Kearns Library with and without Marjorie. A note of explanation: Coe is very fortunate to have a four-day per week library program, but many of her students (and Marjorie) would love it to be full-time.



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.

Marjorie 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

## MS/HS LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT- DEB GALLAHER

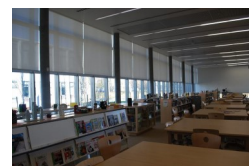
**Deb Gallaher** is the librarian at Nathan Hale High School and the secondary librarian spotlight for the month of April. Deb loves being a librarian because it is in itself multifaceted. She wears a multitude of hats in her role, but she knows one of the best parts is the incredible opportunity to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



Marjorie,

Anders will read anything you recommend to him. You are simply magic. He begged me to reread *Sarah Plain and Tall* this morning, a book he would NEVER have read based on my recommendation.

Thank you Marjorie, we are so very lucky to have you at Coe.

Thank you!!

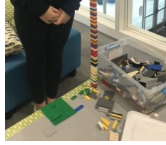
Shauna

(email from a parent)

## 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!



## 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. Everyone is invited!



Makerspace moments are going on all around the district.

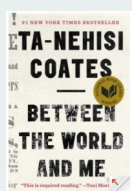
Check out Quinn Longhurst's Luna New Year laser cut and engraved key chains!



## 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**.



ing.

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.



**White People Assume Niceness is the Answer to Racial Inequality. It's Not.** - Robin DiAngelo

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### Promoting Civic Engagement through Non-fiction Graphic Novels

Community-created list

Books discussed at a Panel at Emerald City Comic Con, 2019

Did you get to **Emerald City Comic Con**? That whirlwind of comics, cosplay, gamers and fans of great (and sometimes trashy) comics descended on the Washington Convention Center recently. Talk about taking graphics to great lengths! If we're going to call ourselves media specialists, it should be #RequiredReading to spend a day reading faces and the backstories of this sea of humanity deeply engaged in bringing stories to life.

Away from the big show, over at Seattle Public Library, I was fortunate to be invited to present on a panel with @Comics\_Teacher Eric Kallenborn, Eisner-nominated Comic Author @YesThatMKReed, deftly moderated by podcaster @TomRacine. Our noon-hour panel was one of a day-long series hosted by ECC and Seattle Public Library.

SPL Librarian Shannon Wallace has done a great service to curate this community-created list from various titles we discussed: **Promoting Civic Engagement Through Nonfiction Graphic Novels**

Panel organizer Michael @TryingTeacher Gianfrancesco and Eric Kallenborn are building a comics-in-education site <http://LIT-X.org> which they see as something By Teachers, For Teachers that I'll also follow at @WeAreLITX on Twitter and Instagram.

*\*To learn more about how to use these graphic novels to work towards racial equity contact Craig Seasholes at [clseasholes@seattleschools.org](mailto:clseasholes@seattleschools.org)*

## 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!

AASL @aasl · Apr 1

Congratulations to Rebecca Wynkoop (@EagleStaffLib), AASL's 2019 #AASLSuperstar: Advocacy Ambassador!

### Advocacy Ambassador

## Rebecca Wynkoop

School Librarian • Eagle Staff Middle School in Seattle, Washington

"... a leader in resolving equity issues across our large urban district."

"She persuades with facts and figures as well as personal stories and connections."

"She's able to pinpoint problems, advocate for solutions, and adopt modern methods for getting the word out to both families and the broader community."

SOCIAL MEDIA SUPERSTARS | [www.ala.org/aasl/awards/superstar](http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards/superstar)

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

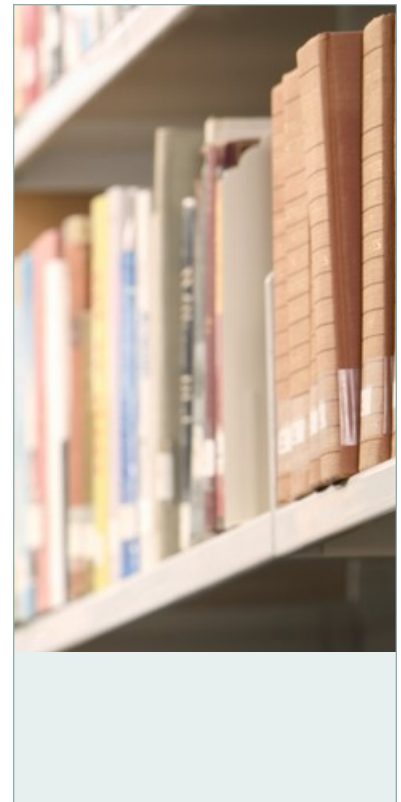
Teens from Nathan Hale and Cleveland High School bravely stepped up to the microphone and addressed a packed house at the Metropolitan Sheraton Ballroom, with no small consequences for their opinions. Each year at the mid-winter ALA conference, teen voices are critical in forming the final **Top-Ten 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



## LEARNING AND LEADING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



**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.



**May 7th 2019-** join educators to learn more about equity and inclusion in Seattle.

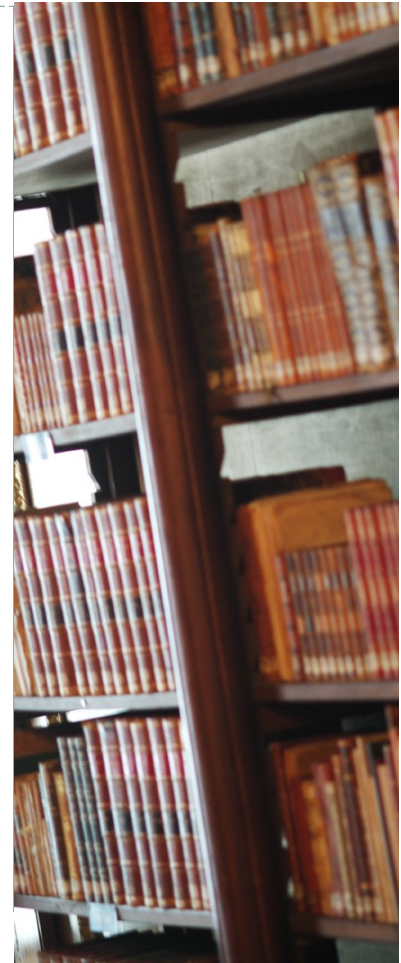


**BLC 2019- July 17-19th 2019** Join educators from around

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




**June 23rd-26th 2019** join global educators who believe in the power of technology to transform teaching and learning. The **ISTE** conference will be held in Philadelphia this year.



## 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



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**ADVOCATE**

**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!](#)**

**In March Garfield High  
School student, Rose  
spoke about the  
importance of libraries  
and school cuts.**



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Please learn more [here!](#)

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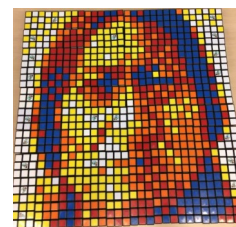
**Easy EdTech Podcast**  
with Monica Burns

CLASS  
TECH  
TIPS

The New York Times



You can receive large boxes of Rubik's cubes for mosaics in your library this June! Just click this link: [\*\*Summer Lending Offer-\*\*](#)



Washington Library  
Snapshot Day



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

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