



SPS LIBRARY

STAKEHOLDERS

Cedar Park's library, led by Abby Levin, has become the heart of our new school. It is a place for learning and storytelling (through a collection of amazing stories and human connections); it is a place of community and creativity (through lunch recess Maker Space, Global Reading, Expeditionary projects, and technology integration); it is a place



of curated literature and cultural celebration (through a collection of culturally diverse books that provide windows and mirrors); it is a place of collegiality and collaboration (through teacher, librarian, and family partnerships around learning and supporting students together). From Expedition and Global Reading Challenge films shared across our city and community to one of our students working with the librarian to find an exciting new book or series... Cedar Park's library is a place where everyone is valued, where everyone is inspired, where everyone belongs. —**Principal**

Ouellette, Cedar Park Elementary School



"Merrick been on our Race and Equity Team from the beginning and has been working hard to ensure our kids are reading a diversity of books that represent a diversity of people and experiences. She supports our school wide initiatives around Black Lives Matter and our PBIS Virtue of the Month by gathering resources and teaching lessons. She has worked with teach-

ers to help them gather and present material and has worked to create fun programs for students. She runs the Global Reading Challenge with SPL and did a Rubik's cube competition this year. She helps make the library and reading a true centerpiece of our school." —**Principal Wallace, Cascadia Elementary School**

LEADERSHIP-MARIAN ROYAL

As I write this column, I'm reflecting back on the big collective sigh of relief we all shared last month when the district officially announced that all middle and high librarian positions would be restored to 1.0 FTE. What a victory that is! I want to congratulate all of you who advocated so persistently and effectively over the last few months to make this happen. I'm convinced that it was the stories told by students, parents, teachers and librarians about the need for school librarians at each Board meeting that really made the difference. What you do impacts our students so profoundly and it was uplifting to hear them share their voices as they rose up to defend their right to full time librarians and strong library programs. And I'm grateful to the SPS Board and SPS Leadership for listening and responding on behalf of our kids. Keep up the good work you do every day. School libraries and teacher librarians transform!



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

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ES/K8 LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT-AMI PENDLEY

“Coming to the library is like when you’re playing Super Mario Brothers and you get all those free coins and level up, except it’s better because it’s books and they’re real.”

-Pathfinder 2nd grade student



“When I first arrived at West Seattle, I was a skittish kid. I didn’t live near there, and I didn’t know anyone. My freshman year, we cycled through three librarians in a three month period. Every time I would begin to get close to them, they would leave. That, is, until Ms. Carlson arrived. She brought a breath of fresh air. You could tell that she was dedicated, unlike the librarians who knew they were temporary. She helped to bring me out of my shell. She talked to me, and encouraged my reading.”

-West Seattle HS student



Capturing the enthusiasm of our ES/K8 spotlight, **Ami Pendley at Pathfinder K-8**, is like trying to rope the wind! It is EVERYWHERE! This is her first year as a teacher librarian and she loves absolutely everything about her job. Connecting students with books has always been one of her greatest joys, but now she gets to do that for 500 students! In her own words, “There is nothing sweeter than the expressions on students’ faces when you help them find the book they are looking for or find them a book they didn’t know they wanted until they saw it.”

One of her goals this year for her middle school students was to increase engagement and circulation. Her 8th grade book club read *The Hate U Give* and went to see the movie on opening day. She worked with the middle school ELA teachers to promote Book Bingo and a ton of kids have blacked out their cards. In June, they get to go on a field trip with her to their local bookstore and get a free book (and ice cream). They’ve also had the pleasure of hosting two author visits for the middle school students, Rebekah Crane and Kate T. Parker, which were phenomenal and so inspiring for the students. And she just put together her first book tasting event for the 7th graders and for the first time this year, there was a long line to check out at the circ desk.

She knows from her years teaching 8th grade ELA that our middle school students can stop reading unless we work really hard to keep their love of books alive. She recruited 15 students to be on her teen library advisory board and they are going to meet for the first time at the end of May to help her plan the very best ways to do that next year.

She has also applied to be part of the ProjectLIT community next year! She can’t wait to see what the kids decide to read for their book clubs. Reach out to Ami to learn more and check out her incredible newsletters!

HS LIBRARIAN SPOTLIGHT-COLLEEN CARLSON

Our HS Librarian spotlight, **Colleen Carlson at West Seattle High School** begins and ends with dedication. She has focused on low-tech Makerspace options for her library, striving to create *Destress for Success* areas that encourage students to engage in activities like chess, puzzling, and knitting. Many students come in during lunch and play impromptu chess games with crowds of friends gathered around to watch. The Library Knitting Club that her Attendance Specialist, Nancy Cromer, and she began last fall has been particularly rewarding. Sharing their creative possibilities through the medium of knitting has opened up relationships among students who now have something else in common with others; it has also created bonds between students and staff outside the typical student-teacher relationship. Other staff have come on occasion to share their knitting expertise, broadening their relationships with students by creating a knitting network that re-frames students and staff.



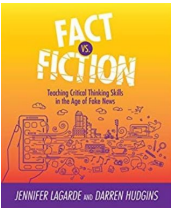
When asked about her favorite part of the job she chose helping students discover how the library and its resources, which can really improve their learning and have a positive impact on their work-life as well as their personal life goals. She believes a ‘reading life’ enriches our understanding of the world that is beyond our tangible reach, but books also add depth and perspective to things and ideas we think we already know. Technology and its related tools are a close second for helping students learn and navigate our current Information Age. Not unlike other times in historical progress when those whose access to understanding the change going on about them created vast opportunities, today’s students who learn how to use and manipulate technology will at least have a fair chance to keep up and maybe even surge ahead to gain a strong foothold in their future. Conversely, she feels even more compelled to reach out to students whose circumstances make access to books and technology difficult. Giving students a deeper understanding of their options is a prime motivator for her work with any young person.

Please reach out to Colleen to learn more about her low-tech makerspace activities and learn more about her library!

BOOKS TO COMBAT FAKE NEWS– LEE MICKLIN

Fact vs Fiction by Jennifer LaGarde and Darren Hudgins

Fact vs. Fiction makes the point that as we teach critical thinking skills to our students we need to broaden our views. Acceptable sources of information must capture those already trusted by our students. After all, Shapchat content has been admissible in courts and influenced rulings. New ways of defining source credibility to apply to YouTube videos, blogs and Instagram’s posts are in order. Additionally, students do not always get information by search, but rather by push notifications. Why not teach students to set up their own customized news feed ensuring that credible news comes through? The chapter, “Fake News Assessment” shows eleven different cellphone screens, and the reader must determine if the content is real or fake and if fake, by what ploy? Also useful are the resources for combatting fake news; both URL’s and QR codes are given.



Information Literacy and Libraries in the Age of Fake News edited by Denise Agosto

This title is a compendium of thirteen different essays. All are written for librarians, but the content varies according to type of librarian: Public, School or Academic (University). I found some essays to be more academic than my more pragmatic interests, but other essays, such as We Got This: Public Libraries as Defenders Against Fake News refreshingly applied to school library concerns, as well. Accounts of varying generational reactions to questions about information sources were interesting.

In the Headlines: Fake News edited by New York Times Educational Publishing

I am a huge of In the Headlines series non-fiction produced by New York Times and Rosen. Each of the ten titles (The Opioid Crisis, #Me Too, Climate Refugees, etc.) is a collection of news stories, originally published in the New York Times. The who, what, when, where’s and why’s of Fake News are NYTimes newsworthy and incredibly interesting. Not lost on any of these books is the civic and political consequences of fake news. From this title a quote by British historian Simon Shama: “Indifference about the distinction between truth and lies is the precondition of Fascism. When truth perishes so does Freedom” (p. 164)

STEERING COMMITTEE SUMMER READING STATEMENT

SPS Libraries provide services to their students and communities throughout the school year and work to continue those services in multiple ways throughout the summer months - our doors may be closed but books and other pathways to meaningful brain engagement are always open. Teacher librarians throughout the district consider the communities they serve to target the valuable resources they endorse over the summer:

- Establish and encourage partnerships with SPL Libraries and Librarians
- Vet and publish summer reading lists
- Promote summer reading incentive programs
- Stay connected with communities and share summer reading highlights via social media
- Offer Summer Library Hours and programs

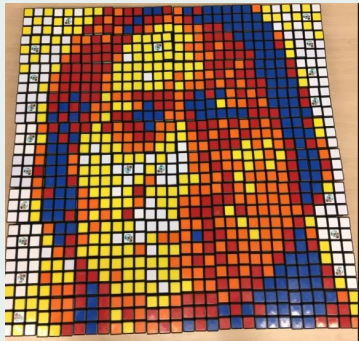


MAKERSPACE

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 **at Ballard HS on June 5th.**



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!



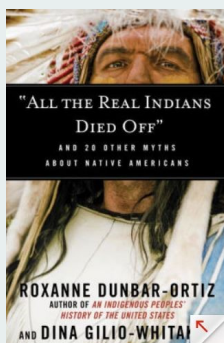
Equity

Everyone is invited to join our **SPS Library Racial Equity Book Club** on Teams Thursday mornings at 7:30 am.



The fifth book being read is ***Waking up White: and finding myself in the story of race*** by Debby Irving.

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



The seventh book will be *All The Real Indians Died*, a title generously donated for check out by Gail Morris, Native American Education Program Manager. Please contact her if you are interested in learning more about Native Education and resources.

RACIAL EQUITY

#31DaysIBPOC Twitter project are the voices of thirty-one different Indigenous, Black, and People of Color who work as educators. By sharing their voices, one voice at a time, each day centers unique and varied experiences. It is their hope that they can write in solidarity about the many ways they define themselves, their practices, and their lives.

It is in the spirit of controlling their own narratives and creating a community of their voices that this project began.

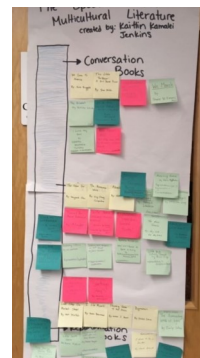
Please take the time to read and follow these educators.

#31Days IBPOC


Colorful Pages

COLORFUL PAGES– -GINNY ALLEMANN

Kaitlin Kamalei Jenkins, the founder of **Colorful Pages**, presented a workshop at the Department of Racial Equity Advancement (DREA) team training on Saturday, April 20. Several SPS librarians attended. Kaitlin has developed a **tool** (“spectrum”) for analyzing multicultural literature for use in classrooms. Kaitlin asserts that as teachers and librarians, we can be proactive in working towards inclusion and cultural competency by using the power of multicultural literature. “The Spectrum was made in order to help educators, librarians, families, and others critically analyze their book selections and aid them in increasing the diversity and representation in the books.”



Workshop attendees browsed and analyzed books to determine: Is it a book that represents a culture? Is it a book that explores a culture? Is it a book that will elicit conversation around the culture and injustice or the struggle against injustice? (***Spectrum: Representation, Exploration, Conversation.***) In addition, we explored how we might use these titles in our own instruction.

We hope to have Kaitlin present to all SPS librarians in the near future!



THE NATIONAL ANTIRACIST BOOK FESTIVAL

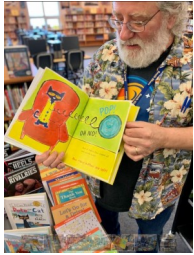
The National #Antiracist Bookfest was the first and only book festival that brought together, showcased, and celebrated the nation’s leading antiracist writers and helped to prepare the writers of tomorrow.

Check out : **AntiRacist Book Titles and Authors** available at Seattle Public Library and reach out to colleagues about starting your own Antiracist Book Club at your school.



BEST BOOKS

Evergreen Teen Book Awards - The Evergreen Teen Book Award is sponsored by the Washington Young Adult Review Group (WASHYARG), a group comprised of school and public librarians from the state of Washington. The award (formerly known as the WashYARG Young Adult Reader's Choice Award) was created to give teens in the state a voice in deciding the best literature aimed at their age group. Consider joining the group and reviewing books for your students. Reach out to Stacia Bell or TuesD Chambers to learn more.



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

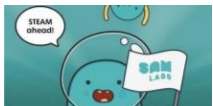
"I went for the books the students would connect to and I value the books kids will pursue on their own." **Congratulations to Bruce Toomey, South Shore K-8 Library, winner of the Margaret Covey Excellence in Teaching Award!**

We are thankful for the work Bruce Toomey does as the librarian at South Shore. So far, he has purchased 201 new books for the students! This award is given annually in honor of Margaret Covey, a veteran teacher in Seattle Public Schools who enjoyed teaching math and reading, along with her work as a librarian. The Alliance administers this award on behalf of the family.

Evergreen Nominees 2019-20



LEARNING AND LEADING PROFESSIONAL GROWTH



June 13th, 2019- Sam Lab Community Event will focus

on sharing ideas, experiences, and having fun with SAM Labs.



ETHNIC STUDIES INSTITUTE: July 29 - August 9, 2019

The Ethnic Studies Program is excited to partner with SEA's Center for Racial Equity and Seattle University to make this important learning happen.



November 14-16th 2019 AASL National Conference devoted solely to the needs of school librarians.



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 will hold an **ISTE** conference in Philadelphia.



BLC July 17-19th 2019 -Join educators from around the world who care deeply about

bringing the best innovative and practical learning resources to our students.

DONUT FORGET TO READ!

Please share any and all ways you are encouraging reading over the summer for your staff and students.

If you would like to join the summer “**Donut Forget to Read**” campaign please reach out to TuesD Chambers or Stacia Bell to learn more.



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!](#)

In May, student Ryan from Pathfinder K-8 spoke about the library being the heart of the school.

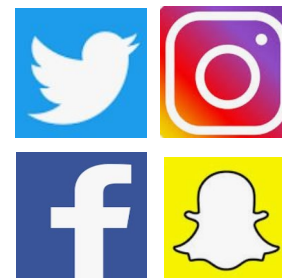


TECHNOLOGY

SDGs in Action App has been developed to highlight the UN Sustainable Development Goals - the world's to-do list to end poverty, reduce inequalities and tackle climate change. Learn about the 17 SDGs, find out what students can do, and invite students to create sustainable actions in their learning.



Using Social Media to Promote Your Library webinar gives you practical advice to engage patrons.

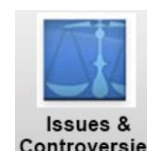


Audiobooksync - 14 weeks of FREE Audio Books to keep, 13+, go to audiobooksync.com to sign up.

Google Spotlights Stories are immersive stories for mobile 360, mobile VR and room-scale VR headsets.



Issues & Controversies helps students understand today's crucial issues by exploring hundreds of hot topics in politics, government, business, society, education, and popular culture and is available on SPS databases.



SPS GREAT PUZZLE CHALLENGE

Are you looking for ways to celebrate every day? Consider joining the district SPS Great Puzzle Challenge and encouraging students to join together to accomplish something great. Everyone is invited. To learn more check out the **SPS Great Puzzle Challenge**. It is not too late and it is the perfect end of the year Maker activity.



Check out the **Ballard High School Time Lapse Video** and watch students working together to finish a puzzle.

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

Asian American/Pacific Islander Month
Pride Month
Summer Reading
Equity Book Clubs
Feeder School Work
Partnerships with SPL for the Summer



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



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