



Teacher Librarians in Surrey

What Do we Do?

- Collaborate with school staff on resource needs, unit plans, book exchanges, etc.
- Develop and implement strategies which promote a lifelong love of reading.
- Teach students (and staff) effective informational gathering skills using both print and web based resources.
- Teach students how to evaluate information sources for reliability and relevance.
- Research topics and/or resources to assist teachers in planning their lessons.
- Evaluate software and websites for recommendation to students and staff.
- Plan and administer School Library budgets
- Develop the library collection by evaluating and purchasing library resources (books, cds, dvds, magazines, kits, databases, etc.) on an ongoing basis to ensure that they meet current curricular and interest needs at a grade appropriate level

How are we specialists?

- We are trained teachers with additional training in library skills.
- Our training gives us special skills in the retrieval, gathering, and evaluation of information; we teach these skills to our students.

What Challenges are we facing?

- We are NOT clerical staff, but are often forced into this role by cut backs
- Lack of time for planning with other teachers to present meaningful lessons
- Lack of Time for administration, team teaching, drop-in times
- Growing class sizes which means less time for individual student needs
- Budget cutbacks that prevent us from growing our collection or, in some cases, from even maintaining our collection.
- Cost of all resources are rising as library budgets shrink
- Resources are out-dated and need replacing.
 - This is especially true of the audiovisual materials. Most schools still have Videos

Why will this underfunding hurt children?

- **Small schools = less teacher-librarian time**, so their library is closed most of the time.
- **Small schools = inequity** between small and larger schools; a truly unfair situation.
- **Less teacher-librarian time = less literacy support.**
- **Less teacher-librarian time = less time** to teach students how to critically assess, analyse, and use information, especially documents and on-line resources, leaving our students vulnerable in an increasingly technological society

- **Less teacher-librarian time** = less time for the intermediate students who require assistance and support in comprehending the intricacies of research
- **Less teacher-librarian time** = less time to assess and evaluate resources for purchase
- **Smaller library budgets** = less books, less technology, less access
- **LESS** = students heading off to high school and post-secondary education without the necessary skills to locate, access, and evaluate informational materials.
- **LESS** = a future of an unskilled, illiterate workforce to support the B.C. economy