



Canadian Children's Book Week, November 14-21

Canadian Children's Book Week is a chance to celebrate reading and Canadian writers and illustrators. Teacher-librarians will distribute *Let's Go: The Story of Getting There from Here* by Lizann Flatt to grade 1s and their classmates.

The landscape for the work of teacher-librarians is changing rapidly. Books are at the core of the program and will remain so. TLs, charged with selecting, managing, and promoting the effective use of resources, are key to strong literacy programs in our schools. They are also key to effective integration of technology with teaching and learning.

Surveyed recently about their

literacy practices, TLs provided an array of services they use to empower students for reading, writing, expressing, engaging in inquiry, and acquiring the skills of the multiliteracies.

TL Inquiry Wiki

<http://schoollibraryprogram.pbworks.com>

Scroll down sidebar for Literacy and Video

A video of best practice in school libraries was created for Vancouver TLs this spring by TL Cheriee Weichel at Dickens. You may view this on the Inquiry wiki, along with the results of the TL Survey on Literacy and School Libraries.

TLs work with their teacher colleagues to promote

school Literacy initiatives as well. That said, not all practices used in classrooms are transferable to school libraries. TLs do not remove books from shelves to keep them "fresh" for classroom studies. They are surprised when new teachers ask for books at "Level 16."

What does it mean to "level" a school library collection? Coloured "dots" that represent reading levels, determined on the basis of one of several assessments, are applied to books. Children then may choose books only at their assessed levels.

No well-known proponent of the classroom strategy of

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Highlights for VSB School Libraries 2008/2009

Library Services catalogued 94 000 new items (60% at MLST; 40% in schools); VSB collections total 1.7 million items; *loans totalled a spectacular 1.73 million*

MLST, VSB's centralized services to school libraries, include tech support, materials conversion, provision of media materials and other classroom-support resources, workshops, media resources

and database acquisition and training, magazine purchasing, specialized technical training, Update sessions in September and May, vendor displays, and on-site in-service. This capacity to support and standardize school library collections is envied in many other districts.

Budgets for print, media, and electronic resources that are added to school library collec-

tions and programs represent more than \$700 000, or more than \$15 per child; school budget figures for libraries remain consistent.

68% of non-fiction titles are older than 11 years; reductions of 10-15% are recommended; non-fiction titles represent 42% of holdings, the largest of the VSB collections.

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Highlights, continued:

Secondary school libraries received new student-use computers with the new Computer Sustainability Plan.

Elementary libraries lag behind in technology acquisition for student use and instruction; technology integration with teaching and learning is difficult for many. Smartboards are a very popular acquisition and tool for use in school libraries.

Every school library has received a new circulation computer in the last two years.

TL Studio workshops which focus on the integration of technology with teaching and learning in a “sandbox” learning environment is now being held twice a month, at Kerrisdale and at Gladstone.

Database use has more than doubled in the last three years and usage continues to grow monthly.

Over thirty new and nearly new TLs were settled into our school libraries; initial staffing figures show no loss to FTEs this year

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) was endorsed by VSB Trustees and District Management; many schools had “events” including important guests who read. DEAR was a success here in Vancouver. The provincial specialists’ association BCTLA Executive was recognized nationally with the Angela Thacker Memorial Award for the DEAR campaign, including; Vancouver TLs Sylvia Zubke and Moira Ekdahl.

The spirit is high; workshops and in-service are well attended as TLs grapple with the changing nature of learning and of school libraries, collections and programs.

The VSB Inquiry was a huge success for 10 Vancouver TLs who made a film, re-designed a mentoring model, and developed a new student inquiry research cycle

Vancouver TLs are participating in creating new curriculum benchmarks for literacies, including traditional literacy, information literacy, critical literacy, media literacy, and so on.

French Immersion TLs worked with Daniel Belanger to acquire new resources and to put on the annual Livromanie, with expert oversight by Trafalgar TL Elly Werb.

New administrators Alex Grant and Bob Moore, seconded to Facilities, are interested in school libraries and expert TL input; they are working with concepts of Libraries as and/or with Learning Commons.

Nationally, Vancouver TL Michele Farquharson achieved recognition for the work she does and has done for many years in her school library program; the provincial TLs’ Association Executive In accepting the recent CLA Award as Canadian TL of the Year, Vancouver’s Star Michele Farquharson said:



It is heartening to review the research that so clearly supports quality library programs. It is interesting to note the emphasis that is being placed on technology. Keith Curry Lance and others have conducted dozens of studies in various states and concludes that when library conditions are optimal, which includes being adequately staffed, stocked and funded, and CPPT is happening and the library program embraces networked information technology, reading scores can improve by 10-18%. Similar findings in Canada are supported by the Haycock Report and the OLA research in 2006.

Michele continues in her inspirational role, conducting monthly workshops for teachers and teacher-librarians at Kerrisdale in her TL Studio 1 sessions. Pat Parungao, Alan Zisman, and Frances Renzullo-Cuzzetto host TL Studio 2 at Gladstone. For more information, see the Pro D *Connections* or check the online Pro D registration site.

TLs Take Professional Development Seriously

Vancouver TLs have plenty of opportunities to upgrade their practical skills and knowledge of the specialized work of running a school library program, and they can be counted on to attend provincial conferences, after-school workshops, online learning opportunities, and in-service events held three times a year. Many attended the annual multivendor display, with an extra session added this year at Chapters. Thanks to schools who enabled TLs to attend to make selections of new titles for their school

collections.

This year’s BCTLA Conference was held in Richmond. Keynote speaker Roch Carrier launched the event, called “Champions of Literacy.” Reading, said Carrier, develops the sense of curiosity, changes lives, empowers young people, and puts chance of their side.

The kick-off at the Richmond Oval on Thursday night gave TLs an opportunity to cavort with the Olympic critters. Just look at our Sylvia!



YSL3 (YourSchoolLibrary): Virtual Conference on Library Design

A number of Vancouver TLs have been attending a 21-day virtual global conference called *Designing the Future*. Here is what **Giovanna Bombino from Kitsilano** had to say about her three weeks of professional online homework:

I have thoroughly enjoyed the online conference. The timing of the conference was perfect. As Kitsilano Secondary enters the planning stages for the seismic upgrade (renovations vs rebuilding), the conference sessions on architectural and structural planning have provided a great deal of insight on what needs to be done in preparation.

It is an exciting venture. The possibilities are endless, and there is a great deal of discussion and planning to ensure that the design of the Kitsilano Library Resource Centre (or Learning Commons, or Media Tech Centre) not only meet the current

needs, but allows for the flexibility and adaptability that future technologies will require.

The overviews from Stephen Heppell and Sandra Lee were inspiring. Elizabeth Greef's "Bringing a new Library into being" provided a number of behind-the-scenes tips on how to proceed in the library re-design; she addressed many practical and physical issues. I truly enjoyed the retail marketing perspective of Kevin Hennah. I spend a great deal of time on "selling" the hottest and newest resources through my many displays. The idea of front-facing shelves and restructuring is something that I try to do on a regular basis. Barbara Braxton's "Landscape your Library" presentation also gave me a boost of energy, as displays is one of my passions. This virtual conference has served as a reminder that there is still

more that can be done.

I could comment on so many more sessions. Suffice it to say that, as a 25+ year veteran in the area of library resources, both in a school and public library setting, the YSL conference has reaffirmed my belief that student-centered learning for the future is where we must focus our attentions. I'm looking forward to the next phase of Kitsilano's school & library re-design. This has sparked a great deal of enthusiasm in me.

I'm hoping to go back and review some of the sessions I missed due to some technical difficulties. Thank you for encouraging me to sign up for the conference.

Giovanna

Oh, DEAR: We dropped everything and read!

On Monday, October 26, Vancouver schools once again celebrated National School Library Day by dropping everything they were doing and reading a good book. TLs are grateful for the ready support of this initiative from VSB Trustees, District Management, and fellow educators. After all, 20 minutes to read is *sheer bonus!*

Here are *just a few accounts* of what you might have seen in Vancouver schools at 11:00 am if you had been:

Ms Kezar's class at Trudeau was the first to turn in the evidence (several photos of students reading). This was followed by simi-

lar reports from schools around the district. Ujjal Dosanjh read at Moberly, at a date closer to Halloween when he was in town. At PW, TL Diane Shepherd-Dynes ran a "Did you get caught reading?" contest. She and the Library Service students took pictures of classes reading during Silent Reading the week before, then made a collage for display on the bulletin board outside the Library. From Oct 26 (DEAR) to Oct 30, students and staff came to the Library to say, "I got caught reading!" to claim their prizes (a bookmark and a treat). Some of us were in the Legislature at 11 am on National

School Library Day. In the gallery there is no reading allowed! No books, no note-taking ... who would have thought? But some (TLs Cheriee Weichel and Mark Roberts) were caught reading at 11:15 am in the Legislative Library!



Highlights, continued:

book levelling has ever suggested applying the practice to school libraries. Leading authorities on reading -- Stephen Krashen, Aidan Chambers, Jim Trelease -- all endorse free voluntary reading (FVR) as the single most effective strategy in supporting reading, with concomitant effects for writing, grammar, syntax, vocabulary, and so on. The position is referenced to significant understandings and research about the practices of FVR and provision of time to read, choice from a rich array of books, and an enabling adult to make the connections in a

balanced approach to encouraging and supporting our emerging, beginning, and struggling readers. Arguably, J.K. Rowling has provided a world in which young readers leap reading levels in order to be part of it.

There's another way to think about this. When the BCTLA was asked to create a position statement that explained how TLs understand their role in relation to literacy development, one or more school libraries in BC was being asked to *level* their collections. Refusing to do so was

only creating problems. While this is not likely to happen here in Vancouver, and while many TLs do make accommodations for their colleagues in providing a limited number of levelled books for early readers, there is a "teachable moment" here.

Put simply, that's not how TLs do *reading*. Knowing the child and the literature and being able to put just the right book into the readers' hands at just the right time is a joyful thing. It's all about assessment *for* learning. All this is what makes being a TL the best job in the system!



Vancouver Board of Education

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What's happening in
Vancouver's school libraries and other news?

Check Moira's blog:
<http://ttspecial.blogspot.com>

**Have you checked
out our databases?**

Click tab on Webcat:
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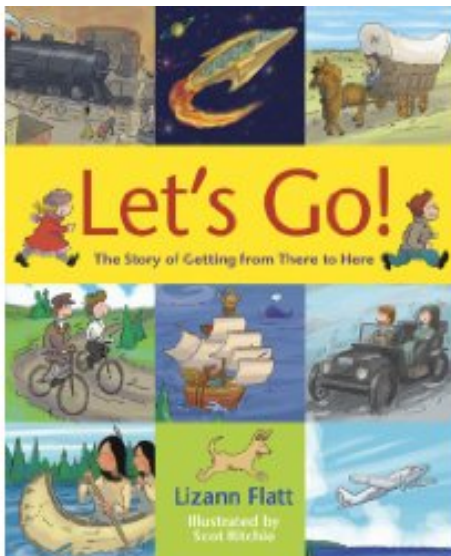
Please deliver to:

**Principal
Teacher-librarian
Learning Services Team
District Management Team**



Wallace Edwards, Governor General awarding-winning illustrator, has created this year's Book Week poster image.

TD Grade 1 Book Giveaway



Since 2000, CCBC and Ministries of education, school boards and library organizations across Canada have given every Grade One student a free Canadian children's book to take home and read with their parents. This annual program provides over 500,000 books to Grade One children across Canada and is funded by the TD Bank Financial Group.

This year, our students will take home *Let's Go! The Story of Getting from There to Here*, written by Lizann Flatt, illustrated by Scot Ritchie and published by Maple Tree Press.

An Olympic focus on sports generates this year's theme, Gold Medal Reading. Students journey across our continent through time, discovering the different ways we travel from place to place — from the Stone Age hunters to space voyagers' dreams today. Every page is a snapshot of life

at a different point in time. This tale of transportation through the ages is a story of imagination and ingenuity.

Wallace Edwards, whose poster image for Book Week you will see above, considered the following in creating it:

I chose an elephant because the elephant represents memory, an elephant is kid-friendly, an elephant represents power and looks silly on skates. The pose gives the impression of movement and of stillness at the same time. The background says winter and snow. The skates convey the idea of play and the flag says Canada. The book says reading (words and image) and allows for trunk use. The small tusks say youth and the red cheeks effort. The letters on his shirt refer to the written word.

Canadian Children't Book Centre
<http://www.bookcentre.ca>