

CONNECTING WITH THE MAGIC OF BOOKS

Teacher librarians improve literacy and connect students with the best books, including e-books, to meet their interests and reading levels. Children who read more have improved vocabularies, better spelling and better writing. Studies show that people with low literacy levels have poorer health, lower incomes and limited work opportunities compare to those with higher literacy skills.

Teacher librarians want to see students acquire critical thinking skills and locate reliable information to help build new learning. Google, copy and paste are not meaningful learning experiences. Teacher librarians want to collaborate with teachers in creating authentic and lasting learning experiences.

As librarians, teacher librarians want to build collections of the best print and digital teaching and learning resources for their unique school community needs, in an attractive, safe environment.

In the national year of reading which is 2012, we should be encouraging our children to participate in and learn to engage and enjoy the school library experience.

Many of us as parents wish that our children experience that lost wonderment of a favourite book, the safe and delicious smell of the books

How do your children benefit from a trained teacher librarian in their school?

on the shelf, being so engrossed in the book that special library teacher helped you find as they knew what you liked and what would engage you that you didn't hear the bell go.

These are experiences that all children should encounter, and really it shouldn't matter what the text type is, the gift of reading, of enjoying the imparting of knowledge, that's what should count for us as parents, that someone is there to support our children's journey into the magic of reading, be it the bmx magazine, the footy guide or a classic novel by Austin, or the latest vampire novel.

What has been shown to improve student learning is what the teacher does in the classroom, targeted to his or her students. What improves student learning is having qualified teacher librarians to collaborate and support teachers in this. Teacher librarians locate and select and make accessible the resources, in print, online, as DVDs, books, e-books, databases, and interactive learning objects, which teachers incorporate into lessons and which students can explore on their own.

Teacher Librarians are integral to educational school community.

By Georgia Phillips

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