

Libraries and learning a powerful combination for success



If a school library were to have a teacher-librarian who taught children and youth the skills necessary to be effective users of information in all of its forms, a powerful mechanism would be in place for enabling Canadian children and youth to be literate citizens, life-long learners and contributing adults in a learning society.

Asselin, M. J Branch and D Oberg (ed.) Achieving Information Literacy: Standards for School Library Programs in Canada, Canadian School Library Association, Ottawa: 2003.

When schools have teacher-librarians, their influence extends throughout the school and therefore into the students' education.

Statistics Canada, "School libraries and teacher librarians", Wednesday, May 4, 2005.

This study provides substantial evidence linking the presence of trained library staff to improved student achievement in Ontario schools. The enjoyment of reading is linked to the presence of teacher-librarians, and PISA studies have documented an association between reading enjoyment and student achievement.

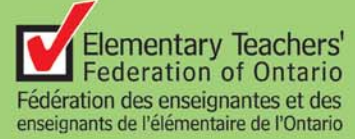
School libraries and student achievement in Ontario, a study by Queen's University and People for Education, The Ontario Library Association, April 2006.

Quality education means more teacher-librarians

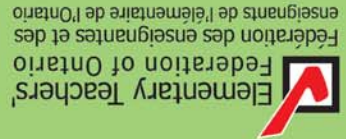


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A teacher-librarian makes your child's school library the heart of the school



Don't your children deserve teacher-librarians?

Only 10% of schools today report having a full-time teacher-librarian – compared with 25% in 1998/99.

Today only 54% of elementary schools have a teacher-librarian for some or all of the day – compared with 80% in 1997/98.

Spending on school libraries in Ontario is below the national average.

Schools in Canada spend, on average, less than \$100 per year on electronic materials for their libraries.

And all this at the same time the government is trying to promote literacy.

The best way to promote literacy is to provide well-stocked school libraries that are available to children all day, staffed by full-time teacher-librarians.

All students need libraries and teacher-librarians

Elementary teachers know students benefit when every school has a well-stocked, fully-resourced library, staffed by a qualified teacher-librarian, and available to students all day every day.

See how your school library measures up.

My school library has...

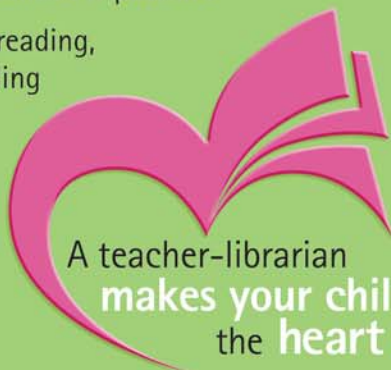
- a full-time teacher-librarian. YES NO
- up-to-date books. YES NO
- up-to-date computers. YES NO
- Canadian books and resources. YES NO

If your school doesn't measure up, you can take action.

- ➔ Write, call, or e-mail your school trustee asking for a good library program.
- ➔ Write, call, or e-mail your MPP demanding that the province fully fund library programs in schools.
- ➔ Write, call, or e-mail the Minister of Education demanding full funding for school libraries. (minister.edu@ontario.ca)
- ➔ Attend your school council meetings and encourage parents to join with you in your fight for a good school library program.

If your school does measure up, congratulations. The hard work of students, teachers, parents, and trustees have made it possible.

If you share your love for reading, it will instill a love of reading in your child. Read with your child and visit your public library to encourage your child to be inquisitive and to enjoy reading.



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What does a teacher-librarian do?

For students, teachers, parents and the community:

- makes reading valuable and fun
- works with classroom teachers to provide subject-specific, age-appropriate, curriculum-related reading materials for every class
- ensures the library collection is up-to-date and reflects the community
- teaches students how to find, critically assess, and organize information
- organizes events and activities to promote reading
- teaches safe, effective use of the Internet and related technology
- helps parents select books and promote reading
- works with students, teachers, and parents to improve student success
- prepares students for the future

The school library is the heart of the school.

