

A newsletter for parents about what school library programs have to offer.

www.theschoollibrarylink.com



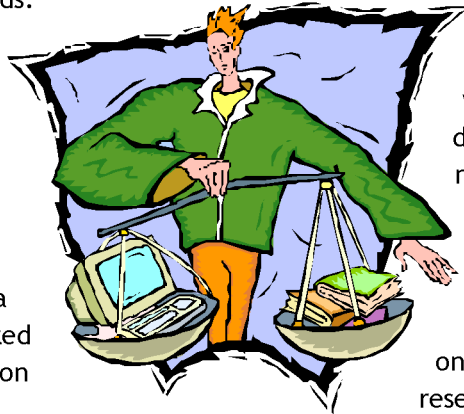
The School Library Link to Curriculum Learning

One of the goals of school libraries is to support and enhance curriculum learning. In fact, it's arguably the main goal, and it's achieved in large part through collection development, reading programs, and collaboration with teachers.

Collection Development

Each school library's collection is unique for their population. Think of it: A library that is carefully researched and selected just for *your* kids.

There are a lot of factors that go into it. A school's demographics (languages spoken, ethnicities represented, special needs, and ability levels) play a part in selecting and maintaining a balanced collection of books, audio and visual material, databases, and online content. Then, using the curriculum as a guide, school librarians create a dedicated support system unlike any other collection of resources.



Reading Programs

The connection between reading skills and student achievement in the classroom is well-known. So when school librarians encourage pleasure reading, it's not just to give students something to do on weekends. The more students are excited about reading, the more reading they will do. And *every bit* of reading enhances students' language and literacy skills, which in turn supports their ability to understand and retain information in the classroom.

Collaboration with Teachers

One of the ways in which the curriculum really enters the school library is when school librarians and class-

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room teachers collaborate on learning projects. The school library is a great place to "think outside the text book," because students are exposed to primary sources, multiple forms of information, and a variety of viewpoints.

How does collaboration work? Say a teacher has a biography report he wants to assign to his class. He speaks with the school librarian, and they decide to add some research and technology components to the report, both of which are required by their state's curriculum goals. After collaborating, they decide to have the school librarian teach the kids how to use an online biography database to do their research, and then upload their findings to a class wiki. It's just one of the many ways in which teachers and school librarians can work together to teach more effectively.

Learn More About the School Library

Does the school library's connection to the curriculum really affect student achievement? Yes, it does. According to multiple studies done across the U.S., student achievement in the classroom and on standardized tests are higher in schools with strong school library programs, than in schools without strong programs. To learn more about these landmark studies, check out "The Link to Student Achievement," on page 2. Discover how the school library is the link to curriculum learning. ☞

Top Web Sites that Support Curriculum Learning

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) is a great resource for parents looking to support their children's education. Among their many recommended resources, they maintain a list of top Web sites for teaching and learning. Here are a few to check out.

Discovery Education

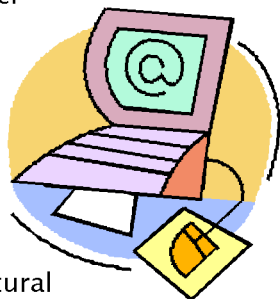
[community.discovereducation.com](http://www.community.discovereducation.com)

On this site, you can watch homework–help videos, create different kinds of puzzles, play reasoning games, and more. Kathy Schrock's Guide to Educators is also linked here. In addition, there is a Parent's Corner and a link for Home Resources.

EduWeb

www.eduweb.com

Eduweb develops award–winning digital learning games about art, history, science, and technology. You can play games that encourage kids to create, deduce, role–play, or tinker. Live the life of a wild wolf in 3–D, find the clues to deduce a mystery, or create a documentary about an 1845 agricultural village (to name a few).



Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

At the Library of Congress Web site, click on “Kids, Families” to discover links to everyday mysteries, American history, maps and facts from around the world, and much more.

Smithsonian Education

www.smithsonianeducation.org

The Smithsonian Education Web site has links for families, students, and educators. You'll find printable activity sheets, games and quizzes, educational videos, and even interactive galleries of artwork.

For more recommended Web sites from the AASL, visit www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/bestlist/bestwebsites.cfm ☞

THE LINK TO... Student Achievement

“We must understand the fundamental contributions school libraries make to learning outcomes. First, when school librarians collaborate with classroom teachers to enrich curriculum content, they help create more authentic learning experiences.

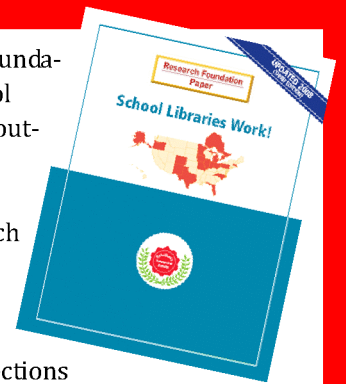
Second, school library collections inform, educate, entertain, and enrich students at all levels...When students are able to...explore information that is meaningful to them, they not only learn faster, but their literacy skills grow rapidly; they learn how to learn.”

--C. Beth Fitzsimmons, Ph.D., Chairman,
U.S. National Commission on

Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS).
Excerpted from a letter to President George W. Bush,
February 13, 2006, introducing *School Libraries Work!*

Published by Scholastic Library Publishing, *School Libraries Work!* contains summaries of the studies done in the U.S. that looked at if and how school libraries affect student achievement. An abundance of evidence shows that when library media specialists work with teachers to support learning opportunities with books and technology, students learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests than peers in schools without good school libraries.

To read the essential resource, visit
www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/s/slw3_2008.pdf



Watch for next month's issue of
The School Library Link to
Chatting, Tweeting, and Alternate Media