



It worked for me!

TL

Postcards from the Centre

BRENDA DILLON
Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School, Dufferin-Peel

In September, I wanted to get school library information into the hands of teachers without adding too much to their already stuffed mailboxes. So, using Microsoft Publisher and sheets of perforated postcards, I created postcards that identified school library staff, provided contact information, and highlighted programs and services offered this year. ■



Nothing's Going to Cut Down My Silver Birch

SHARON WEAMES
Lord Nelson School, Thames Valley District School Board

DILEMMA

What do you do when budgets have been slashed? I have been organizing the Silver Birch Reading Program for the last three years. The first year, I started off with one class and two copies of each title purchased out of my library budget. The next year was more difficult as my budget was slashed. The Home and School helped out and purchased two copies to supplement the copies I purchased.

This year I have five classes that wish to participate and I was faced with quite a dilemma. There wasn't any way I could purchase even one copy of each title, so the Home and School came to my rescue and ordered three copies of each of the selections. But even with their generosity, I couldn't satisfy five classes. So, what do you do?

SOLUTION

The Grade 4s had not been exposed to Silver Birch before so they are going to read the selections from 1999-2000. The Grade 5s are going to read the selections from 2000-2001, and the Grade 6s will read the selections for this year.

Each person will receive a birch leaf for each book they read, and their books will be tallied for their vote. We will hold a vote on the actual day, with three booths open for each of the grades.

It's a little like a three-ring circus but I couldn't deny the students' enthusiasm for reading. When it comes time to announce the winners, we will do it in fine fashion so each class gets the recognition for participating.

There will definitely be some advocacy going on so next year's Silver Birch is fully covered by the school library budget. ■