

National School Library Day 2004 in Ontario

Roberta Henley

National School Library Day continues the important work of the International Association of School Librarianship. The day was proclaimed by Roch Carrier, National Librarian of Canada, at the National School Library Summit held in Ottawa in June of 2003 and is celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. This year it was held on October 25.

Teacher-librarians across the province joined those across Canada to celebrate the day by holding a variety of events to draw attention to the importance of the school library program. The theme for this year was Linking Libraries, Literacy and Learning. Teacher-librarians were urged to go to the National School Library Web site for all kinds of ideas, including hosting an author visit, holding an assembly, featuring booklists and displays, setting up quizzes and competitions, dressing up as a book character, holding book fairs, etc.

Val Bureau from the Grand Erie District School Board had the following to say: "We had Eric Walters come to both my elementary schools...What a great way to celebrate the day! He was absolutely amazing...even enthralled my hard-to-please grade 8s...and one of the reluctant readers came and took away his newest book *Grind* later this week. No kid could think being an author is anything less than totally cool after hearing him speak!"

Sharon Armstrong, from the same board, held a literary character parade at lunch time featuring teachers dressed up in costumes representing literary characters and carrying bristol boards with slogans related both to their characters and to the school library. One example was the three witches from *Macbeth*, asking, "When shall we three meet again – at the library?"

Cathy Brury, from Dr. Charles Best School, with the Halton School Board, asked her classes to celebrate the day by explaining why the school library was important to them and what kind of books they would like added to their library. Here is one incredible response: