

How are we doing?

The results of *The Teaching Librarian*

In order to get a sense of how successful we have been at meeting the needs of our readers, the editorial board of *The Teaching Librarian* ran a survey that was distributed online. It was also available in print form with Volume 16, Issue 1. We are grateful to the readers who took the time to complete the survey. The names of all respondents were entered in a random draw; congratulations to Joel Krentz, the winner of a gift certificate to The OLAStore for his participation. The editorial board would also like to express our gratitude to Jennifer Marriott from the OLA for her advice, which ensured that the survey would generate useful feedback.

The survey results indicate to us that OSLA members are generally satisfied with the magazine. Over 50% of respondents read most of the magazine and 19% read it from cover to cover. Many respondents commented on how the magazine “lessens the isolation we sometimes feel in our profession.” Another respondent said, “it creates a connection, gives school

library staff an opportunity to see models from boards other than their own, and allows opportunities to highlight excellence.”

On the flip side, one of the recurring themes noted in the responses had to do with a feeling of inadequacy. One of our readers urged us to “be real.” Someone else commented, “I often feel after reading that I am just not achieving all the wonderful things everyone else is. I am not moving mountains, or countries, or saving children.” The consensus at the editorial board was that we all share these feelings at times. We want to reassure our readers that we recognize the limitations which constrain many of us. The articles are supposed to inspire, not discourage or intimidate. We will make an effort to demonstrate how some of these strategies can be implemented in less-than-ideal situations (e.g. with few resources, part-time library allocation, etc.). At the same time, we should remember the words of Les Brown: “Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land among the stars.”

I read this column

