

## What events do you celebrate at your library?

### School Wide Book Swap

Every spring we have a book swap. Staff and students bring in their gently used books several weeks before the swap, and, in return, receive a coupon. On the day of the swap everyone arrives, coupons in hand. The participants take away a book for each coupon they have. Students are also encouraged to bring in up to two magazines to swap for books as well. This allowance ensures that all students who have a love of reading can join in the fun. It should be noted that we do add to the swap inventory by purchasing books at used books sales.

Stephanie Alexander  
Woodlands School  
Peel District School Board

### Haute Couture in the Library

Loud vibrations from a carefully selected soundtrack, dramatic stage lighting, and an invitation-only audience created allure and excitement for our first ever “Fashion Show in the Library.” This amazing event was the brainchild of Fashion Technology teacher Sharon Irving. Ms. Irving’s students had to design and produce clothes along the following themes: sleepwear, recycled clothing, and accessories. Teachers and selected students were invited to give feedback on the creations. The staff then selected the most promising young designer.

This is just another example of a culminating unit for a real audience. The students were not just performing for a mark; the deadlines and time management issues were firm; the show had to go on just like it would in the real competitive world of high fashion. The intimate setting of the library was just right for this new event. Let’s hope this tradition will continue!

Simone Nieuwolt White  
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Collegiate  
Scarborough, ON

### Bibliotekkie Pizza or Popsicle Day / Lilac Tea

To celebrate the great work done by my library volunteers (Bibliotekkees), I hold three or four small parties at morning recess or lunch recess throughout the year. It seems that the mere act of eating in a usual no-food zone confers nefarious delight associated with breaking the rules. The fare is simple and the time is short, but this reward is well appreciated, and in fact a draw for future volunteers. I take the opportunity to give a pep talk and sometimes highlight the efforts of a particular individual or grade. These events foster a feeling of belonging to a core group—one that spans several grades—and bolster students’ desire to demonstrate continued leadership.

Each year our school holds a “Lilac Tea” to thank our parent volunteers for the work they have put in throughout the year to help both students and staff. Many of these volunteers work in the library or help with the book fair. A few weeks before the date, names are gathered and official invitations are prepared. The lilac paper is rolled into a scroll and tied with purple ribbon. The staff is invited to sign up to bring punch, savoury or sweet treats, and lilac blossoms. On the day, the library is transformed. Tables are covered with lilac tablecloths, each with a large punch bowl in the centre and surrounded by scrumptious delicacies. Best of all, the library is redolent with the fragrance of freshly cut lilac. The parents and staff come together after school and socialize for a while. The principal and the librarian say a few words to express their appreciation for the parents’ contribution to school life and the bond between school and the community strengthens. !

Catherine Harris  
William Berczy Public School  
York Region District School Board



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