

The Editor's Notebook

In the last half of 2013, two sweet new additions joined our home. I didn't give birth to twins, as delightful as that could have been – I adopted some pet skinny pigs, after my faithful school companion Max died in June. Skinny pigs are hairless guinea pigs, and the breed seems to have originated in a Canadian laboratory in 1978. Owen was only a month old when I brought him home from his place of birth in Owen Sound.

The marvellous thing about having a baby-anything is the sense of wonder they have about the world. Every new experience was an adventure to baby Owen. He enjoyed wandering around the floor, sniffing unfamiliar scents, tasting unusual treats and exploring under and behind anything he could reach. Kirby, our other skinny pig, was a lot more timid. He preferred hiding in his "pigloo" (his small animal shelter). It's taken a bit more work on our part to get Kirby comfortable with the unknown. His courage has slowly developed, with patience and



Photos Courtesy of Diana Maliszewski

encouragement, and he's not so scared anymore to be out of his cage.

Do Owen and Kirby sound like any students you've encountered? Do they resemble any school library staff members you know? Socrates once said, "Wisdom begins in wonder." Charles Morgan, an English-born playwright, said, "As knowledge increases, wonder deepens." And Albert Einstein commented that, "He who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe is as good as dead: his eyes are closed."

Wonder and learning go hand in hand, and school library professionals are in a unique position to foster that sense of wonder in both eager and reticent

learners. A lot of wondrous learning occurred during the 2014 Ontario Library Association Super Conference, with its theme of "A Universe of Possibilities."

Check out the Super Conference Photo Essay and the President's Report for more information. (Did you notice that this year's Teacher-Librarian of the Year, Leslie Holwerda, is a member of *The Teaching Librarian* editorial board? I certainly did!) You may also enjoy the "wonder-ful" feature articles by Melissa Murray from the York Region District School Board on inquiry learning and Richard Reid from the Durham District School Board about the magic of connecting with authors. Enjoy Volume 21 Issue 3! ■

