

President's Report

This issue of *The Teaching Librarian* celebrates puzzles. Puzzles are a great metaphor for lifelong learning; we often feel overwhelmed when looking at the “big picture”, but when we approach a challenge step by step, piece by piece, we are amazed at what we can accomplish. So it goes with every new course I’ve ever taught, my first few years as a teacher-librarian and even my role as OSLA President. I have considered the amazing work completed so far this year by OSLA Council in terms of different puzzles.

Jigsaw Puzzles

Certainly jigsaw puzzles are easier to do together than alone. So it is with the tasks and initiatives we have been working on at OSLA council. The Year of the Learning Commons drew to a close in May 2016 and we are thrilled to witness the successes of so many school library learning commons across Ontario and throughout North America. The teaching and learning that is happening in school libraries reminds us of the value we bring every day to the lives of students. We know we are a key part to the educational puzzle.

Sudoku Puzzles

Successfully completing a Sudoku is about finding the missing piece to the equation; to this end, I am pleased to announce that OSLA Council has come out strongly in favour of supporting a national voice for school libraries in Canada. We feel that school libraries and qualified library staff require representation throughout the country, for the benefit of all Canadian students. Canadian Voices for School Libraries has a dedicated working group of school library professionals volunteering their time to establish the organization. We would encourage our members to follow Canadian Voices For School Libraries on Facebook and Twitter @CdnSchoolLibrar and to visit the website <http://cvsl.ca> to show support.

Jenga

Jenga is about building. In OSLA’s case, we are interested in building new relationships with organizations and individuals. In May, Johanna Lawlor presented to ETFO President Sam Hammond regarding the School Library Learning Commons

Standing Committee. She shared information about the inconsistencies in school staffing policies around the province and included valuable data about the impact of teacher-librarians on student literacy rates and developing a love of reading.

Also in May, I presented with Melissa Jensen, Vice President/President-Elect on building collaborative relationships via the Library Learning Commons at the OTF Ministry of Education curriculum forum *Learning and Teaching for Tomorrow: Building Collaboration and Capacity*.

Crossword Puzzles

Looking for just the right words to fit the space; updating the Together For Learning website has been a little bit like completing a crossword puzzle. A task force was set up to look at the original T4L website, select the most relevant and practical information and migrate it to a new home. We are extremely proud and excited to share the new T4L website; it is a true reflection of the vision document which anchors our practice. With practical examples of real teaching and learning happening in Ontario schools, we feel it is a sleek, user-friendly site that will become a favourite of teacher-librarians around our province!

Mazes

As teacher-librarians, teachers and library technicians who love to read, we tell our students: Getting into a good book is like getting lost in a maze; twists and turns and no idea where the story will end up! The Ontario Library Association Forest of Reading® program is a project we are thrilled to support. The 2016 Festival of Trees™ included thousands of students in both official languages in several cities across the province celebrating a love of reading and authors in May. Congratulations to all of the nominated authors and especially to the winners! We are thrilled that the 2016-2017 nominated titles will be announced on October 14th, 2016. Remember to register your school after October 1st so that your students can benefit from all of the amazing resources available through the Forest program.