

The Editor's Notebook



Caroline Freibauer

There is nothing more anxiety-inducing than trying to cram your feet into someone else's shoes. Consider the ugly stepsisters attempting to jam their clodhopper feet into a glass slipper meant for Cinderella. With their mother looming over them, the stepsisters felt a lot of pressure to snag that prince.

I am feeling some of that stress as I attempt to fill Diana Maliszewski's well-worn editor-in-chief loafers with my bunion-beleaguered boats. Diana's shoes have been carefully broken in after editing *The Teaching Librarian* for 12 years. You could almost say those shoes fit her like a glove. But it is an honour – albeit a terrifying one – to try to stretch the leather a little to make it work.

Serendipitously, the theme for this edition – selected more than a year ago before I had considered taking over the magazine – is Anxiety. To that end, we have several articles aimed at helping new teacher-librarians C.O.P.E., showing veteran librarians how to reduce stress whether they are planning library programming, or weeding books and assisting anxious students by sharing with them quality books.

But as we were putting together the magazine, another separate, and yet connected, theme emerged on its own. Advocacy – the need to promote the value of a school library – has never become more important than now. Membership of the Ontario School Library Association is dwindling as fewer school boards are staffing library spaces with teacher-librarians or any qualified library professional. Even though research studies prove the importance of a quality school library program, school boards continue to divert money earmarked for school libraries to other programs. We feature several articles on advocacy in this issue. I hope they will inspire you to come up with ways to promote your own school libraries. If we don't speak up, then it will be easy for administrators to see school libraries as irrelevant.

Meanwhile, I will keep tromping around in these editor-in-chief shoes until they become a little more comfortable. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas or advice on how to continue to make *The Teaching Librarian* a useful resource for professionals in schools across the province. ■

***The Teaching Librarian* is looking for contributors!**

Interested in writing for *The Teaching Librarian*? Here are themes and submission deadlines for upcoming issues:

"Myths and Reality @ your library"
Deadline: September 30, 2018

"Travel @ your library"
Deadline: January 30, 2019

"Quiet @ your library"
Deadline: May 27, 2019

We are looking for articles of 150-250 words, 500 words, or 800-1,300 words with high-resolution images or illustrations. Please see page 5 for more detailed information on submitting articles.

Please note that *The Teaching Librarian* adheres to Canadian Press Style.

We look forward to hearing from you!