

December 2019

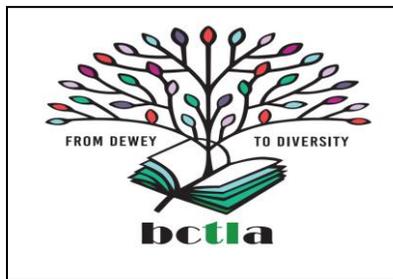
President's Message

Kristie Oxley

Greetings BCTLA Members:

The first term of the school year is over and we are all heading into a well-deserved break. I'm sure it's been a busy term for all of you. Of course, for the BCTLA executive, first term brings about conference season.

Our conference theme this year, from Dewey to Diversity, was chosen to reflect the enormous diversity that exists in our schools and the efforts of teacher-librarians to represent this diversity in our school library learning commons spaces, programs and collections.



Much has been written about how books should offer windows and mirrors for students. They should at times see themselves reflected in their reading material, while at other times catch a glimpse of someone else's reality. This is true and ultimately necessary to prepare students to live in a socially-just, multicultural world. From what I've read and witnessed, teacher-librarians take this concept to heart. Among teacher-librarians, conversations around developing indigenous, SOGI and second language collections are ubiquitous, as too are efforts to provide materials for all abilities and interests. Structuring the school library learning commons to be engaging, welcoming and accessible for all learners is common place. Social emotional learning programs are embraced and supported in the school library learning commons.

I believe we do these things in an effort to show that we value diversity, but diversity in and of itself is not solely what we value. I believe we value diversity because it means valuing each individual, and this comes from our great capacity for compassion. We care that each child feels welcomed, included and valued because we know how devastating it is to feel the opposite. We have a deep and abiding compassion for those students who do not feel represented or respected, who instead feel unsafe or invisible. It is our compassion that drives us to be better educators and embrace diversity.

Yes, our compassion is one of our greatest strengths, yet, as our conference keynote speaker this year, Dominique Sullivan, reminded us, care and compassion for oneself are vital if we are to maintain compassion for others. Heading into the holiday season, I hope you all take time to take care of yourselves. Rest, relax, rejuvenate and read a great book!

BCTLA 2020 Conference

Our 2020 conference will be held at R.E. Mountain Secondary in Langley.

More information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

Check here in February for more details:

<https://bctla.ca/professional-development/bctla-conference/>

Contest Winners!!

Congratulations go out to the following Teacher-Librarians for winning the BCTLA 2019 conference draws.

Jennifer Cowley from Burnaby North Secondary and Amy Brooks from Gibsons each won a \$25 Amazon gift certificate. Happy shopping!

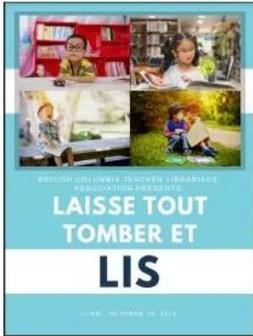
Jennifer Faulks of Irvine Elementary won the big prize of free registration for next year's conference.

Congratulations!!

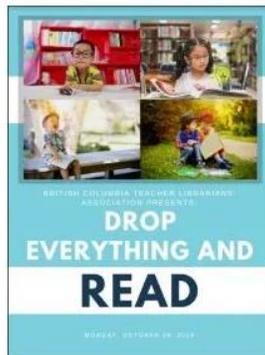
October 21st: Drop Everything and Read Day

Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) Day is celebrated across the province every year on the third Monday, in October. This is a day to celebrate and promote the love of reading.

Numerous school districts participate in this event annually. This year we are highlighting D.E.A.R. celebrations in SD #72, Campbell River.



This district had over 2000 Kindergarten to Grade 5 students celebrate the day by Dropping Everything and Reading for 30 minutes. Cedar Elementary School celebrated by having the whole school in the gym, listening to Mr. Rennie read "Pajama Day" by Robert Munsch while dressed in pajamas themselves. Students then cozied up with friends to read together.



Georgia Park School reported that, "for Drop Everything and Read, no matter where we were in the school, we had the entire school community reading all at the same time."

It is events like this that leave a lasting impression on students, instilling a love of reading and connection between books and the comfort of friends.

Many thanks to our Advocacy Coordinator, Sheri Kinney, for organizing our D.E.A.R. efforts this year, as well as to Cathy Fowler for sharing the celebrations from Campbell River.

For further information on annual reading events such as D.E.A.R. and Love Your School Library Day, please visit our website at <https://bctla.ca/member-services/dear/>.
Remember to email your D.E.A.R. stories to us!



Students reading in pajamas.



Sharing a book with a good friend...

...or fuzzy companion.



Working and Learning Conditions Survey

The annual Working and Learning Conditions survey is now ready and can be accessed here:

[https://easysurvey.ca/index.php?s=S&v=QN9U67E&p=](https://easysurvey.ca/index.php?s=S&v=QN9U67E&p=0)

[0](#) A link to the survey will also be available on the BCTLA website under Member Services.

This survey allows us to collect important data about the state of libraries and teacher-librarianship around the province. The data is reviewed and reported on in an annual paper. Previous year's papers can be found on our website also under Member Services.

This data can be an important advocacy tool to teacher-librarians. We encourage all members to fill out the survey.

The survey is available until January 31, 2020.

Author Event – February 12, 2020

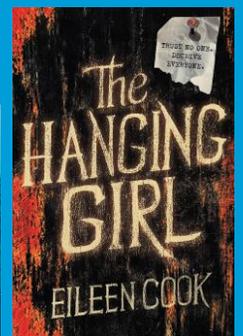
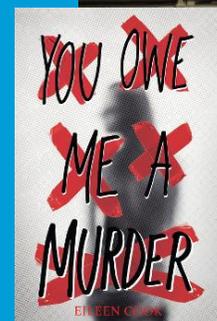
The BCTLA will be hosting an author visit on February 12, 2020 at New Westminster Secondary School from 5-6:30 pm.

Best-selling author, Eileen Cook, will be discuss her YA fiction and experiences as a writer.

Light refreshments will be served. Register here:

<https://forms.gle/BammCnc9m5Ypc6mS8>

*Please note: Out-of-town BCTLA members will have the opportunity to participate in this activity via Zoom, an online video conferencing site.



Award and Grant Winners 2019

Congratulations to this year's award and grant recipients!

Each individual honored this year brought passion and enthusiasm to the role of the teacher-librarian, many of them for decades.

2019 Award Winners

B.C. Teacher-Librarian of the Year

Diana Poole Memorial Award

Susan Henderson

B.C. Teacher-Librarians' Association President's Award

Maureen McDonough

Martha Cameron

Leigh Husieff

Val Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award

Patricia Finlay

Leslie Ikeda

New Teacher-Librarian of the Year

Sharon Neumann

2019 Grant Recipients

Ken Haycock Professional Development Grant

Devika Chudy

William H. Scott Memorial BCTLA Conference Grant

Kristine Clark

Awards and Grants

Do you know a teacher-librarian deserving of one of our awards or grants? Check out our awards and grants page on our website. Links to the nomination packages will open soon. All nominations must be in by February 28.

<https://bctla.ca/memberservices/awards-grants/>

And the Winner is . . .

Congratulations to our BCTLA VP, Sarah Wethered, on receiving the Angela Thacker Memorial Award from the Canadian School Libraries organization. This honour is awarded every two years in recognition of outstanding contributions to Canadian teacher-librarianship. Sarah will receive her award at the 2020 Treasure Mountain Symposium in Toronto.