

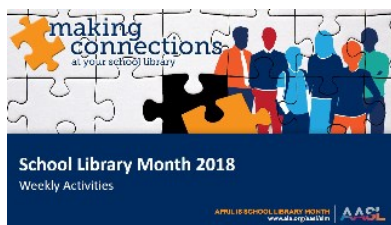


LOW HANGING FRUIT

April is about Libraries...and lots more!

By Jeannie Standal

April is full of observances that intersect with the education world, some better known than others. We all recognize the blue and silver pinwheels for National Child Abuse Awareness Month; SPED teachers know that April is National Autism Awareness Month; math teachers celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month (it must be effective—is anyone unaware of mathematics?); and English teachers everywhere are pulling together programs for National Poetry Month. So this month, while honoring parent volunteers for National Volunteer Month, be sure to remember that **April is National School Libraries Month!** This year's theme, **Making Connections at your School Library**, offers a perfect opportunity to strengthen connections with your school librarian.



Here are a few ways to connect:

Collaborate: [Study after study](#) concludes that strong collaborative relationships between classroom teachers and school librarians result in higher achievement for students. Your librarian might be that wished-for partner for a project, extra set of hands, help with research, and source for more space for students to work. Given a bit of time, the librarian might be able to assemble subject guides, set up the appropriate space for your project in the library, and more. Give collaboration a try!

Get books in the hands of kids: Some researchers say, “the better the school library, the better the reading scores.” When it comes to improving reading scores, the key is Free Voluntary Reading (FVR). That means students pick whatever they want to read for their recreational reading time with no requirements attached to the reading. Longitudinal research shows this works! We know about gateway drugs. There are gateway books, too, and they are unpredictable. It might be a Newbery winner, but it's more likely to be something like Captain Underpants or Wimpy Kid. Work with your librarian to allow kids the titles they want, and as many as they want. They'll get to the rich literature; but meanwhile, titles that tickle their fancy will instill a love of reading.

Include Digital Citizenship and Information Literacy: School librarians have tools to teach students how to evaluate information and be a careful, and lawful, user of online and print resources. A 2016 [Stanford study](#) says most students can't distinguish between ads and news content, and they don't recognize bias. In the library, students learn the critical thinking and synthesizing skills to better use the content they find online and avoid unpleasantness like plagiarism and copyright infringement.

Psst...April 10th is National Library Workers Day. #nlwd18

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



The Power of Reading

The University of Georgia College of Education has shared this lecture from Stephen Krashen. Settle in with a coffee or soda for an hour after school. It is both entertaining and informative and, most importantly, well worth the time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSW7gmvdLag>

An interesting history of U.S. libraries

Libraries in the United States have a long and interesting history, beginning with Benjamin Franklin. Check out this exhibit from the Digital Public Library of America:

<https://dp.la/exhibitions/exhibits/show/history-us-public-libraries>.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

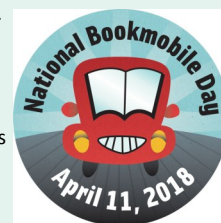


Nominate your favorite library worker to be a Star for National Library Workers Day! Visit <http://ala-apa.org/nlwd/> to submit a Star and to find 10 ways

to Celebrate National Library Workers Day.

Does a bookmobile visit your school? April 11th is National

Bookmobile Day—a great day to say thanks to that person who brings the books!



DIGITAL TOOLS



LiLi Tools for Schools:

Find a wealth of resources for school libraries on www.lili.org!

Build online learning modules with Scout: Classroom Edition (courtesy of PBS Learning Media), find recommended reading based on curricular tie-ins with NovelList Plus K-8, and find a World Book encyclopedia for every age group (with tools for educators)!



