



LOW HANGING FRUIT

No Foolin'—April is School Library Month!

By Allison Floyd

You know what they say—"April showers bring 'em into the library!". Okay, maybe they don't say that, but they should! Your school library is a treasure trove of knowledge. Opportunities for fun, engaging learning expeditions abound, and who better than your school librarian to serve as your guide?



In honor of their tireless work on behalf of students, school librarians get a month, and that month is April! Initiated by the American Association of School Libraries (AASL) in 1985, the theme of the first national observance of School Library Month was "Where Learning Never Ends: the School Library Media Center" (<http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm/history>). Themes in recent years have included "Making Connections at Your School Library" (2018) and "Everyone Belongs @ Your School Library" (2019).

I ♥ MY LIBRARIAN

Do you have a favorite, hardworking school librarian (or three)? Be sure to take the time to express your appreciation this month. Looking for ways to say "thank you," "good going," or "great work"? Beyond the obvious—say "Thank you!" "Good going!" "Great work!" in person, or with a card—consider writing a letter or an email expressing the valuable role of the library and school librarians to your school's administrators. Be sure to recognize instances in which your school librarian was particularly helpful or really went above and beyond for you and your students.

And, if your school library is active on social media, consider re-tweeting their tweets, liking their Facebook posts, or <3-ing their Instagram posts. These simple gestures express support and help to advocate for your school library by raising visibility and assisting with promotional efforts. If you're looking for some cool school libraries to follow on social media, try <https://bookriot.com/2018/05/20/school-libraries-on-instagram/> for a list of worthwhile school library accounts. Follow AASL (@aasl) on Twitter for the latest news and happenings on the school library frontier.

However you choose to celebrate school library month, here's to continued adventures in learning, and fruitful library partnerships in your school!

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Get Resources and Information

The AASL website has PSA's, downloadables, proclamations and more.

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm>

7 Ways to Celebrate School Library Month

To accommodate COVID-19 craziness, insert virtual wherever possible.

<http://wtcox.com/blog2/index.php/2019/04/15/school-library-month-7-ways-to-celebrate/>

April 4th is School Librarian Day

Send a text, share a post, print the attached postcard on cardstock and send it to your school librarian just to say thanks.

<https://n7jmr7muhj-flywheel.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/National-School-Librarian-Day-postcard.pdf>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



School's closed! What can I do?

Does the school library have a page on the school's website? If so, there may be links to databases, ebooks, and other learning tools for students and teachers, alike. Perhaps using the tools you have in place to communicate with your class working at home, you can direct them to the tools on the School Library's website.

Nothing says Happy National School Library Month like students using library resources from wherever they may be!

DIGITAL TOOLS



LiLi.org

Wouldn't it be great if you could find online encyclopedia content, a language learning database, a genealogy database, scholarly, peer-reviewed articles, and practice tests for the ACT, PSAT, SAT, and a host of occupational entrance exams, and popular software tutorials all in one place? You can! Hop on to lili.org and explore! It's like having your school library at your fingertips, anywhere in Idaho (with internet)!

<https://lili.org/>



