



The Acorn is a quarterly publication of Oakland Unified School District 's Library Services and is intended to demonstrate the value of school libraries in teaching and learning.

Libraries Matter!

Equity Equity Equity !

It can no longer be acceptable to ignore the lack of library resources for OUSD's neediest students. OUSD must address the issue of school libraries for ALL students. Let's ask ourselves "What idea do parents of our top performing schools embrace that all other schools know about but **cannot** provide?" The answer is: **School Libraries Matter!** Children and young adults who have access to a quality school library significantly outperform their peers—this has been supported by numerous educational research studies since the 1960's. Yet in Oakland, school library access is a matter of zipcode, purely a function of local resources. Everyone knows that school libraries were always a part of the infrastructure i.e., every school had one.

Now in 2015 it is left to chance. **Nine million dollar annually will create, sustain, and guarantee library access and high quality services to all OUSD kids; it is a matter of priority.** We haven't consistently invested in school libraries for 40 years. Why not give them a chance?? Why not give our kids and their families access to a beautiful library space and, just by walking in, they would know that this resource was meant entirely for them? Why not envision all of our families as having a bounty of wonderful and engaging books, magazines and media to use both at school and at home? Why not also give these same kids and their families access to a highly trained Teacher Librarian, a skilled reading advocate who can teach literacy skills and recommend and encourage even the

most reluctant reader to pick up a book and learn to love it? Why not support our hard-working teachers with an engaging educational collaborator who can help them tackle the demands of the Common Core? To answer these questions would be to engage in a conversation that is much overdue in our school community. We need to provide all of the resources that all of our kids need to be successful or, simply put, we are failing them. We cannot afford to let another year go by without funding our school libraries and **making reading ability, literacy skills, and a love of reading the center of all that we do as a District. It is all about Equity and Priorities.**—AMG

rates and establishing Teacher Librarians in OUSD. Click to open the mp3 file



Let's fill this chair!

FOSPSL and Oakland Reads 20/20 Get a 'shout out' at the Bay Area Book Festival

KCBS radio aired Margie Schafer's interview with illustrator/author, Karl Newsom Edwards, FOSPSL Executive Director, Kari Hatch, and FOSPSL Chair, Chip Rath, in a short and succinct outline of the goal of raising basic literacy



FOSPSL Volunteers helped hundreds of young folks make and decorate mini paper books and bookmarks during the two days of the Bay Area Book Festival, June 6th and 7th.

which is also attached to this email for you to listen to. It lasts 1:43 minutes.

The long awaited Library Technician Training Cohort with Diablo Valley Community College will go for Board approval later this summer and plans finalized in the fall. A possible start date will be January 2016 followed by intake applications and two introductory courses. Graduates will come online by Fall 2017. All District employees will be eligible for the free training with priority given to current OUSD Library clerks who will be reclassified upon graduation.





Fast track to Librarianship

—From Jenny Ettinger, Librarian at Chabot Elementary

Principal Jessica Cannon's son, Raffi, was Librarian for a day last week. A 4th grader, Raffi read to our kindergarten, first and second graders. He did an amazing job. Thanks, Raffi!

And thank you , Jenny Ettinger and Kathleen McNulty for sponsoring this highly coveted auction item every year.

Such Impeccable Manners!

—From Cindy Gullikson, Librarian JM

The Joaquin Miller Library hosted a Revolutionary Era Tea Party for the 5th graders as part of their annual living history day on April 1. In the weeks leading up to the event, JM Librarian Cindy Gullikson helped prepare the students by reading biographies of a diverse group of well-known and unsung heroes who contributed to the Revolution. Students enjoyed video clips and recited poetry and primary sources to deepen their understanding of tea in the colonies and the Boston Tea Party. At the tea party students practiced 18th century manners and performed a



readers' theater depicting a family on opposite sides of the war.

Wouldn't it be nice for **all** OUSD students to have the opportunities pictured here at these elementary schools?



FOPSL at the Fair!

Hundreds of kids came by to make bookmarks and teeny tiny books. Parents talked to us about OUSD school libraries. The 1st ever Bay Area Book Fair in Berkeley was a huge success!!



Who is that Doctor with the kids at Laurel Elementary School Library?

For the 4th year in a row OUSD School Libraries have been the recipient of a new/gently used **book drive** sponsored by the MAAS Clinic in San Francisco. Dr. Corey Mass, his wife, Kristen, and staff, delivered several dozen boxes loaded with great books and then put on a 'clinic' to these 2nd graders at Laurel Elementary School on the value of reading. In addition to the great message that children heard they listened to their hearts beat and had their questions answered for one hour about how the human body works. The room was full of prospective doctors, teachers, professional athletes, an inventor, a baker, and a veterinarian and all heard the message that becoming a good reader is essential to becoming what you want to be. Many thanks to Librarian, Sara Sterling, Principal, Mr. Stenger, Ms. Lena Why's 2nd grade class and the wonderful Maas Clinic in San Francisco for a very inspiring afternoon.

Who is that Happy Face with our Superintendent?

Excellence in Educational Support
District Award recipient:
Rebecca Edwards

"One in a hundred"



OUSD Senior Library Clerk Extraordinaire at Fruitvale Elementary and Community United Elementary schools.

Congratulations! Well deserved! Thank you for your service, Rebecca. You make a difference. School Libraries make a difference every day. Go OUSD school libraries!!

Get the latest in early literacy, children's and teen STEAM Books from *Nick's Picks* at TeachingBook.net:

http://www.teachingbooks.net/show.cgi?f=NicksPicks_June2015

Community Resources helping students at Burckhalter Elementary

—By Pat Beckner, Library Volunteer

Ed’s note: Not only are Burckhalter students the recipients of thousands of volunteer hours over the many years the AAUW has been staffing the Library, but many community resources are helping to support the students there as well. Many Thanks to all! Love these happy smiles.



A strong performance was given by Skyline drama students seen with Coach, Awele Makeba, and Author, Summer Brenner

Oakland Tales Takes the Stage at Bay Area Book Fest



Other sights and sounds at the Festival...What a memorable event!



Putting books in the hands of Burckhalter Elementary students is the goal of our annual end-of-school activity. Students who have returned all their books or have paid for any missing/lost books are eligible to choose two books from the tremendous assortment provided to us by the **East Bay Children's Book Project**. Library volunteer, Ruth Harteneck works all year, going weekly to the Book Project, selecting books and organizing them by reading level. This gives the kids a beginning point for their summer reading, and they are also encouraged to **visit an Oakland Public Library near their home.**

"It Takes a Village..."

City of Oakland



Catch the FOPSL interview at the Fair with KCBS Radio by clicking on the other attachment that came with this email.



Oakland Tales: Lost Secrets of the Town by Summer Brenner

A book for everyone to read this summer!

Summer Reading Lists for OUSD

There is a new look to the OUSD Lists this year. Here are the links:

Elementary:

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/crl/6446>

Secondary:

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/crl/6376>

The resources in TeachingBooks.net make it possible to view the annotation, search the list by genre, reading level, and curricular content. Deeper resources are available for each title, including links with the author, lesson plans, etc.

Notice that you can print out the QR code flyer or card to hand to parents so the lists can appear on their phones. Remember to tell your students to go to their Oakland Public Library branch to join the reading programs and activities for kids and teens. A free lunch will also be provided again this year at most branches.

A Second Oakland Reads 20/20 and FOPSL supported workday at Fruitvale Elementary Library was held this month to help put more great books on the library shelves! If your site is interested in having a Library workday please contact Kari Hatch at Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries:
Khatch.fopsl@gmail.com



East Bay Children's Book Project offers resources for OUSD kids!

It was Twin Day at Parker Elementary School this week. Library

clerk, Tasha Rath and her twin mother, Volunteer, Paula Gocker, held a book giveaway for Parker students for their summer reading adventures. Each Parker student got some great books to read over the summer. The payment was in smiles. Many thanks to the East Bay Children's Book Project for the donation of many of the books and for the FOPSL volunteers for picking them up. We appreciate the great support from EBCBP!!



This is the last issue of *The Acorn*. As I enter my retirement years I am reminded of many folks who have helped me and have helped to advance the cause of a quality school library for every OUSD student. I especially want to thank my Program Assistant, Laifong Tang, for her many skills, devotion to the cause, and her friendship. Thank you.

Now that we have begun to see vital funds returning to our public schools it becomes imperative to commit some of the new money toward the restoration of our school libraries. I am looking forward to a day when we can point to all resources being in place to help our children learn to read and love to read.