

October 15, 2015

To the MSS PAC,

The Merritt Secondary School library team would like to request funds to improve our Learning Commons programs and resources. We are currently in the process of transitioning from a traditional school library to a Library Learning Commons where students and staff can gather to collaborate on school projects, access technology, access and evaluate online sources of information for research inquiries, and find great reading materials, such as books, magazines, newspapers, ebooks, and graphic novels. Last year, the PAC generously donated \$750 for program supplies, such as food, beverage, prizes and other display items, and \$750 for graphic novels. Both of these donations have made a huge difference to the resources and services that we can offer our students at MSS.

This year we are also requesting \$750 for programming and \$750 for ordering new graphic novels. A donation from the PAC will not only allow us to continue running our lunch time and afterschool programs (see list attached), but also supplement our well-read graphic novel collection, which had 2 670 circulations in the last school year alone!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our library staff at llarson@sd58.bc.ca or call our direct line at 250-315-1141.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The MSS Library Learning Commons Staff:

Lia Larson

Val Kynoch

Rita Cavaliere

Here is a list of programs/events we ran last year and would like to continue this year:

- **Library Club:** Our club consists of avid readers from grade 8-12 who meet once a week at lunch in the library to discuss books.
- **Homework Club:** The library is open after school for homework help with peer tutors and volunteer teachers. Since students are hungry after school, we provide snacks and beverages to homework club members.
- **Grade 8 Orientation Program:** Every semester we create a library scavenger hunt with prizes for students to learn how to use our library systems and to promote reading.
- **Grade 8 Digital Citizenship:** We live in an increasingly technological world where we are spending more and more time online interacting with each other, sharing, creating, learning, communicating, shopping, and accessing information. Our students need help to become better digital citizens of this digital world by exploring technology and taking risks in a safe environment to learn about issues such as online privacy, safety, ethical relationships, appropriate use of technology, cyberbullying, evaluating information, decoding online advertising, etc.
- **Ask an Expert:** The library hosts events with different professionals from the community who talk to students about their careers. Snacks and beverages are provided to students who attend.
- **Learning at Lunch:** The library hosts volunteer sessions in our library at lunch for staff to learn more about using technology in the classroom with the District Technology Coordinator.

- **Coffee House Lounge:** Teachers book their classes into the library to read and drink decaffeinated beverages to promote reading for pleasure in the library.
- **Poetry Slam:** Teachers book time in the library to bring students down to read their poetry assignments to the class, listen to the “Cowboy Poet” guest speaker, and drink decaffeinated beverages.
- **Staff Appreciation Tea:** Every fall the library team hosts a library open house at lunch with tea and snacks to welcome staff and promote teacher cooperation for our library programs, research collaboration, and our Silent Reading Program.
- **Author Talk:** Each year we host an author to visit our school and talk to students about writing and publishing books.
- **Library TA Appreciation Tea:** At the end of each semester we host a tea with cake and gift cards to thank our student TAs for their hard work keeping our library organized.