

Quotes on the Importance of School Libraries

osla

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“Just as success in the Industrial Age depended on a school system that taught us how to read and write, add and subtract; our success in the Information Age depends on a school system that teaches us how to manage information, utilize technologies, innovate, and above all – think.” (Matthew Barrett, *The Globe and Mail*)



“You will be better prepared to progress in the world of work when you can:

- read and understand information presented in a variety of forms
- share information using a range of information and communications technologies
- locate, gather and organize information using appropriate technology and information systems
- access, analyze and apply knowledge and skills from various disciplines
- observe and record data using appropriate methods, tools and technology
- plan, design or carry out a project from start to finish with well-defined objectives and outcomes”

(Conference Board of Canada, *Employability Skills 2000*)

“The school library functions as a vital instrument in the educational process, not as a separate entity isolated from the total school program, but involved in the teaching and learning process.”

(IASL: International Association of School Librarianship)



“Thankfully, the current government has begun to recognize the vital role of teacher librarians and library technicians. Ministry curriculum documents are once again including a recognition of the school library and library staff.” (OSSTF, *Education Watch*, Jan. 2007)

“Students’ enjoyment of reading is a significant factor in their future success in all subjects ... in schools with teacher-librarians, students are more likely to answer positively to the statements ‘I like to read’ and ‘I am a good reader’. That positive attitude is the foundation for true literacy and will improve their achievement all the way through school.” (Dr. David Booth)

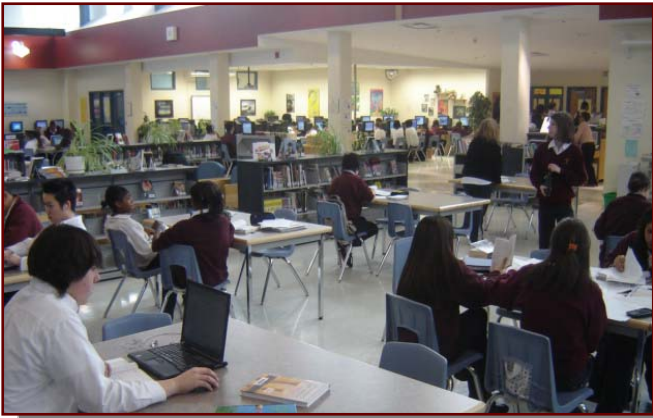
“School libraries have an important role to play in our future competitiveness in the global economy.”

(Durand and Daschko, National Library of Canada)

“That school library programs be mandated and fully funded by the provincial government ... That the provincial government provide necessary funding for every elementary school in Ontario to be staffed with a minimum of one full-time teacher-librarian,...[and] that elementary school libraries be fully accessible to students during the entire instructional day.” (ETFO Policy Statements)

“Effective school library programs can also help promote the development of information literacy skills among all students by supporting and coordinating the collaborative planning and implementation of reading programs, inquiry and research tasks, and independent study.” (Ontario Ministry of Education, *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 to 12: Program Planning and Assessment*, 2000)

"We at the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation look forward to a commitment by this government to reinvest in this vital but neglected asset, our school libraries." (OSSTF, 2006)



"Disgraceful that the most recent document is 1982." (Donna Marie Kennedy, OECTA President)

"As we focus more and more on improving students' literacy, we must look at the situation in our school libraries ... We know that adequate staff and resources improve students' achievement, yet we have allowed our school libraries to decline over the last few years." (Kathryn Blackett, People for Education)

"Information technology and multimedia resources are essential for students and educators to function as literate learners in today's information-saturated and digital age. Through frequent use of appropriate technologies, students build confidence in their skills and gain access to the growing wealth of information and productivity tools on which literate learners rely." (Ontario Ministry of Education. *Literacy for Learning: The Report of the Expert Panel on Literacy in Grades 4 to 6 in Ontario*, 2004.)

"The government recognizes the critical role that school libraries play in improving student achievement ... Libraries have a powerful influence on stimulating interest in reading and strengthening research and critical thinking skills."

(Avis Glaze, Chief Student Achievement Officer, The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, and Kit Rankin, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Secondary and Elementary Strategic Planning Division, Ontario Ministry of Education, 2005)



"Literacy is not for the fortunate few. It is the right of EVERY child. Teaching children is not the responsibility of a chosen few. It is the responsibility of every teacher, administrator and every parent." (David Bouchard)

"Recommendations: ... That the Ministry of Education reinstate adequate funding for qualified teacher-librarians and library resources." (CPCO Submission on Education Funding 2006)

"We now need, however, sustained funding and a commitment to well staffed and well stocked libraries, in order to address the systematic inequities that are all too evident across the province. This investment will also help to improve our students' achievement and enhance literacy levels." (OSSTF, *Education Watch*, Jan. 2007)

"Classes ... which teach key aspects of information literacy, remain rare in public education ... 'Kids tend to go to Google and cut and paste a research report together,' says Terry Egan, who led the team ... 'We kind of assumed this generation was so comfortable with technology that they know how to use it for research and deeper thinking,' says Egan. 'But if they're not taught these skills, they don't necessarily pick them up.'" (Claudia Wallace and Sonja Steptoe, *How to Bring Schools Out of the 20th Century*, TIME, 10 Dec. 2006)

"A properly staffed, appropriately stocked and well organized library is a critical tool that allows librarians and teachers to work together to help students achieve higher levels of literacy, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills." (Statistics Canada, 2001)

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