

SSLA AWARDS AND BURSARY

2013

John G. Wright Distinguished Service Award

Submitted by Rhonda Wills

Presented by Roseanne Topp

Regina Public Schools

It is with great pleasure that I am able to speak about Chris Arnstead, this year's recipient of the John G. Wright Award.

Chris is a teacher-librarian whose work ethic, care, compassion, energy and enthusiasm has made a difference in the lives of her students, fellow teachers and teacher-librarian colleagues. Her positive attitude and love of learning are reflected in the outstanding quality of the work she has done and her willingness to share new insights with others. Her enthusiasm, her innovativeness, and her dedication to literacy are exemplary. Her flexibility in working with students, teachers and the public has earned her an enviable reputation as an excellent teacher and teacher-librarian who truly cares about students.

In her work at Balfour Collegiate, Chris has been a champion of the changing role of the Teacher-Librarian. She has transformed the library's program to one that now embraces new literacies and she is a mentor, a facilitator and a dynamic collaborative teaching partner. Chris also makes a point of participating fully in the culture of her school, coaching soccer, working with the photography club and the school's improvisational team, working with the graduation committee, and lending her time and talents to other events as needed. She always does whatever it takes to create opportunities for students to be involved and feel like they belong. Her leadership has been instrumental in the design and implementation of the new Grade Nine Program at Balfour Collegiate, working to create a new learning environment for those students. Critical to the success of this program has been her willingness to assist students and her teaching colleagues in the use of inquiry learning, a major component of the program's emphasis.

Beyond her school, Chris has involved herself in Teacher-Librarian endeavours at the provincial level. She worked on the SSLA Executive in the capacity of *Medium* editor, sharing her own knowledge and encouraging others to do the same. In this role, Chris displayed a keen eye for detail and writing, getting the right turn of phrase for grammatical purposes, clarity, and focus.



web: www.ssla.ca
e-mail: sasksla@gmail.com
twitter: @SaskSLA
facebook: Saskatchewan School Library Association



When her time as editor was over, the Executive did not want to lose her expertise and found other ways to keep her involved in provincial endeavours. As a result, she managed the "SSLA Rebranding Project" and, most recently, she has been working as the liaison between the SSLA Executive and the Ministry of Education on the on-going "Inquiry Project".

All that have worked with Chris appreciate her professionalism, her forward thinking, her vision for what is possible and her drive to reach the goals she has helped set. Within the Regina Public School Division and within the province, many have benefited from these skills. Her diplomacy skills and her willingness to work things out so that all benefit, have helped move the role of the Teacher-Librarian forward both locally and provincially. Those who work with Chris know her to be articulate, kind and compassionate, and she displays a "gentle touch" when interacting with others. Getting to know Chris and having opportunities to work with her is truly a gift. Above everything, Chris is an advocate for Teacher-Librarians, leading by example through her own work and being supportive of the work of others. Please join me in congratulating Chris Arnstead.

Rhonda Wills
Teacher-Librarian