

# THE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN'S GUIDE TO SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH

School Library Month is an annual celebration held in April, dedicated to recognizing the essential role that school libraries and librarians play in education. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of school libraries to the academic success and personal development of students. Here's more about School Library Month:

## **Purpose:**

- School Library Month aims to raise awareness about the importance of school libraries and librarians in supporting student learning, fostering a love of reading, and promoting information literacy.
- It serves as an opportunity to advocate for the value of school libraries and the critical role they play in providing access to resources and opportunities for all students.

## **History:**

- School Library Month was first established by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) in 1985.
- The celebration has since grown into a nationwide event, with schools, libraries, educators, and communities across the United States participating in various activities and initiatives to recognize and honor their school libraries.

## **Themes and Activities:**

- Each year, School Library Month may have a designated theme chosen by the AASL or individual schools and libraries.
- Activities and events during School Library Month can vary widely, including author visits, book fairs, storytelling sessions, library open houses, literacy events, maker activities, and more.

- Schools and libraries often use the month as an opportunity to highlight the unique resources, programs, and services offered by their libraries, showcasing their impact on student learning and engagement.

### **Advocacy and Promotion:**

- School Library Month provides a platform for advocacy efforts aimed at promoting the importance of school libraries to policymakers, administrators, educators, parents, and the broader community.
- Librarians and library advocates may use the month to share success stories, data on the benefits of school libraries, and testimonials from students and educators about the positive impact of library programs.

### **Collaboration and Community Engagement:**

- School Library Month encourages collaboration among librarians, educators, students, and community members to celebrate and support school libraries.
- It is an opportunity for schools and libraries to engage with local communities through events, partnerships, and outreach initiatives that promote literacy, lifelong learning, and a love of reading.

From innovative programming to community engagement initiatives, school librarians can harness the power of our libraries to foster a love of reading, learning, and exploration among our students. Here are a few ideas for how to celebrate School Library Month:

- **Author Visits and Virtual Author Talks:** Organize virtual or in-person visits from authors to inspire students and spark their creativity.
- **Library Scavenger Hunts:** Plan interactive scavenger hunts within the library to encourage exploration and discovery of resources.
- **Book Character Dress-Up Day:** Invite students and staff to dress up as their favorite book characters for a day of literary fun.
- **Book Character Parade:** Organize a book character parade where students dress up as their favorite literary characters and parade through the school or library. Award prizes for the most creative costumes.
- **Library Book Swap:** Host a book swap where students can exchange books they've already read for new ones, promoting a culture of sharing and community.

- **Digital Book Clubs:** Facilitate digital book clubs where students can connect virtually to discuss and analyze selected readings.
- **Library Trivia Contests:** Organize trivia contests based on popular books, authors, and literary themes to engage students in friendly competition.
- **Community Book Drive:** Partner with local organizations or businesses to collect books for donation to schools or libraries in need.
- **Storytime Sessions:** Host special storytime sessions featuring guest readers or themed stories to celebrate the library, the school, and the community.
- **Library MakerSpace Showcase:** Highlight student creations from the library's MakerSpace, showcasing their innovation and creativity.
- **Poetry Slam or Open Mic Night:** Invite students to share their original poems or creative writing pieces in a supportive and encouraging environment.
- **Library Appreciation Day:** Dedicate a day to honor and appreciate the hard work and dedication of librarians and library staff, with special activities and treats.
- **Library Olympics:** Organize a series of library-themed challenges and competitions, such as speed shelving, book stacking, or library trivia, culminating in a "Library Olympics" event.
- **Book Art Exhibitions:** Showcase student artwork inspired by favorite books or literary themes in a library art exhibition. Encourage students to create illustrations, paintings, or sculptures based on their favorite stories.
- **Library StoryWalk:** Create a "StoryWalk" around the school campus or library grounds by displaying pages from a picture book along a walking path. Students can read the story as they stroll through the outdoor exhibit.
- **Library Makeover:** Collaborate with students to give the library a makeover by redecorating or adding new features. Host a design contest for library renovations and involve students in planning and implementing the changes.
- **Library Time Capsule:** Create a time capsule filled with student-contributed items, such as letters, drawings, and small artifacts, to be sealed and opened in the future as a snapshot of student life during School Library Month.
- **Genre Exploration Stations:** Set up genre exploration stations in the library where students can discover new books and genres through interactive displays, activities, and book recommendations.
- **Library Talent Show:** Showcase student talents in a library talent show featuring performances such as musical acts, dramatic readings, storytelling, or original skits inspired by literature.

- **Digital Escape Room:** Design a digital escape room themed around literature or library-related puzzles and challenges. Students can work in teams to solve the puzzles and "escape" from the virtual library.
- **Library Garden Project:** Start a library garden project where students can plant and maintain a garden space outside the library. Use the garden as a learning space for outdoor reading sessions and nature-themed activities.
- **Library Podcast Series:** Launch a library podcast series featuring student book reviews, author interviews, storytelling sessions, and discussions on literary themes. Encourage students to take on roles as hosts, interviewers, and producers.
- **Library Service Project:** Organize a library service project where students can give back to the community by collecting books for donation, organizing book drives, or volunteering at local literacy organizations.
- **Library Awards Ceremony:** Host a library awards ceremony to recognize student achievements in reading, writing, and library participation. Present awards for categories such as "Most Avid Reader," "Best Book Review," or "Library Advocate of the Year."

For more ideas/inspiration and information about School Library Month at:

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

