

The School Library Monthly Update



EVERYDAY INFLUENCE

Showing the value of your library doesn't have to be loud or formal. It can be woven into the everyday moments of your work. Every time you share a success story, collaborate with a teacher, or connect a student with the right book, you are shaping how others see the library's role in learning.

This month, we are focusing on everyday influence. Those simple, consistent actions that build understanding, visibility, and appreciation for the school library's impact on students, teachers, and the wider school community.

When others see what happens in your library, they begin to feel its value.

See more on page 2.

TO-DO

- ✓ Consider applying for the [2026 School Achievement Through Libraries \(SATL\) Award](#)! It's open year-round.
- ✓ Join the chat! The November School Library Collect + Connect is Wednesday 11/5 at 3:30pm CT. [Enroll HERE.](#)

REMINDERS



Check out [SDSL's CE Catalog](#) for all continuing education opportunities.



You can also view [SDSL's Training Calendar](#) for CE/PD opportunities from our database vendors, etc.

**EVERY MONTH, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT
A SATL AWARD RECIPIENT! SEE P.3!**

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Tell the Story of Learning



Your library is a hub of learning, creativity, and connection. Make that story visible!

- **Share small wins:** Post quick photos or blurbs on your school's internal communication platform or newsletter. ("Fifth graders used library resources today to create digital timelines of the American Revolution!")
- **Highlight student voice:** Feature student book reviews, reading reflections, or displays that showcase what they're learning.
- **Show the process:** Capture not just final projects but the research, collaboration, and inquiry along the way.

Communicate with Intention



Your communication is part of your library's narrative.

- **Make it visual:** Use simple infographics or short, engaging slides to share circulation stats, collaboration highlights, or program participation.
- **Keep it brief:** Teachers and administrators appreciate concise updates that show impact.
- **Tell, don't sell:** Frame messages around student learning and outcomes instead of library needs or defenses.

Reflect and Record



Consistent reflection turns daily actions into long-term evidence! Consider keeping a simple impact log, collecting quotes and data and pictures, and reviewing what you collect regularly.

Strengthen Connections



Each collaboration reinforces the library as a teaching partner.

- **Offer ready-to-go mini-lessons:** Create quick plug-in lessons teachers can request, like evaluating sources or citing evidence.
- **Be proactive:** Drop a friendly note or short resource list in a teacher's mailbox that connects with an upcoming unit.
- **Celebrate teamwork:** When you co-teach, give public credit to both the library and the classroom.

Create Visibility



Influence starts with being seen.

- **Host quick hallway displays:** Feature student work or thematic book pairings outside the library.
- **Open your doors:** Invite staff to casual "Library Coffee Chats" to talk about resources or ideas.
- **Celebrate milestones:** National Library Week, Read Across America, and America250 are perfect opportunities to showcase your programs.

Build Gratitude/Partnership



Relationships are the heart of influence.

- **Recognize support:** Thank teachers who collaborate, custodians who help with displays, and administrators who visit your space.
- **Involve others:** Invite staff and students to help choose new books or name a new display.



Menno School Library



Librarian: Lois Wollman

At Menno, school librarian Lois Wollman has created a true community hub where learning, literacy, and connection thrive. The Menno Public School Library serves both students and the wider community, offering access to resources that support educational, cultural, and recreational growth. Lois brings this mission to life through creative programming, a well-balanced and ever-growing collection, and a welcoming environment where readers of all ages can explore. From hosting the Scholastic Book Fair to leading events like Read Across America Week and JumpStart Read for the Record, Lois continues to inspire a love of reading while strengthening ties between the school and the greater Menno community.

Mission in Action

The Menno Community/School Library exists to serve readers "from preschool through maturity," ensuring access to books and materials that foster learning and imagination. Lois embraces this mission by curating a collection that reflects all ages and interests, while also providing experiential learning that sparks creativity.

Library Events

Lois builds excitement around reading through year-round programs: Scholastic Book Fair, JumpStart Read for the Record, Read Across America Week, Reading Council Awards Night with guest author Kevin Smith, and Used Book Sale & Summer Reading promotion. This year's Book Fair earnings provided new shelving and dozens of books for students.

A Welcome Space

The library offers cozy and adaptable seating, from couches and tables to floor dots, along with easy laptop access at every table.

New signage in nonfiction, themed book displays, and curated sections for readers at every level make the library easy to navigate and fun to explore.

Professional Growth

Dedicated to continual learning, Lois has completed four Library Methods courses through the South Dakota State Library. Her commitment to professional growth strengthens both her program and her impact, ensuring that Menno students and staff benefit from current best practices in school librarianship.