

The School Library Monthly Update



DISPLAYS THAT DELIGHT!



February is the perfect time to breathe new life into your library with book displays that spark curiosity and draw students into unexpected reading adventures. As we settle into the rhythm of the second semester, a fresh display can create a sense of discovery, highlight overlooked titles, and re-engage readers who may need a mid-year nudge. This month's issue offers simple, high-impact display ideas that are easy to rotate and even easier to adapt for your unique school community. We'll also take a moment to celebrate Library Lovers' Month with practical ways you can highlight the joy, connection, and comfort students experience in your library every day.

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 February School Library Collect + Connect is Wednesday 2/4 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.4!**

Book displays don't need to be elaborate to be effective. A few intentional choices can transform the way students browse and help them discover books they may not find on their own.

Try a *Blind Date with a Book Twist*

Instead of wrapping titles, add a small tag describing the book with 3-4 intriguing phrases (ex: "time travel • friendship • big decision"). This keeps the prep light while keeping the mystery.

More Ideas!

Keep Displays Fresh With Quick Rotations

A rotation every 1-2 weeks keeps interest high. Try simple themes like:

- "Books You Might Have Missed"
- "5 Reads in Under 20 Minutes"
- "If You Liked ____, Try This..."
- "Books Are Not Taking a Nap! Check Us Out!"

Short-term, playful themes encourage students to stop and explore.

Use Student Curiosity as the Anchor

Frame displays around questions:

- What would you do in this situation?
- Where in the world would you go?
- Who inspires you?
- What mystery would you solve first?

Questions naturally pull kids in and help them connect with the books.

Spotlight Your Underdogs

Choose a shelf, genre, or author that deserves love and feature it as:

- "Hidden Treasures"
- "Books That Deserve a Comeback"
- "This Month's Underrated Reads"

Students love discovering books others haven't found yet.

Make Displays Interactive

A little interactivity increases browsing time and circulation:

- Add sticky notes where students can write what they loved about a book.
- Put out a jar where students vote: "Which one would you read first?"
- Include a small QR code linking to your catalog (if allowed internally).

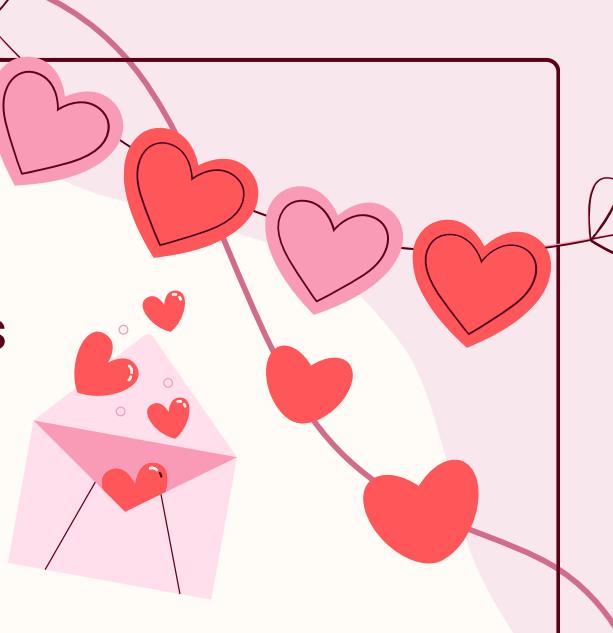
Reminder

A small, strategic display can spark big curiosity, and February is the perfect time to let your shelves shine!

LIBRARY LOVERS' MONTH

Simple Ways
to Share the
Love!

February is a natural moment to celebrate the joy and comfort students find in the library. Keep it light, warm, and easy to manage.



Create a "What I Love About the Library" Board

Set out sticky notes or heart-shaped cutouts and invite students to respond. Prompts could include:

- "I love the library because..."
- "A book I loved this year is..."
- "My favorite reading spot is..."

This doubles as a quick student voice activity.

Host a "Love Your Library" Week

Pick one week and highlight simple daily themes, such as:

- Monday: "Check out something new!"
- Tuesday: Staff book shout-outs
- Wednesday: Surprise bookmarks
- Thursday: Mini-book talk day
- Friday: "Bring a friend to the library"

Make a Heart-Themed Display

- "Books to Warm Your Heart"
- "Books We Love Right Now"
- "Romance? Nope! Books for Readers Who Want Something Else"

A mix of genres helps every student feel included.

Feature Staff Favorites

Ask teachers to share the title of a book they loved. Print the covers and add a short quote or comment. Students love discovering what adults in the building are reading.

Library Lovers' Month is all about celebrating the comfort and community students find in your space. Small touches go a long way in helping your readers feel connected.



Sioux Falls John Harris Elementary School Library



Librarian: Lindsey Rohde

At John Harris Elementary, librarian Lindsey Rohde has built a joyful, student-centered library space that inspires curiosity, creativity, and a lifelong love of reading. Guided by a mission that blends literacy, exploration, and digital citizenship, Lindsey ensures that every child feels welcomed and empowered, whether they are choosing a “just right” book, experimenting with robotics, or learning how to navigate information safely and responsibly online. This year, Lindsey transformed her new library into a vibrant, flexible, and inviting community hub. Through intentional design, innovative programming, and a strong commitment to student learning, she has created a space where reading thrives, hands-on learning takes center stage, and students feel excited to return day after day.

Mission in Action

The JHE Library promotes the love of reading while helping students build strong connections with literature. Lindsey's mission also prioritizes exploration and digital citizenship, guiding her approach to collection development and student activities. Materials and library expectations are clearly outlined in the handbook she created and shared with staff and families.

STEM Comes Alive

Lindsey was awarded the 43rd Public School Proud Grant for her project “Explorobot: A Journey in STEM.” With \$2,503.24 in funding, she purchased STEM tools now available to 625 students in both library lessons and classroom projects. Robotics, coding apps, digital storytelling tools, and Makerspace stations give students opportunities to apply problem-solving and creativity.

An Organized Space

Lindsey has transformed her new open-concept library. Warm colors, thoughtful décor, and flexible seating create a space where students want to be. She relocated furniture to improve instruction and browsing, fully genre-ified the chapter books, color-coded beginning readers, and maintained a strong, well-curated nonfiction section.

Engaging Programs

Library programming at JHE is joyful and creative. Lindsey hosts author visits, reading challenges, and literacy events like Read Across America. Students enjoyed a successful March Madness reading initiative, with a fun podcast element for 4th and 5th graders, and hands-on research through the “Two Truths and a Lie” project.