

# Library Café

January Book Blitz Month

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SASKATCHEWAN SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

# Library Café

## January Book Blitz Month

Perk up the school library by featuring a Library Café during January’s National Book Blitz Month. Feed the soul and palate of your library patrons by creating a quiet haven to relax, read the latest favourite published reads, and nibble on tasty treats. Extend the theme by providing brain food during scrumptious storytimes and delicious integrated library skill lessons.

### Setting the Scene

Take the chill out of the frosty air by creating an intimate reading lounge. Comfortable seating, toss cushions, and soft lighting provide an intimate reading environment.

Invite the student population and the community to the Library Café. A sample flyer is appended (Appendix A). At least once a week, for an hour prior to the start of school, caregivers and their children are invited to spend time reading and sharing books. Serve hot cocoa and breakfast treats. Contact local coffeehouses to supply the nutrition and hot beverages.

Display favourite books as chosen by your readers. Change the books periodically to feature winners in different genres or categories. Extend the café to feature an artist or writer in residence. Spotlight a different student’s art, music, or writings per Library Café.

### Book Club

Extend the morning Library Café by inviting book club members to dine and celebrate with the teacher-librarian during the lunch hour. As the morning café features “free” reading time, the lunch café is an environment rich with discussion of the latest and most popular titles. Book club members debate the merits of their favourite reads from a selected list and celebrate a year’s worth of great books by watching the literature and media awards of the American Library Association (ALA) on January 26, 2009.

Though dialogue and consensus, members produce a booklist of their choice of Top Reads. Feed their brain with not only great reads, but delightful snacks.

A selected list of favourites is appended; however alternate lists can be created using the following sources:

- School Library Journal’s Best Books 2008  
(<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6617203.html>)
- YASLA (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/titlesnominated.cfm>)
- Kirkus Reviews – Best Books of 2008  
([http://www.kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/images/pdf/Best\\_YA.pdf](http://www.kirkusreviews.com/kirkusreviews/images/pdf/Best_YA.pdf))

### Library Skills

To assist with the location of needed materials and the use of the online catalogue, introduce students to Melvin Dewey and his categorization system by inviting them to the *Chez Dewey Restaurant* (Scott-McKenzie, 2008 and Adame, 2008). Students assume the role of customers, servers, cooks, or buspeople. Seated at checkerboard

tableclothed tables, the “customers” order their meals/book topics. The servers, adorned in black bowties, record the customers’ requests (book order requests) on order slips (sticky notes) and send the orders to the cooks. The order slip (sticky note) is placed on the computer where the cooks are seated. The cooks prepare the meal (search the online catalogue for the topic) and record the Dewey Decimal listing for the requested meal (an exact title) next to the subject. Servers locate the requested meal (the exact title) and serve the brain food to the customer.

In the event the customer is unsatisfied with their meal, the order can be changed or the waiter can inform the patron that the *Chez Dewey Restaurant* is out of “Global Warming” or “Shakespeare” this evening. Serving as the Maître D, the teacher-librarian assists with management and organization issues. As the host, the Maître D engages in conversation with customers, asking them about their favourite "meals" (books) or provide give them free appetizers (joke books or magazines) - light fare that doesn't fill them up. The Maitre D’ could also issue rain checks (a recess or lunch pass for check out) to customers whose orders were unfulfilled. The buspeople walk around the restaurant with a cart, clearing the tables (shelving books).

While waiting, customers can complete activities on their placemat. The activities could be related to the Dewey decimal classification, locating materials within the school library, or descriptions of new great reads.

To alleviate the potential of having customers request subjects that are unavailable or nonexistent, differentiate the activity by creating one of the sample menus outlined below from which the customers can order from.

**Menu #1** - The menu can include prices relating to the Dewey Decimal numbers. The menus could also be created to feature only items that coordinate with the students’ current studies.

"Biography Bake" - would cost \$921.00

"Fossil Fingers" would cost \$569.00

Appetizers (000-400 dollars)

Mains (500-600 dollars)

Desserts (700-900 dollars)


**Menu #2** - Create a menu of topics so students do not pick topics in which there are not available books in the library. Each customer has to choose three items from the menu. The waiter went back to the customer with a different menu that had the answers on it, so the customers could "check" their order

The concept of *Chez Dewey* restaurant was conceived by Jennie Scott-McKenzie, ([jennieteacher@gmail.com](mailto:jennieteacher@gmail.com)), at the International School of Belgrade, Serbia. The idea was elaborated upon by Shiloh Adame, ([shiloh.adame@d300.org](mailto:shiloh.adame@d300.org)), at Westfield Community School and Lincoln Prairie Elementary.

## APPENDIX A

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### Sample Invitation



*Library Café*

Escape the chill of the winter air at the school library.

Enjoy a hot beverage and a tasty treat while curled up with a great read.

Time:

Dates:

Place:

*For more information, contact the school.*

## SELECTED LIST OF FAVOURITES

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The following is a compiled list of possible Book Club selections:

1. *The Seer of Shadows* – Avi
2. *The Boy Who Dared* - Susan Campbell Bartoletti
3. *Graceling* – Kristin Cashdore
4. *Hunger Games* – Suzanne Collins
5. *Waiting for Normal* - Leslie Connor
6. *Shooting the Moon* - Frances O’Roark Dowell
7. *Eleven* – Patricia Reilly Giff
8. *Diamond Willow* - Helen Frost
9. *Bird Lake Moon* - Kevin Henkes
10. *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks* – E. Lockhart
11. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things* – Lenore Look
12. *The Willoughbys* – Lois Lowry
13. *Keeping Score* - Linda Sue Park
14. *All Shook Up* - Shelley Pearsall
15. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories of Growing up Scieszka* – Jon Scieszka
16. *Trouble* - Gary Schmidt
17. *Little Audrey* – Ruth White
18. *After Tupac & D Foster* – Jacqueline Woodson

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Gerding, S. (2006). Fund-Raising Perks of Library Cafes. *Public Libraries*, 45(6), 38-43. Retrieved December 23, 2008, from <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/pla/plapublications/publiclibraries/novdec2006pl.pdf>.