Tag Team: Teen Services Collaboration between School and Public Libraries

(Promote, Educate, Advocate, Repeat)

Rheetha Lawlor - Osbourn Park High School
Rosanne North-Jack - Bull Run Regional Library

Photo Credit: http://www.freeimages.com/photo/team-1493923
About Us

Rosanne North-Jack has been working as a “jack” of all trades in libraries since 2010. From volunteer, page, circulation, children’s librarian, to her current position as Young Adult Librarian in Prince William County.

She loves Rainbow Rowell, Garth Nix, Stephen King, Tanuja Desai-Hidier, YA/Adult fiction, psychological thrillers, and a bit of strange fantasy. In her spare time she sings along to musicals, rides her bike, and plays D&D with her husband.

Rheetha Lawlor is a high school librarian in Prince William County Schools. She has also worked in a middle school as a librarian, and a teacher and technology integration specialist before that.

When she isn’t busy playing games with her husband and 2 children, she can be seen flying through the air while walking her new very big dog. She loves all YA (Gary Schmidt can do no wrong), and lots of adult books.
Getting Started
Let’s Get it Started!

1. Initial contact - Putting yourself out there
2. Meet to discuss the right fit for the school/library
3. Find common goals
4. Develop a plan
5. Small steps = Big impact

Oh, the Places You'll Go - Dr. Seuss
1. Hand out **Library Card Applications** and deliver cards to librarian
2. Host a **pop-up makerspace** or other program at the school
3. Create a **book display in a high traffic area** like the cafeteria
4. Send **flyers** highlighting upcoming contests and programs for display
5. Attend an **after school event**
6. **Give a class presentation** about the public library and what we offer
7. Attend a **Career Day or Job Fair**
8. Demonstrate the **Free Electronic Resources** that public library offers
9. Demonstrate how to **download ebooks/eaudiobooks**
10. Appear on the **Morning Announcements** or newscast

---

**Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens**

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…”
1. Recruit and promote programs, contests via word of mouth
2. Match appropriate audience with program
3. Host an exchange of ideas on how to best serve the same population
4. Investigate Professional Development Opportunities
   ● NOVA Teen Book Club
   ● Public Library & School Library share YA author visits
5. Potential Program Partnership: share authors, share budgets

“The public librarian brings the knowledge and time to the program and the school media specialist brings the marketing and access.” (D. Gitta)
Best Fit for OPHS

- **Highlight Databases** that the school may not subscribe to:
  - Citation Machine - MLA, APA, Chicago, and Turabian.
  - Historic Documents, Issues & Controversies
  - Pronunciator – Language Learning
  - Testing & Education Reference Center - NEW SAT PREP
  - Literati - Live Homework help in Math & Science!
  - Lynda- short how-to videos

- Community Service Hours through **Volunteering**!
- **Advise Teachers** how to utilize free digital resources for classrooms
- FREE access to public library resources
Struggles

Photo Credit: http://www.freeimages.com/photo/turn-around-1244553
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the Library</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being the lone Teen Staff Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pre-established program commitments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Outreach commitments at other schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding the niche between the two libraries (IE- show teachers their need for Public library such as ESOL, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At the School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching schedules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sharing the same space with other classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Staffing changes Mid-Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography of School vs. Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Getting High Schoolers involved off campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Successes

Photo Credit: http://www.freeimages.com/photo/target-1310276
Impact @ Bull Run Library

Anime Brigade grew 4x in size between 2015 and 2016
❖ Starting with 6 attendees to an average of 17 per month. (Most ever=30)
● Rosanne kept track of attendees and found out what school they were coming from and how they found out about the program.
   ● “You came to book club at my school.” (OPHS)
   ● “I saw you on our morning announcements.” (Mayfield)
   ● “You came to my school’s Job Fair”. (Marsteller)
Anime Brigade: A Snapshot

July 2015
6 teens (first meeting)

October 2015
12 teens

May 2016
27 teens
Impact @ OPHS - Life Skills Class
Blended Impact

1. Library is starting a strong TAG team with ideas (avg. 4-8 attendees)
2. Students are signing up for more library cards
3. Students are able to get community service hours by volunteering
4. Students see both libraries working together.
5. Students learn more about the public library’s resources
6. Students take flyers (in school library) for public lib. programs
7. Library receives more feedback from students regarding programs, how to improve teen spaces
8. Students feel comfortable with the public library
9. Encouraging student views of the library as more than just books
2015-2016 Statshot

Teen Photography Contest (Bull Run)

- Best Overall winner and 2nd place category winner from OPHS
- Over half of the entries were from a high school Rosanne had never visited.

Summer Reading Volunteers (Bull Run)

- 22 volunteers were comprised of students from or entering OPHS
- At the east end of the county (6). The western end of the county had (13).

New Library Cards (OPHS)

- OPHS Made 20 new library cards in 2015-2016
- Even during the Summer, Rheetha encouraged seniors to sign up so they could use the databases into college.
Looking Ahead

Photo credit: http://www.freeimages.com/photo/future-1239052
Lessons Learned

Communication is key
Be prepared to fail and to start over again
School visits are your lifeline
You are the face of your library
Don’t reinvent the wheel
Know your limits
Patience is a virtue
Don’t underestimate schools you’ve never visited
Brentsville District High School
Website March 7-11, 2015
Marketing Librarians: You matter to your community

Photo credit: http://library.appstate.edu/sites/library.appstate.edu/files/news/library-symbol1.gif
Future Projects

- Tandem TAG – Teen Advisory Group
  Collaborative author program
  Hosting professional development for teachers at the library
- Spread the word! Today VLA, tomorrow VAASL Annual
- Expand into more high schools. Get more teachers involved.
- Promoting teen events from other library systems/ branches
- Create an ongoing evaluation process to see how we’re doing
  Joint Book Club
  After School educational program (IE SAT prep)

😊 = Things we’ve accomplished so far in 2016!
Starting Again in 2016

Major Goal: Stronger presence in more schools

1. Build a stronger presence in more City of Manassas of schools
2. Join forces with a teen librarian at a nearby branch to offer additional programs
   a. Central now has an active TAG made up of OPHS students and some from other school districts
   b. Bull Run and Central are hosting a Teen Murder Mystery Night in Feb. & Mar.
3. Attend more after school programs at area high schools
4. Welcome a new librarian → Emily Pincek
5. Create more programs featuring databases. Testing [SAT, ACT, ASVAB]
6. Provide access to new databases not previously owned
7. Represent Prince William County Libraries at NOVA Teen Book Fest 2017!
OPHS Back to School Night - Fall 2016
Why Should We Join Forces?

1. To benefit teens
   - “In a swiftly changing world, communities need schools and libraries to partner together to improve the information opportunities available to their youth so that they can be empowered to live to their fullest potential.” (Gitta D., 2012)
     - Public Libraries are open longer hours.

2. To benefit teachers and librarians
   - Both types of libraries can “expand the kinds of programs and assistance they are able to offer [and] improve [their] quality”. It also results in “increased visibility and awareness” for both libraries’ patrons. (Gitta D., 2012)
     - Promoting Summer Reading Program

“In so doing, we have the power to create not only stronger institutions, but also stronger communities.” (Collen, 2013)
Questions?

Photo credit: http://www.freeimages.com/photo/preschool-hands-on-activities-1565839
Link to Vimeo Video @
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMPUVABv-cE