

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Six items to share with you this month:

1) Update on WLMA and the Coalition. #6380 is the magic number!

WLMA has been at work supporting the WCSLit (Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology). As a result, we now have Senate Bill #6380 with *Senator Rosemary McAuliffe and six additional Senate sponsors* prepared to introduce and support legislation asking for funding in the supplemental Basic Education budget now under discussion in Olympia. On January 11, Jenn Maydole and Sarah Applegate spoke in Olympia presenting information to the Basic Ed. Task Force regarding the essential value of teacher-librarians and school libraries to Washington students. Also speaking were the co-founders of the Coalition. **Big things are happening!**

What's next? The Senate Hearing for the Education Committee on our bill is scheduled for this coming Wednesday, January 23rd at 8am in Olympia.

What can you do? Send those notes, emails, and faxes to your Senators expressing appreciation and support. Watch for info about coming to Olympia to show your support. More to follow on that.

WLMA members, we have never been in such a unique position to affect change. PLEASE continue to show your support. Need details? Contact us...we'll provide more.

2) "You ought to be in pictures" (old song)

Do you have a digital photo or two of you working with students? (If not, please take one!) Dr. Mike Eisenberg and I-School student, Michael Wood, are creating a video for us to use in our WLMA booth when we attend conferences or speaking engagements. Mike E. speaks about the impact on student learning that teacher-librarians and well-resourced school libraries can have. Please send photos to Michael Wood (mrwood@u.washington.edu) He wants to have the video completed by February 1. Note: Keep in mind to not show children's faces directly. You will have the opportunity to see the video at future WLMA events!

3) Last call for the Membership Directory!

Pat McKinley is putting the final touches on the directory and sending it to the printer very soon. If you know someone else who wants to be included (by becoming a WLMA member), have them go to our website, www.wlma.org and either *join online* or download *and print out* the membership form and mail in with your check. Directions and address are on the website. AND, if you've recently changed any of your information—new email address, school, etc.—send that information to Pat within the next ten days. We want you included!

4) Legislative Activity—Jenn Maydole

Jenn is on the ground in Olympia actively campaigning on our behalf. She will report in by early February. Remember, though, it is not too late *for you* to contact your legislators, asking them to support funding of school libraries in our state. There are two ways to do this: 1) Go to www.leg.wa.gov/legislature. Select "Find your Legislator" on the right side of the page. Once you've filled in your address, your legislators' names will come up. When you click on each name, his/her personal information and photo comes up with a link to send an email. So-o-o easy! Please take a moment, send a positive message, encouraging them to support funding for school libraries. We all can benefit and those of our colleagues in districts with few teacher-librarians and/or limited funding will thank you! OR 2) Go to www.fundourfuturewashington.org and sign the petition.

5) The WLMA webpage is FULL of new, interesting items.

Joanna Freeman is keeping our WLMA webpage filled with interesting information—workshops, news articles, research. Set www.wlma.org as your homepage and take a look each morning when you log on.

6) OASL-WLMA 08 Joint Conference is in the works.

The date and location are set—October 9-11 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland and the theme is "Elect to Lead". The committee is now taking proposals for sessions. Deadline is March 31st. Offer to share an idea through a session--on teaching, collaboration, technology, reading, etc. We can learn so much from each other.

That's it for January! Be safe in the rain and snow and watch for more daylight!
Let us hear from you...

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