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Question 1. As a principal, what do you believe the school librarian's role in teaching and learning is?

The school library media specialist, like all educators, wears many hats in their day-to-day interactions with students, staff, and parents. As learning facilitators, and since they see all students, the librarian must have knowledge of each grade level standards and curriculum road maps in order to connect literature/projects to the content they are learning in class. The students' time in the library should be dedicated to reliable information gathering, opportunities to apply their knowledge and opportunities for making meaningful connections to the world around them. The library media specialist collaborates with staff to enhance and extend their learning beyond the classroom walls.

Question 2. As a principal, what do you believe the role of the school librarian is in promoting literacy and reading?

The school library is the heart and soul of the school. The librarian promotes literacy and reading in the entire school community through the planning and coordination of annual Book Fair, school-wide reading incentive programs, Book Swaps, collaborating with local businesses and supporting our sister school literacy programs, book talks at faculty meetings and arranging developmentally appropriate, relevant and engaging author visits. Community/family involvement is essential to school success.

Question 3. How do you expect school librarians to help students to build life long-learning skills?

Along with promoting a love for reading (interest-based) and being an informed citizen in our global society, librarians promote the “power skills” necessary for our 21st century learners to be successful in their world: collaboration, creativity, communication, cultural proficiency, critical thinking and problem-solving. The teacher-librarian collaboration is key to empowering learners in the digital age as they promote information literacy, media literacy and communication technology. Incorporating opportunities for inquiry during story time and project/problem-based learning are ways to promote life-long learning skills.

Question 4. What tips do you have for school librarians in regards to communicating with principals?

Building a relationship of trust and open communication is key. Having informal conversations and keeping the principal in the loop with celebrations and concerns along the way, makes for easier conversations down the road when more challenging situations arise (i.e. budget allocation, campus needs assessments).

Question 5. When you are hiring a new school librarian, what are some qualities you look for in a candidate?

Qualities I would look for in a librarian are: Professional Background—certified/endorsement added, experience in teaching, classroom management skills and promoting social-emotional learning, and seeks out professional development opportunities. Demonstrates: service on campus leadership committees (i.e. Campus Advisory Council), creativity designing a

welcoming/stimulating environment, balanced philosophy of the traditional and digital age as an advocate for literacy.

Summary:

From this interview, three important themes that stood out were the importance of the librarian's role as a reading advocate, emphasis placed on continuous development and teaching of technology skills as the school media specialist, and collaboration with all members of the school community including learners' families.

Throughout the interview, Jane emphasizes the importance of the librarian's role as a reading advocate who develops a nurturing environment, creates interest-based activities, and develops a collection that promotes reading for all learners of the school community. Jane mentions several community events in which her school librarian has promoted literacy through the library, such as annual book fairs, book swaps, and facilitating on-campus authors' visits. She believes that through this teaching role, inquiry and project-based lessons can be developed that both entice learners' love of reading and connect their learning beyond standards-based content to make real-life connections.

One of the qualities Jane looks for when seeking out candidates for school library positions is that individual's experience in proactively seeking out professional development and maintaining a "balanced philosophy" of incorporating both traditional and digital approaches to literacy promotion. Incorporation of digital technology and teaching it to both students and staff is an emphasized topic in this interview. Jane believes that librarians are a major contributor in developing learners' "power skills" that will enable them to be successful as students and employees in the 21st century. Through teaching concepts of information literacy, media

literacy, and communication technology, Jane believes that the librarian is in turn developing children's overarching skills in communication, collaboration, cultural proficiency, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

Jane describes the librarian as “the heart and soul of the school”. Through their position, she believes the librarian is a key component in fostering the growth and connections of the school community. It is her perspective that community and family involvement is crucial to a school's overall success. Through serving on leadership committees such as campus advisory councils, facilitating community events such as book swaps, supporting sister schools' literacy programs, and collaborating with local businesses, the librarian serves as the cornerstone of developing relationships with everyone involved in the school community.