

The background of the top half of the image is a white puzzle. One puzzle piece in the top left is orange. A group of seven stylized human silhouettes in various colors (blue, red, orange, teal) are positioned on the right side. A large black puzzle piece is missing from the center, with an orange puzzle piece partially visible underneath it.

# making connections

at your school library

## School Library Month 2018

### Weekly Activities

**APRIL IS SCHOOL LIBRARY MONTH**  
[www.ala.org/aasl/slm](http://www.ala.org/aasl/slm)



# ***Making Learner Connections at Your School Library***

## Elementary School Activities

### **Book Club**

Host a student book club focusing on one of the following:

- Mock Caldecott
- Mock Newbery
- Battle of the Books

### **Reading Challenge**

Students can read a set number of books from each Dewey section. Then, have a conversation about the books that they read with a librarian and/or other students.

### **Brain Break**

After standardized testing have educators sign up for breaks in the library where students can listen to calming music, color in a coloring book, and/or use the makerspace.

## Middle School Activities

### **Breakout EDU**

Create a breakout in the library. Immerse students in a series of academically challenging games where they have to work together to find clues and solve puzzles.

### **Book Talks**

Have students create book trailers, booktube videos, and/or podcasts with recommendations of their favorite books to share with the school community.

### **Book Tasting**

Students can host a book tasting or blind date with a book. Students can pick the books and invite students and teachers to participate.

## High School Activities

### **Volunteer Program**

Students can help in the library by completing tasks ranging from designing bulletin boards, creating book displays, and/or helping their peers find books.

### **Advisory Board**

Give students a voice in your library. This can be done in a variety of ways: purchasing new books, collection development projects, and/or library programming.

### **Earth Day**

Celebrate Earth Day and have students plant a tree, create a garden, and/or make decorative planter boxes out of repurposed and recycled garbage.

Webinar: [Making & Assessing Learner Connections through the AASL Standards](#)

Presenter: Elizabeth Burns | Date: Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 | Time: 6:00 p.m. Central

# ***Making Educator Connections at Your School Library***

## **Elementary School Activities**

### **Educator Experts**

Conduct a survey of current teaching topics and find educators in the school building who have a passion/knowledge to share that aligns (i.e. have traveled/ resided in a country, hobbies, etc.).

### **Educator Cafe**

Invite educators to the library to “sample” new books. Create a cafe environment giving educators an opportunity to read and discuss books together.

### **Campus Connections**

Work with a fellow district librarian to connect grade-level educator teams to share methods, strategies, and units. Also, consider connecting librarians.

## **Middle School Activities**

### **Educator Breakfast**

Choose a morning to host the educators at your school - serve coffee, tea, and pastries. Have new student projects on display. Engage the educators in a conversation about collaborative opportunities.

### **“Four Cs” and Makerspace**

Introduce educators to the “Four Cs” critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Engage the educators in a hands-on makerspace activity.

### **Professional Development**

Offer a “Fake News” workshop for educators. Introduce them to the digital resources that they can use in the classroom. Also, the tips and tricks to be information savvy.

## **High School Activities**

### **Grading Consortium**

Invite educators from all departments to the library to grade student work. Serve light snacks and drinks. Create a section for each department with resources and projects on display to be browsed during deserved breaks.

### **Department Meetings**

Attend department meetings and provide 15 minute PDs, books talks, and/or web tutorials that relate to the content being taught. Use this time to expose educators to resources.

### **Library Showcase**

Host an event that allows for a showcase of all of the activities, classes, and/or events that are held in the library. Invite students, educators, and administrators.

Webinar: [Making & Amplifying Educator Connections through the AASL Standards](#)

Presenter: Kathleen Riopelle Roberts | Date: Tuesday, April 10th, 2018 | Time: 6:00 p.m. Central

Webinar: [Author Ideas on Integrating Fiction into the Middle-Grade and Middle-School Curriculum](#)

Panelists: Eileen Makoff, Rebecca Behrens, Jo Hackl, Sara Holbrook | Date: Thursday, April 12th, 2018 | Time: 3:00 p.m. Central





# ***Making Community Connections at Your School Library***

## Elementary School Activities

### **Family Reading Night**

Engage parents in a discussion about books and literacy development. Empower them with the tools that they need to foster a culture of reading at home.

### **Public Library Connection**

Invite a local public librarian to distribute library cards, provide storytime and/or booktalks, and discuss public library programs with students and their families.

### **Community Book Drive**

Help prevent the “summer slide” by hosting a Summer Reading Book Drive. Have community members donate books and then work together to distribute them.

## Middle School Activities

### **Little Free Library**

“Help spread the joy and power of sharing books”. Work with students to build a Little Free Library for the school community and/or neighborhood.

### **Local Bookstore Connection**

Reach out to your local bookstore and work together to host a fundraiser, a book fair, an author/illustrator visit, and/or other events that build a community.

### **Generation Reading Buddies**

Organize reading buddies with elementary school students, siblings, or the elderly. Help to foster a cross generation of learning and reading.

## High School Activities

### **Books for Correctional Services**

Work with a local organization to donate books to youth and adults in correctional services. Raise awareness in your community to help acquire donations and funds.

### **Community Resource Map**

Identify experts in your community that can provide knowledge and/or services. Organize these experts and their expertise into an accessible databases for community members.

### **GSA Book Club**

Start or support a Gay Straight Alliance Book Club in your school community. Provide access to new titles, award winners, and local authors/speakers.



Webinar: [Making Community Connections](#)

Presenters: Sue Kowalski and Gina Seymour, Moderated by Shannon McClintock Miller

# Making Global Connections at Your School Library

## Elementary School Activities

### **International Books**

Create a bulletin board and/or a display and promote titles on the United States Board on Books for Young People Outstanding International Books List.

### **Student Blogging**

Have students create blogs on Edublogs or Kidblog. Students could also share their ideas through an online writing community that connects classrooms, like Write About.

### **Stay Connected**

Keep making global connections even when SLM is over:

- *International Dot Day*
- *The Global Read Aloud*
- *Empatico*

## Middle School Activities

### **Advocacy Campaign**

Help students launch a fundraiser or awareness campaign for an organization or to highlight a global issue. This could include social media posts and PSAs.

### **World Lessons**

Engage the school community in a project from the World's Largest Lesson. Work together to help end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change.

### **Global Changemakers**

Inspire students to become global changemakers. Create a book display that educates students on how to become a changemaker and add books about changemakers.

## High School Activities

### **Video Chats**

Arrange a Skype, Facetime or Google Hangouts session with a content expert or a class on the other side of the world. Or take a Virtual Field Trip to a distant destination.

### **Virtual Clubs**

Connect your students with those in another state or country through creative writing. The website Write the World offers writing prompts and an opportunity to receive feedback from an authentic audience.

### **Social Media**

Find and follow someone new on Twitter or Instagram each day this week. Focus on making connections with educators and librarians from another state or country.



Webinar: [Making Global Connections at Your School Library](#)

Presenter: Michelle Cooper | Date: Tuesday, April 24th, 2018 | Time: 6:00 p.m. Central

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## School Library Month 2018 Committee Members

Jillian Ehlers (Chair), Cynthia Alaniz, Michelle Cooper, Shannon DeSantis, Hattie Garrow, Cathy Pope, Denise Tabscott, Katie Williams (Board Liaison), Jen Habley (Staff Liaison)

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