

Dear Secretary,

I have been a teacher for many years in the Public School System and am a very strong advocate for the importance of keeping teacher librarians pro-active in our schools. I am very lucky that for the past nine years as I have had the incredible pleasure of working with an exceptional teacher librarian at Avalon Public School called Margot Lindgren. Not only do the children benefit from her amazing skills but so do the staff. I too sit and learn along with my class from her amazing wealth of knowledge. I appreciate the effort she puts in to each and every student trying to develop a true love of reading, finding out what interests them and commenting positively on their choice of reading material. I see students from High school returning to seek her advice. She works tirelessly after school providing Smart board tutoring sessions for the staff catering lessons in accordance with our ability. Her lunchtimes provide endless opportunities for children to explore reading material, enjoy games with peers and at times provide a refuge from the challenges that come with life.

A change in timetabling unfortunately turned our library sessions into RFF (Release from Face to Face Teaching). This is supposedly an opportunity for Avalon teachers to mark children's work and evaluate and assess. I have elected not to miss one of Margot's library sessions, preferring to draw on her wonderful skills and assess and evaluate my students under her tutelage. Not all schools have the luxury of such a wonderful mentor, lets hope that our government appreciates the importance of their role in the community just as much as my students and I do. Libraries and librarians do contribute to improved educational and community outcomes, especially literacy. All the evidence you need for your enquiry can be found in our library at Avalon Public School, just come and watch Miss Lindgren in action.

Regards,

Verity Davis-Raiss
(Year 6 Teacher)