

MSLA JOURNAL

Volume 45, Number 2
Spring/Summer 2018



Editor's Message

By Lisa Ferguson

This summer...

Say yes to new adventures. This summer remember to pick flowers for your kitchen counter. This summer, take the time to fall asleep in the shade, with a book on your chest. This summer, invite your neighbours over for a BBQ. This summer, work your way through the pile of books that have been sitting on your nightstand all year. This summer, visit someplace new. This summer, soak up the sun and the slower pace. Enjoy this summer.

Sincerely,

Lisa



Table of Contents

Reader's Notes.....	2
Celebrating the 80 TH Anniversary of MSLA by <i>MSLA Executive</i>	
3Building a Community of Middle Grade Readers by <i>Kathie MacIlsac</i>	5
Shane Peacock – Prairie Bookings.....	6
Get Your Summer Read On! by <i>Lori Sweeting</i>	7
MYRCA News by <i>Colette Dufault</i>	10
MYRCA Books in a Box Grant by <i>Colleen Nelson</i>	12



Readers' Notes

Dear Editor,

When I developed programmes for (multimedia) school libraries at the turn of the millennium I favored the blessings of the new media and helped to incorporate them into schools.

Now I am not so positive about the development anymore. The new media is overwhelming for the children (but not only for them) and it seems extremely difficult to concentrate and to develop their own ideas and talents.

Thus, I think mobile free spaces and internet free times are essential for them. Regular meditations (brain brushing they call it in Bhutan schools) could be introduced. They should be given the opportunity of real life discussions with heterogeneous groups to learn how to develop one's own opinion and to communicate it in a reasonable way.

(School) libraries might provide such spaces and opportunities. What's your opinion about that?

From, Werner

Dear Editor,

I am aware that it is often difficult for schools and libraries to get rid of out of date library materials and textbooks. Throwing them in the recycle bins doesn't always work. They often come back to bite you with some well-meaning individual complaining about a mis-use of tax dollars.

As part of my work here at Lions Place, Carolyn Sifton Library, I often come across this complication. I

don't dare through any old books or magazines in the recycle bin. Have tried once, and they all came back in as a 'new donation'.

Recently, I drove to St. Malo, MB, about an hour south of Winnipeg on Highway 59. It was a truly inspirational experience. I visited the "shelter workshop" in St. Malo. The workshop and the residence are now one combined corporation:

**Smile of St. Malo, Inc and
Epic de St. Malo Inc**

**Residential and Day Program
for Individuals with Intellectual
Disabilities**

**Box 280, 112 St. Malo Street,
St. Malo MB R0A 1T0**

**Helen Lariviere, Executive
Director, helene@epicsmile.ca**

Phone: 204-347-5418

They have about 40 adults working at a huge number of projects for companies both in rural MB and Winnipeg areas. In the carpentry area, for example, they were making 8000 stakes for Manitoba Highways surveying projects all to specification, and painted with the proper markings according to MB Highways work orders. Another team was constructing shipping boxes for Manitoba Hydro. Still another team was creating canvas bags for a forthcoming conference. The work was finely done, and supervisors paid close attention to the quality of the finished product. The workers seemed to be enjoying their activities. Management is very

creative in finding projects in the community for these folks to do in their spacious, clean and comfortable workshops. The workers were happy, and appreciated being appreciated for what they did. Most of the residents live in housing projects close-by.

It was a priceless spot for me because they took my five (5) cartons of "junk" books. They will remove the covers and spines, and make the paper available for re-cycling. Wonderful way to keep the books out of the landfill. Down side is that they only pick up if you have a large truck load of books. Seems to me that some schools and school divisions might accumulate the books and old texts for recycling and then contact Smile/Epic.

I noticed that they had several huge bales of cardboard sitting on the lot ready to be shipped out for recycling too. They also collect pop cans, plastic containers, and other recycling materials.

It isn't far to drive to St. Malo, to enjoy the countryside, and to meet these wonderful leaders and supervisors. One could check them out on the website at **www.epicsmile.ca**.

There may be other such workshops in Manitoba, but I was not able to come up with one in Winnipeg. IF you know of one, please feel free to give me the information.

All the best

Gerald R. Brown,
Library Consultant
Lions Place, Carolyn Sifton Library

Celebrating the 80TH Anniversary of MSLA

By the MSLA Executive



The Manitoba School Library Association is proudly celebrating 80 years in the service of school libraries in Manitoba. Our first event was on Saturday, March 10, 2018 at École South Pointe School in Winnipeg.

Teacher-librarians and school library technicians, new, experienced and retired from schools around Winnipeg and beyond, gathered to share stories and experiences from the past in a vibrant space that projects the future of school libraries.

École South Pointe School staff members, Ruthanne

Dyck; principal, and Martina Blanchet; teacher-librarian were welcoming and generously shared the new school and its wonderful facilities. The library, a well-appointed teaching space with high flexibility and excellent break-out spaces for a variety of student projects and creative growth, was a key place to visit.

Many special guests brought greetings and shared their personal stories about libraries. These included greetings from the Provincial Government, Jon Reyes, MLA for St. Norbert; from the Manitoba NDP,

Education Critic, Matt Wiebe; from the Manitoba School Boards Association, Josh Watt, Executive Director; from the Manitoba Teachers Society, James Bedford; from the City of Winnipeg, Councillor Janice Lukes, Fort Whyte District; and Kathleen McMillan brought greetings from Julie Fisher, Chair, PTSD Board of Trustees. Pauline Clarke, from Winnipeg School Division representing the MB Association of School Superintendents sent a written message.

MLA Jon Reyes commented on his happy experiences as a

student in the Sisler High School library, and was delighted to acknowledge Margaret Gerber, his teacher-librarian, who was in the audience.

James Bedford talked about his experiences as a science teacher working with Zoya Osipova, teacher-librarian at Dakota Collegiate. He said, I express great confidence that my assessment of our teacher-librarians is accurate because I know well many of your past award recipients.

Josh Watt, Executive Director



of Manitoba School Boards Association, reminded us that: Celebrating our history is one of the most important contributions that one can make to their colleagues and citizen tax payers. You cannot drive ahead if you are constantly looking in the rearview mirror, but then, you will not know where you are headed if you do not take time to look at where you have come from.

The attendees of the celebration thoroughly enjoyed the talk given by David Alexander Robertson, who spoke about the process of reconciliation and

empathy. David's story telling kept the audience rapt, laughing, and nodding in appreciation. He urged us to think about our personal stories, and allow ourselves to connect them to the stories of the Indigenous people, so we can all share our past.

David Alexander Robertson is a long-time friend of MSLA and an award-winning author and graphic novelist from Winnipeg. His book, **When We Were Alone**, won the 2017 Governor General's award for Young People's Literature; Illustrated Books and the McNally Robinson Best Book for Young People Award.

MSLA Archivist and historian, Gerald R. Brown gave a brief review of the "Six Golden Threads of School Library Association History". He recognized individuals who had over the years, played significant roles in **1. Leaders and Leadership, 2. Education and Training, 3. Professional Development / Professional Learning; 4. Publications**..both print and electronic, (<https://www.manitobaschoollibraries.ca/>) **5. Awards and recognitions, and 6. Out of Province Activities and Recognitions.** He commented on how these threads are woven together as a tapestry to tell the story of commitment and dedication to the teachers and students of Manitoba. Brown referred to the Association archives, now housed at the Provincial Archives, as a golden treasure waiting to be explored, to guide us as we grow and change.

We would like to acknowledge

the people who advocate for school libraries, for reading programs, and for the development of computer skills to help students become better thinkers and learners.

We recommend parents to get to know your current school library personnel, and to help them build for the next generation of readers.

Norm Guilbert, retired Library Coordinator from River East Transcona School Division commented: It was an outstanding event, and I



had an opportunity to meet colleagues I had not seen in more than two decades. Thank you for compiling the archives and doing this historical review. Obviously, that is a labour of love that has taken many hours. It nudged my 'senior's memory' of many exciting achievements.

Building a Community of Middle Grade Readers

By Kathie MacIsaac



I like to say that my daughter outgrew reading middle grade fiction, but I never did. They are the books I most enjoy reading for pleasure, but often it can be difficult to find people in my daily life who have the same passion. This past October, I started to follow the hashtag “#MGBooktober” on Twitter, which were daily prompts to promote discussion about various aspects of middle grade fiction. By the end of the month,

I had connected with a number of other librarians, teachers, educators and authors who also loved to read the types of books that I did. A short time later, I was approached by Annaliese Avery (the mastermind behind #MGBooktober) and Jarrett Lerner (the middle grade author of *Enginerds*), and I was asked to join the team as they expanded a website for individuals who wanted to discuss middle grade fiction.

In December 2017, we launched MG Book Village (www.mgbookvillage.org), a website for the “Middle Grade community to connect, share, learn, discuss, inspire, embolden, comfort, assist, and do all the countless other things strong communities do for its members.” We regularly post articles written by authors about

their books, or the writing process, as well as reviews by kids and adults. We also maintain a calendar of upcoming book release dates. We recently connected with the MG@ Heart Book Club (which posts regular content and hosts Twitter chats related to that month’s selection) as well as Book Between Podcast (hosted by Corrina Allen, its focus is middle grade books and their authors), and we are constantly working to find ways to promote conversations and share recommendations.

You can follow us on Twitter at @MG_BookBot to stay up-to-date on all the latest news, or go to our website to follow our blog. We’d love to hear from you!

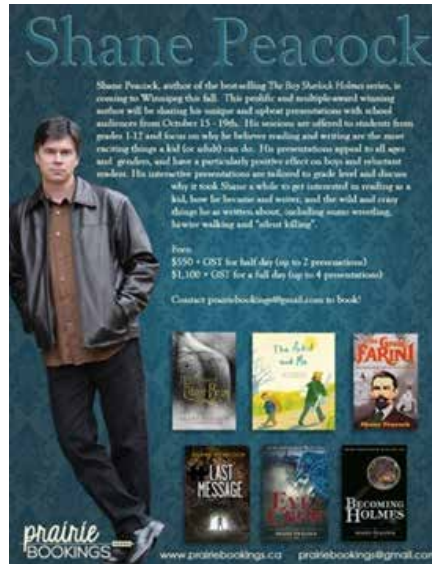


Prairie Bookings

By Kathie MacIsaac

Prairie Bookings is a booking agency located in Winnipeg run by us (two mom's with kids in the school system Jennifer Franklin and Nancy Chappell-Pollack) who feel the gift of author visits can have lasting and impactful results. We book both touring national authors as well as local authors, many willing to travel out of town to share their love of reading and writing in rural areas. Most authors are willing to also tailor a visit to your needs if asked and can do writing workshops or a mini book launch.

In fact, Jodi Carmichael was an adoptee this year at Beaumont School through an Adopt-an-Author program where she made five presentations throughout the school year from conception



of the book to the published piece incorporating cover design and edits in the discussions.

The local roster includes Maureen Fergus, S.M. Beiko, Larry Verstraete, Melinda Friesen, Anita Daher, Jodi

Carmichael, Colleen Nelson, Gabriele Goldstone and Judy Turner. We are pleased to present a full fall with touring authors Eric Walters (fully booked), Marsha Skrypuch (October 2-4) and Shane Peacock (October 15-19) in Winnipeg to share their work. With touring and local authors contacting us regularly, we can coordinate a visit anytime throughout the school year.

CONTACT US AT

prairiebookings@gmail.com

or visit us at

www.prairiebookings.ca

to plan your next exciting literary adventure for your students or to join our monthly e-blast.

prairie
BOOKINGS 



Get Your Summer Read On!

By Lori Sweeting



When I was a child I always looked forward to a trip to my local public library, but during the summer those visits became even more fun. I was a devoted member of the summer reading program, and I can still remember how excited I felt when I filled in a ballot or completed a puzzle. I read throughout the year, but something about the summer reading program added an extra sense of delight and accomplishment to everything that I read. Fast forward a number of years, and now I'm on the other side of the desk, welcoming children and their caregivers to the joys and benefits of summer reading.

As educators, you are all too aware that summer learning loss is real and can set students back when they return to school with skills that have not been used during July and August. The effects of summer learning loss are increased for students who are new to reading or those who find reading a challenge. The solution is simple, but

not always easy: keep kids reading throughout the summer. Studies have shown that joining a summer reading program is one effective way to counter summer learning loss, and may even help students to raise their reading levels before going back to school in the fall. Everyone wants to be out and about during our short summer season so some encouragement may be required. One approach to summer reading that I've found works well is using the analogy of keeping your reading muscles strong in the same way that you keep your body strong. Your body needs good food and exercise to stay strong, and it's no different with your reading muscles. You need to keep feeding and exercising your reading muscles with books and reading every day, to keep those muscles strong. It's the same as practicing a dance move or a soccer kick.



If you practice regularly, you'll be able to do the dance routine or make the goal no problem. But if you stop practicing, you won't be able to. If you stop

reading during the summer your reading muscles won't be as strong when you go back to school in the fall.

The summer reading programs at Winnipeg Public Library (WPL) have changed since I was a kid, but the purpose has remained the same: keep kids excited about reading throughout the summer. Beginning in 2005 we partnered with the TD Summer Reading Club (TD SRC), and that partnership is still going strong today. The TD SRC is a bilingual program presented by 2 000 public libraries across Canada and is suitable for kids at all reading levels. The program is completely free, and kids ages 2 – 13 can sign up at any WPL branch. Everyone who participates has the chance to enter random prize draws, and thanks to our community partners there are some awesome prizes,



including swim passes to public pools and tickets to a Goldeyes game as well as a wide variety of book prizes. But the summer fun doesn't stop with the TD

SRC. Every branch of WPL will be running a number of in-house programs throughout the summer, with all of the supplies provided, and a wind-up performer in August to celebrate a successful summer of reading and fun.

The program is child-led, designed for kids to be independent and to make their own reading choices. The activities encourage reading any time and any place, with no required readings lists or subjects. Kids can take the kits with them to the lake, on a road trip, or anywhere they will have a chance to read. Since the calendar tracks days with time spent reading, not the number of books or pages or the duration of time spent reading the emphasis is on reading as its own reward and not as a competition. The purpose is to keep kids reading, and to give them the opportunity to discover what sparks their interest and keeps them reading throughout the summer.

The TD SRC materials are all bilingual, which can be a great help in encouraging students in French immersion programs to continue reading French language books during the summer. Every WPL branch has a selection of French language materials that are suitable for any reading level and, for someone looking for a larger selection, a trip to the St. Boniface Library will offer even more items to choose from. For children who want to read

in their language of origin, or to strengthen their reading skills in languages other than English and French, there are multilingual materials available at every WPL branch. The largest selection is at the Millennium Library, which makes a great destination for a staycation or a rainy day. The TD SRC materials are also available in large print, Braille, audio and Open Dyslexic Font. Just ask at any WPL branch for more information.

The program is divided into two categories: pre-readers (children who are not yet reading independently) and readers (children who are able to read on their own). The pre-reader's kit is a wonderful way to build early literacy skills and to give extra support to EAL learners or to children who are not yet comfortable reading on their own. Children and tweens who use the reader's kit are able to read comfortably on their own, and any form of reading or listening counts as reading time. A child or tween who reads a picture book aloud to a younger sibling, listens to a bedtime story or audiobook can count that towards their reading for the day. Both the pre-reader and the reader kits contain a calendar to use as a reading log. The calendar is used to keep track of the days the participants spend any time having someone read to them, reading to someone else, reading on their own or listening to an audiobook. Whenever a participant visits a

WPL branch they can bring the reading log with them and for every five days marked on their calendar a ballot goes into the prize draw.

Caregivers can indicate which category would be the most appropriate for their child, and library staff will give out the appropriate kit. Both categories of kits have essentially the same contents, so that all children in the family can take part, regardless of their age or reading level. This means the program is inclusive of all siblings in a family and ensures that everyone who takes part in the TD SRC program will have achievable goals and enjoyable activities. For anyone interested in an extra challenge, the reading log has a set of additional activities to tackle. Anyone who completes the challenge earns an extra ballot for the prize draws.

As if all of this wasn't enough, every WPL branch will be offering a selection of in-house programs for families, children and tweens. These programs are all free, with everything provided, and the activities range from Stories in the Stars to a Family Dance Party to Robot Chariot Races. Five WPL branches will be hosting a player from our own Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball team as well. Kids will have the chance to join in a special story time, meet a Goldeyes player in person and ask questions about what life is like for the Boys of Summer. Registration is required for most programs,

and that's easily done, either by visiting a branch in person, calling the branch, or using the online program calendar on the WPL website. Programs fill up quickly, so early registration is always a good idea. To top



it all off, each branch will be hosting a musical performance or a magician, to wind up the summer. Everything is free, just register in advance and come on down and have fun. A complete listing of dates, times and descriptions for the programs are on the Winnipeg Public Library website: wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/ or you can pick up a print copy of At the Library at any WPL branch.

For any student entering grades 7 – 12 in September, there's program designed just for teens. Every summer WPL runs a special program for teens to share interests and ideas, show off some skills and make connections with teens from all parts of the city. This year, there's summer reading challenge which runs all summer. Teens can go to any WPL branch to pick up their Challenge Card. It's a great opportunity to check out a new

library or two, and to find out more about the library's Youth Advisory Council. Each library has a Young Adult (YA) book collection, and many have an area set aside for teens to come and hang out.

We encourage you to bring your students to the library for a visit year round, but at this time of year it can be particularly beneficial. Library staff will be happy to provide a tour and talk about the TD SRC and all of the other exciting programs and events that will be taking place. If it's not possible to bring a class to a WPL branch, then we can come to you! Just get in touch with your local WPL branch to arrange for a staff person and talk with you and your students about TD SRC, Teen Summer Reading, the summer programs and all of the other great things that are going on.

It's easy to join the TD SRC, just go to any WPL branch after June 18 to get a free kit. Kits are available all summer long, so kids can get started at any time. The program runs until August 17, with draws and programs taking place at intervals throughout July and August. I hope that you'll all join in and get your summer read on at the library!



MYRCA Newsletter

By Colette Dufault, MYRCA Chair



Welcome readers!

What a busy and exciting month in the MYRCA world! In May, the MYRCA committee held their first ever Preview



Night. Stella's on Pembina was where MYRCA teachers, librarians, parents, students and fans gathered to get an exclusive sneak peek at the new lists.

MYRCA committee members were on hand to talk about all the new titles and ask trivia questions to the avid readers in the room. Everyone left with a stack of books that were all written by Canadian authors. We already have plans to make it bigger and better next year. Thanks to everyone who came out and shared their love of books with us.

We are pleased to announce the 2019 MYRCA Sundogs nominees.

We have two graphic novels; the sequel to *The Nameless City*, *The Stone Heart* by Faith Erin Hicks and *Brave* by Svetlana Chmakova. There are some mysteries: *The Theory of Hummingbirds* by Michelle Kadarusman and *Bounced* by Ted Staunton. For fans of historical

fiction, we have *Clutch* by Heather Camlot and *A Blinding Light* by Julie Lawson. For lovers of action and adventure, we have *Laura Monster Crusher* by



Wesley King and *The Explorers - The Door in the Alley* by Adrienne Kress. Rounding off the list is a super creepy thriller *The Dolls' Eye* by Marina Cohen and Gordon Korman's *Restart*

which has a surprise twist.

The MYRCA Northern Lights nominees are just as varied and interesting.

surprise twists, you'll love Vicki Grant's Short for Chameleon and The Way Back Home by Allan Stratton. For lovers of fantasy

titles my vote once, students who read 6 or more may vote twice. The voting period begins in late March and will close

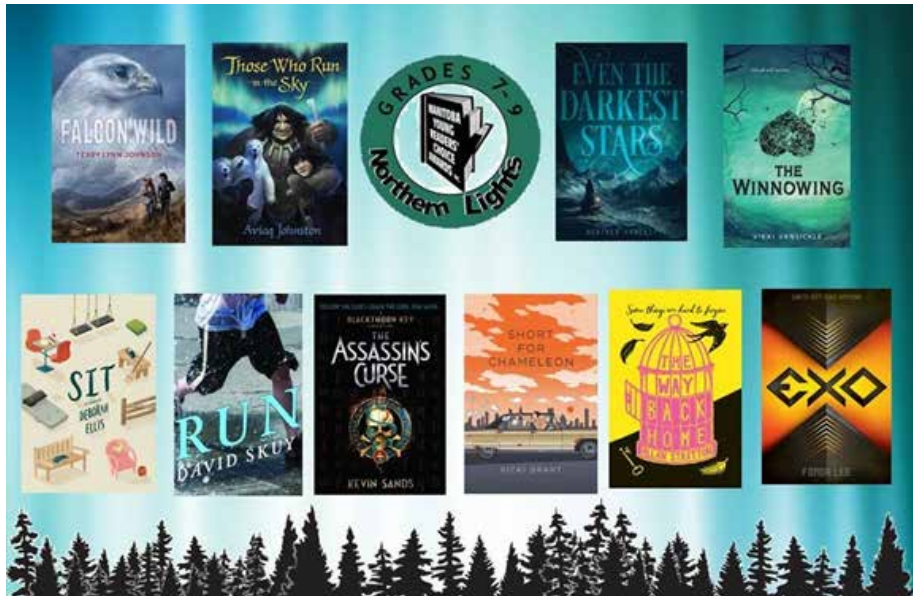


on April 11th, 2019. Visit the website www.myrca.ca for all the information. You need to vote to be invited to the ceremony to meet the winning author when they accept their prize!

Speaking of ceremony... Wesley King will be with us on September 28th to accept his prize. MYRCA is once again partnering with Thin Air, the International Writer's Festival and we encourage you to attend one of the many events during this incredible week. Voting schools will receive their save the date emails before the end of June. The ceremony will be hosted by the Nordale School MYRCA club, thank you!

For all the excited educators, librarians and general book enthusiasts, the poster packs are available to purchase at McNally Robinson. MYRCA stickers with the new logos will be available at the end of June or early July.

That's all the fun news we have for this month! Thanks for joining us for yet another newsletter. Until next time, happy reading!



Deborah Ellis's Sit is a collection of short stories about how chairs play a role in our lives. Run by David Skuy and Falcon Wild by Terry Lynn Johnson are both stories about bravery. The Assassin's Curse is the third instalment in the Blackthorn Key series. If you like

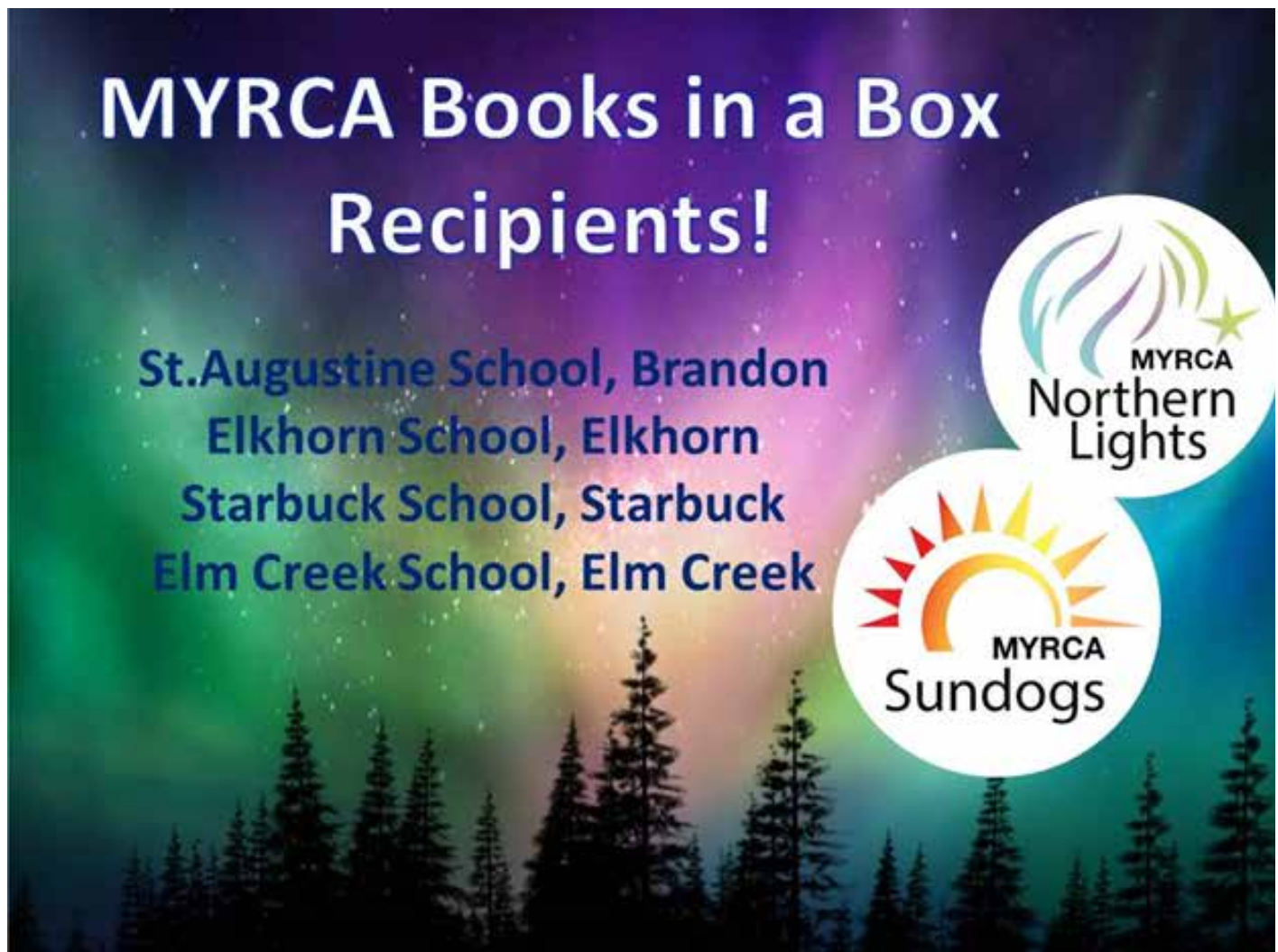
and science-fiction, there is Even The Darkest Stars by Heather Fawcett, The Winnowing by Vikki Vansickle and Exo by Fonda Lee. Our recommended read aloud this year is Those Who Run in the Sky by Inuit author Aviaq Johnson.

Students who read 3 or more

MYRCA Books in a Box Grant


By Colleen Nelson


This year, MYRCA received a grant from the Thomas Sill Foundation to fund four schools outside of Winnipeg who were interested in starting a MYRCA Program. In order to ensure the growth of the program, MYRCA promised to purchase and send the nominated titles to each school for three years.



**MYRCA Books in a Box
Recipients!**

St. Augustine School, Brandon
Elkhorn School, Elkhorn
Starbuck School, Starbuck
Elm Creek School, Elm Creek

**MYRCA
Northern
Lights**

**MYRCA
Sundogs**

The graphic features a background of a colorful aurora borealis over a dark forest of evergreen trees. The text is in white and blue. Two circular logos are on the right: 'MYRCA Northern Lights' with a stylized aurora and star, and 'MYRCA Sundogs' with a stylized sun.



COLLECTIONS



MSLA Executive, 2017–2018

MSLA Mailing Address:
Manitoba School Library Association
307 Shaftesbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB. R3P 0L9

Board of Directors:

President

Christine Robinson

President Elect

Debbie Smith

Past President

Jo-Anne Gibson

Secretary

Jonine Bergen

Treasurer

Joyce Riddell

Standing Committees:

Publications

Lisa Ferguson

Membership

Sarah Coull

Website / Publicity

Brandi Bartok

SAGE Conference

Jo-Anne Gibson

Vivianne Fogarty

Advocacy

Colleen Nelson

Professional Learning

Heather Eby

Awards

Jo-Anne Gibson

Archives

Sheryl Chongva

Members-at-Large

Niki Card

Roberta Chapman
