

Public libraries support teachers throughout the year

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FULL TEXT

Teachers: The librarians at Fox Cities public libraries wish all your students a great school year. And we want you to know that we're here to help.

Some libraries offer Teacher Cards to preschool teachers, homeschooling families, and public and private school teachers. Those cards may have special borrowing rules or access to special collections. Some invite teachers to request materials, kits, multi-media, packs of books, book lists and reference services.

Or teachers might ask for multiple copies of books, common core materials, author studies, story starters and themed book packs. Be sure to check into the possibility of a school van willing to deliver materials.

Librarians are happy to visit classrooms. We love to tell our story to preschoolers, kindergartners and students in elementary and middle schools. We give book talks, conduct special story times and encourage signup for summer reading programs at the library. We're willing to promote literacy at before- and after-school programs and your reading programs.

Schools and libraries also collaborate on bringing in children's authors to the Fox Cities for appearances at a library or school. One of the authors in this year's Fox Cities Book Festival is Avi, the Newbery Medal-winning author of young adult and children's literature. He will be at the Menasha library at 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 11. He also will visit several Fox Cities schools at events that are not open to the public.

Teachers, be sure to bring your students to the library during the school year to learn about the library, enjoy a tour of library resources, and have children find books to check out. Some classes make weekly visits to the library.

In addition to these services, the Menasha Library Children's Room posts a monthly newsletter to teachers, hosts a weekly educational play group for preschoolers, and holds events for preschoolers to sign up for library cards. We also distribute back-to-school literacy bags at the start of each school year, encouraging children to use their public library and do well at school. And the Menasha library offers a service called tutor.com, which provides free online tutors to anyone at any grade level on any subject.

Cooperation between schools and libraries is fundamental to the success of every student. For many schools, the list of required school supplies at the start of each new school year includes a library card. Studies have shown that children who have library cards and use the library regularly do better in school, get better grades and have a more successful school experience. Reading skills are easy to learn when children read for pleasure, and nothing else will have the same impact on their success at school.

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Guest columnist

DETAILS

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