Librarian Interview

Librarianship is a dynamic, rewarding profession. People typically come to the field after experience in another profession, and for many of us that experience was in education. For this assignment, you will interview a school librarian.

The purpose of this assignment is to:

* help you acquire knowledge and gain practical insights into being a successful librarian
* help you develop confidence in interacting with accomplished professionals
* provide opportunities to develop professional contacts in your field of interest

Write a brief paragraph that provides a summary of the librarian that you interviewed (name, title, date of interview, school name, city, state, etc.) followed by the questions with answers.  In the final paragraph, discuss how the lessons learned in the interview and advice given by the interviewee might contribute to your success.

Ask the following questions:

Shelley Scott

1/26/2017

Parkside Elementary

Georgetown, TX

* How long have you been a librarian? 7 years. Previously an early elementary classroom teacher.
* How has the role of the school library/librarian changed since you entered the profession? As I’ve changed districts, the role has changed bc of the district vision. The role itself is similar. I’ve always taught in the library. Now I’m a special areas rotation so the pace is very quick. The new push for Maker’s Space

When I set up my schedule, I had more time for flex so teacher’s could come in for research and techniques. I have 6 50 minute classes and morning and afternoon duty. Previously my teachers would come with their classes and we could collaborate and the teachers could help with the right reading level and behavior management.

* What qualities or skills have contributed the most to your success?
* The biggest is being a classroom teacher. I better understand behavior management, popular reads, suggesting things to teachers to read. It helps me design lessons, collection development, behavior management. Nine years of classroom teacher.
* If you could give a new school librarian advice, what would it be?

One of the biggest things is to have a welcoming environment. Lots of access to high interest books and diverse collection on a variety or reading levels and content. Create a safe open environment where the child feels ownership and can make recommendations or share their opinions.

Time management of balancing duties versus . Know when you can execute tasks Some thigns can be done in the summer like lesson plans

Create a running list of books teachers and students want.

Shelley Scott has been in the education field for the past 16 years. The last seven years she has been an elementary school librarian. I met with Scott on January 24 to discuss career as a librarian. She credits he deeper understanding of how to manage a library efficiently with her previous experience as an elementary teacher. “One of the biggest responsibilities you have is to create a welcoming environment for your patrons,” explains Scott. “Make sure your collection is diverse with a variety of reading levels and content.” She stressed the importance for the library to be a safe environment for readers to take risks and have ownership in their school library community. Students communicate freely with her suggesting books and sharing their opinions of books they’ve read.

During her career, Scott hasn’t seen the role of librarian change much. She notes that there are often differences when you change districts. “In my current position I’m part of the specials rotation. I have six fifty-minute classes a day along with morning and afternoon duty. Each class has about 35 students.” A big difference with this model versus other districts she has worked in is the availability of flex time. When she could flex her library time, the teachers would come in with the classes. This was a tremendous help because she could collaborate with the teacher and the teacher could help students with their appropriate reading level and behavior management. Scott stresses that excellent time management skills are essential for any new librarian.

*Shelley Scott is the librarian at Parkside Elementary in Leander ISD. She can be reached via email at* *shelley.scott@leanderisd.org* *or by phone at (512)570-7100.*

My interview with Shelley Scott was very eye opening. I’ve volunteered in her library before so I knew that time management and good lesson plans are imperative to keep the library running smoothly. I found it interesting that she has very little time to collaborate with teachers. Most collaboration is done via email or quick chats in passing. Luckily she has an extensive background as an elementary school teacher and she can directly translate her own experiences with curriculum, behavior management, and lesson plans into running an efficient campus library. Her one key point of advice was to always keep a running record of books requested by patrons because you never know when funds will come your way!

Notes

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Bookfair

Vendors-follett, title wave—capstone, quality books(online books from them and pebblego)kirkus reviews hornebook reviews school library journal

JLG-junior library guild

Book fair 6k

District $8k

500 suplies

Birthday book club $1500 (JLG)

Distrution-library shut down bc they took the shelves, books and had to dry the carpet. Books were damaged by packers. Teachers and students do without. Two weeks.

$20 a book …..30,000 books ish

Maintenance 3k fir reading/building library $8