

# Arlington Public Schools Library Program

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AHS Librarian & K-12 Lead  
Library Teacher, APS

- Amherst College, BA in Russian & English Lit
- Tufts University, MAT
- University of Maryland, College Park, MLS
- AHS English Teacher (2005-2009); AHS Librarian (2011-present)



**Jennifer Lauchlan**

K-8 Librarian, APS

- William Smith College, BA
- University of Maryland, College Park, MLS
- Montgomery County Public Schools, MD, Media Specialist (2002-2015)
- Public Schools of Brookline, Librarian and ETS (2015-2019)



**Liz Phipps-Soeiro**

K-8 Librarian, APS

- Lesley University, BSEd
- Simmons University, MLS
- Harvard University EdM
- MIT Librarian (2005-2008)
- Watertown Public Schools Librarian (2008-2011)
- Cambridge Public Schools Librarian (2011-2021)

# Reinvesting in Our School Libraries



# **Renewed Commitment to Information Literacy and School Libraries**

K-8 libraries staffed by full time library paraprofessionals

First certified library teacher was hired for K-5 in fall 2019

Second certified library teacher was hired in spring 2021

District funding for library collections was reinstated in SY19-20 and SY20-21

# Updating and Diversifying Library Collections

Added over 1,200 books per building in the past two years

Selected according to district priorities and library needs, identified in collaboration with stakeholders at all levels

- diversity, equity, and inclusion
- social emotional learning
- underrepresented groups in STEM
- current non-fiction resources
- promoting a love of reading

# DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds  
based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the  
Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
[ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp](https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp)

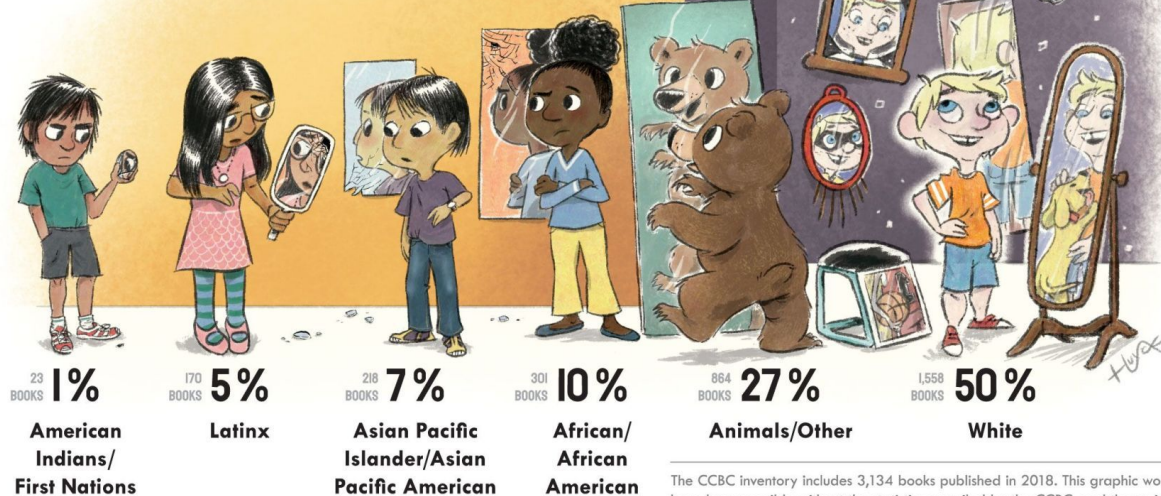


Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen  
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The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

Who gets the most mirrors?

“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created and recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books.”

—Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop

[Books as windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors](#) (click the link to read more!)







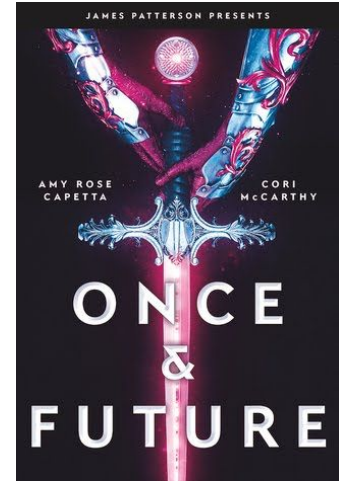
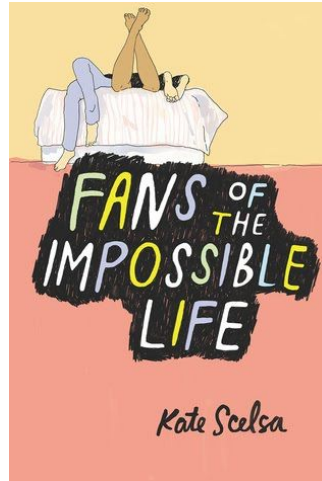


### GSA Book of the Month: Carry On

Our May book of the month is one of my favorite authors! And if you like this one, there's a sequel.

CARRY ON by Rainbow Rowell presents a compelling tale for Harry Potter fans. A world of magic, mages, a Chosen One, and the school rival he spends excessive amounts of time thinking about may seem familiar, but it becomes its own unique and intriguing story. Read as Simon Snow faces his last year at magical boarding school, the Humdrum, the absence of his irritating, handsome, smart and possibly blood-sucking roommate, Baz, and the truth of his existence.

— Isabel, Class of 2023



#StopAsianHate book display and GSA online book reviews

# Strategic Curation

In addition to purchasing, libraries need regular “weeding” of old books

Books are removed because

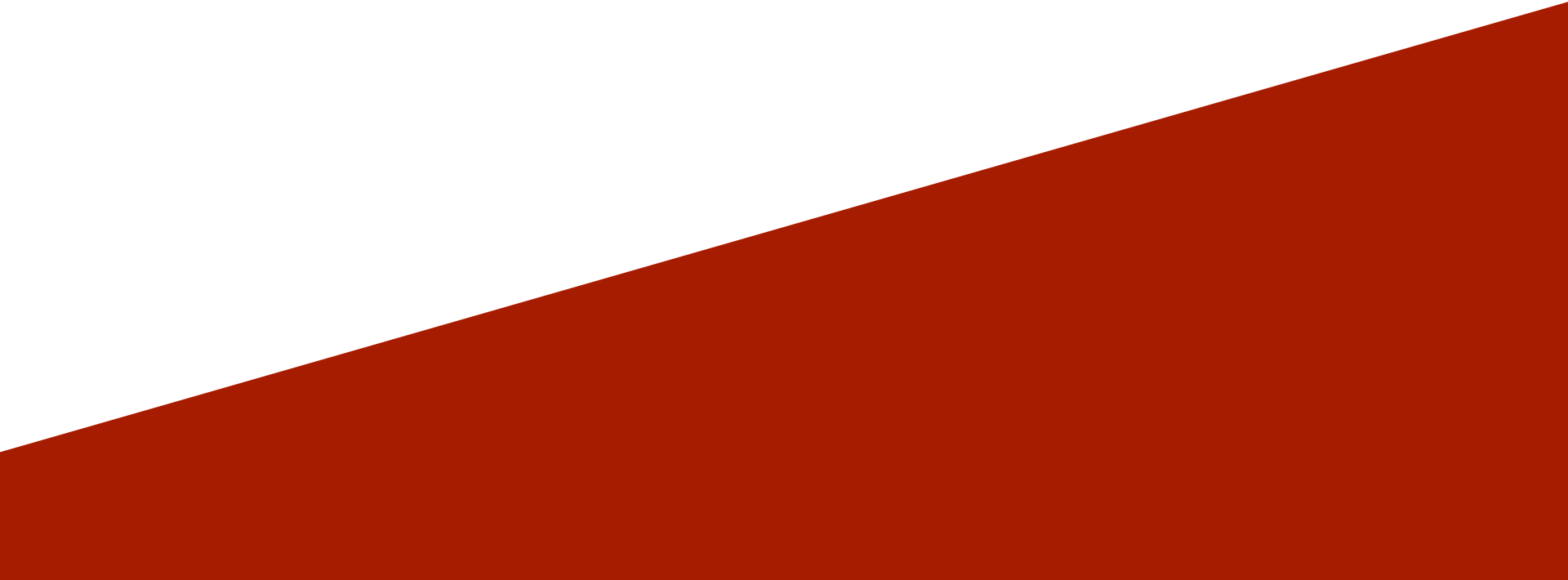
- they contain inaccurate information, including hurtful stereotypes
- they are outdated, unattractive, worn out, or damaged
- better materials have become available





A sampling of some of the outdated books removed from our libraries

# **A Year Like No Other**



# Supporting In Person and Remote Learning Throughout the Year

Supported teachers and students with online resources and educational technology

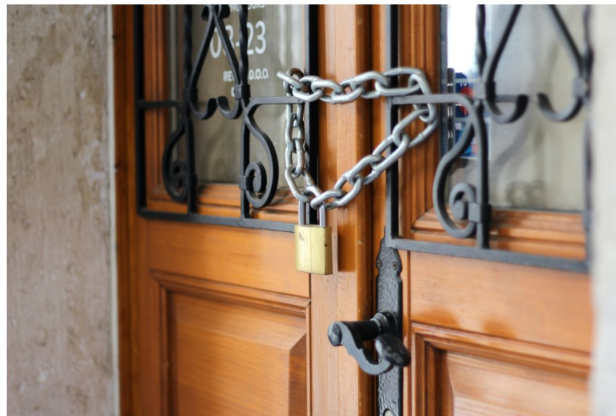
Circulated print books at all schools

Provided curbside library pickup for remote learners

Implemented new models of service delivery, e.g., online office hours, personalized book recommendations by email, and more

## Escape the Library

Ms. Kitsis is locked in the library! Break into the AHS Media Center to rescue the librarian and learn about our digital and remote services by solving five puzzles. All teams who complete the escape room and save Ms. Kitsis will be entered in a special prize drawing.



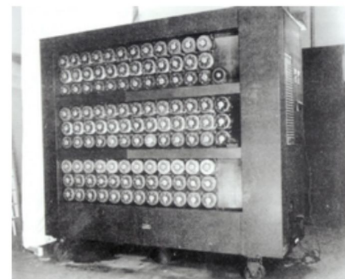
You can see a book just through the door. It looks like it's called Code Talker.



Maybe it's a clue. Maybe you should look it up in the LIBRARY CATALOG. You open the library homepage at [www.tinyurl.com/yourahslibrary](http://www.tinyurl.com/yourahslibrary) and notice the QUICK LINKS. Wow, it looks like everything you could need is right here (hint, hint).

Wow, you can get these ebooks and audiobooks on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone, cool. Anyway, ODYSSEUS makes sense. You remember now, you heard Mr. McCarthy was an English teacher before he became an administrator. The computer unlocks. There is a file on the desktop. Another clue!

### World History in Context CODE BREAKING



World History in Context sounds like the name of a research database. What could it mean? You look down at your phone when it vibrates again.

[AHS Escape the Library digital breakout room](#) (click the link to try it yourself!)

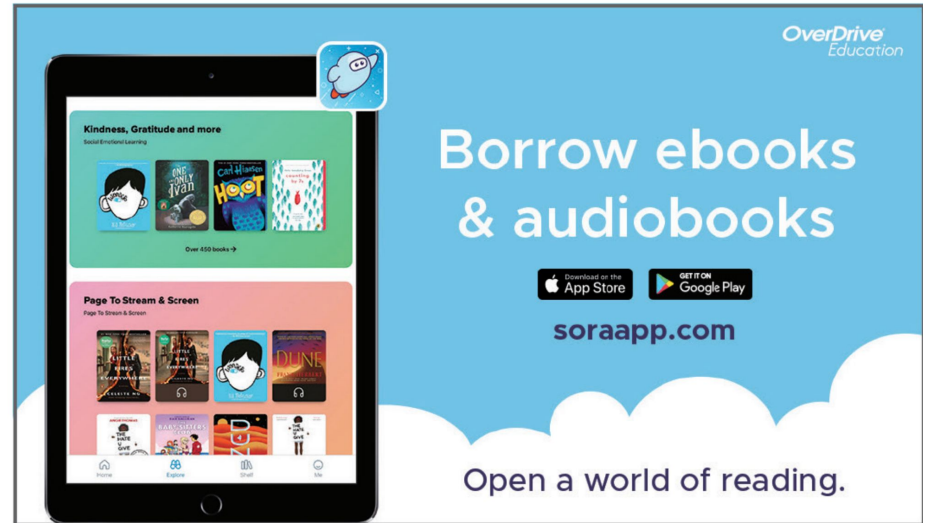


# Empowering Readers with eBooks and Audiobooks

Learn more: [Introducing Sora](#) (K-8), [Getting Started with Sora](#) (AHS)

Introduced Sora to K-8 students beginning in February 2021 following AHS pilot

Partnership with Robbins Library provides thousands more titles



The advertisement features a tablet displaying the Sora app interface. The app shows two main sections: 'Kindness, Gratitude and more' with book covers for 'One and Two', 'Hoot', and 'The Daylight Marriage'; and 'Page To Stream & Screen' with book covers for 'The Daylight Marriage', 'The Daylight Marriage', 'The Daylight Marriage', and 'The Daylight Marriage'. The tablet is set against a blue background with white clouds at the bottom. To the right of the tablet, the text 'Borrow ebooks & audiobooks' is displayed in large white letters. Below this, there are buttons for 'Download on the App Store' and 'GET IT ON Google Play'. The website 'soraapp.com' is listed below the buttons. At the bottom right, the tagline 'Open a world of reading.' is written in white. The 'OverDrive Education' logo is in the top right corner.

OverDrive Education

Borrow ebooks & audiobooks

Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google Play

soraapp.com

Open a world of reading.

# Engaging Students with Streaming Video

Swank K-12 Streaming provides legal streaming to hundreds of high-quality feature films for Gibbs, OMS, and AHS

Classroom and home access for flexibility, equity, and engagement



# Fostering Community and Connection

District Mock Caldecott

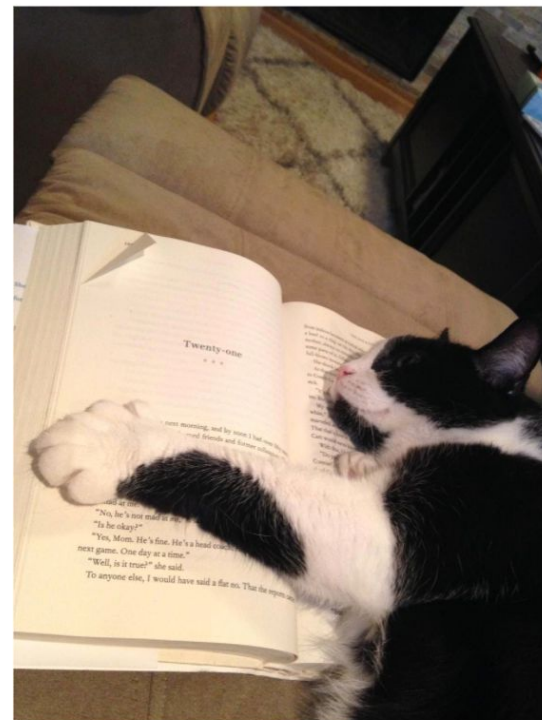
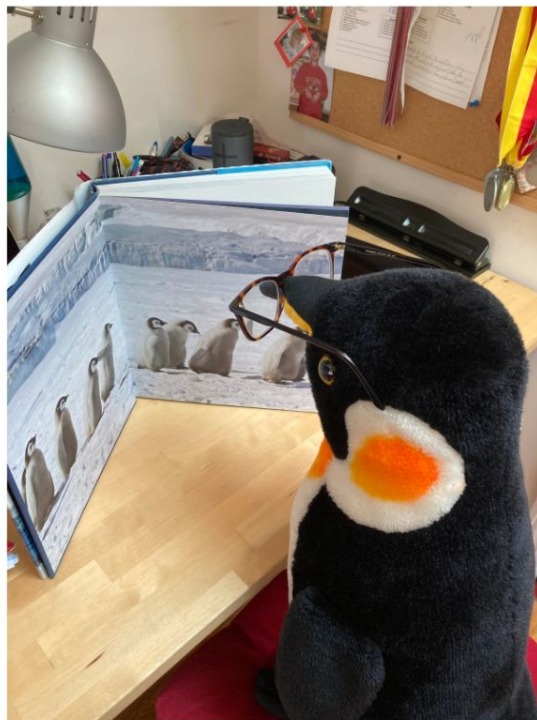
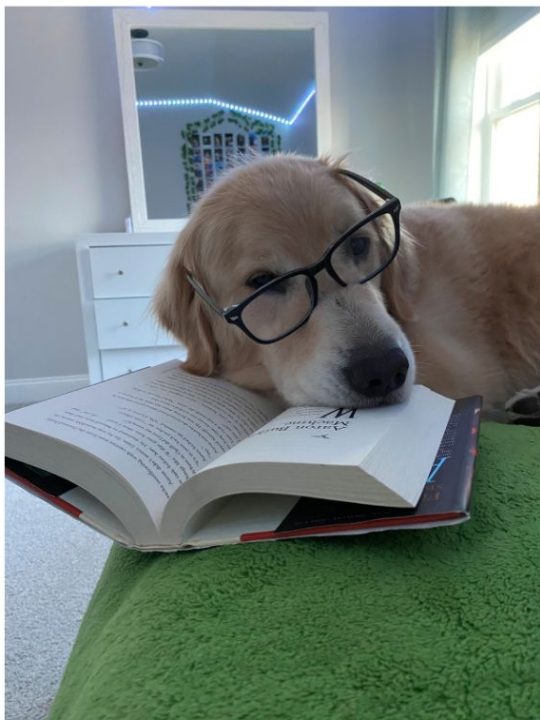
Online book groups

March Book Madness virtual bracket

Poetry Open Mic

Pets Caught Reading photo contest

Picture Books and a Puppy aka Library  
Time with the New AHS Therapy Dog



Congratulations to our winners and [catch all the AHS pets reading online](#)

# Exploring Digital Responsibility

Library paras lead regular discussions about safe, thoughtful, and ethical use of technology, including

- safety and responsibility
- digital footprint and identity
- media balance and well-being

Content is based on Massachusetts Digital Learning and Computer Science Standards and adapted from Common Sense Media

# To the Future and Beyond





# Goals and Priorities for SY21-22

Foster a lifelong love of reading and learning

Empower students and staff to be critical thinkers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information

Ensure equity, consistency, and professionalism across our school library programs

Create and maintain physical and digital collections that are representational, informative, relevant, and current

**“I have always imagined that paradise  
will be a kind of library.”**

We think Jorge Luis Borges had it right



“Getting information off the Internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant”

# Action Steps

Develop and implement scope and sequence for research skills

Provide professional development and direct student instruction

Conduct a diversity audit of library collections

Create a district library web presence

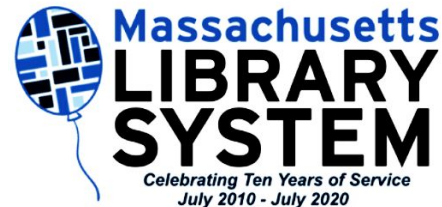
Prepare for the AHS Media Center move

# Utilizing Library Databases and Research Tools

Provide professional development on new database resources in K-8, including

- Gale in Context
- Britannica School
- Boston Globe and New York Times

Incorporate research tools in K-8 content area projects, including databases and NoodleTools



# The Path Forward

Hire professional staff to grow our capacity to support teaching and learning, with a goal of one certified librarian per building

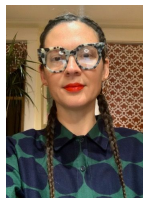
Invest in our print and digital collections to ensure information needs are met and all experiences are represented and valued

Value school libraries as an essential part of K-12 education





**Susan Bisson**  
**Director of Digital**  
**Learning**



**Liz Phipps-Soeiro**  
**K-8 Librarian**



**Jennifer Lauchlan**  
**K-8 Librarian**



**Stacy Kitsis**  
**AHS Librarian**  
**K-12 Library Lead Teacher**



**Alison Vaishnaw**  
**Bishop Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Justine Bloch**  
**Bishop/Hardy Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Nancy Alfonso**  
**Brackett Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Rebecca Aaronson**  
**Dallin Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Danielle Jensen**  
**Hardy Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Renae Nichols**  
**Peirce Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



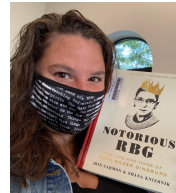
**Chrissie Collins**  
**Stratton Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Doreen Cameron**  
**Stratton Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Jamie Webster**  
**Thompson Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Nicole Doliner**  
**Gibbs Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Edith Moissand**  
**Ottoson Library**  
**Paraprofessional**



**Grace Hoglund**  
**AHS Library**  
**Paraprofessional**

**Arlington Public Schools Library Team, 2020-2021**