

International School Library Month!

This month marks the start of International School Library Month, an annual celebration of school libraries worldwide! This year's theme is "Finding Your Way to Good Health and Well Being".

For centuries, libraries have been an essential source for learning and children's development. They are spaces to house and maintain a huge number of books, archives and educational resources. School libraries are children's very first introduction to these spaces. They equip them with key skills, such as researching, literacy and issuing, renewing and returning books.

International School Library Month is important when celebrating the wealth of fiction that libraries can give to young children. Whether it's Harry Potter, Roald Dahl or Alice in Wonderland, libraries encourage children to read a variety of stories, authors and sources. Aside from enjoyment, reading is also a key way to improve children's vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) and triggers their imagination.

Fun Facts for International School Library Month

- The most overdue library book was returned after 122 years! Since 1889, the Camden School of Arts in Australia library had Charles Darwin's *Insectivorous Plants* taken out. It was a first edition by the British biologist, but wasn't returned until 2011!
- The largest libraries in the world are the Library of Congress in Washington D.C and London's British Library. They're both estimated to hold a whopping 170 million items from almost every language and faith group in the world.
- Once upon a time, some of the most famous figures in literature originally worked as librarians. This includes the poet, Phillip Larkin, philosopher David Hume and Lewis Carroll who wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.
- The oldest in the world is the Library of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh, Assyria (modern-day Iraq). This is believed to have been built in the 7th century B.C. and was rediscovered by archaeologists in the 1850s.
- There are just over 4 thousand public libraries in the UK, with around 233 million visits.

Ways to get involved...

There are a range of activities the students at Tabor can complete to celebrate International School Library Month such as...

[Digital Bookmark Exchange Project](#) - Match with other schools around the world and exchange homemade bookmarks made by your students. Bookmark exchanges are virtually.

[The Corona Multimedia Showcase](#) - Corona Multimedia Showcase is an international celebration of creativity in the time of a pandemic. It invites young people from age 3 to age 19 and their families to participate in an international online exhibit of creative work that reflects their lives in this time of COVID-19. The deadline to submit entries is October 9th. More information is available on their website at: <https://coronashowcase.org/>.

