



My name is Marjory Gardner and I am a freelance children's illustrator living in Melbourne. I would like to add my voice in support of librarians and libraries.

I really worry about the fact that librarians seem to be disappearing from our primary schools. Librarians are so important; they provide a valuable resource for teachers as well as children. I visit a lot of schools giving talks and workshops on illustration. Schools with librarians (and especially full-time librarians) have a discernibly different culture. The children are enriched by the services the librarians provide. They are introduced so much more fully to the world of books and literature. Reluctant readers are helped to access this world. Classroom teachers in librarian-less schools often do not have the time to dedicate to encourage children in this way, or to foster a love of learning through books.

I rang a suburban primary school this week and asked to speak to the librarian. Unfortunately for her (and the school) she told me it was her last week at the school. A new budget had been launched and the school administration had decided it could no longer provide for the part time librarian. I feel very strongly that the school will suffer as a result.

Please encourage schools to maintain librarians and libraries; they are so important. The money saved by cutting the librarian may be a short term benefit for the school, however the long term repercussions could be devastating.

Thank you,

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