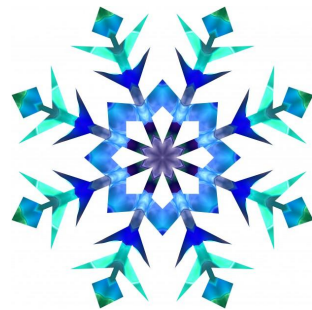




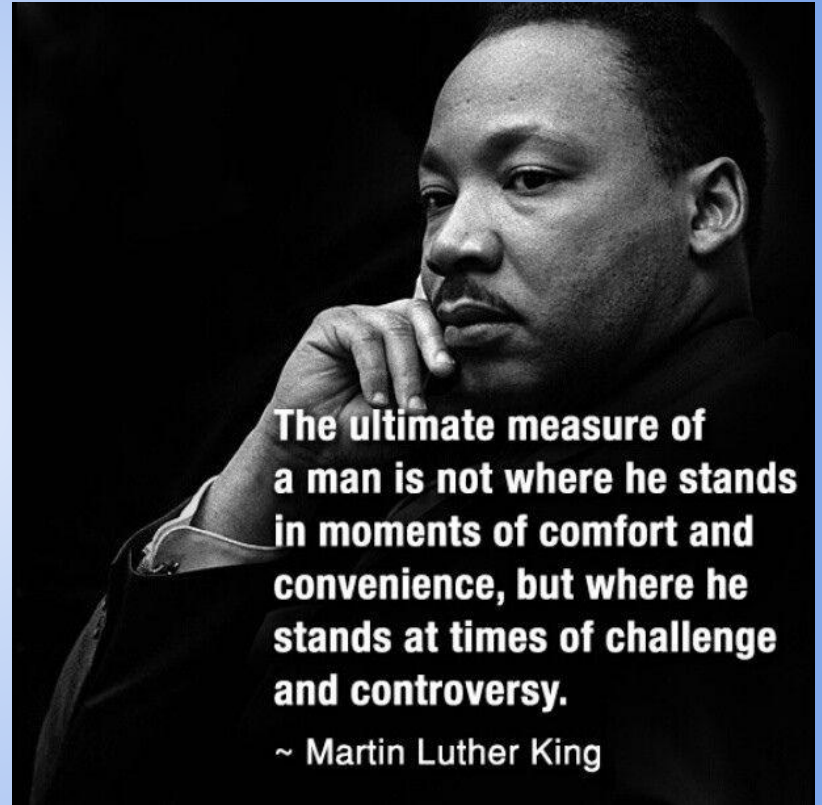
# SLAWNY DIRECT

December 2020



# Changes & Challenges

This has been quite a year! We have all faced many changes and challenges. While SLAWNY has continued to adapt during this time of COVID-19, we are hopeful that 2021 is a better year for everyone. This issue, created in December 2020, will focus on some of the great things that are happening despite those challenges we are all facing!

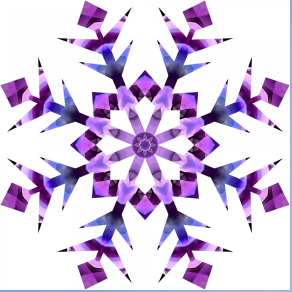


# Book Ninja Program

By grant recipient Tina Pierce, Arcade Elementary



The Book Ninja Program, or "BN" for those in the know, has gotten off to a slow start at Arcade Elementary School. In-person school is the hybrid model, so most students are only in the building for two days a week, and we're coming off of two plus weeks of total remote school. The Book Ninjas believe every student should own at least one book that is theirs and no one else's, and that they get to keep forever and ever. The Book Ninjas are staff members who have a relationship with many students, not just those in one classroom, such as a speech therapist or music teacher. Through this relationship, the Book Ninja selects a book that they know the student will like and leave it in a place they will find with a note stating that they have been 'Book Ninja'd'! A few students have been ninja'd so far and talk is starting around the school as to who these Ninjas might be...



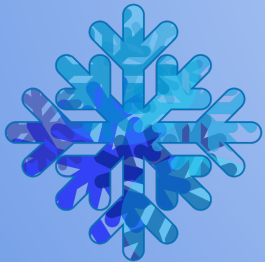
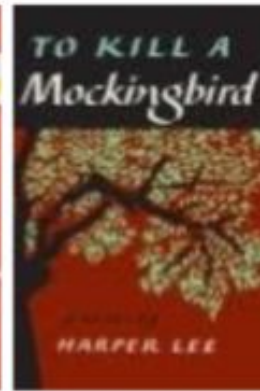
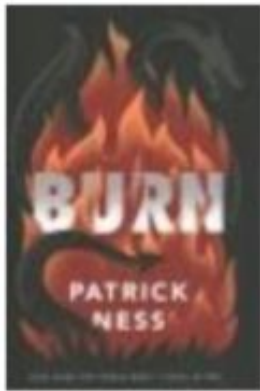
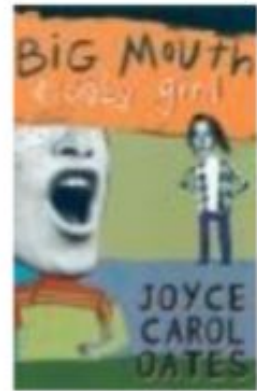
# eBook Program

**By grant recipient Jennifer Patterson, Tonawanda MS/HS**

A big shout of “THANKS!” to SLAWNY for the recent grant award that I will utilize to put towards the purchase of eBooks in both my middle school and high school libraries. Due to budget cuts, we got rid of Overdrive about three years ago because, believe it or not, it wasn’t getting used that much! Well, that was well before the day and age of remote learning and COVID wasn’t even in our vocabulary yet! Little did we know how eBooks would be needed!! Currently, the only eBooks I have in my collections are the nonfiction eBooks offered through BOCES. So, putting and submitting a fiction, chapter book eBook order asap was a top priority when this grant came just in time! Thanks to input from classroom and ELA teachers, I’ve ordered some great titles including Burn, The Hate U Give, One of Us is Next, Hatchet, City of Bones and the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, alongside some timeless classics such as A Christmas Carol, To Kill A Mockingbird, The Scarlet Letter, and Lord of the Flies among many others. One of my goals this year is to increase book circulation, and this is a great resource to do just that! And, it couldn’t come at a better time as we head into a new year and another school closure with the upcoming holiday break.

# (Continued...) eBook Program

By grant recipient Jennifer Patterson, Tonawanda MS/HS



# School Library Advocacy: Don't Go It Alone!

## By Maria Muhlbauer, Membership Chair



It's difficult to imagine that anyone employed in education has a more rewarding position than that of a school librarian. Who wouldn't want to assist staff members, promote amazing literature, and watch students learn and grow over multiple years? The downside of this fantastic profession is that often the role of the school librarian is misunderstood or undervalued within the larger educational community. Advocacy for school librarian positions and the importance of effective library programs is crucial for the continued success of our students.

Although the need for library advocacy will not disappear, it is the hope of the SLAWNY advocacy group that we no longer feel alone in our efforts. There are four scheduled meetings on the calendar for 2021. The purpose of each meeting is to connect with others in the school library community to discuss advocacy strategies and put plans into action.

January 2021 will offer two scheduled advocacy sessions. On January 7th, Jen Park, Matthew Park, and Dawn Zeig will be presenting their session entitled "Seen But Not Read: Advocating for (School) Libraries."

(Continued...)

# School Library Advocacy: Don't Go It Alone!

## By Maria Muhlbauer, Membership Chair



These parents, who happen to be librarians and educators, instituted a successful library advocacy campaign in their community. They will be providing the step-by-step process they developed to expand school library services within their children's district. January 19th will usher in a session with NYLA Executive Director, Jeremy Johannesen, and NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Briana McNamee. Although SLAWNY's advocacy group is taking on a local focus, this session with NYLA officials will provide information about the advocacy efforts already underway at the state level. Both sessions will be via Zoom at 4:30 PM. Check your email in the coming weeks for the Zoom link.

To assist with ongoing advocacy efforts, a LibGuide page is under development. The advocacy group is seeking submissions of advocacy documents, tips, and tricks to post on the LibGuide to assist librarians in their advocacy efforts. Use the Google Form link on the top of the LibGuide or email Maria Muhlbauer at [mmuhlbauer@iroquoiscsd.org](mailto:mmuhlbauer@iroquoiscsd.org) to send in your ideas. Be on the lookout for a chance to assist with a library advocacy video later this year!



# 2021: Looking Forward to a Better Year

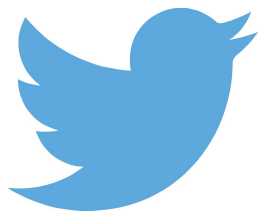
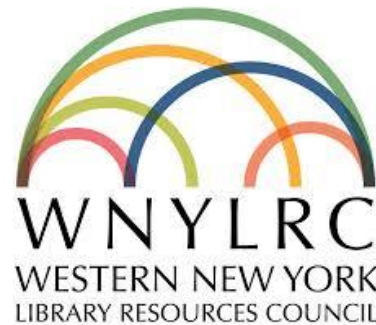
By Megan Moelbert

First I should apologize for the lateness of the newspaper, then for the format (I fought with Venngage, then gave up). I would have liked more articles, and I should have taken advantage of the help offered by UB students to create this newsletter. Apologies aside, I feel that we are all facing our own difficulties both personally and professionally. 2020 has not been kind, and although we are working to do our best given our situations, we continue to deal with more unknowns and things out of our control. It's hard to plan my annual events, competitions, clubs and more when I still don't know what I can and cannot do in the next month. Part of me is pleased that I was able to recently host a number of visits/observations with library science grad students. Part of me feels that I should be doing more to instruct students during remote learning days. It is my belief, though, that we are headed into better days. SLAWNY has a lot planned for the coming months, and I hope that you will consider participating in the book studies, advocacy opportunities, general membership and network meetings. If you are struggling, remember that there are others out there that can help you! Don't hesitate to reach out to someone at SLAWNY if you need to connect with someone that is in tune with what you are facing. On that note, I wish a Happy New Year to everyone!





# Stay Connected!



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