Fenway helps students think critically with the BLACK HISTORY ASSEMBLY and the PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS
Fenway’s Librarian, Bonnie McBride, receives the PRESIDENT’S AWARD from the Massachusetts School Library Association

Bonnie McBride has made Fenway’s library one of the most popular places at school.

Fenway’s Librarian, Ms. McBride, is one of this year’s recipients of the 2018 Massachusetts School Library Association President’s Award, which honors an MSLA member who in a career of one to five years has made a significant impact on student learning through a quality school library program.

Ms. McBride will receive the award on March 25, 2018, at the MSLA Awards Banquet at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts. This awards dinner is a part of the MSLA Annual Conference, “Future Ready.” She will also participate in the IdeaLab, creating a tabletop display featuring projects and initiatives from Fenway’s library program.
Since 2013, Ms. McBride has worked at Fenway, and she became the Librarian in 2015. She earned her MSLIS from Simmons College in 2015; along with being a certified school library teacher, she is also trained as an archivist. She is passionate about school libraries bringing equitable access to information for all students.

Her accomplishments include a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Family Literacy Night, where she invited all SEI families and friends to come for fun literacy-themed activities and free books. She has brought authors Gareth Hinds and Jason Reynolds to the school to present to students. On top of that, she's helping to create a culture of reading by honoring "Drop Everything And Read" (DEAR), book tastings, book speed dating, and bathroom book blurbs, all of which have contributed to doubling the number of books checked out by students. Finally, she has been collaborating with teachers, especially science and humanities, on research projects, ranging from the "Science of Smells" to "Immigration Narratives."

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Fenway CHAMPIONS in Basketball and Debate
Meme Carter, pictured above, and the Girls Basketball team won both the Division 4 North Sectional and the City Championships. They played at the TD garden for the state championship semifinal game.

Natanya Russell is the city champion in the Novice division as she went undefeated in all 5 Debate rounds by herself! She also came in first in the top ten speakers awards. Yajaira Alvarenga and Mayiris Benoit were second place winners in the Junior Varsity division for Debate en Español. Both Mayiris and Yajaira also made it to the top ten list for speaker awards.
Kate Fussner, ELA and ESL teacher, published in BOSTON GLOBE for her story about expressing love through writings and drawings

Ms. Fussner, English/Language Arts and ESL teacher who came to Fenway in 2016, was recently published in the Boston Globe for her article entitled, "In just a few words, Dad sends oceans of love."

The article describes how her passion for communicating via postcards and drawings began with her father: "When I was homesick to my core, the postcards began to arrive. My father had started to send them before we even left the Philadelphia area. Each postcard contained no more than two sentences — our dog had eaten an entire pizza, a neighbor had told him a terrible joke — but it was a glance at life back home, a reminder that I was loved. The postcards fueled me, and the daily arrival of their often hilarious and sometimes strange messages became a source of excitement not just for me but also for my cabinmates, who wondered at this father who would send so little so often."

When asked what inspired her to write the article, Fussner said: "My dad and I are very close, and it was literally the text that begins the essay, a simple message from my dad, that sparked the memories of how he's communicated with me over the years as I've lived away from him. My father has been a model for me in so many ways; his quirky communication style is just one of those ways."

Not only is Ms. Fussner a published writer herself, but also she has led Fenway's students in publishing their own writing on the website, the Panther Press. Ms. Fussner’s students have been reading and writing in six different genres (poetry, news, Op-Eds, personal essays, profiles and reviews). They have worked closely in teams to read like writers, draft, revise, and edit
their work, and the first issue is now live! Read the pieces and continue to follow students’ growth as readers and writers at http://pantherpress.fenwayhs.org/.

Fenway Junior, Ai-Zhen Tung, PUBLISHED Online

See the blog post featured in the article, "Pretty Hurts: Making School Relevant: How an English teacher’s assignment 'opened my eyes’” here.

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