

Strengthen your program... the Next Steps

*Suggestions for “adding value” to your program
and to your personal credentials:*



- **Apply for a grant!** Bringing in money always impresses administrators and parents--anything from Mass. Cultural Council to bring in an author to a more ambitious grant--many are listed on the internet (search strings to find some "school library grants" or "school technology grants" or this link for educators at <http://www.nea.org/grants/grantsawardsandmore.html>)
- **Master a new technology**--spend this summer becoming the complete expert on a piece of equipment or a software program in your building that is under-utilized: flip cameras, smart board, kidspiration, CPS devices, blogs, etc. Learn it inside out and figure out how it can be used in very specific ways to help support student learning and curriculum areas. Be prepared to offer a teacher or student workshop as soon as school starts to show everyone and be ready to offer support to spread the knowledge.
- **Sign up now to join a new committee next year**--school council, literacy team, critical friends group, etc. It gets you out in front of your peers and helps you get the library's voice into all learning decisions.
- **Plan an advocacy blitz** for the next academic year. Put together a presentation for a PTA/PTO meeting or school council to show what the library does to support student learning. Put together a presentation for school committee to highlight one project or program you are especially proud of and present it WITH YOUR STUDENTS. Field a group of parent supporters that you will keep in touch with weekly to let them know how to support your library.
- **Take a course toward licensure in instructional technology!** Our administrators need to know that library teachers are technology teachers. Having both licenses PROVES this.
- **Master the new MLA citation format** and become the “Go-to-PRO” for teachers and students. Plan a Citation Bootcamp for your faculty and add a special section to your webpage.
- **Do a Webpage Makeover**, bringing your webpage resources up to date. Give it a 21st century feel and chock it FULL of what you do – from projects to programs. Pictures! Links! Quotes! Remember – your webpage represents your program to your students, faculty, administration, school committee, parents and community. Let it SHOUT!
- **Plan a new curriculum unit** with a teacher or teachers. Now is the time to do the things that you have promised “we really oughtta...” Apply for summer curriculum money – or – just do it because of the benefit of making yourself indispensable.