



# Library Annual Report 2023-2024

## Overview

The goal for this year was to make the library into a “third place”. The third place is the term for a space that is “separate from home and work where we seek conversation, neutral ground, and comfort in feeling connected” (Wood 2020). The library has become quite a vibrant space at Pierrefonds Community High School. Students came to use the library, not only to take out books, but to play board games, to socialize with friends, to unwind by colouring pages or even take a short nap during breaks, to use the printer to print out CVs for prospective employment or even to just print out images to decorate their lockers, and so much more. The library is a space where students are free to be themselves and to express themselves.

Staff often booked the library through an online booking system implemented this year in order to facilitate the process. The library was often used for group discussions and group work, for tests and exams, project presentations, or just as a change of scenery.

The reference collection was integrated into the regular collection in the hopes that these books would actually be used by students. Outdated books from the reference collection were also weeded, as we had some dating back from the 1960s that haven’t been checked out in at least 20 years. A teachers resources section was also created so that these books could be more easily accessed by staff. The library collection was also moved around in the hopes that books would be arranged in a way that was easier for students to navigate, and to also accommodate the growing manga and comic book/graphic novels sections.

As was recommended by our previous librarian Ms. Case, the Gale online encyclopedia database subscription was not renewed due to very low usage. Other comparable and free online databases and encyclopedias are [available for use with our board](#), so the budget was put towards expanding our French, graphic novel, and manga collections.

Furthermore, five WOTP students did their stage in the library in order to gain real-life work experience. These students helped with shelving, processing, and weeding books, keeping the library tidy, and helping to shift the library’s collection. A handful of students have also helped out with shelving and book processing for the IB service as action.

# Services

## Presentations

A few presentations were held at the beginning of the school year. Library orientations for several classes of students were held so that students could learn about the various library resources and services available to them, and to familiarize themselves with the library's physical collection. Sessions on how to do research and how to evaluate information were held for some secondary 3 and secondary 4 students' classes at the beginning of the school year as well.



## Book selection

Several classes have visited the library throughout the year so that students could take out books for their French and/or English class(es) or for special projects. Book bins on particular topics were also made available for teachers upon request for their classes. Topics included books on extreme sports, vikings, biology, history of Quebec, Indigenous peoples, important people in Black history, and much more.

## Displays

Various displays were created throughout the year to help stimulate interest in reading. Displays for Black History Month, Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation for Orange shirt day, National Poetry Month, Asian Heritage month, themes relating to the current month, or various holidays taking place were created to make our collection more visible. Notably, the "Blind date with a book" display was a big success, and garnered much interest by many students and staff alike, some of which were not usual library patrons.



## Activities

### Book flower workshop



As a fun, free activity, held over two days for Valentine's day, thirteen students attended a workshop teaching them how to make roses out of book pages from discarded books. Good feedback was received from the students who attended the workshop and many expressed interest in joining another workshop in the future.

### Battle of the Books

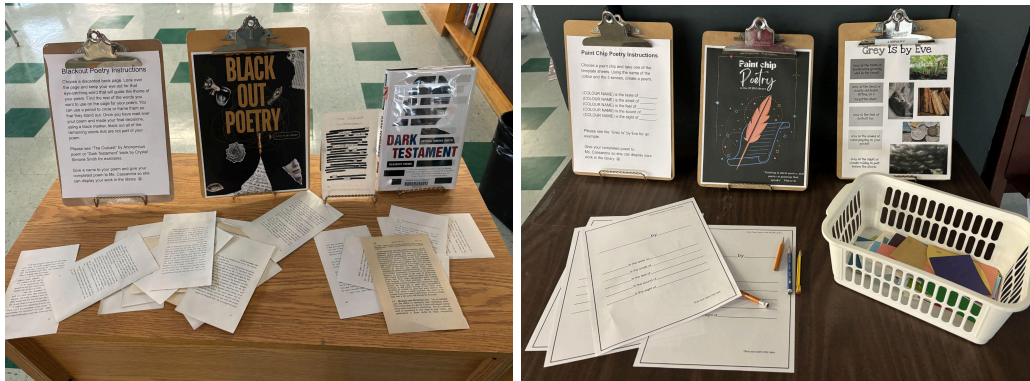
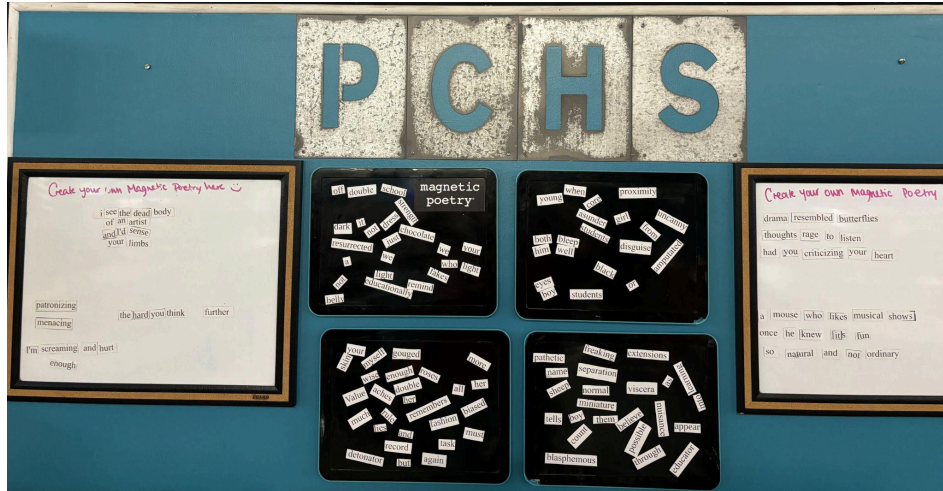


Battle of the Books (BoB) is a reading competition held by the English high school librarians in Montreal. In teams of three to six people, students were tasked to read twelve predetermined titles, in order to prepare for the competition. Different battles are then held in which teams are quizzed on the books they have read. We had initially started off with twenty students separated into four teams. However, these numbers dwindled down due to the huge demands of school work. In the end, nine students made into two teams, a senior and a junior team, competed against each other in the in-school battle held on Tuesday February 20th. Our senior team were the victors, but both teams were able to go home with book prizes, donated to us by Librairie Clio. On Thursday March 14th, our senior team competed in the next level of the competition at the BoB Regional Battle at Beaconsfield High School. They were competing against BHS, John Rennie, and Mac High. Although our team did not make it to the next level of the competition, they competed fiercely. The scores of the Battle were quite close, and the day still ended with a win, as they were able to take home free books as prizes for a job well-done, and a pizza party to celebrate.



## Poetry Month activities

For National Poetry Month in April, students and staff alike were invited to participate in a few poetry activities held in the library. These activities included Blackout Poetry, Paint Chip Poetry, and Magnetic Poetry. Quite a few staff and students participated in the fun, and quite a few gems were created in the process.



## Collection development

A total of 802 books were purchased this school year, and we received a donation of 162 books, with a total of 964 new books added to our collection this year. As the students' interest lay heavily with both manga and graphic novels, to help foster a love of reading, the main focus this year was to expand both of these collections. Studies have shown that manga/graphic novels are useful not only for English language learners and French language learners, but particularly for students learning these as a second language.<sup>1</sup> In fact, these sections have seen the most traffic this school year (see [PCHS Loan Statistics 23-24](#)). Other emphasis was placed on continuing to diversify the collection. As we have a large ethnic population, many books featuring diverse characters were purchased, with Own Voices titles being a priority.

<sup>1</sup> For further reading on this subject, please see [References](#).

## Expenses

This year's total budget was \$17,520. A total of \$17,512.86 was spent. \$518.35 was spent on library materials, such as book laminate and spine labels. \$16,994.51 was spent on French and English books. For a complete view of the library's expenses from this year, please click [here](#).

## Statistics

A total of 3912 physical books have been borrowed this year, compared to 2532 last year. This averages to around 20 books per day. We currently have 18 books that were not returned. The list with prices of the books were given to Ms. Milne, so that they could be billed on the concerned students' accounts. Readership has gone up for our online collection. As of May 15th, 1967 eBooks were taken out on Sora this school year, compared to 821 last year (see [Appendix I](#)).

## Plans for the following school year

A major inventory of books needs to be done in the library. In the merger with Riverdale, many books were either lost or given away without being removed from the system. Thus, the number of books in Regard does not reflect the actual number of books in our collection. An inventory of our collection would be most beneficial in order to rectify this problem, however a laptop with a USB port for our scanner will be needed to achieve this, as the scanner was not compatible with a macbook nor a chromebook when an inventory was attempted this school year.

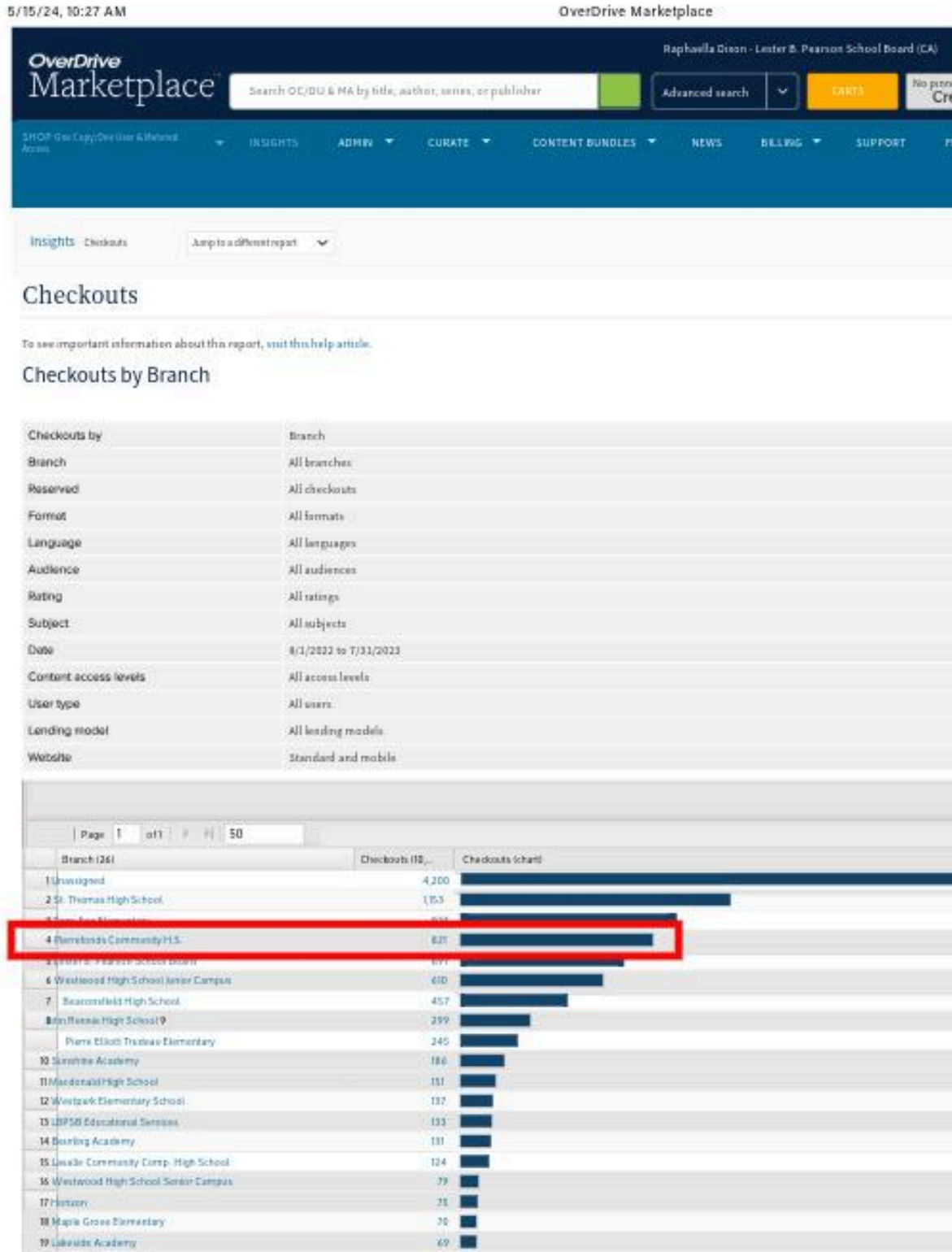
In order to bring the library up-to-date, further major weeding of the non-fiction collection also needs to be done, as books from the 1960-2000s that are outdated are still in our collection.

# References

- Chevant-Aksoy, Aurélie. (2022). CULTURE WITH PICTURES: Blogs BD for Multiple Literacies in the French Language Classroom. *Culture and Content in French: Frameworks for Innovative Curricula*, edited by Aurélie Chevant-Aksoy and Kathryne Adair Corbin, Lever Press, pp. 261–82. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3998/mpub.12217076.13>.
- Cho, S. (J.) (2023). Learning English through Manga (Japanese Comic Books). *TESOL Journal*, 00, e764. <http://doi.org/10.1002/tesj.764>.
- Wing, Dawn K. (2015 April 13). Using comics to teach English language learners. *School Library Journal*. Retrieved February 8, 2024 from <http://www.slj.com/story/using-comics-to-teach-english-language-learners>.
- Wood, Emma (2020 September 30). The Rise of Third Place and Open Access Amidst the Pandemic, *American Library Association*. Retrieved February 8, 2024 from <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/diversity/odlos-blog/rise-third-place>.

# Appendix I

## Sora 2022-2023 statistics



# Sora 2023-2024 Statistics

