



## PCHS LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS REPORT 2020

*“Merger to Pandemic Lockdown”*

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### 2019-2020 A NEW, UNPRECEDENTED, & CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE

In the Fall of 2019, Riverdale High School and Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School transitioned to form *Pierrefonds Community High School*. The novel coronavirus pandemic, declared in March 2020, shut down the world as we knew it. The **library learning commons (LLC)**, or the “physical and virtual collaborative **learning** hub of the school” ([canadianschoollibraries.ca](http://canadianschoollibraries.ca)) adapted to promote the personalization of deep learning, inquiry and the integration of technology. The PCHS LLC accepted the challenges to continue to meet the needs of our school’s community by providing a safe and welcoming environment for all where creation, collaboration and communication are encouraged.

- serving approximately 970 students and 125 staff members
- print and digital resources
- over 18,000 books in three languages
- magazines in English and in French, in print and digital versions

Our collection constantly changes in response to the programs offered at PCHS, the curriculum, and the vastly differing needs and abilities of our students. The LLC is flexible and adapts.

The global lockdown meant **working from home** to support **digital learning** including:

- multiple, weekly **Zoom** meetings
- contributing and participating in numerous **webinars and Quick PD’s**
- providing an **“Ask the Librarian”** online service for research questions
- curating resources on **pandemics, anti-racism and LGBTQ pride**

### REGARD DATABASE

The Library uses Regard, a GRICS product and a standard throughout the Lester B. Pearson School Board. The merged database for high schools makes it possible to share the combined knowledge of the Board’s high school librarians. It also allows for inter-school loans. It is regularly updated. Contingency plans are in place when the database is inaccessible due to network failure. This platform is not available for work-at-home.

# TECHNOLOGY

## ONLINE DATABASES

- available at school and at home via the library webpage & LBPSB Fusion/Single Sign On
- SSO/Fusion/Google accounts management provided by school librarian to all students
- an average of \$1300.00 charged to the library's budget annually. \$500 paid by ESD
- password accessible
- databases provide MLA Citations to help curb plagiarism
- Sora by Overdrive e-books
- currently offered as encyclopedias, media, news, research & curriculum: CPI.Q Infotrac, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Universalis, Edumedia + Scoop + much more!

## SMARTBOARD

- convenient permanent installation in the library
- available to both teachers & students with convenient flex-style furniture
- practical, in-demand addition to library learning commons bookings

## HARDWARE & SOFTWARE

- 16 PC units equipped with Windows 10 and Google™ Apps for Education
- 16 Chromebooks + charging station
- free password-accessible wi-fi access
- headsets & disposable hygienic covers
- **2053 computer sign-ins with an increase in students' use of their own devices in the LLC.**

### Recommendation

- Additional Chromebooks™ to complement the LBPSB switch to Google™ would help with implementation of cellphone usage policy
- Consistent use of Google™ Apps must be encouraged throughout the school
- Add charging stations to LLC for student personal devices (outlets/extensions)

## FUSION PORTAL, SINGLE SIGN ON (SSO) & GOOGLE™ APPS

- all students & staff members have access to g-mail and electronic resources
- Google™ Apps For Education strongly encouraged

**Recommendation:** A significant portion of our budget is spent on online resources. Students and teachers must be encouraged to maximize use of this valuable investment. **Teachers should consider embedding links to these resources in their assignments and projects.**

## PRINTERS

- Lexmark MS810dn - students pay 0.10 for each black-and-white page
- HP Colour Jet M452 – students pay 0.15 for each page
- teachers do not pay for prints

We may need to re-evaluate charges for printing to better reflect the rising costs of paper and ink. Students may be encouraged to submit their Google Docs electronically.

## SCANNER

- HP ScanJet allows students to upload external images directly to their documents & files

## PHOTOCOPIER

- Konica Minolta black-and-white photocopies cost 0.10 each for students
- teachers are asked to make use of the copy room

## PCHS WEBSITE

- responsible for coordination of updates with webmaster
- updated **LIBRARY WEBPAGE**...<http://pchs.lbpsb.qc.ca/>
- access to our catalogue, an assortment of databases, citation style guides and numerous useful web-links – an essential one-stop page for student homework & research needs

Recommendation: A switch to the board's DNN platform and website format should be considered in order to be in line with other LBPSB high schools.

## ACQUISITIONS

- 2019-2020 budget of \$19280 for the purchase of books as per Ministry grants
- books, periodicals and periodicals database (code 421)
- specialized materials (code 420) are paid for by the school budget
- **820 books were purchased or donated, catalogued and processed**
- book selection is based on the curriculum, student needs and LLC usage
- extensive weeding of the collection, made necessary with annual purchases and merging of the Riverdale collection
- a marked increase in price affected the selection of resources

## COMMITTEES, CLUBS & EVENTS

### LITERACY

- curated displays and project ideas on expanded definition (financial, digital, media, visual...)
- weekly **Comic Book Club** with teacher A. Leiva. Numbers remain consistent.
- compulsory library instruction & basic research methods for all Sec. 1 students
- numerous **digital information literacy** workshops at all levels offered upon teacher request
- increased Friendship, Love & Sexual Health (FLASH) resources – LGBTQ theme
- curated an “up & coming Black authors” collection
- **collaborated in school Instagram & Twitter account posts**

## **BOOKSHARE + CELA + DOLPHIN EASYREADER APP FOR PRINT DISABLED**

- collaborated with The Learning Centre in managing this essential service for students

## **IB PERSONAL PROJECT & MENTORSHIP**

- an on-going privilege to take part in IB mentoring, reading committee and judging process
- after school IB Personal Project Studios
- mentored students in 2019-2020 and assisted in IB students' Personal Project research
- hosted the IB Personal Project Exhibition in the LLC & Model UN research
- IB and staff meetings take place in the library every Late Entry Day, once per month
- IB Service as Action and Leadership Community Service opportunities

## **VACCINATIONS**

- Sessions are normally scheduled in the Library resulting in its closure for the day

## **DIGITAL LIBRARY**

- students and staff now have access to over 1200 titles in Sora by OverDrive (e-books & audiobooks)
- details available on library webpage and <https://lbsbqc.libraryreserve.com>
- students are encouraged to subscribe to their local public library and to the BANQ

## **CLASSES BOOKED**

- library accommodated **247** classes up till March 12<sup>th</sup>. Bookings pre-scheduled till May
- 2 lunch periods saw an estimated 150 students daily
- availability of bookings for classes is reduced by library closures for school-wide events

## **STUDENTS ON PASS**

- **280** students were sent to the library by teachers during class time to work independently
- students using their Gold Pass require permission (date and signature) from their teacher
- students who do not have independent work to complete are sent back to class
- students who choose to use the Atrium while on Pass are not supervised by the librarian  
Their numbers are not reflected in these statistics.

## **STATISTICS**

Statistics indicate a steady increase in the use of LLC resources. **3375** books were borrowed this year up to March 12. On-site consultations, while significant, are not documented. A subtle shift towards digital consultations is evident. Statistics do not reflect database or online reading: Infotrac, OverDrive, Bookshare, and so on.

English Fiction	1105
Non-Fiction & Reference (Eng., Fr. & SPA)	426
French Fiction	463
Graphica	1315
Other (non-book material)	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3375</b>

- **104** books borrowed by students have not been returned representing a significant loss

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020-2021**

- continue to upgrade & increase digital resources **ONGOING!**
- pursue additional 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library concepts to enhance services to our community
- explore “Learning Lunches in the LLC” Several staff members have expressed interest!
- offer additional workshops to staff, students and parents **ONGOING!**
- encourage greater student participation in community service work in the library **ONGOING!**
- promote Going Google™ & encourage student use of research databases **ONGOING!**
- continue to encourage accurate, effective research skills among students **ONGOING!**
- expand resources based on current event themes **ONGOING!**