Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode #30
“Third-graders Part 2, a community hero and book notes”
Sno-Isle Libraries, July 5, 2019

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<th>Speaker 1:</th>
<th>00:00</th>
<th>Welcome to season two and episode 30 of Check It Out, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.</th>
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<td>Speaker 2:</td>
<td>00:16</td>
<td>The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.</td>
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<td>Abe Martinez:</td>
<td>00:25</td>
<td>Imagine for a moment that you're on stage as a contestant in the finals of a knowledge quiz bowl. The subject is children's literature and questions can come from any one of six books. In this case, it's from a 224 page novel called Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer. Here's the question.</td>
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<td>Speaker 4:</td>
<td>00:45</td>
<td>What kind of fruit grows on great-uncle Jim's farm? Is it A. pears, B. grapes, or C. apples?</td>
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<td>Abe Martinez:</td>
<td>00:58</td>
<td>The good news for the actual third graders faced with this question is they're part of a team of six students. So if one of them doesn't know the answer or indeed hasn't even read the book, chances are someone else on the team has, and knows that the right response is B. Grapes.</td>
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<td>Abe Martinez:</td>
<td>01:17</td>
<td>The event is the Sno-Isle Libraries Mega-Fun, Biblio-Trivia Rockem Sockem 3rd Grade Reading Challenge. The complicated name is indicative of the fact that this is much more than just a trivia contest. In part one of our look at this event, we heard from Joy Feldman, lead librarian for early literacy at Sno-Isle libraries who told us why it's so important for third graders to read.</td>
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<td>Joy Feldman:</td>
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<td>I'll say that again because it's a really important concept. So they're shifting from learning to read to beginning to read to learn.</td>
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<td>Abe Martinez:</td>
<td>01:50</td>
<td>This period in a child's life, we described as a kind of tipping point with multiple studies showing that children who fail to grasp this skill of reading to learn face significant hurdles</td>
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(Continued)
throughout their life. But while reading proficiency is the primary goal of the third grade reading challenge, there are other benefits such as the development of important social skills.

Joy Feldman: 02:15 We started to hear more and more about the benefits of teamwork and the value of that. So that's something that we have continued to emphasize and I feel like we're really starting to get there, which makes me really excited.

Abe Martinez: 02:29 To cultivate teamwork, the organizers of the reading challenge at Sno-Isle strongly encouraged participating schools to create teams that include students from all levels of academic abilities.

Joy Feldman: 02:42 And what we've often found is that teams that do have a mix of abilities are the teams that tend to do better.

Abe Martinez: 02:51 A prime example is one team that made it all the way to the finals of this year's event. It included students who were in the so-called high cap or highly capable program at their school, but that's not all.

Joy Feldman: 03:04 They had students who were just kind of average readers, right? They had students who were English language learners. They had students who had been identified as needing additional reading support or came from a low income household and that team worked so well together. And what that school also reported, is those kids that were struggling a little bit more were so highly motivated to read more and we're so excited about the program because they really wanted to support their team members.

Abe Martinez: 03:44 By purposely extending the reach to students that might not normally be included, the program is also reaching into homes that are often not connected to schools or libraries.

Jane Lopez-Santillana: 03:54 I have had many schools mention that third grade reading challenge brings parents in that don't normally come in for anything else.

Abe Martinez: 04:03 That's Jane Lopez-Santillana, children's librarian at Oak Harbor Library. She pioneered this program within Sno-Isle and continues to be a champion for it on Whidbey Island and beyond. Based on the results, you can understand why.

Jane Lopez-Santillana: 04:19 We have a lot of parents mentioned that they are having more in depth or sometimes more period discussions over literature.
than they've ever had with their children because their kids do come home and talk about it. We would get kids saying things like, well, this is the first time we're reading in English at my house. Or now my parents are learning to read with me. Or, I've been reading that story to my little brother and he likes it so much he makes me read every night.

Abe Martinez: 04:47 And one more benefit of the third grade reading challenge, it's created new pathways for cooperation and trust between schools and local libraries. Now that teachers see the value of the program both in terms of student engagement and yes, higher test scores, they see this as a model for other opportunities to partner with libraries. Here's Joy Feldman.

Joy Feldman: 05:11 This is definitely quickly become one of our signature programs in Sno-Isle Libraries. It's a program that our school staff love. Our Sno-Isle Library staff love, our parents, the students, it's just a program that everybody just seems to love and we could not do it without our Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation who funds this program. And we also receive additional funding from the Northwest Literacy Foundation and we're so grateful to them because we really couldn't do this program without them.

Abe Martinez: 05:48 With these collaborative partnerships. The future looks bright for the third grade reading challenge. But what looks even better, are the futures of the kids who participate for Sno-Isle Libraries, I'm Abe Martinez.

Speaker 1: 06:13 If you live in Snohomish or Island County, we'd like to invite you to stop by your closest library or visit the library online. You'll find thousands and thousands of titles of classic and popular books, music, movies, and surprising number of digital resources just waiting for you. Plus, you'll have opportunity to enjoy our friendly, helpful librarians. Check us out today.

Speaker 7: 06:36 Hey parents, you're two to six year old is sure to enjoy the high five magazine, available online from Sno-Isle Libraries. Treat your favorite preschooler to age-appropriate stories, poems, puzzles and activities. Every issue, free to download with your library card from Sno-Isle Libraries.

Speaker 1: 06:56 Coming up next, a spotlight on a community hero.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 07:04 My name is Shaelynn Charvet Bates, I live in Lake Stevens and I've lived in Snohomish County for 35 years. So I was a early library user. It was a place that my parents would let me go by myself in Snohomish. They felt it was a safe place to be so, they
dropped me off and let me get books and come back and pick me up later. I spent a lot of time at the, what is now the old Carnegie Building in Snohomish, before we had the beautiful new library there. And I just, I love the library. I would go and search the shelves for books. I read all kinds of stuff. I spent a lot of time there in high school, afterschool and it was just a, it was a great place to go. I have just the fondest memories of the library.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 07:50 I read a lot of stuff. I read science fiction. I read a lot of historical fiction. I got hooked originally, as a young kid, reading at the Cathcart Elementary Library on choose your own adventure books, which I could read and you could pick 15 different endings or 15 different ways the story could go in one book. And I just thought it was so clever and so I would say that was probably my first, those were the first books I loved.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 08:18 Yes, so then I moved away to college and I went to college to get my teaching degree. I had a professor who I really admired, made an offhand comment to me one day, have you ever thought about being a school librarian? And that's what I ended up pursuing and I have loved it every minute of it. So now, I work as a school librarian in Snohomish. I’m back in Snohomish from when I was a kid. I’m at Riverview Elementary now. As the school librarian, I teach a lot of classes in digital citizenship. I teach a lot of background information about books, like how to use books correctly, how to use informational text to find what you really want to find. How to look at different sources and be able to tell if they’re authentic, they’re reliable. I still try to do as much, call it book advocacy, as I can where, I get to tell them about a book and promote the book, and get them excited about reading. So we still spend a lot of time doing that. Story time, I do a story time for the little guys still.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 09:22 So, my husband and I are both teachers. We met at the school that I was first working at and we moved to the Lake Stevens area about 15 years ago now. When my firstborn was about a year old, I immediately started looking for a Storytime, some sort of outlet to to meet other parents and to have him involved in something as most young moms are trying to figure this out. And so I took them to Storytime in Lake Stevens. And then I had two more children after that. And so all three of them have kind of grown up in Storytimes between the Lake Stevens Library and the Snohomish Public Library. That early exposure to literature is so important. It’s just amazing, the development that can happen when a child is exposed at such a young age and continually.
Shaelynn Charvet Bates:  10:17  I have a 14-year-old, I have a 12-year-old and a 9-year-old. All of them are readers, some are more reluctant than others, but they're all readers. And I'm, happy with that. I have a son who reads all the dystopian novels that he can get his hands on and that's kind of his genre and that's great. He thinks they're terrific. As he's gotten older now, we read books together, he'll read them and then I'll read them and we'll talk about them. And that's been a great connection. Same with my daughter who is 12 and we're actually in two different book groups together, which has been a lot of fun because again, we'll read books and not always on topics that we would have chosen if we were just picking out our own books. But, it's important also to read other people's perspectives and to read books about things that you don't know about so much.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates:  11:15  As a parent, you're always searching for a connection with your children and as they get older those connections are sometimes more difficult to find. And so reading a book, being able to have that shared experience has been really valuable and really important. We were on a road trip this summer. We spent a lot of time in our car. We were back East and so we weren't anywhere near Sno-Isle Library, but we downloaded audio books from OverDrive, and we listened to them as a family. So then we had this shared experience of the story that we could read or listen to together and it was great. We'd be driving endless hours listening to a story and talking about it and, we had great discussions and dialogue in that way. You try to build those, try to take those moments whenever you can. And, finding something in common or even reading a book that you both have different views on, can even stimulate a better conversation because, you can really get into it. You can get passionate about liking the book or not liking the book or characters in the book. They become life lessons too. So, so much value in a book.

Speaker 1:  12:29  Your donation to the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation reaches across generation lines, helping prepare children for their first year of school and bringing reading materials to the elderly and homebound. A foundation gift provides seed funding for innovative library programs for potential entrepreneurs and small business owners, teenagers, new immigrants, and lifelong learners. Please consider a one-time gift, becoming a monthly donor, or establishing a memorial gift to the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation.

Speaker 7:  12:59  We love hearing from our listeners and subscribers, especially if you enjoy the guest or have a suggestion for a future topic. Drop us a line at checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org. Again, that's
checkitoutpodcast@sno-isle.org and let us know what you're thinking. Don't be surprised if we read your comment or answer your question on a future podcast episode.

Speaker 7: 13:24 Coming up next, Booknotes.

Ken Harvey: 13:32 In this Booknotes segment, I'm delighted to welcome a member of our reader services team, Marie Byars. Welcome Marie.


Ken Harvey: 13:40 So we're glad to have you here because we know that you're coming with suggestions for our podcast listeners to really whet their appetite and feed their passion.

Marie Byars: 13:48 I am.

Ken Harvey: 13:49 Okay. So what would you like to offer our listeners?

Marie Byars: 13:52 I have a couple of books to talk about today. The first one is Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman. How long does it take to dig a grave? Erin could tell you. She's producing her breakout documentary, and has just married the love of her life. On their dream honeymoon, the couple discover something while scuba diving. Every choice leads to unexpected consequences in this fast-paced twisty thriller. That's Something in the Water by Catherine Steadman.

Marie Byars: 14:20 The next book I'd like to talk about is Our House by Louise Candlish. What would you do if you discovered someone moving into your house? In this suspenseful tale told from both sides, Fiona and Bram are divorced parents who take turns staying with their sons at the familial residence. Life is swell until Bram makes the bad decision. As the lies pile up, things spiral out of control and everything they hold dear is at risk. That's Our House by Louise Candlish.

Ken Harvey: 14:50 Those sound pretty fascinating.

Marie Byars: 14:52 They're great.

Ken Harvey: 14:53 Well, so thank you very much for those suggestions and we are looking forward to hearing back from readers about what they thought.

Marie Byars: 15:02 Great.
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<td>Ken Harvey</td>
<td>15:03</td>
<td>Okay. Well thanks for joining us for this episode and we'll look forward to more suggestions from you in the future.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie Byars</td>
<td>15:09</td>
<td>Thanks for having me.</td>
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| Ken Harvey         | 15:11| If you enjoy this podcast, please subscribe so you can receive every episode automatically. And until next time, remember your library has a lot to offer you. So what are you waiting for? Check it out.