

Check It Out! Podcast Transcript
Episode 42
“Library card is the ultimate back-to-school supply”
Sno-Isle Libraries, Oct. 4, 2019



Ken Harvey: 00:00 In this episode of Check It Out!, we're going to be talking about the ultimate back-to-school supply, a library card.

Ken Harvey: 00:16 Welcome to season two and episode 42 of Check It Out!, the Sno-Isle Libraries podcast for lifelong learners with inquiring minds.

Announcer: 00:24 The views and opinions expressed on this podcast may not necessarily reflect the official position of Sno-Isle Libraries.

Ken Harvey: 00:31 Hi. I'm Ken Harvey, and I'm your host for this episode of Check It Out! and I am joined in the studio by Abe Martinez, who has been doing some stellar work for us as our roving reporter on a number of Sno-Isle Library Check It Out! stories. Welcome, Abe.

Abe Martinez: 00:47 It's always a great pleasure to be with you here.

Ken Harvey: 00:49 Well, Abe, you've been on assignment, and in this episode you're going to be sharing with us several stories, short stories, that you've put together that are all around the work of Sno-Isle Libraries to help ensure that students meet with success in the classroom. I am really excited to share this with our audience and I think they're in for a treat, especially if they've got young people at home going through the school system or they're in any way connected with the educational system.

Abe Martinez: 01:24 Yes. That's actually something that I'm hoping is that especially teachers, administrators will take a listen to this and realize. Because something that I figured out, as I was putting together this series of stories, was that not only was I unfamiliar with all these great resources for student success, but oftentimes teachers and administrators didn't know anything about what was available through the library system.

Ken Harvey: 01:52 For our listeners' sake, let me give you a little bit of context so that you maybe can really get a sense of what we're talking about and really the scope of what we're talking about. Sno-Isle

(Continued)

Libraries is a two-county system serving Snohomish and much of Snohomish County and Island County in the state of Washington. I think at last counts, I saw we serve essentially a population base of over 800,000 residents and there are actually, what, 18 school districts in our service area?

- Abe Martinez: 02:26 That's what I found out. Yeah, 18 that are served by Sno-Isle in some way.
- Ken Harvey: 02:30 The largest school district, I believe, in our service area is the Edmonds School District and I think with over 20,000 students?
- Abe Martinez: 02:40 That's what I've come to find out. Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 02:42 The smallest one is which one?
- Abe Martinez: 02:45 Index, actually. I hadn't thought about that, which there's not a library at Index, but it is served by the bookmobile.
- Ken Harvey: 02:52 Okay. He's talking about Index, Washington.
- Abe Martinez: 02:54 Yes.
- Ken Harvey: 02:56 Index has how many schools in it?
- Abe Martinez: 03:00 I believe it's just one, but I do know 36 students. That's what I last saw. I checked this out for myself. I thought, really, just 36 students, so from 20,000 to 36.
- Ken Harvey: 03:12 You mentioned that we do not have a library building serving Index, so it's served by-
- Abe Martinez: 03:18 By the bookmobile, which I guess makes pretty frequent stops over there.
- Ken Harvey: 03:23 Yeah. Our mobile library service, the bookmobile, is also called Library on Wheels. If you are interested in learning a lot more about that, you can check it out on our website and look for Library on Wheels. I'm really excited to have us jump into the first story that you're going to share, so tell us a little bit about what's in store.
- Abe Martinez: 03:47 Yeah. Well, first of all, this first piece we're going to be getting an overview of what student success means in terms of the collaboration that is done between not only schools and the library system, but also just directly to parents, to students, through online resources that might be available. I wanted to

begin with an interview that I did with Jennifer Sullivan, but around here she's known-

Ken Harvey: 04:16 Well, she is actually our lead librarian for student success at Sno-Isle Library. Most of the things that have to do with library services and resources available for students, Jen is involved in or helping to really direct that work.

Abe Martinez: 04:33 Mm-hmm (affirmative). As we get started, I asked Jen if she could give me a summary in one minute or less of the kinds of things that Sno-Isle does to help students succeed.

Ken Harvey: 04:44 Let's listen to it.

Jen Sullivan: 04:46 Starting out, when they are young and in preschool, we provide preschool story time. We also provide trainings for early childhood educators, so that they are more equipped to work with kids in the local daycare setting. Once they move into elementary school, we are ready to work with their teachers on third-grade reading challenge. We provide opportunities to do book clubs or summer reading. When they're moving up into middle school, we have Tween STEAM Club, when they can come and do fun STEM programs. Then all the way up to high school, when they're getting ready to apply for college and looking into trade school, we have the resources they need to take practice tests and to finish their formal education well.

Abe Martinez: 05:33 That's pretty impressive. For the record, she did that in less than 45 seconds. We're going to take a look at several of those programs in more detail later, but the truth is that Jen could easily have gone on for quite a while longer. There's just so much available through Sno-Isle Libraries to help students succeed at every level. In fact, one of the most popular resources for students is one she didn't have time to mention. It's an online tutoring service called HelpNow from BrainFuse.

Jen Sullivan: 06:04 Students can log in to a chat service using their library card, seven days a week, 1:00 in the afternoon to 11:00 at night, and it connects them to a vetted tutor to help with whatever subject they need help with. If they're a third grader doing math, if they're an eighth grader doing social studies, if they're a 10th grader doing literature, there is a tutor available to help with homework via chat.

Abe Martinez: 06:32 If you've ever had to set up or pay for quality one-on-one tutoring, you know this is a really big deal. A little later, you'll hear from a student and her very happy mom who can both

attest to the value of the HelpNow tutoring service. But speaking of having access to resources that would otherwise be out of reach for most of us, when it comes to research tools, my goodness, the library has you covered.

- Jen Sullivan: 07:00 We have a number of what we call databases, which are places that you can go to get help with homework from trustworthy, credible sources. Instead of Googling the topic and getting a whole list of websites, some which might be good and some which might be questionable on whether they're trustworthy or not, by using your library card and logging in to one of our databases, you can immediately get answers to your questions and help with your homework from sources that have been reviewed.
- Ken Harvey: 07:30 And like any good guide or teacher, library staff don't just make these resources available, they help students learn to use them, both at community libraries and at local schools.
- Jen Sullivan: 07:43 You can always come into a library and anyone at the information desk can help you use it and can walk you through the steps to use one of these databases, but the great thing about our librarians going into school libraries and classrooms is that they can work with your students directly on how to use it. Oftentimes, they will be prepared with what the actual assignment is that students are working on and so they can speak directly to what those students are going to need to be looking for.
- Abe Martinez: 08:14 This partnership with local schools is a primary focus for Sno-Isle Libraries. The goal is not just to have great resources, but to help teachers make the best use of them for their specific students in the unique communities that they serve.
- Jen Sullivan: 08:29 I see our role as we are really here to support teachers and to complement the work they're already doing. That's why we're so open to ideas they might have, but I think it's also important that we take a look at their curriculum and at what their student populations look like and then suggest ways that we might be able to help. Because the last thing we want to do is just be one more burden and a thing on their to-do list. We really want what we're doing to be a help and to be encouraging to them.
- Ken Harvey: 09:03 I think one of the things that's so interesting about the things that Jen just covered, which actually that's pretty remarkable she was able to get all that in, in such a small, you know, limited amount of time.

Abe Martinez: 09:20 Yeah.

Ken Harvey: 09:22 I was looking recently at the legislation that helped create the libraries in Washington state. Part of the Washington law around public libraries is tying libraries and their purpose to public education. I think that it was actually a surprise to me just how closely the thoughts of those individuals who really were behind getting public libraries established in the state, saw libraries and schools working together for the good of everyone in terms of education.

Abe Martinez: 10:03 Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ken Harvey: 10:06 As Jen was talking, I was just really thinking about the partnership really between public libraries and public schools to make sure that we have an informed and educated citizenry.

Abe Martinez: 10:18 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah. That's actually a wonderful thing to hear, to know that based upon the Constitution of this state that it was understood that learning is something that's done lifelong. It's not just something that you start at this one point. Plus the fact that communities need to be involved in more ways than just what they would consider in the public schools, that it also has to do with public libraries. In this last segment with Jen Sullivan, we talked about HelpNow, which is an online service of BrainFuse that's available to anybody if you've got a Sno-Isle library card.

Ken Harvey: 10:53 BrainFuse is a service that we offer through the Sno-Isle Libraries website.

Abe Martinez: 10:58 That's right.

Ken Harvey: 10:58 Uh-huh (affirmative).

Abe Martinez: 11:00 Obviously available to students through the schools if they go through online.

Ken Harvey: 11:09 All you need to use that is a Sno-Isle Libraries card.

Abe Martinez: 11:12 Exactly.

Ken Harvey: 11:12 Yeah.

Abe Martinez: 11:13 That's the point there. It's available to anybody who has a Sno-Isle library card. Well, I got a chance to talk with Scarlet Fisher, who is an eighth grader at Cedarcrest Middle School in

Marysville. Last year, she used the service and saw a dramatic improvement in her grades. I also talked with her-

Ken Harvey: 11:30 And she was using BrainFuse?

Abe Martinez: 11:32 Yes. Yes. That's the reason for this. I also talked with her mother, who as a result, has become a real booster for HelpNow tutoring services.

Ken Harvey: 11:42 Wonderful. Well, I'm really anxious to hear about Scarlet and what her mother had to say.

Abe Martinez: 11:52 Yeah. As I mentioned, Scarlet's mother has become enthusiastic as a champion for HelpNow services, so I'm going to let her set the stage.

Sheena Fisher: 12:03 The subject is pre-algebra and I am definitely not the person to help her with that, since I do art for a living. I knew that the library had BrainFuse, the HelpNow resource, and it's online tutoring. You choose your grade and the subject and they work her through the problems. It was pretty neat to watch it happen. She would sit there and you could draw or type the program ... in the program on the screen. Instead of just giving her the answer, they would ask her questions to make her think about it. It was really neat to watch because it helped me learn too. I'm like, "Okay, I kind of get this. I kind of remember from however many years ago that was." It was really fun.

Abe Martinez: 12:46 Sheena's daughter, Scarlet, was in the seventh grade at the time. Now this may be a generational thing, but I didn't take algebra until ninth grade, so I was wondering why Scarlet might need this level of instruction. Sheena explained that her daughter is actually a very good student, which is part of the reason why HelpNow was such a good option.

Sheena Fisher: 13:08 It was an advanced class. Math has always come easy to her until she hit this particular class. For some reason, I don't know what it was, it just wasn't clicking with her. My husband's pretty good at math and he can usually help her, but we were just at the point where we can't help her anymore, so we needed help. We were looking into tutors. We were looking into staying after school, which sometimes didn't work with soccer and she does theater as well, so sometimes staying after school didn't work. We had to find a solution and this was the best solution. A library card and you log in and, boom, she's got help.

- Abe Martinez: 13:46 Online teaching services are not all of the same quality, and the fact that this is offered free from Sno-Isle, I was wondering what kind of tutors would be available and how accessible they would be. I've since come to find out that BrainFuse employees only qualify in vetted tutors who are specialists in the subject they cover for the HelpNow service. To hear it from Scarlet, the online platform is simple, straightforward, and effective.
- Scarlet Fisher: 14:16 Well, it was like texting someone, except for you just type in your problem and they'd respond right away. They're on the chat with you and they just make you think about it a lot. There's a real person on the other line talking to you. They just talk to you like a normal person about it, like a teacher would, so that's good.
- Abe Martinez: 14:38 The Fishers used HelpNow as a supplement to the teaching that Scarlet received at school. The fact that it fits her schedule of availability and need is another benefit.
- Scarlet Fisher: 14:49 Any time I would struggle with something on my homework or if I didn't understand something, like when I was preparing for a test, I'd use that at night, right around maybe 7:00, 8:00.
- Abe Martinez: 15:04 What were the results for Scarlet after using HelpNow?
- Sheena Fisher: 15:07 She managed to bring it up by two whole grades. It was a major improvement and I was over the moon about it because that's huge.
- Abe Martinez: 15:18 Which would explain Sheena Fisher's excitement as she spreads the word about HelpNow from BrainFuse.
- Sheena Fisher: 15:25 I tell everybody about it because especially with Common Core math and it's being taught in a different way than people in my generation have learned it, we don't know how to help. Having a free resource in the way that they're learning it to help them is amazing. I tell everyone. It makes me so happy.
- Ken Harvey: 15:51 I so much relate to what the mom, Sheena Fisher, had to say about having an online tutoring resource available, because I remember when our son started bringing his pre-algebra homework to us to help with. I'll tell you, I wish that I had known about something like BrainFuse then.
- Abe Martinez: 16:18 Yeah. I was shocked to see this, how available it is. One of the things that was in the discussions with Scarlet afterwards, she mentioned to me that just how surprised she was about the

variety of subjects that were available through BrainFuse and that it's at all these different levels. We talked about math in this particular case and for a middle schooler and what it would be. But she said it's any subject, just about, and at all these different levels, so it's a wonderful resource.

Ken Harvey: 16:52 Well, I'll tell you what, it is great to know that there's a resource like that available, especially when you didn't know that you might even need something like that and that it's available through the library with the cost of a library card, which essentially is free.

Abe Martinez: 17:10 Mm-hmm (affirmative). That's true. Now BrainFuse and HelpNow, all these things are direct-to-consumer, you might say. It's a fancy way of saying it. You just need the library card. You don't need to be a student at any particular school. However, as we mentioned at the top of the program, much of the really fine work that is done by Sno-Isle is directly within the schools and so with teachers, with administrators, and collaborating with them, which really does make a difference in helping students to succeed.

Abe Martinez: 17:46 I spoke with Shannon Horrocks, who's a children's librarian at Snohomish Library, and Shaelynn Charvet Bates, who is a school librarian at Riverview Elementary in Snohomish.

Ken Harvey: 17:56 We've had Shaelynn on this podcast before. I think you had done a story about her.

Abe Martinez: 18:00 That's correct, we have. She is very involved with libraries in many different ways, but also as a school librarian in Snohomish. I wanted to talk to them about the ways that they collaborate. Now they collaborate in a number of different ways, but I focused on a particular afterschool book program that's been going on uniquely in the Snohomish schools for about the last 12 years. This afterschool program that I'm talking about within Snohomish, actually happens at four elementary schools there in that district. The clubs meet three times during the year with a Sno-Isle librarian joining the teachers to host the events. Each year they have this additional event that's held at the Snohomish Library, we're talking about the public library, that brings together the book club members from all the schools, all the four different schools where they have this. I interviewed Sharon and Shaelynn actually at the Snohomish Public Library in their meeting hall where this big event takes place.

Ken Harvey: 19:01 Is this school book club program unique in some ways or is it common?

Abe Martinez: 19:07 Yeah. No, no. This is actually pretty unique to Snohomish. Now I will say it is something that I hope others, as they hear this, will latch onto and decide that maybe they want to do this. But what's unique about it, I think, is-

Ken Harvey: 19:22 Well, it's got to take ... It seems like something like that would take some additional resources, someone who steps forward and wants to help make that happen.

Abe Martinez: 19:34 Yeah, dedicated teachers, volunteers, and then there's also money. Honestly, because there is some cost involved with this because they give the kids books. We're going to talk about that a little bit in there. As we got started, I asked Shannon Horrocks about her role in the process coming in as she does as a Sno-Isle librarian.

Shannon Horrocks: 19:53 Every summer, I get together with school librarians at four different schools. We meet here at the library and we select four titles that we want to share for book clubs throughout the school year. For three of those book clubs, I go out to the school.

Abe Martinez: 20:09 On those visits, Sharon brings with her 25 copies of the book that the clubs will be reading for that month. The first 25 kids to sign up for the club get a free book. After a few weeks, they get back together to talk about it.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 20:23 Yeah. It's usually about a month to three weeks and the students get to read the books.

Abe Martinez: 20:27 This is Shaelynn Charvet Bates.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 20:29 The idea is that they're reading it independently at home and then we come back together one time to meet to talk about the book. We have activities that relate to the book. We have really good discussion. We always have a snack of some sort, which is fun.

Shannon Horrocks: 20:45 We try to make the snack go along with the book somehow.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 20:48 Yeah. We also try to have books to give away for the students and then tell them about the next book club that'll be coming to get them excited.

- Shannon Horrocks: 20:57 Yeah, it's really about celebrating the reading. I would say the book discussion part is the most personally impacting. When it comes to me as a public librarian, getting to hear them make such intuitive and insightful comments about these books and that we can all collectively read together. It's wonderful.
- Abe Martinez: 21:19 Two things become apparent when you see Shannon and Shaelynn together. They're both passionate about the value of reading for kids, and they enjoy each other's company as they work together in their collaborative roles as librarians. As a team, they can promote this love of reading beyond just students in a classroom to families and communities reading together. In fact, that's what happens for one of the book club meetings each year. As Shaelynn explained, it's their family read.
- Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 21:50 Where one book a year we specifically pick so that the students can read, hopefully with their families, either their parents or another family member, somebody else. The idea is that then they can have rich discussion with their families around a specific book that we've picked. And then we get together and for the last couple of years, we've been able to bring the author in of the book that we've chosen, so the families get to interact with the author. It's a really cool experience.
- Shannon Horrocks: 22:20 As an adult librarian, I love being able to meet the authors of books, but for the kids, it's really special that they can do that. This year, we did ... we had Kirby Larson, who won the Newbery honor for the book *Hattie Big Sky*. The kids read the book and then they all came here. Actually, we normally do four schools. We added a fifth school so the five schools, all here in this room actually, the meeting room, with Kirby Larson and she talked about the book. The kids got to ask her questions, which is just such a special time, because these kids always come prepared with just really fascinating perspectives. Because each student gets a copy of the book, they all brought their books and got them signed and got pictures with her. It was just really special.
- Abe Martinez: 23:04 If you're wondering, it's a pretty big deal to get a Newbery-winning author to come visit your school event.
- Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 23:13 Shannon's a master of finding the authors and bringing them in. She does a great job with that.
- Shannon Horrocks: 23:18 It's a lot of sleeping online, looking at publishers and agents and stuff.

Ken Harvey: 23:23 The book clubs and this family event, in particular, are prime examples of the kinds of things that can happen when Sno-Isle librarians collaborate with teachers and schools in the area.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 23:35 It brings together a community of readers. It brings together our community-

Shannon Horrocks: 23:38 Absolutely.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 23:38 But it brings together this community of readers, which I think is huge. Plus, I love to have them get to the public library, because they need to come in and see the public library and see what it has to offer. I think it's a big deal to have it here.

Shannon Horrocks: 23:54 That was an intentional decision we made to have it here.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 23:57 Yeah.

Shannon Horrocks: 23:58 Yeah.

Abe Martinez: 24:00 Shaelynn Charvet Bates says it well in describing the true value of the relationship she has built with Sno-Isle Libraries.

Shaelynn Charvet Bates: 24:06 Everything I think I email Shannon about or email Sno-Isle about and say hey, I was thinking. The first thing is yes, what can we do, how can we work this out, how can we partner together. Sno-Isle is a strategic partner for me, as a librarian, but also more importantly, I think, just for the students at Riverview.

Ken Harvey: 24:27 I think it's really wonderful that this collaboration work is happening between the schools the libraries. I just want to take a moment just to let our listeners know that when you essentially support your schools and you support your libraries through funding, you're actually investing in the next generation of students who are going to become essentially the next fabric, you know, decision makers and business people and those who are making things happen in our community. I think it's a great investment and this collaboration is so exciting to hear about. But I also wanted to mention that something that caught me in that piece is this big event they have and the fact that authors end up being part of it.

Abe Martinez: 25:27 Yeah. As was alluded to there, Shannon is able to bring in really some terrific people, authors, for example, in a couple of times, how they had a Newbery award winner. That would be like-

Ken Harvey: 25:43 Newbery award, what is that like?

Abe Martinez: 25:46 For those who are familiar with children's books, that is like the Academy Award for children's books. There's one award at each year and they, I think twice now, have had a Newbery winner be part of this event-

Ken Harvey: 26:00 Wow.

Abe Martinez: 26:00 ... and actually came out to the Snohomish Library and met with the kids and everything else, so that's a big deal.

Ken Harvey: 26:06 Yeah. It really is a big deal and who knows which of those children are going to be so inspired that they actually go do something that's going to inspire others. Yeah. I think it's really neat.

Abe Martinez: 26:18 Yeah. It really is. We are talking about collaboration and we continue to look at the ways that Sno-Isle librarians collaborate with teachers and school administrators to help students succeed.

Ken Harvey: 26:30 Yeah. Because we have one more story and it's about this, right?

Abe Martinez: 26:32 Yeah. It absolutely is. I spoke with Ricky Barnett or Barnett. I want to say Barnett, because it looks that way, but he says Barnett. He was clear it's-

Ken Harvey: 26:42 Yeah. Yeah. Let's go with this pronunciation.

Abe Martinez: 26:43 Yeah. We will. He's the teen and adult services librarian at the Edmonds Library and Leighanne Law who's the teacher librarian at Scriber Lake High School in Edmonds.

Ken Harvey: 26:56 Edmonds has an alternative school, doesn't it? In its school district?

Abe Martinez: 27:02 It does.

Ken Harvey: 27:03 Is this the school that she's at?

Abe Martinez: 27:05 This is. Yeah. Scriber Lake is that alternative school. Students are there by choice.

Ken Harvey: 27:10 Oh, okay.

Abe Martinez: 27:11 Yeah. Many have, for example, had some hard times fitting in to some of the other schools or maybe they come from some at-

risk homes, for example, or maybe had some personal struggles. They have this saying, this is their own, about some come as a second chance and some as a last chance.

- Ken Harvey: 27:34 Well, it's great that the school district has something like this for students just to ensure that there's another net out there for kids who are having a tough time getting through.
- Abe Martinez: 27:46 Yeah. It's particularly neat to see how Rickey is involved with all the schools in general, but I could tell that there was a special relationship that he has with the students from these ... this particular school. To better understand how Rickey and Leighanne are able to work together to help students succeed, it's worth maybe backing up just a little bit to define their job. I'm going to start off with Leighanne Law, who would typically be known as a school librarian.
- Ken Harvey: 28:16 Okay.
- Leighanne Law: 28:18 The term that I prefer is teacher librarian, because it puts an emphasis on teaching. Teaching digital citizenship, teaching reading advocacy, classroom development, so pretty similar to what public librarians do. The library is the heart of most of the schools in our ... I would say all the schools in our district.
- Abe Martinez: 28:40 As for Rickey Barnett, in his role as a public librarian, he spends a great deal of his time outside the library.
- Rickey Barnett: 28:48 Leighanne, our teacher, may contact me and say, "Hey, you know, we're doing a writing assignment on this topic, can you show me some Sno-Isle resources that we could use for this?" What I would so is put together a presentation of a couple of databases and come in and really show students how to do research at what I would call the collegiate level, really prepping them for secondary education. Here are the tools that you need to research that, get both sides of maybe a controversial topic, and come away with a well-rounded view. It's really responding to the needs of teachers and students.
- Abe Martinez: 29:29 For Sno-Isle Library and especially those who serve students, a big part of that response is adapting to the educational systems they serve. Leighanne gave me an example.
- Leighanne Law: 29:41 We do something called LEAD. It's Library Equity and Diversity team that was started in the Edmonds School District, with librarians. Rickey has been a huge, huge part of that. He brought the Sno-Isle librarians together with our lead team of Edmonds

teacher librarians. One of the things that I believe Rickey said is that the job is changing for public librarians and it's also changing for us. It's not as much of a come to me, come to the desk, I'll serve you, I'll answer questions. It's about all about finding out where our patrons and our students are and meeting them where they are, so really focusing on outreach and community engagement. There's a lot of tie-in, with what Sno-Isle librarians are doing. I think another librarian said, "You're sitting on a treasure of resources." One of our big frustrations working in public education is that we don't have a lot of resources. Being able to link up with this treasure chest that Sno-Isle has in the vast knowledge and experience, it's so wonderful.

- Abe Martinez: 30:53 A good portion of what Rickey Barnett does is connect teachers to the resources of Sno-Isle libraries. But his favorite part of the job is still spreading the word directly to students and their families.
- Rickey Barnett: 31:06 I love hearing it. The library does what? You get this a lot at resource fairs with parents. Whether it's over the summer or it's like, you know, they're going to college next year. We're looking at prepping for the ACT. Do you have books on that? Or things to keep them engaged in summer. It's such a treasure when I can say, "Yes, we do. We have this SAT prep program, but also look at these on our homework help page here for your teen. We have free resources to help them prepare for these tests, to apply for jobs, get ready for life after high school. We actually have a page called that." It goes beyond just, you know, here's this reference book on World War II. Here's actually a way to experience it, incorporate it into your learning and life.
- Leighanne Law: 31:50 You're all teaching librarians too.
- Rickey Barnett: 31:52 Which makes it cool when we actually connect like this. Because then it was just revealed before, we really are in the same track.
- Leighanne Law: 31:59 Yeah. In our dreams, the great collaboration between public libraries and public schools is the sharing of these resources so that we can use our funds to provide other things that students need.
- Ken Harvey: 32:14 It's true that much of the work now and in the future for Sno-Isle librarians will be in the form of outreach, but as Rickey and Leighanne agree, there's still an incredible need for the unique space of a public library, especially for teens.

- Rickey Barnett: 32:30 We want the students to know, this is their space. You even alluded to the fact, they're only with me, what, five to six hours a day and after that I don't have any control over that. Well, we have this amazing space here at the public library where this is your space and it's not just for doing academic research, it's a safe space. If you just need somewhere to get away and hang out for the evening, find a book, or just hang out, we're here. A safe space where no one is going to judge you or do anything to de-friend you or anything like that. We're here for you and it surprises me how many students have never been to their local library, don't have a card, or doesn't even know where we're at. It's like opening this world for them. We're just not a place of books, we're a place of community and learning and everything in between.
- Ken Harvey: 33:32 There were a number of things I really loved about that story and that have just left me thinking. There was a comment in there about ... I think where Rickey says that he loves hearing people say, "The library does what?" We actually have an episode that thematically we periodically talk about hmm, I didn't know that about different things that are available through the library or with librarians or different things that the library offers. It is amazing how often even we, who work within the libraries, discover that there are things that we are offering that are just incredibly useful to find out about or that they just meet a need that you didn't recognize that you had.
- Abe Martinez: 34:25 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 34:28 It's really neat to discover that. You have, I think, done some stories like that.
- Abe Martinez: 34:36 Yeah.
- Ken Harvey: 34:37 That were around things that were new to you.
- Abe Martinez: 34:40 Mm-hmm (affirmative). Absolutely. Everything from the kinds of things that you've done outside of the library, for example, issues that matter, stories of that kind or stories that had to do with the kinds of people that work for the library system, volunteer in the library system, are connected the library system in just any number of different ways. Those have always ... some of the reasons why people have connected with the library system, I find out, oh, I didn't realize that the library did that kind of thing. I didn't realize that, for example, that they had such an outreach to seniors or the kinds of support for book clubs or what it means to have this public space where people can get together to have ... Well, let's call it what Rickey did, a

safe space where people can talk about difficult matters at times. It's been a real education for me to be able to do these stories.

- Ken Harvey: 35:41 That was one of the things also that jumped out at me from this last story that you just shared with us. That idea of a safe space and also the library is more than just a place for books, that it's a place for community and learning and he said, "and everything in between." Because there is a lot in between. When I think about the size of the small libraries collection of titles, the different types of materials that we offer, that some of them are available as physical items and many are available as digital items. I mean, I think that's incredible. But even beyond that is this idea of the library extended beyond its walls. Beyond the walls of just buildings and extending into school onto school campuses into neighborhoods where there's that opportunity for the collaboration between the schools and the public libraries and parents and others who care about students' success.
- Abe Martinez: 37:00 Mm-hmm (affirmative). That was one of the things that really was heartwarming for me was to realize how many of these programs are not just focused on the students, because obviously student success is what we were talking about here. But, it's as much as anything to bring the families together and to connect them with these resources. Because ultimately, the public library is about lifelong learning. When you can bring families together, strengthen those families in the process, but then also connect family members to these resources, then everyone grows, everyone learns and the community is made better as a result of it.
- Ken Harvey: 37:39 Yeah. I really just want to really put an emphasis, an exclamation point on this notion that the public libraries are ... we are very focused on the success of students. Preparing children for school, so that they can be successful school and then through school knowing that that early investment in them is going to pay off in terms of successful lives, so after school.
- Ken Harvey: 38:18 Based upon some of the things that I heard in some of these stories I wrote down a few phrases. Prepping, you know, libraries helping to prep for life, especially for these students. Helping prepping them for life. And as you start going, moving through your years as a student becoming ... getting out of school and moving on. Sometimes you discover that when you need to take a mental recess, libraries have resources that help you enjoy some of the things that life can offer with some of the other materials that we have available and resources.

- Ken Harvey: 38:55 But then there are other things that we offer that help you deal with some of the tough things of life. Because things don't always go the way we want. Oftentimes unfortunate circumstances come along. There are rain showers and there are series of unfortunate events that can happen and sometimes we just need some help dealing with those things and we want to know how to do it and knowing that there are resources out there that can help us deal with that. But then, when it's all said and done the thing that you said about lifelong learning, you know, learning throughout your life. Whether you're young, whether you think that you're kind of in the middle part of the race, or whether you think you're nearing the finish line, there are things available for you. When you want to just reflect back on life, resources there to help as well.
- Ken Harvey: 39:57 I'm just really delighted with these set of stories that you've shared with us, because I'm hoping that our listeners get a sense of the work that's underway and the partnerships and collaborations that are happening that are really all about investing towards students' success.
- Announcer: 40:20 Hey parents, your 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.
- Ken Harvey: 40:40 If you enjoyed this podcast, please subscribe, so you can receive every episode automatically. Until next time, remember your library has a lot to offer you, so what are you waiting for? Check it out.