Book Fair Preview
How-To Guide

Why host a Book Fair Preview at your School?
★ To help your teachers discover books, series, and authors that appeal to students
★ To empower the Principal to share his/her passion for reading with the staff
★ To ensure all teachers complete Classroom Wish Lists to build or refresh classroom libraries with books students want to read
★ To build your community of Reading Leaders who will share their excitement with students and families

Easy Steps to Planning a Successful Book Fair Preview:

1 Choose a date that works best for your staff. Previews work best when they are held as soon as the Book Fair is set up and at certain times such as before school, over lunch, during a staff meeting, or after the last bell.

2 Invite your principal to cohost the Book Fair Preview. Students and teachers look to their school leaders to provide access to interesting books in the classroom and to motivate voluntary reading at home. Be sure to partner with your Principal. Give the Principal Shelf-Talker* in your Planning Kit to him/her to fill out and bring to the Preview.

3 Use the Book Fair Preview poster and invitations.* A poster and invitations are available online to advertise your Book Fair Preview and invite faculty and volunteers.

4 Download these reproducibles from scholastic.ca/bookfairs
★ Classroom Wish List Book Wishes reproducibles: Print at least one per attendee.
★ Book Fair Scavenger Hunt Activity: Bring copies for all attending teachers.
★ Shelf-Talkers: Print extras for staff.
★ Booktalks and/or book blurbs*: Give booktalks or share book blurbs. Look for the Book Blurb card package in your Planning Kit.

Plan To:
★ Share the books from your Booktalk [in-a-Box] selection with staff before the Fair and have them read a chapter to their students.
★ Serve refreshments to attract faculty and volunteers. If you’re looking for creative ideas, check out the Promotion Guide. scholastic.ca/bookfairs/guides

* Printable versions are available online at scholastic.ca/bookfairs/principalengagement
Sample Book Fair Preview Schedule:

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome the Staff</td>
<td>5 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kick Off With Booktalk(s)/Book Blurbs</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scavenger Hunt Activity</td>
<td>10 minutes working in pairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share Favourite Books</td>
<td>10 minutes as a group</td>
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<tr>
<td>Create Classroom Wish Lists</td>
<td>8–10 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Booktalking at School</td>
<td>5–10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>2 minutes</td>
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How-To's:

Welcome the Staff
Together with your Principal, welcome the staff and share the goals of the Preview:

- **Emphasize the importance of students reading at least 20 minutes per day.** Students who read 20 minutes per day consistently score in the top 90th percentile on standardized tests and read 1,800,000 words per year.¹
- **Have fun learning about new children’s books and how to share them with students.** 51% of kids ages 6-17 look to their teachers and librarians for book recommendations.²

Plan To:

- Use your $60 Promotional allowance for prizes for attendees.

Kick Off the Preview With a Booktalk(s)

**WHY**
- Kicking off the Preview with a booktalk will help promote independent reading by featuring a children's book you enjoyed. Everyone is more interested in reading a book suggested to them by someone else.

**HOW**
- Select a book you love from the Fair to booktalk. Your passion will be contagious! Find tips for booktalking atscholastic.ca/bookfairs/booktalk
- Or use the Book Blurbs found in your Planning Kit.

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¹Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987
³Fountas and Pinnell, 1996; Allington and Cunningham, 2002
Scavenger Hunt Activity

**WHY**
- A scavenger hunt is an easy and fun way to get staff to discover books they may not have found by just browsing. Similarly, the items on the scavenger hunt are great to incorporate into the curriculum. For example, a book you want to hug might be great to develop social and emotional learning. See what other connections your staff can make between their curriculum and the scavenger hunt.

**HOW**
- Explore the Book Fair in pairs or trios and find books corresponding to the Scavenger Hunt questions.
- Encourage teachers to use the Scavenger Hunt with their students during the student Book Fair Sneak Peek.

**Plan To:**
- Ask the Principal to pair with a teacher.

Share Favorite Books

**WHY**
- Talking about the books discovered will give the staff ideas on how to use these books in the classroom. Plus, it allows staff to connect particular students to a specific book.

**HOW**
- Ask staff to share their favourite books from the Fair.
- Invite staff to talk about how students will enjoy the books.

**Plan To:**
- Encourage a spirit of fun and interaction. The more books shared, the better!
- Use your $60 promotional allowance to award prizes to each staff member who shares what they found.

Create Classroom Wish Lists

**WHY**
- Families can grant book wishes, enhancing their child's classroom library.
- Classroom Wish Lists are also a way for families to know what books are recommended for their child's grade level.

**HOW**
- Ask teachers who have benefited from the Classroom Wish List in the past to share their experiences with their peers.
- Encourage educators to include books they discovered during the Scavenger Hunt.
- Ask educators to consider adding books for reading aloud with students as well as books for independent reading.
- Distribute Wish List reproducibles so that staff can fill in their new wish list titles.

Booktalking at School

**WHY**
- Booktalks interest and excite students about newly discovered books.

**HOW**
- Schedule booktalks during the Book Fair in classrooms and during morning announcements.
- Discuss ways to share booktalks with students throughout the year.