

Dear Administrators:

On behalf of the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME), the professional association for all the school librarians in the state of Florida, I would like to make you aware of FAME's annual professional development conference held each fall for school librarians. The 48th annual FAME conference will be held December 1-3 at the Ocean Center Daytona Beach, and is the only conference in the state of Florida aimed at providing professional development and resources specifically for school librarians. FAME's conference is an intense, two and a half days of workshops, concurrent sessions, meetings, and keynote speakers focused on the needs of school librarians.

This year our opening keynote speaker is Christina Soontornvat, award-winning author of over a dozen books for children of all ages. Her most recent book, *A Wish in the Dark*, was named a 2021 Newbery Honor Book and *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team* has received numerous nonfiction awards and was also named a 2021 Newbery Honor Book. Our closing keynote address is from Colby Sharp, a fifth grade teacher, has a true librarian spirit helping kids find the books they love not only in his classroom but also through his Nerdy Book Club blog and created the ultimate creative writing resource, *The Creativity Project*, which contains creative prompts and responses from well known children's authors as well as prompts to use with students. Mr. Sharp co-wrote *Game Changer: Book Access for All Kids* with Donalyn Miller, a professional resource providing teachers and administrators tools and information they need to increase children's meaningful interaction with books and to help them launch book access initiatives in their communities.

We are offering two full day workshops this year featuring author/ illustrator Jarrett Lerner and one geared towards Media Specialists in their first years of teaching. We will also be offering several half day workshops one featuring how to be a Diversity Leader within your school with Dr. Danielle McKinnon, Director of Equity and Diversity for Brevard Public Schools.

Concurrent sessions include training on standards-based instruction, research-skills development, technology integration, the latest technology tools and apps, literacy-based resources, collaborative planning and instruction, and recent research-based best practices and developments in the field of educational technology and school librarianship. Representatives from the DOE will also be presenting on the new B.E.S.T. Standards as well as the revised FINDS Research Model, to introduce the changes and how this new model works in the library.

School Librarians are essential instructional staff and FAME encourages you to support your school librarian by providing funding for FAME membership, workshops, and conference attendance. Annual FAME membership is \$75.00 for an individual membership. Conference registration for 2021 is \$200.00 for members and \$300.00 for non-members, with each workshop an additional \$75 (\$150 for the all-day new librarian workshop). This is an affordable investment in continued education for your school librarian so that he or she may provide the best services for your students. We hope you will budget the necessary funds for 2021-2022

FAME membership, 2022 annual FAME conference, and two workshops. Also, please note that administrators are welcome to join us at FAME for only \$75.00! By supporting your school librarian's efforts to grow, you are paving the way to increased achievement by your students in every subject area!