Why should you support your School Library?

Because school libraries are the key to student achievement.

Research has shown a direct connection between high quality school library media programs and student achievement:

★ **A large stock of books is a prerequisite for an effective reading program.** Researchers found the quantity of resources in the school library to be a powerful predictor of reading scores, suggesting that a good school library can make up part of the gap between the rich and poor in literacy development.

★ Free voluntary reading has a positive impact on reading comprehension, vocabulary, spelling ability, grammar usage and writing style. **Children who read more typically have higher literacy development.**

★ Students in schools with well-equipped library media centers staffed by professional library media specialists perform better on assessments of reading comprehension and basic research skills.

★ Spending for school library media programs is the single most important variable related to better student achievement.

★ Test scores increase when students know how to use, and have access to, sources of accurate online information about the subjects that they are studying.

★ We know from our research and our practical experience that our libraries can make a significant contribution to reading achievement for our students, in cooperation with our teachers, reading specialists, and parents.

★ An excellent school library is the central hub of information essential to every student and teacher.

The school library media center - where information is available in a wide variety of formats, both print and electronic; where materials and activities are coordinated with classroom assignments; and **where students learn information skills that will prepare them to live and work in the 21st century.**