

BOOK FAIR PREVIEW EVENT HOW-TO-GUIDE

**Easy Steps to Planning a
Successful Book Fair Preview.**

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

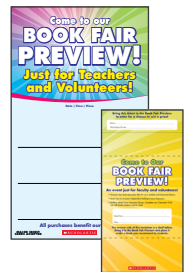
Easy Steps to Planning a Successful Book Fair Preview:

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/principallengagement

Sample Book Fair Preview Schedule:

Welcome the Staff	5 minutes
Kick Off With Booktalk(s)/Book Blurbs	2 minutes
Scavenger Hunt Activity	10 minutes working in pairs
Share Favourite Books	10 minutes as a group
Create Classroom Wish Lists	8-10 minutes
Booktalking at School	5-10 minutes
Conclusion	2 minutes

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
- ★ **Foster student independent reading and keep classroom libraries current.** Literacy experts suggest having 300 to 750 books in the classroom to give every child access to books in their reading level and the opportunity to choose a book that interests them.³

¹Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987

²Kids and Family Reading Report™, 6th Edition

³Fountas and Pennell, 1996; Allington and Cunningham, 2002



Plan To:

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



Booktalk

A short persuasive recommendation about a book you love, to convince others to read it. Tell just enough but don't give the whole story or ending away.

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 at scholastic.ca/bookfairs/booktalk
- ★ Or use the Book Blurbs found in your Planning Kit.

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.

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.



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.

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.

HOW

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

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.