Most Wonderful Time of the Year

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It seems impossible to believe that it has been almost 20 years since we were introduced to that award-winning Staples commercial that showed a father celebrating the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as he bought his sad-faced children their school supplies. Though our children may not admit it – I suspect many are secretly thrilled about the excitement that a new school year brings. School librarians are busy preparing the learning environment. Classroom teachers are busy setting up their classrooms. It’s a great time to be involved in learning.

Part of the back-to-school excitement might be new technology available in your school’s library or classrooms. Who is there to help? Your school librarian! As a profession we are committed – not only to staying up-to-date ourselves – but to being a great school community resource as new technologies are implemented.

Just like our shelves of books – we now have virtual shelves of great websites and apps that make our students’ learning more engaging. How ‘bout a few suggestions to ease your student back into the learning environment?

**For younger students:**

www.pbskids.org

Try out this amazing website filled with curriculum-based entertainment to build critical thinking, content knowledge, curiosity, and imagination.

**For older students:**

http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-websites/2014

Check out the top 25 websites for teaching and learning. Award winners range from sites that make it easy for students to make their own videos and their own cartoons, to a look behind current events for the science concepts they can learn.

http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards-guidelines/best-apps/2014

Get your iPad, Android tablet or smart phone ready for school librarians’ picks for the greatest apps for teaching and learning. These apps range from great ways to organize your student through engaging practice in a foreign language to amazing science content.

Your school librarian can be a resource for great books, of course, but also for terrific technology. With parents and school librarians working together for students -- it truly can be the “most wonderful time of the year.”