

Kite and Leaf...

The good news
email from TCS!

Book Bans: It Can't Happen Here, Right?!!

The push for book bans in libraries and schools across the country is chilling! Calls for book bans have gone up 400% according to the [American Library Association](#).

“The ALA keeps track of all book challenges and bans—which means the removal of a book from library shelves—and publishes a list every year. It’s really important data for us. and they act as an advocacy group for anyone who wants to join the fight against censorship and support their public library,” says TCS librarian, Polly Smith.



In fact, one of the main reasons Smith chose the field of library science was because of her belief in the freedom of speech, the right to read, and equal access to information. Today's political climate is placing unprecedented burdens on libraries—especially public libraries—in terms of protecting their collections and their patrons’ freedom and privacy. That’s one reason why TCS has adopted a collection development plan.

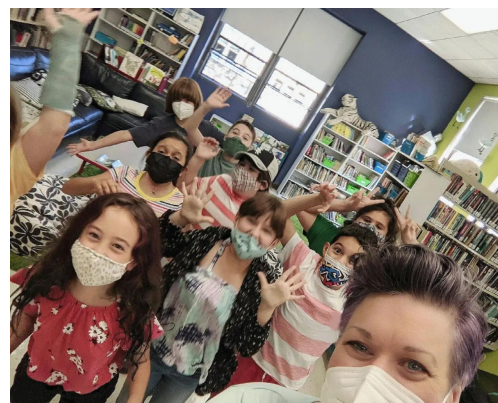
Our New Collection Development Plan

The TCS board of directors recently approved a



collection development plan for our library as well as policy surrounding a potential book challenge. All public, university, and public school libraries have these, and although there's no expectation that TCS will face a challenge, now is the right time to think about it.

The plan acts as an assessment of the collection and a statement of criteria for selecting materials. “We have so little space, every book has to defend its spot on the shelf. I can’t buy everything so I have to prioritize, and the plan helps me do that,” says Smith. “You have to know your collection’s strengths and weaknesses and what’s most important to your users—that’s how you build a strong collection,” says Smith. “It’s also a declaration of our shared ideals and it’s important to be unapologetic about that.”



Our Glorious Garden of Books at TCS

Cultivating a library’s collection is much like tending a garden. The TCS library has grown to almost 10,000 volumes since it started life in a cloakroom. It has

expanded little by little each year to various corners and small spaces. Moving to our current location was the perfect opportunity to create the bright and inviting library we now enjoy. Looking ahead to next fall, “It’s not easy to start over from scratch and create a library in a blank space,” Smith shakes her head, “but we’ve done it before and we’ll do it again. And it’s going to be even better, you wait!”



The Evolution of our TCS Library in Photos

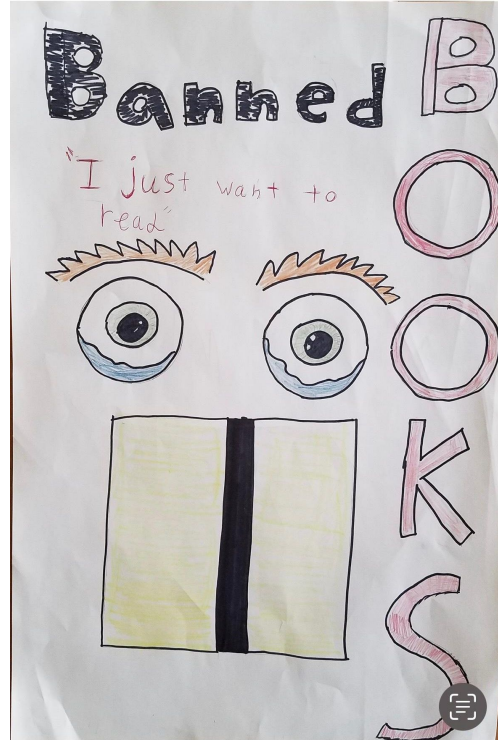
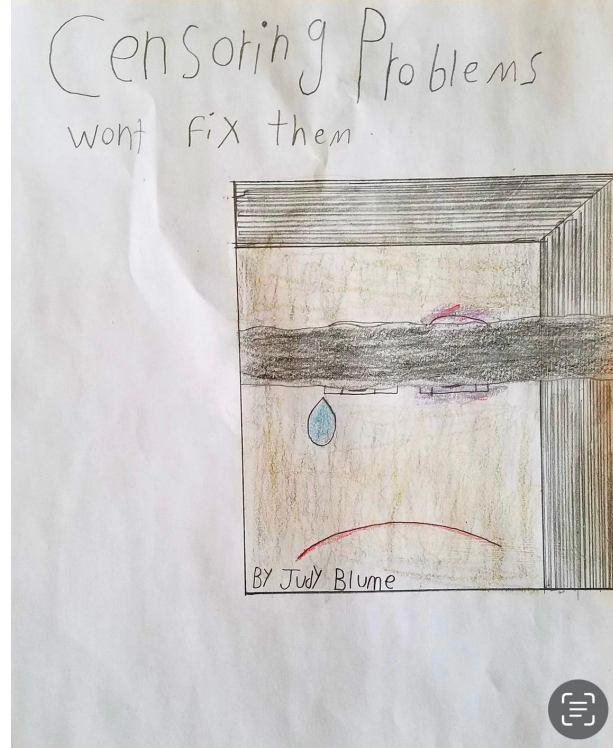




Our beloved TCS Library, from above in its early years - housed in a cloak closet at St. Mary of Celle (*top*), to the same facility in a dedicated space(*2nd from top*), to the spacious, colorful oasis it represents in our current facility (*below*). We hope to create a space just as lovely and inviting for our library in our new location!



TCS Students Protest Book Bans



Help Fight Book Bans!

If you'd like to get involved in fighting censorship and book bans, check out the ALA's campaign, [Right to Read.](#)

Also, here are [lots of ways to support free speech.](#)

In Illinois, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias (who is also the state's chief librarian) is supporting [legislation in the General Assembly to prevent book bans.](#) The language is currently under House Bill 2789. Contact [your state legislators](#) in Springfield and tell them to support the Secretary of State's efforts to prevent books bans in Illinois and protect our librarians.

Visit the TCS Library Wishlist on Amazon.com

Help grow our garden of books, and keep our collection fresh, strong, and exciting for our kids! Here are some new books we'd love our library lovers to donate:

TCS Book Wishlist on Amazon!



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