

LOVING LITERACY

February is the month of love, chocolates and the colour red, prompting me to write about the Red Cedar Book Awards and Activity Club. The Red Cedar Book Award Program began in 1996. The purpose of the Red Cedar program is to encourage children to read, develop their ability to judge the quality of published works and create an awareness of the works of Canadian authors/illustrators.

Each year, BC children in grades 4-7, join registered Red Cedar reading groups hosted by schools, home schools or libraries. These Red Cedar readers have until the end of April to read, discuss and evaluate a selection of Canadian fiction and non-fiction books. At the end of April, Red Cedar readers cast their ballots, and their votes will see one fiction and one non-fiction book named winners of the Red Cedar Book Awards. This program provides children throughout the province the opportunity for exposure to the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction for young people.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy, the Grand Forks Public Library and the Phoenix Learning Centre are partnering to offer a Red Cedar Book Club at the Grand Forks Library. Interested students can register at the library, pick up their reading lists, check out books at the library and attend two fun-filled activity days. On Friday February 17th, from 2-3 and Friday April 28th from 2-3 in the library meeting room, we will be getting together to discuss the nominated books, talk about our favourites, play fun games and enjoy a great snack. On the 28th we will have a chance to vote for the best books and try to convince other activity club members to vote for our choice. Panago Pizza, a local supporter of literacy, will provide pizza to fuel our party. You only need to read 5 books, fiction or non-fiction, to vote in either category. Prizes will be awarded for books read, and if you read enough to vote you will receive a gift certificate for Thimble Mountain books.

The Stellar Book Awards, a new program for older students, has just begun this year. It is a perfect opportunity for students who have graduated from the Red Cedar Book Club to continue the fun. You can register for this awards program at the library and pick up your reading lists. Feel free to attend the activity club as well.

Family Literacy Day – Family Night Out on January 27th was a huge success. A big thanks goes out to Panago Pizza, the Gem Theatre and the Grand Forks Credit Union for their generous donation of food and prizes to our event. I would also like to thank the Boundary Childcare Resource and Referral and Boundary Family Individual and Services for their donation of time, space and energy.

Family Night Out in the West Boundary dates are as follows: Midway Family Centre – Feb. 15th, Rock Creek Family Centre – March 1st, Beaverdell Family Centre – April 5th. All events are from 6-8. Bring the whole family for a free evening of games, stories, crafts, puppets, science experiments, snacks and prizes.

The One to One Reading Program is looking for people who are interested in being trained to be a reading tutor at Perley School. If you are able to attend a 2.5-hour training session and then volunteer 1.5 hours a week until May please give me a call and we will set up a date for tutor training.

For more information on these programs and other literacy events please contact:
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