

SHARING THE GIFT OF BOOKS

As the Festive season draws closer many people start panicking about finding the perfect gift for friends or loved ones. In my household, the perfect gift almost always means a book. A book is more than paper and ink, more than words and illustrations. A book is a key that opens countless doors, reveals new worlds and allows us to experience the unknown.

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy and Boundary Families Read support two local programs that help bring the gift of books and reading into households across our region. The Book Under Every Tree campaign, with the help of the GFSS school council, collects new or gently used children's books and distributes them through The Food Bank and Boundary Family and Individual Services. Last year, the residents of Grand Forks contributed more than 300 books. This year's campaign is in full swing and we hope to be able to top last year's fabulous donations. Brightly wrapped gift boxes are to be found in a dozen locations around town including the Credit Union, Sears, Thimble Mountain books, Selkirk College, Perley, Hutton, The Phoenix Centre, GFSS, Joga's, Grand Fork's Public Library, Overwaitea and Buy-Low Foods. Please consider dropping a book into one of these boxes.

Another program that helps support families in their quest to create a literacy-rich home environment is the Sharing Books Box. These boxes of free, gently used books can be found across the Boundary in all of the Family Centres and at various literacy and parenting programs. Donated books and magazines for family members of all ages are free for the taking.

If you or your family have books you would like to pass on or you know of a family or program which might benefit by increasing their home library, please contact Lizanne Eastwood and I can arrange pick-up or delivery.

**THE MORE YOU READ, THE MORE YOU KNOW
THE MORE YOU KNOW, THE SMARTER YOU ARE
THE SMARTER YOU ARE, THE STRONGER YOUR VOICE
WHEN SPEAKING YOUR MIND, OR MAKING YOUR CHOICE.**

Remember to attend the Festive Family Storytime at the Grand Fork's Public Library on December 6th at 6:30. This annual event is for the whole family and features guest storytellers, musicians and a delicious snack. Family Night Out is December 7th at the Midway Family Centre, 6:00-8:00. Games, stories, puppets and snack for the whole family. And don't forget to order your copy of Hickity Pickity Bumblebee, a CD compilation of the

Boundary Mother Goose Group's favourite rhymes, songs and stories. 100 tracks for \$12.00, with all proceeds going towards Mother Goose programs in the Boundary.

For more information on Family Literacy Programs contact:

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