

NEWS

Post a comment | 

Last updated at 9:17 AM on 22/05/08

Primary school gets huge boost

\$120K grant from book retailer will help young readers

DAVID NEWELL

Advertiser

A local primary school has won a grant for over \$120,000 to purchase new books.

Woodland Primary in Grand Falls-Windsor was awarded the gift of a lifetime by entering a proposal into the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation.

The school's principal, Darlene Sullivan, could not hide her excitement almost a week after she found out about the windfall.

"We are really excited," she said. "I cannot wait to see all of these beautiful books coming into our school and our library."

The school was notified of the contest last fall and quickly got to work to prepare its proposal.

The document, which included information about the town, school and students, used statistics, audio and video presentations to satisfy the criteria required to qualify.

Part of the proposal was an overview of what the school would do with a grant.

Ms. Sullivan said they had very definite ideas about where they could use new books.

They targeted areas such as increasing reading for boys, providing more suitable books for special needs students, revamping the school library and transferring French language books to audio.

She said boys usually gravitate towards books that deal with fact-based subjects rather than fiction, so the money will help in that regard.

Where special needs children are concerned, Ms. Sullivan said it is often difficult to provide them with books they are proud to read.

"They need books they can handle reading at their level but for their age group have to be interesting so they do not consider them to be baby books," she said.

Ms. Sullivan added since the library is at the centre of the school, it should be the hub of activity.

"It should be a place kids are dying to go because they are dying to get at the books that are in there," she said. "When we started to look at the books that were there on the shelves, we realized 75 per cent of them were at least 35 years old."

Ms. Sullivan said the books purchased in the past through internal fundraising initiatives - necessary because of a lack of funding for the library and new reading material - did not hold up to frequent use.

"In the past, we have been forced to buy soft cover books for the library and they simply do not last," she said. "With this amount of funding we can invest the money in good quality, hard cover library books that will be durable and will last a long time for us."

The \$122,000 grant will be made available to Woodland over a three-year period, with \$5,000 cash included in that amount annually that can be used for special projects outside of book purchases. This can include things such as author visits, teacher training or professional development.

Ms. Sullivan was told the good news by Indigo Chapters president and CEO Heather Reisman while she was attending a Canadian Association of Principals conference in St. John's last week. The call, which took the educator of 23 years by surprise, was recorded and placed on the Indigo website.



Woodland primary principal Darlene Sullivan and Grade 3 French immersion student Sierra Pittman read one of the school's library books, which was published in 1941. The school recently found out it was awarded a grant for over \$120,000 to purchase new books.

The principal and staff of the school are eagerly awaiting the mail at the school every day now, since they are expecting the contract from the bookstore giant they must sign before the spending starts.

When it does, there will be plenty of choice for the school, which has been paired with the Chapters location in St. John's. They are able to purchase online and at other locations of Indigo, Chapters and Coles Books as well.

"Our school librarian, who was integral in putting this proposal together, can't wait to start (ordering)," said Ms. Sullivan.

22/05/08

Bookmark with:

[Delicious](#)

[Digg](#)

[Facebook](#)

[reddit](#)

[StumbleUpon](#)

[What are these?](#)

Comments:

This Conversation is Moderated. [What is moderation?](#)

[\(Post a comment\)](#)

- there are currently no comments for this story -

Post a comment:

First Name: *

Last Name:

City/Town:

Province: *

Email: *

Use of an invalid email address may result in removal of the comment.
Your email address will not be publicized.

Comments:

I have read and agree to the [Terms of Use](#)

Remember me?

Check here to receive email updates on contests, promotions, and other important information from Advertiser.

Submit Your Comment >>

Past news :

[May 2008](#)

[April 2008](#)

[March 2008](#)

[February 2008](#)

[January 2008](#)

[December 2007](#)

November 2007

October 2007

September 2007

August 2007

July 2007