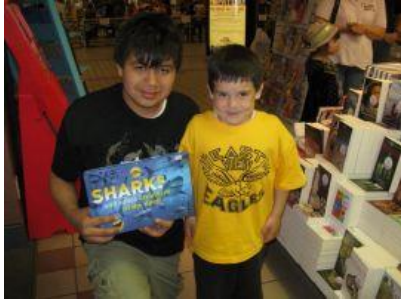


## Books Galore

Angela Pezzotti for SooNews.ca  
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Coles Books store was a very busy place Friday morning as nearly three hundred East View school students entered the store to choose a book thanks to a grant from the Love of Reading Foundation of Indigo books.

The school received an amazing \$85,000 grant over three years to purchase books and promote literacy projects. Being awarded the grant is proof that hard work and tenacity pay off.

The school originally applied for the grant last year but was turned down, but school supporter and Assistant Manager of Coles book store Jane Miceli urged Principal Steve Bodnar to try again this time successfully being awarded the grant.

Miceli whose son graduated from East View said she was sure the school deserved the grant, “I know this school, I like this school” she said.

“We just had to tweak the application a little.” Miceli said about this year’s application. She couldn’t be happier they were awarded the grant.

The grant provides for \$25,000 worth of books from Coles-Indigo-Chapters each year and another roughly \$3,000 a year for other literacy projects such as inviting authors to the school, or attending events.

“They’re such a deserving school” says Bob Baldwin Manager of the Station Mall store. Baldwin said they had a chance to visit the school and he knows what a difference this will make. “Its incredible what the effect is going to be on kids.”

“It such a wonderful event” Baldwin said Friday “The kids are in here having fun, building up their library, building up their love of reading.”

Principal Steve Bodnar called Friday "a dream come true" and praised the work of Vice Principal Alison Vecchio and Alison White in preparing the successful proposal.

“We looked at what we did last year and what we had to change, stuck to the questions and supplied the answers” says Vecchio of this year’s application

Vecchio says the grant has very strict criteria to prove need. While preparing the proposal she discovered that 70% of the classroom libraries were funded out of the pockets of the teachers. “This is going to be a nice change.”

Vecchio also says that only “very small” portion of the school budget is allocated for the library and addition of these books will make a tremendous difference in the school and the life of the students helping them develop “A love of learning and a love of reading that will carry them into the future to make them life long readers “

Once back at school the students will receive labels to affix in the books that will bear the name of the person who selected the books. JK teacher Jena Diluzio is excited what that sense of ownership will mean to her young students in the future.

“I’ve told them that their book will always be in the library.” Says Diluzio “They’re just starting to read and love reading so much, this is going to give them much more a love of reading.”

Grade eight student Alexia Hall thinks “it’s very cool and very generous” of the Love of Reading Foundation to grant the funds. She also thinks “its cool” that her name will remain in the school even after she graduates even if she hadn’t given it much thought before. “I like that” she said.

Hall selected a book titled the “The Pretties” a futuristic fantasy from Scott Westerfeld’s Uglies trilogy. Hall who enjoys the action adventure of the series, she has already read the Uglies, says “I’m kinda bumming she wont get to read the book before gradutation in a few weeks.”

The grade eight students were providing an “extra pair of eyes and hands” Vecchio said by being paired with a JK student and helping them select a book. Hall’s book buddy JK student Michael had already found his book.

Michael told Soonews “one page was really cool” and that was good enough for him, however he did point out that he hadn’t read it all yet.

Seth Mincker was helping JK student J.J. find a book about sharks. J.J. couldn’t have been happier to find a book titled sharks that also had pictures of whales and dolphins.

“Awesome” J.J. exclaimed has he opened the book and was soon so mesmerized by the pictures he wouldn’t answer any more questions.

While J.J. knew what he was looking for Mincker wasn’t sure what his choice would be, he was looking for something interesting. He selected a book about the Second World War.

Bodnar and the other teachers were on hand to provide guidance to the students and steer them to towards books representative of the students interests as well as to be sure that not too many multiple copies of books were being selected.

Bodnar said the students choices were entirely up to them provided they were appropriate for school; he didn’t think that would be much of a problem. “We want them to be proud of what they select.”

For more information about the Love of Reading Foundation: [www.loveofreading.org](http://www.loveofreading.org)

Hear the call from CEO of Indigo Books Heather Reisman to East View School announcing the grant: [click here](#)