



June 2021 Newsletter

As we approach the end of this school year, we are taking a moment to reflect on the challenges that this year has presented, as well as the incredible resilience and creativity that have allowed our programmes to continue to operate in various modified ways. We are so grateful to everyone who has contributed to Books For Me! this year and would like to thank everyone who stepped up, and volunteered their time, energy and resources this year.

Partner Schools:

We have continued to deliver books to five of our partner schools. Admiral Seymour, Tillicum, Thunderbird, Xpey' and Graham Bruce have continued to offer a modified Books For Me! programme. As a result, we have given away over 1,100 books since September. As Books for Me! volunteers could not attend in person, the staff at each school took this on and ensured that students could select books to keep and take home. We appreciate the extra effort by everyone involved in an already challenging environment.



Donors:

We were honored to be selected again by Crocodylus Pontifex as their charity of choice, and recipient of their fundraising efforts in 2021. The Crocodylus Pontifex book club is Western Canada's toughest and most interesting science-fiction book club. It is made up of a group of passionate science fiction readers that love to give back to the community. Earlier this spring, they held their 2nd annual awards gala and fundraising event and proceeds of over \$550 were donated to Books For Me!. As a grassroots organization, every dollar we receive goes a long way to allowing us to continue to provide books to children. We are so appreciative of Crocodylus Pontifex, and all our donors as we couldn't run our programmes without them.

Raincoast Books has donated several boxes of Advanced Reader Copy books to Books For Me! ARC's are new books that are published before a book is released for mass distribution. They are beautiful new books and a lovely addition to our collection. Raincoast's donation will enhance our collection of books and give children the opportunity to select a brand new book, and maybe even one that has not yet been released in stores.

Author partnership:

Luella Neufeld is a recently retired teacher turned author. Her first book *Have Courage and Be Kind: Knights in Training and the Great Battle* was just published. Our mission resonated with Luella and she has generously offered to donate a portion of the proceeds from book sales to Books for Me!, as well as recognize us in her book. In addition, Luella offered her time to do virtual author visits at some of our schools. Graham Bruce and Admiral Seymour have each hosted Luella and the sessions have been very well received.



Luella's book is very timely; it tells the story of 3 brave knights who battle a virus. It provides practical suggestions for things children can do to stay safe (hand washing, social distancing, etc.) as well as ideas for how to make a difference in their home and community through acts of kindness. The delightful story is accompanied by beautiful illustrations. Again, we feel very grateful to Luella for partnering with Books For Me! If you have young children in your life, it is a lovely way to discuss the ups and downs of pandemic-life and find positive ways to make a difference.

What's Ahead:

We are optimistic that we will be able to resume our regular programmes in the fall, with volunteers attending in-person and interacting with students and staff. This is the foundation of what we do, and we have felt a profound sense of loss at not having these incredibly rewarding and important interactions. We are working to ensure that everything is in place to restart as soon as we can and we eagerly await reconnecting with the staff and children at our partner schools, and re-engaging with and seeing our many committed volunteers.

While this has been an unprecedented time, we are so thankful for the continued support of our volunteers, donors, and partner schools. We cannot wait to get back to continuing our mission of allowing children to choose books to keep and promoting a love of reading.

