

FEATURE of the WEEK

Ninth Time is the Charm!

You know the saying, “If at first you don’t succeed, try try again!” For many years, nine to be exact, Frances Gauthier, a Grade 1-2 teacher at Richer School, has been applying for the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation’s Literacy Fund Grant.

Every year, Frances had to gather new data from multiple sources like census, catchment, enrollment, and dropout rates to re-apply. Nevertheless, Frances’ perseverance paid off when they were short-listed and interviewed last February.



By March 2023, they were informed that they would be awarded the grant which was publicly announced in May. The amount of the grant is \$25,000.00 to be spent over three years on books for their classroom libraries as well as the school library. “This is an opportunity to replace old and outdated books with more useful and engaging ones that match the student’s new interests and also to give them access to more diverse writers and characters,” Frances says.

Their first payment came in September, so teachers, educational assistants, the school librarian, and all students were allowed to request books, resulting in a master list. The school librarian, Stacy Reimer, has been busy placing orders to fulfill these requests.



Frances says, “The kids have been having a great time, I see them light up when new books arrive. We make an event out of it and the energy is contagious!” As an incentive, they are also allowed to spend some money on prizes for readers such as bookmarks and little gifts. Frances’ commitment to providing exceptional reading opportunities will have a lasting positive impact for the students of Richer School.

The Indigo Love of Reading Foundation exists to ensure that all Canadian kids have access to books and the opportunity to fall in love with reading. The Literacy Fund Grant is their largest national granting program and was created to dramatically increase literacy access for kids across the country.

HONESTY

EMPATHY

RESPECT

