

Another year is upon the staff at Border Land School Division and everyone is busily getting to work in their schools and classrooms. As Literacy is an important priority in all of our classrooms every school and classroom will notice an increase in the number of books from which they can choose to read. To improve literacy, we need to be reading and have access to books. As a result of an initiative from the Divisional Literacy Planning Team and with support from the Border Land School Division Board of Trustees, two extensive book buying initiatives occurred in the spring of 2015. The first initiative was called the “Leave a Legacy” book project. Each child could pick one book, any book that they would like to leave in their current classroom for future students to read. This meant that approximately 2200 books were ordered into our schools and were put into classroom libraries. Several students surprised their teachers with this book order and it went over as a huge success. Thank you to all the students for choosing a book that was important enough to you that you thought another student should have the opportunity to read it.

Our second initiative was the 100 books per classroom per grade project. K-12 teachers from across our division collaborated to generate a book list for each grade. This book list contained titles of books they believed every student in our division in their respective grade should have access to. Once the finalized list was compiled the ordering began and an influx of books began to flow into our schools. Each classroom received a new set of 100 books, which meant that approximately 15,000 more books entered the schools in Border Land School Division. This was an enormous project where teachers collaborated and Mrs. Carol Braun helped coordinate the ordering with school personnel. Thank you to everyone who helped to see this project through to completion.

We are so proud to say that we have increased the numbers of books in our schools to increase student choice in reading. Now I am anxious to see our reading in action. As I visit schools this year, I would like to sit and hear students read some of this from these great new materials. Home and school, let’s work together to make the following equation true:

ACCESS + CHOICE + READING TIME = IMPROVED LITERACY

Krista Curry, CEO and Superintendent for Border Land School Division