

Little Librarians

WJ Langlois gets WECF grant to build book swap program



From left, Josh Todero, Sally Asmaro, Dana Filipetti, and Evan Ciotoli hold up some of the books that may be used in the soon to be built W.J. Langlois Little Free Library.

(Windsor, Ontario, April 15, 2015) – Sally Asmaro didn't have to think very hard when asked about why it's important to promote reading in her school's community.

"Because when you can read you can do anything in the world," the Grade 3 student at W.J. Langlois Catholic Elementary School said.

Asmaro was part of a team of students in Laura Plante's Grade 2/3 class that submitted a successful grant application to the Windsor Essex Community Foundation's KidStart mini-grant program. The class received almost \$500 for a Little Free Library, which is essentially a decorated barn-shaped box mounted on a post. The box holds books, so any member of the community can pick up books and leave others to share. The library should be up later this spring, according to Principal Ian Drago.

Besides helping children become better readers, the project should encourage families to read more, according to student Dana Filipetti, who said the Rainbow Magic Fairies series of books are her favourite.

“They’ll be able to spend more time together,” she said.

The grant was just one of seven that were awarded to WECDSB schools, for a total of \$3,000. WECF executive director Lisa Kolody said an essential criteria that needed to be met for funding is a community outreach component. Among the other projects to be funded were:

- St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School received \$500 to turn a school greening project into an outdoor classroom
- Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School received \$500 to build a prayer garden
- St. Jules Catholic Elementary School received \$100 to do good deeds for the seniors in their community
- Holy Name Catholic Elementary School received \$500 to create an outdoor classroom
- St. John Catholic Elementary School received \$410 for music supplies and apparel for a group of students who perform for the Life After 50 club
- St. Gabriel Catholic Elementary School received \$500 to help support its WEcdsb Day, a social justice project to help Free The Children to be held on May 22 at the St. Clair Centre for the Arts

“This expands our community’s capacity, building a better Windsor-Essex for today and tomorrow,” Kolody said.

The WECF is a perpetual community trust that manages donated funds, makes grants to support community programs, and facilitates working relationships between community organizations. As one of Canada’s 191 community foundations, it helps citizens invest in building strong, vibrant and resilient communities. Since 1983 it has granted \$5.3 million dollars to organizations helping to make Windsor-Essex a better place to live, work, play and grow.