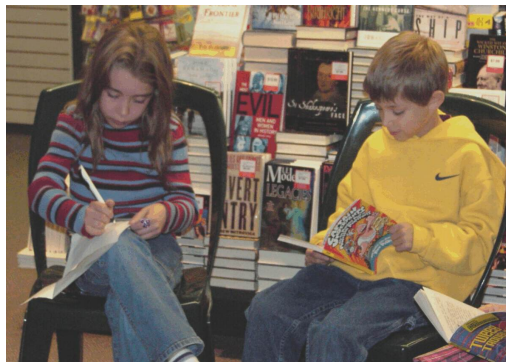


SACRED HEART SCHOOL AND COLES THE BOOK PEOPLE PARTNER TO HELP STUDENTS SHARE THEIR PASSION FOR READING

A group of grade 3 students from Sacred Heart School in Timmins have launched an exciting new book club, with the support of the local Coles The Book People store .

The club, called "Panthers' Picks", was formed by Teacher Brenda Gagné and Principal Tricia Stefanic Weltz as an initiative to nurture the students' love of reading.

Store Manager Lorette Mainville was on hand to welcome the students this morning as they arrived for an educational field trip to the bookstore. During their visit, they had the opportunity to browse through the wide variety of youth novels, and make a list of books that they would like to recommend to the book club. Mrs. Gagné will select a novel from this list for the members of the Panthers' Picks Book Club to read and review in the coming weeks. Over the course of the school year, their written reviews will be available to the public on a special poster in the store.



Teacher Brenda Gagné first approached Coles with this project which promotes literacy for all youth in the Timmins area. "This is a great way for our students to share their passion for reading with their peers," stated Gagné. "They will be encouraging them to develop an interest in reading by recommending books that they themselves have enjoyed. This project fits well with our balanced literacy program, because students will be going through reading comprehension activities, and engage in student-led discussions on their novels. We are grateful to Lorette and Coles The Book People for supporting this initiative and for their contribution to literacy in our community."



Students are excited that Sacred Heart has formed this club, which focusses on an activity that they enjoy and will now be able to share with others. "I like to read because of the big adventures in the books, and they're funny and interesting," stated student Ross Clausi. "In the Panthers' Picks, we are going to learn about new books, choose books we like, read them and write about them. Then people [who go to the store] will look at what we said about the books, and maybe buy them because they are good books."

As an added reward for the students, Coles provided bookmarks to each of the students.

**For more information, please contact:
Mélanie Bidal-Mainville, Community Relations Officer
Tel (705) 268-7443**

