



It is with great pleasure that I nominate Carolyn Swayze for the *OPLA Advocacy in Action: Excellence in Children's or Teen Services Award*.

As manager of the Youth Services Department at the Arnprior Public Library, Carolyn has inspired a generation of youngsters and endeared them to life-long learning through the library.

This achievement is exemplified by her latest innovation: *The Book Bundle!*

In the fall of 2019, Carolyn selected many of her favourite picture books, wrapped them up into a festive bundle and marked each with a number 1 through 23. The 24th book was purchased at the local independent book store. It was a gift from the library to the family and included a holiday card signed by library staff.

Local merchants helped to provide assortments of Christmas wrap and The Library Book Advent Calendar was created.

In fact, Carolyn assembled 25 bundles and families registered to sign out a their bundle the week before December 1st.

The response was fantastic and led to inquiries about next year's program! That type of feedback led to the creation of Book Bundles to celebrate Family Literacy Day.

Once again Carolyn amassed a variety of books on a theme (non-fiction, picture books, easy readers etc.), bundled, and topped them with surprise to keep.



Themes at a variety of reading levels included:

Art
Pets
Dinosaurs
Hairdos
Hockey
Drawing
Trucks
Sports
Dance &
more...

As an example, on a theme of cooking there were recipe books, stories about cooking and baking, and a gift-wrapped set of measuring spoons. Families selected the bundles based on the theme (and reading level) and signed out the stack to enjoy together on Family Literacy Day.



Community response to these two *Book Bundle Programs* indicates we've created an innovative model that is adaptable, circulates a variety a "hidden treasures" and encourages family literacy. Children of all ages are excited about the bundles thereby creating another way to connect them to the library.

It is adaptable to libraries of all sizes and we believe worthy of recognition throughout the library world with the *OPLA Advocacy in Action: Excellence in Children's of Teen Services Award!*

A sampling of testimonials about the Book Advent Calendar, 2019.



Merry Christmas and happiest new year wishes to the staff of the Arnprior Public Library. Thank you so very much for the wonderful library book advent calendar. Jane and Lily absolutely loved it! Today is Christmas Eve and the girls just opened the final book. They were so excited that they get to keep that adorable mousey Christmas book. You've really brought the Christmas spirit alive in our home. We are very grateful. Your biggest fans, Jane.



Barbara Reid's The Night Before Christmas was the final book to open, a keepsake purchased by the library at the local independent book store.

Merry Christmas and happiest new year wishes to the staff of the Arnprior Public Library. Thank you so very much for the wonderful library book advent calendar. Jane and Lily absolutely loved it. Today is Christmas eve and the girls just opened the final book. They were so excited that they get to keep that adorable mousey Christmas book. You've really brought the Christmas spirit alive in our home. We are very grateful. Your biggest fans, Emily, Brad, Jane & Lily.

Emails, cards, notes and photos poured in during the program!

Dear Library Staff
 Our family would like to thank you for all your time, effort and generosity in regards to the Holiday Advent Book Calendar. We truly enjoyed the stories and the time spent together each night. Thank you for making the Holiday Season extra special!
 The Paul Family

A big think you to everyone at the Arnprior Library for the advent book calendar. We had a lot of fun opening the books each night and the book to keep was a lovely surprise. Best wishes to all of you in 2020.

Aleida Hope you had a merry Christmas!
 Kato
 Ben
 a big thank you to everyone at the Arnprior Library for the advent book calendar. We had a lot of fun opening the books each night, and the book to keep was a lovely surprise.
 Best wishes to all of you in 2020.
 Leanne

ADVENT COUNTDOWN

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15



16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

We are excited to offer a Book Advent Calendar program for 25 festive families this December. Register on our website and sign out a package of 24 gift-wrapped library picture books – one to open every day leading up to Christmas.

Register early to participate in this celebration of the season!

Spaces are limited. Register online.

Questions? Call Carolyn at 613-623-2279 or email: youth@arnpriorlibrary.ca

More than 20 book bundles were created for Family Literacy Day 2020.



The themes were broad and included a variety of reading levels so that several children could be included in the activity.

Again, positive feedback came in the form of emails, letters, cards of thanks and excitement about sharing library books!

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

BOOK/ACTIVITY BUNDLES!

The library is putting together themed book/activity bundles for families to borrow on Family Literacy Day, Monday, January 27. A small item to use and keep will be included with your bundle relating to the theme of the bundle. Themes will include pets, baking, art, music, hairdos, dinosaurs, art, sports and many more!

Bundles will be available for pick-up on **January 27** on a first come, first served basis. These bundles will provide a great opportunity for your family to read together, work on an activity together and learn something new!

Register online at www.arnpriorlibrary.ca to reserve a book/activity bundle for your family!



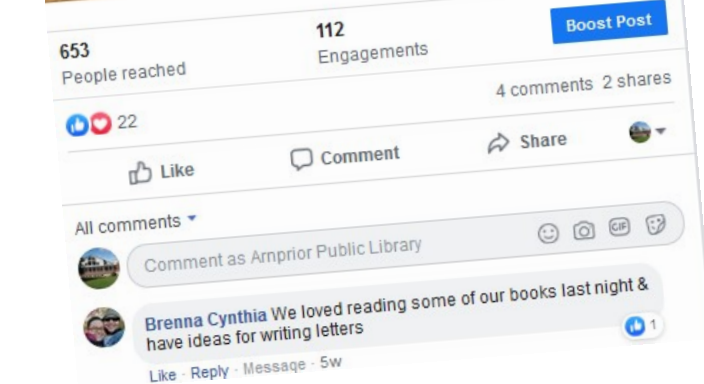
Take 20 minutes to make learning together part of your everyday.

EAT YOUR WORDS

Play with your food and write words with alphabet cereal and soup.



See all Take 20 learning activities at FamilyLiteracyDay.ca



Again, families shared their enthusiasm for the Book Bundles and are excited for the next roll-out of the program!