

Art Forgay Award of Recognition

Nomination for: Charlotte Raine, Library Learning Coach, Good Spirit School Division

Submitted by: Juanita Brown, Superintendent of Education
Good Spirit School Division

It is with tremendous pleasure that I submit this nomination for Charlotte Raine for the Art Forgay Award of Recognition. As you know the purpose of this award is to honour individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to “the concept of effective school library programs and to the role these programs play in the total learning environment of the school”. I think the words *outstanding contribution* describes Charlotte’s work perfectly. During my years in education I have had the pleasure of working with a number of fine administrators who were dedicated to supporting libraries but none as passionate and hard working as Charlotte Raine. In everything that she does Charlotte’s dedication to the needs and priorities of the students and staff is front and center.

From the beginning of her career in education, 26 years ago, there has not been a time when Charlotte was not involved with school libraries. From her first position as middle years, high school teacher -librarian as well as English and French teacher to her present role Charlotte has been advocating on behalf of libraries.

An acknowledgement of Charlotte’s exemplary work as a teacher-librarian was evident when she became the successful candidate for the position, as the first ever, Library Learning Coach in the Good Spirit School Division. One of the main goals of this leadership position was to help formulate a vision for school libraries in the recently amalgamated school division. For 6 years now Charlotte has used her time in this role to collaborate with teacher-librarians and classroom teachers to develop their libraries and the role they fulfil in supporting student learning. During this time she has created a culture of collaboration and shared vision that is focused on how 21st century libraries can support student learning and achievement. In this capacity Charlotte has had the leadership role in working with all 28 schools as she helps them grow and develop their libraries into the learning places our teachers and students need. She has worked collaboratively with teacher-librarians and teachers to embed resource based learning and inquiry learning into their teaching practice. Charlotte has successfully been able to take a very diverse group of library people from many different former school divisions and helped them form a strong focused library team. She has worked tirelessly with library staff to help them develop libraries that are warm and welcoming places.

Under her leadership the libraries in GSSD have moved toward Charlotte’s vision of effective libraries. These are libraries that provide quality programs that facilitate curriculum implementation, promote literacy, infuse technology into instruction, and enable students to grow in their ability to locate, use, create, and share information and knowledge.

Charlotte has been responsible for implementing division wide plans to support programs like the Willow Books. Her tireless efforts collaborating with teachers and doing book talks with students led to one of our small rural schools hosting the Willow Award presentations.

Charlotte is a master at delivering that “just in time” learning. In her role as Library Learning Coach Charlotte has developed and facilitated as many as 4 or 5 workshops a year, year after year. These workshops are developed for a number of audiences including administrators, teacher - librarians, teachers and library technicians. Each workshop is unique and designed to meet the needs of the participants at that point in time.

One of Charlotte’s greatest collaborative challenges came when she was given the task of guiding the newly amalgamated Good Spirit School Division through the process of choosing one library software program to replace the 5 programs that were in existence. Charlotte’s efficiency and thoroughness in researching the various options and her ability to work with staff to understand these options made this process smoother than expected. Charlotte’s thoroughness in the research process has been recognized by several other school divisions who have asked her advice when looking at library software.

One of Charlotte’s more challenging roles has been to develop policy around school libraries in GSSD. However, she has persevered and thanks to her hard work we have a number of new and refined school policies. In addition to writing policy Charlotte has been instrumental in helping GSSD collect and use data to make library decisions. This includes decisions about collection development, addition of e books, online resource use and staffing.

Charlotte has not only provided leadership in her school division but she has also provided leadership at the provincial level. Almost from the beginning of her career Charlotte’s expertise has been recognized at the Ministry level. Early on in her career she was seconded by the Ministry to:

- Facilitate Resource-Based Learning Workshops
- Be a member of a provincial panel presenting to the Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Committee on the use of electronic databases to support resource based learning

More recently her contributions at the provincial level have included membership on:

- The reference committee for the development of *Connections: Policy and Guidelines for School Libraries in Saskatchewan*
- The working group for the *Inquiry Project* (Teacher-librarians Constructing understanding through Inquiry). This group has provided ideas, knowledge, experience and many hours of collaborative inquiry to bring this powerful support to teachers.

In addition Charlotte has been a regular participant and contributor to the twice yearly Networking meetings for school library contacts across the province.

As a dedicated professional Charlotte has also contributed to the SSLA. Over the years she has been

- Past President, President, Vice President, twice councilor (1993-1998)
- Archivist/ Secretary (2013-2014)

Charlotte's dedication to her profession and her contributions to libraries were recognized in 2000 when she was the recipient of the Connie Acton Award of Merit.

Charlotte is an example of the type of exemplary teacher-librarian we would like all of our schools to have access too. In her own words Charlotte is a career teacher librarian who is happiest when students see her coming into their school and say "here comes the book lady"