

Nomination for Kelly Boyd - 2024 Educator Distinction Award

Dear PEI Literacy Alliance Selection Committee,

I am honored to nominate Kelly Boyd, librarian at Three Oaks Senior High and former librarian at Summerside Intermediate School, for the PEI Literacy Alliance Educator Distinction Award. Kelly's unwavering commitment to literacy and her transformative impact on students and educators alike make her an exceptional candidate for this recognition.

Kelly has dedicated 29 years to education in Prince Edward Island, transitioning from classroom teacher to literacy advocate with remarkable success. Her dual Master's degrees—one in Leadership in Education and another in Library Science—underscore her commitment to excellence and professional growth.

At Summerside Intermediate School, where she had served as librarian for twelve years, Kelly embraced the principles outlined in Penny Kittle's *Book Love*. She made it her mission to create a vibrant reading culture that inspired students to discover the joy of reading. Kelly took this mission to get kids reading very seriously. She created and educated a language arts team that was united in this goal. Her commitment to mentoring language arts teachers has been vital in creating a strong reading culture at SIS, empowering educators to inspire their students.

While at Summerside Intermediate, Kelly organized literacy celebrations throughout the year to honor authors and celebrate books. These events not only highlight the joy of reading but also engage students and the community in meaningful discussions about literature. In addition, Kelly reads young adult literature voraciously, allowing her to engage in meaningful conversations with students and recommend books that resonate with them. Her efforts were instrumental in securing the Indigo Literacy Fund grant of \$55,000 in 2016, providing students with access to a wealth of new reading materials.

In addition to her many roles, Kelly personally selects all book titles for the Rotary Book Program in the Summerside area. She conducts thorough research to ensure that every student receives a book tailored to their interests, fostering a love of reading that extends beyond the classroom. Over the past three years, Kelly has played a vital role in putting 2,252 books into the hands of students in our community and surrounding areas, representing over \$30,000 worth of books. The work she is doing to promote literacy is unmatched, and this program is still growing as she and the committee prepare to expand it to include purchasing a new book for all junior high students in Prince County.

Kelly's contributions extend beyond the library; she has served as the Grade 7-9 Language Arts Support Leader with the Department of Education and is actively involved in the Classroom Library Selection Committee, further demonstrating her commitment to enhancing literacy education throughout the province.

As the librarian at Three Oaks, Kelly has transformed the library into a vibrant hub where students feel inspired to select books and explore their reading interests. She has meticulously curated a diverse collection that reflects the varied tastes of students, ensuring there's something for everyone. Additionally, Kelly actively engages with students, fostering personal connections that enhance their literary experiences.

The impact of Kelly's work is immeasurable. Her influence is felt by countless students and teachers who have benefited from her dedication and passion.

In closing, I wholeheartedly endorse Kelly Boyd for the PEI Literacy Alliance Educator Distinction Award. Her tireless efforts to inspire a love of reading in our students and her unwavering support for educators exemplify the very best of what it means to be a literacy advocate.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,

Shellilee Ballum
Teacher- Librarian
Summerside Intermediate School