

NEW BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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May 16, 2018

Ms. Abigail Daly Bridge of Books Vonage, 23 Main St Holmdel, NJ 07773

Dear Abigail,

On behalf of our Early Childhood Education staff and families, we would like to express deepest gratitude for the wonderful and abundant donation of books for the children attending our various preschools, and those who participated in the Early Childhood Fun Fair on April 21st. The children and families were absolutely thrilled to receive such beautiful books, gifts made possible by Bridge of Books. Many of the families of students participating in our program work long schedules and struggle economically. We always encourage families to engage in activities to promote language/literacy in the home and your wonderful donation makes this possible for so many families!

We are excited to be able to provide beautiful books for so many children! Our Preschool Intervention and Referral Team, of which we are a part, works closely with teachers to support children when there are concerns about a child's development. We meet with parents often throughout each school year and it is a tremendous gift to be able to give beautiful, age appropriate books to encourage language and literacy activities for our most vulnerable students. Providing this gift makes it easier for our families to support learning at home. Since most of our families (about 70-75%) have Spanish as their home language, and books in Spanish are harder to come by, it is an even greater gift to provide the books in Spanish. We always let parents know that proficiency in the first language leads to proficiency in English, and we share many strategies to build the knowledge in the native language that parents can carry out at home.

For all of the above reasons, and also just because a great book is a precious gift that can be shared over and over again, we are deeply grateful for this wonderful outpouring of books that you make possible for our families to enjoy, year after year. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Tania Stanchich, LCSW