



# Books for Me!



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## As of May, 2014 we have placed over 20,000 books with kids!

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### **Books for Me! expands to 11 locations in January 2014**

Over 1300 children are served by the schools in the Books for Me! program, as well as many families who visit and choose books at our various Neighbourhood House and other community programs.

### **Vancouver School Board recognizes Books for Me! on its website.**

In early January, the Vancouver School Board website featured an article about the first visit of Books for Me! to Graham Bruce Elementary. The opening of the story noted “the excitement at Bruce as students sorted through the hundreds of books available was palpable.” Visit [www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/bruce-gets-visit](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/district-news/bruce-gets-visit) for the whole story and some wonderful photos!



## NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

***Books for Me! welcomes two new Board members:***



**SHAR LEVINE** has joined the Board as a Director. She is an internationally award-winning and best-selling author of children's science toys and kits. Shar and her writing partner Leslie Johnstone shared the 2006 Eve Savory Award for Science Community, and two

of their books were short-listed for the Subaru Prize. Shar has served as the President of the Children's Writers and Illustrators of BC Society, and sits on the national board of the Canadian Children's Book Centre.



**MICHELLE YANG** is the new Treasurer for Books for Me! Michelle is a Senior Accountant at KPMG and takes over the Treasurer Position from Karen Lo, who has served since the Board was formed. Karen has relocated to the KPMG office in London, Eng-

land, and the Board sends its sincere thanks and best wishes to her.

*Books for me! programs can't work without our terrific program volunteers. We currently have 26 fantastic volunteers, and they are always ready to help children find a forever book! If you know of someone who would like to help, we would appreciate hearing from them. Thanks to all our volunteers!*

## VOLUNTEER STORIES:

***Her birthday...but Books for Me! gets the gift!***

What Shar Levine wanted for her 60th birthday was to have a party with her close friends. What she didn't want was lovely gifts that needed dusting, so to celebrate her special day, she hosted a fundraiser for Books for Me! Instead of wine, funny cards, flowers or gag presents, she asked for donations for Books for Me! The evening raised over \$850 for Books for Me!, and a great time was had by the over 100 guests.

***Books for Me! is pleased to profile volunteer Martin Johnston.***



Marty is an experienced volunteer, with an on-going focus on literacy-promoting organizations. When he read about Books for Me!, he knew he had found a fit. Marty has experienced a variety of Books for Me! program locations, including Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House, Queen Alexandra and Moberly. He especially likes the smaller groups of kids, as he can spend more time with each of them to help find the best book for the child. He really enjoys being able to fill a "special request" from one of the children, whether it's for a Wimpy Kid book, or something special for a One Direction fan! Marty believes that Books for Me! supports the children it serves by providing them with a start to their own libraries - he says choosing the books themselves and putting their names in them invokes feelings of ownership, and gives them more opportunities to read.



## YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!

***Books for Me! Thanks its newest donors and supporters:***



**Canada Post  
Community  
Foundation**

**Canada Post Community Foundation** allowed us to add Tillicum Annex and Graham Bruce Elementary in January 2014.



**FROGBOX Inc.** has loaned us their wonderful FrogBoxes to aid in the collection of book donations.

## ***Kidsbooks***

**Kidsbooks** Vancouver selected Books for Me! to be the recipient of the annual book donation after its big sale in January.

***...along with our long-time and on-going supporters, including:***

*Jennifer Greenhorn (logo and newsletter design),*

*Eleanor Radford (volunteer coordinator) and*

*Catherine Intharangsy (website)*

Thanks to our many generous private, anonymous donors, and to BMO Capital Markets, who let us bring our program to Walter Moberly Elementary and Champlain Heights Annex in September 2013.



## IT'S ALWAYS NICE TO HEAR...

*We so enjoy hearing from the venues  
we work with:*

**“really love the  
program...”**

**“you are so flexible...so it  
works”**

**“a wonderful night of families  
accessing books”**

**“such a valuable program for our  
children and families”**

**“we have LOVED having the  
Books for Me! program”**

Thanks for your kind words!



## CWILL

*Through a partnership with CWILL BC (Children's Writers and Illustrators of BC) Books for Me! has a program in place which allows CWILL BC members to give presentations at reduced rates to the schools that are currently part of our programs.*

### **Collingwood gets Max Tell visit**



In February, children's author and award winning song writer, Max Tell, gave a wonderful presentation at Collingwood Neighbourhood School. Everyone had an amazing time! Max Tell sent a great thank you poster to the staff and students after the presentation, thanking them for their beautiful singing and dancing. Visit the Books for Me! website at [www.books-formevancouver.org](http://www.books-formevancouver.org) "news and events" for more info and to see the poster.

### **Author Jacqueline Pearce entertains students at Graham Bruce**



Students from Graham Bruce Elementary gathered in their school library in April to hear award-winning author Jacqueline Pearce talk about how she comes up with her book ideas, how she researches them and how they evolve from start to finish. She told the students about traveling to Japan to find out about Manga for "Manga Touch" and about taking care of some pet rats when she was writing "The Truth about Rats (and Dogs)". The children were very interested to hear about her adventures as an author, and asked some excellent questions. They were also excited to hear about her next book, coming out this Fall, set during the War of 1812!

### **Henderson Students Dig Gina McMurchy-Barber Presentation**



In February, students at Henderson Annex Elementary School were greeted unusually by children's author Gina McMurchy-Barber. They entered a darkened room where music was playing and incense was burning. There were replicas of Native wall art and a roped off archaeological 'dig' site on the floor which included a skull! The kids were thoroughly engaged while Ms. Barber shared her knowledge of history and archaeology. Some of the students were also reading one of her books in class and they had lots of great questions for her.

## CWILL

### ***Lee Fodi Donated Presentation is Prize for Richardson***



Lee Edward Fodi is an award-winning children's author and illustrator who visited with the students at Richardson Elementary in North Delta in October 2013. Lee very kindly donated his reading to Books for Me! as a reward for the students there whose book drive brought in the most books of any school that year - almost 2,000 books! He enchanted the children with funny stories of his childhood in the Okanagan, how he became an author and illustrator, and the process he uses to get his stories from his imagination into a book. Working with the children's suggestions, he drew a fantastical creature they named "King Rumpkey". The Me to We Club at Richardson plans another book drive for 2014. More information about Lee Fodi and his books can be found at [www.leefodi.com](http://www.leefodi.com).

### ***Delicious Event***

Books for Me! hosted the book launch of Jewish Fairytale Feasts, a beautifully illustrated collection of Jewish folktales with easy recipes, tales retold by Jane Yolan, recipes by Heidi Stemple and illustrations by Sima Elizabeth Shefrin. Illustrator Elizabeth Shefrin was on hand to sign cop-



ies of the book. It was a very successful event - lots of books were sold, funds were raised for Books for Me! and the 60 or so guests enjoyed lots of home baked goodies from the book.

### **DID YOU KNOW...?**

According to a 2010 survey in the UK, "twice as many young people who have books of their own compared with those who do not have their own books enjoy reading either very much or quite a lot." This group also has twice the daily readers. The results also showed that "nearly twice as many young people who do not have their own books at home, compared to those who do, agreed with the statements that reading is more for girls than boys, that reading is hard, that they cannot find anything to read that interests them, that they only read when they have to and that they do not read as well as other students in their class. Also, they were three times more likely to agree with the statement that reading is boring and that they only read in class."

*Young People's Reading: The importance of the home environment and family support.*



*Executive Summary. Christina Clark and Lucy Hawkins. National Literacy Trust, London UK 2010.*



## WHERE DO ALL THOSE BOOKS COME FROM?

All the Books for Me! programs have only donated books on their shelves and in their baskets, and we are so grateful to those individuals, schools, community organizations and businesses who hold book drives for us. As well, we continue to receive books brought to children's birthday parties at the request of thoughtful and generous hosts.

**Please connect with us at:**

**[www.booksforme Vancouver.org](http://www.booksforme Vancouver.org)**

**604 617 3718**

**[booksforme Vancouver@gmail.com](mailto:booksforme Vancouver@gmail.com)**

*Thank you to everyone who collects and donates books for us, including:*

**Blueridge Elementary School, North Vancouver**

**Canyon Heights School, North Vancouver**

**Choice School**

**Dorothy Lynas Elementary School, North Vancouver**

**Edith Cavell Elementary School**

**Eric Hamber Secondary School**

**Electronic Arts, Vancouver**

**Hawthorne Elementary, Delta**

**Holy Trinity School, North Vancouver**

**Jim Pattison Group, Vancouver**

**Kidsbooks**

**Mont Royal Elementary School, North Vancouver**

**North Vancouver School District**

**Point Grey Secondary School**

**St George's School**

If you would like to host a book drive, or have books to donate, please let us know. We will do everything we can to help!

